Pay it Forward $
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Supporting and Sustaining the Programs and Services of Junior Auxiliary

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PAY IT FORWARD$  

MANY OF YOU MAY HAVE SEEN the 2000 movie *Pay It Forward* or read the 1999 novel by Catherine Ryan Hyde in which a young boy does three good deeds for others in need. All he wanted in return was that they pass on the good deed to three other people to keep the cycle going. The history of the “pay it forward” concept is much older than the movie or book. It can be traced to a play, *Dyskolos*, written and performed in ancient Athens in 317 BC. Since then, many others such as Benjamin Franklin, Ralph Waldo Emerson and even football coach Woody Hayes have used the concept in their writings and coaching.

Junior Auxiliary Chapters pay it forward each and every day in so many ways. They search for needs in their community and create a plan to meet the needs and make their communities better places to live. The children and families in these communities are blessed to have such dedicated hard-working volunteers. I appreciate all that our Chapters do in their communities and thank you for your service.

At the 2017 Annual Education Conference, I issued three challenges to Chapters and members to think about paying it forward in different ways.

**MEMBERSHIP**

NAJA is a membership organization and without a growing and dedicated membership we will not thrive. I challenge all Chapters to increase their membership by at least 5% this year. Increasing membership provides resources to better serve your communities and to strengthen NAJA. Imagine how many more families and children your Chapter could serve if you had more members. Increasing membership brings new talent and ideas to the Chapter and lightens the load each member must carry. More members mean there are more individuals to pay it forward. All communities have women who would love to be asked to join. Have you considered individuals outside your existing network such as retired ladies or the members of your local Chamber of Commerce? The new NAJA website (www.najanet.org) contains resources to help you recruit new members and I challenge you to use them.

**CHAPTER LEADERSHIP TRAINING**

Leadership is one of the five ideals of Junior Auxiliary. Effective leaders can boost Chapter morale, help retain members and lead to better decisions. I challenge all Chapters to invest in their Chapter by sending at least 5% more members to Area Meetings and AEC. These meetings offer leadership training, education for members, a chance to recharge your batteries, and an opportunity to network and learn from other Chapters. Investing in leadership training today will pay it forward for future members and your community.

**PERSONAL COMMITMENT**

Lastly, I challenge each Junior Auxiliary member to be the best member you can be. We all enjoy performing hands-on service projects, but being a good member also involves learning what’s in your constitution, attending Chapter meetings, accepting leadership positions, training your replacement, recruiting new members and promoting your Chapter any way you can. Your Chapter’s success is dependent on your individual commitment to service and personal development.

Increasing membership, training leaders, and making a commitment to service and personal development will make your community a better place and strengthen your national organization.

I challenge you to *PAY IT FORWARD*$.

NAJA PRESIDENT  
Charlott Jones
WHO IS CHARLOTT JONES?

THAT’S A QUESTION THAT YOU CAN ASK IN JONESBORO, ARKANSAS AND REST ASSURED OF GETTING AN ENTHUSIASTIC ENDORSEMENT OF HER, NOT BECAUSE SHE’S A FIFTH GENERATION JONESBORO NATIVE—WHICH SHE IS—but OF WHAT SHE DOES FOR THE COMMUNITY AND FOR PEOPLE PERSONALLY. Charlott is a woman of many talents and presents a different side to a wide variety of people. Charlott is truly a woman for all seasons: a successful business woman, a renowned community volunteer, an active church member, a loving family member, and a loyal and beloved friend.

Charlott holds an accounting degree from St. Louis University and an MBA in Finance from Vanderbilt University, is a CPA who is presently a tax manager with Jones & Company, Ltd. of Jonesboro, Arkansas, has taught accounting for the University of Maryland, European and Asian Divisions, has worked for Arthur Andersen, was a supervisor for the National Futures Association, and now serves as president of the Arkansas Society of Certified Public Accountants and now serves as one of two Arkansas representatives on the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants’ governing council. Charlott was instrumental in getting the Arkansas peer review legislation passed. She has visited and taught on three continents and was a member of a Rotary Group Study Exchange team in Brazil. This is a business woman any hometown can crow about.

All too often on Sunday afternoons if you’re looking for Charlott, one place to look would be in the office where she will be doing pro bono accounting work for non-profit organizations in Jonesboro, the county, and beyond. Charlott has served as treasurer for Junior Auxiliary of Jonesboro, Arkansas, the Jonesboro Church Health Center, the Family Crisis Center of Northeast Arkansas, the Downtown Jonesboro Association, the Foundation of Arts, and St. Bernard’s Advocates; no wonder she was elected treasurer of NAJA twice.

She and her mother, Flo Jones, were featured in At Home in Arkansas’ Second Annual Women Supporting Women in 2002; featured in the Jonesboro Sun’s “Women in Business” in 2005; received the United Way Distinguished Service Award in 2003; the ASCPA Public Service Award in 2008; and elected as the Business Woman of the Year in 2009 by the Business and Professional Women (BPW). In 2010, she received the BPW Women Mean Business Volunteerism award and in 2011 was named by AY Magazine as one of Arkansas’ Powerful Women. Her actions truly define a successful business woman: a woman who contributes to improving her profession and the health of her community.

The new NAJA President began her community volunteer service in junior high and never looked back. Her volunteer work has included working with non-profit organizations like CityYouth Ministries, Foundation for Jonesboro Public Schools, Altrusa International of Jonesboro, AR Foundation, Hispanic Community Services, Accademia dell’Arte in Italy, and St. Bernard’s Women’s Council. She also volunteers regularly at the Flo and Phil Hospice House, serves on the Finance Council for Blessed Sacrament Church and for the Holy Angels convent.

Charlott can amazingly pack more into the average day than anyone most of us knows.

Add to all those activities the fact that Charlott never misses an event in which one of her beloved nieces and nephews participate. Whether it’s nieces and nephews by blood or by affection, Charlott is there, supporting them and encouraging them. Charlott is one of seven children and belongs to a closely-knit family who celebrate together whenever possible and pitch in to help each other whenever needed. No family member nor friend has ever turned to Charlott Jones for help, a listening ear, or a generous hug and been turned away.

In the midst of this packed and busy professional, community, and family life, Charlott has served NAJA since 2009 on the Finance Committee, as Treasurer, as CSC, as First Vice President, and now as President. No wonder Gayle Canaga Brown said of Charlott Jones, NAJA’s incoming president:

“Charlott’s parents instilled in her and her siblings, the responsibility and joy of giving back to the community, and Junior Auxiliary has been the recipient of Charlott’s efforts. She freely and fully gives of herself and her time, to be a resource, an educator, a trainer, and a friend, to Chapter Treasurers and to any member of Junior Auxiliary with whom she comes in contact. Charlott demeanor is disarming, making her approachable, and removing those financial fears Chapter Treasurers and Presidents carry. I feel that Charlott’s years of serving as a CSC and her passion for education and empowering Chapter Treasurers has created permanent, positive connections between NAJA and local Chapters, and has authenticated to Chapters, NAJA’s genuine desire to help them give their best in service.”

We are fortunate indeed to have as our new president someone whose life exemplifies paying it forward: Charlott Jones!
IN MANY OF OUR CHAPTERS, we are losing members once they complete their five Active years. Why? Is there no value to them in becoming a Life member of this Association? We need to do something about that if this is the case in your Chapter. Every Junior Auxiliary member gives over five years of her life in service to her community. She works tirelessly on service projects, expends countless hours and endless energy to raise funds to support those projects, and gives her expertise to committee positions in order to make the Chapter run smoother. Do these skills disappear at the end of her Active years of service? Does her desire to help others diminish just because of a change in membership category? Does her love for her Junior Auxiliary Chapter and the lifelong friends she made through her affiliation with it abruptly come to an end just because she is no longer held to hour requirements? While maybe the answer could not be an unequivocal “NO”, in most cases the member who is moving on would still like to be involved at some level. How can we make sure that happens with every one of our members?

There are several things that have worked over the years for Chapters that historically have their members become lifetime members. Consider turning over an established project to your Associate/Life members, especially if there is a project that is difficult for your current membership to handle. Maybe the time schedule needed to work the project would be more easily met by this group, which might have more non-working members, simply due to the larger pool of ladies. Consider encouraging them to start a new project to address a need in your community that is currently unmet but that your Active membership cannot tackle at the present time. At the very least, send out a newsletter to your A/L members to let them know what you are doing and which projects could use additional manpower. You might be surprised to find there are individuals who are just waiting for an invitation to be involved again. Remember, however, that they would just be assisting you; Associate and Life members have had their turn at leadership and decision-making and you would probably be wise to give them limited voice.

Furthermore, remember that everyone likes to be made to feel special and appreciated. Find a way to honor your past members for the legacy that they have left you. Begin a tradition of honoring members that go Life. Establish an annual lunch or tea for the sole purpose of getting together your current and past members in order to get to know each other better. Some Chapters have Charity Balls with Kings and Queens and Courts… ways for the children of Associate/Life members to be involved, which usually makes Momma proud!

Unfortunately, we sometimes lose these members simply because a Treasurer failed to send them a dues statement…or a second notice if dues have not been timely received. Make contacting your Associate members a priority so that they get the opportunity to go to Life status. Remember, they are not at the Chapter meetings and being reminded of dues deadlines.

And finally…just because your Associate and Life members have never had any further involvement with Junior Auxiliary or your members traditionally do not become Life members does not mean that it has to remain that way. I suggest you consider making a change—reconnect and enjoy what they still have to offer you and your Chapter.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Merrill A. Greenlee
MEET THE 2017-2018 NAJA TEAM

Chapter Support Coordinators

Seated from left: Meg Glenn, Region V, Clinton, MS; Patricia Kelly, Region III, Greenville, MS; Noel Howe, Region II, Tipton County, TN; Lisa Benjamin, Region VI, Hammond, LA; Standing from left: Edith Crosby, Region V, Madison County, MS; Rhonda Bryant, Region III, Monticello, AR; Debbie Jones, Region I, Forrest City, AR; Sandra Chavers, Region VI, Slidell, LA; Not Pictured: TJ Higgs, Region I, Searcy, AR; Brandy Byrd, Region II, Lawrence County, TN; Vickie Person, Region IV, Water Valley, MS; Kelly Trout, Region IV, Columbus, MS

Board of Directors

Seated from left: Adrian Shipman, Foundation Chairman, Oxford, MS; Patricia Kelly, CSC, Region III, Greenville, MS; Regina Spratlin, Treasurer, Greenville, MS; Jeanne Hildebrandt, Ex-Officio, Slidell, LA; Charlott Jones, President, Jonesboro, AR; Leslie James, First Vice-President, Crittenden County, AR; Martie Shull, Scholarship Chairman, Jonesboro, AR; Standing from left: Lisa Benjamin, CSC, Region VI, Hammond, LA; Meg Glenn, CSC, Region V, Clinton, MS; Lauren Lisowe, Marketing Vice-President, Saline County, AR; Merrill Greenlee, Executive Director, Greenville, MS; Emily Johnson, Second Vice-President, Tate-Panola, MS; Audra Gaines, Recording Secretary, DeSoto County, MS; Debbie Jones, CSC, Region I, Forrest City, AR; Alisa Taylor, Membership Chairman, Clinton, MS; Noel Howe, CSC, Region II, Tipton County, TN; Not Pictured: Kelly Freeland, Third Vice-President, Crittenden County, AR; Julie Gibens, Education Chair, Tupelo, MS; Vickie Person, CSC, Region IV, Water Valley, MS
NAJA Newest Chapter

NAJA WELCOMES ITS NEWEST CHAPTER...DYER COUNTY, TN!

2016-17 NAJA President Jeanne Hildebrandt had the distinct pleasure of presenting the Junior Auxiliary of Dyer Co., TN its Charter at AEC 2017 in Memphis, TN. Accepting the Charter was Chapter President Sara Jo Fountain and three other members. On hand to help them celebrate were two special people who helped to make their journey to active status possible – Chapter Advisor Heather Crowson and CSC Noel Howe, both Life members of the JA of Tipton Co., TN. Dyer County JA held its organizational meeting on November 17, 2015 and efficiently moved through the process to become an Active Chapter in less than 18 months. Their first fundraiser was a partnership with a local retail store, Flirty Birds, which hosted a JA Night that allowed members to publicize the work of the Chapter while at the same time netting them a percentage of the profits. Their first Service projects included several successful Adopt-A-Family relationships, an Unplugged in the Park event which allowed children time away from social media and electronic games, and a fantastic Bunny Bash during the Easter holiday. NAJA wants to congratulate Dyer County on receiving their Charter and wishes them many, many wonderful years of service to their community.

For information on how YOU can help start a Chapter in a community that needs what Junior Auxiliaries offer, contact one of our New Chapter Development Coordinators.
Beth Holbert - najacdcnorth@gmail.com
Leslie Vaughn - najacdcsouth@gmail.com

My earliest memories of Junior Auxiliary were when I was about six years old, tagging along with my mother as she volunteered at the JA thrift shop in Jonesboro, AR. It was something I looked forward to. Even at that early age, I had the feeling we were helping others and it was terribly important. Several years later, Mother became president of the local Chapter, so JA was a part of everyday life in our home. Fast forward 20+ years when I was asked to be a Provisional, a day I had hoped for, which enabled me to continue the legacy of organized, measurable, and meaningful service in our community.

What I didn’t know about Junior Auxiliary was how much it would teach me about leadership, organization, project implementation, and knowledge of working with a diverse group of volunteers—skills that have certainly helped me in both my professional and personal life and other volunteer organizations.

When I donate to the Foundation, I feel that I am helping perpetuate Junior Auxiliary in the communities we serve, particularly with providing scholarships to help JA members attend AEC and Area Meetings. These education opportunities provide members with the chance to learn from others and acquire new tools that fuel their enthusiasm to return home and make a difference in their community.

Giving to the NAJA Foundation is my way of saying thank you for the friendships and the opportunity to serve and of investing in the future.

Marilyn Hummelstein
NAJA President 1993-94
Life Member, Jonesboro, AR

NAJA Newest Chapter
BATESVILLE, MS
Junior Auxiliary of Batesville, MS held an Easter Extravaganza on Thursday, April 6, 2017. The kid’s club committee wanted to have a fun outing for their adopted families for Easter. As they began to plan, they decided to open it up to the community. The Chapter rented two bouncy houses, pulled out their face paint, and collected some Easter books to read. They also had the Easter Bunny come for a visit and pictures. Thirty children were served. A drawing was held for two Easter baskets and the Chapter’s six adopted children each received an Easter Basket.

BOONEVILLE, MS
Junior Auxiliary of Booneville, MS has worked hard this year to increase their presence in their local elementary school. They partnered with Domino’s Pizza for a new service project called “Dynamite Devils”. At the end of each nine weeks at Anderson Elementary School, members serve lunch to all students who have been named a “Student of the Week” during that time period. The school strives to have every student chosen throughout the course of the year allowing Junior Auxiliary to interact with the 530 enrolled students. The Chapter is also continuing their “athlEATS” program where athletes from Northeast Mississippi Community College eat lunch with a student. These students are identified by their teacher or a member of Junior Auxiliary.

CABOT, AR
Junior Auxiliary of Cabot, AR continued expanding their Christmas Blessing project this year – a project that provides Christmas gifts for the youth of Cabot. After a very successful Charity Ball, the Chapter used these funds and began working with the school district to identify children who would benefit from the program. Each child who was referred by the school counselor was to receive two pairs of pants, two shirts, shoes, hygiene products, and a gift that was suited to their interest. The district consists of 9 elementary schools, two middle schools, two junior high schools, a freshman academy, and a high school. With such a large school system, this was a big task to take on. The Chapter decided to rally...
together with local businesses to obtain the gifts, and to help promote the Chapter in the community. There were 16 local businesses that partnered with the Junior Auxiliary of Cleveland to help promote the program, help raise awareness, and to help gather donations of gifts and hygiene products. These business helped out in a big way and this provided yet another opportunity to foster positive relationships between the Chapter and the local community. Thanks to this creative marketing, and a successful Charity Ball, the Chapter was able to serve 211 children. All members participated in the shopping, much of which was done locally. Members also worked together by sorting, bagging, and delivering gifts.

(Clockwise from top left) Cleveland, MS; Collierville, TN (Photo credit: Tour Collierville Magazine); Batesville, MS; Cabot, AR

is not mandatory, eight to ten JA members volunteer at each event to help execute the program and spend time investing in the lives of these students. Over 60 service hours were given to this project for the 2016-17 school year.

COLLIERVILLE, TN
Junior Auxiliary of Collierville, TN members are excited to welcome two new projects to their growing historical community that manages to keep its small-town charm. The Chapter raises funds each year through one major fundraiser, The Ladies Luncheon and Fashion Show. The majority of the funds go towards supplying food for local families over the summer in the Summer Backpack Food Program as well as putting on free events on the town square. The Summer Backpack Program was created and implemented by members of JAC in the summer of 2016 after recognizing the need in the community to provide food for the families who receive assistance throughout the school year, but not over the course of the summer. This summer will mark only the second year for the Summer Backpack Food Program so this is still very much a learning process, but also a true and necessary service project. JAC will also introduce the first and only Little Free Library in Collierville, benefiting anyone who enjoys reading and relaxing on the historic town square. The library will model the historic buildings that line the beautiful town square. JAC will maintain the structure as well as stock the library with books.

DESOTO COUNTY, MS
Junior Auxiliary of DeSoto County, MS just wrapped up the third year of their Adopt-A-School service project. The Chapter adopted the Magnolia School three years ago after discovering a need for art in the school. JA members visit the school once a month and lead an art session with the students. This year some of the art activities included: 3D-hand art, #662 Rock Decorating, pumpkins painting, decorating Christmas ornaments, Easter egg dying, and so much more. Since the Magnolia School does not have a PTO, JA members also hosted two Teacher Appreciation Weeks. The first Teacher Appreciation week was held in the fall and JA members provided snacks and drinks on Monday, lunch on Wednesday, and breakfast on
Friday. This spring the Teacher Appreciation week consisted of special snacks and drinks on Monday, a delicious lunch sponsored by Buffalo Wild Wings on Wednesday, and homemade desserts on Friday. The teachers were so grateful of the extra love shown to them. The last Adopt-A-School session of the school year is not your typical art day… it’s a field day. Field Day was held on April 7, 2017. This fun filled day consisted of bounce houses, obstacle courses, and games. JA members also served popcorn and sno-cones to all the students and teachers.

EAST ST. MARY, LA
Junior Auxiliary of East St. Mary, LA recently hosted its second Princess Party. Kindergarten through 2nd grade students were chosen by principals and teachers to receive a special invitation to a princess party. Each school was able to submit three girl’s names. The party was held on Saturday, March 25, 2017 at a local church with ten girls in attendance. The participants were able to choose a princess costume to wear for the party where they had their hair, nails and makeup done. The girls were able to decorate their own crowns with as many jewels as they wanted. Each girl was then able to decorate a cupcake. The girls had a wonderful time having their picture taken in their costumes. Princess Party Chairman, Amy Isham, stated “It was great to see the joy on the girls’ faces when they looked at themselves in the mirror with the princess dress on and their hair and makeup done! You could tell they truly felt like a princess for the day! You could also see the joy on their mothers’ faces as they watched their “princess” get pampered and enjoy themselves.

HAMMOND, LA
Junior Auxiliary of Hammond, LA has been very busy this spring serving their community. They have continued their partnership with the First United Methodist Church of Hammond’s Laurent project. Through this project, the Chapter has aided more than 20 families affected by the flood last August by providing needed household items and supplies. The Chapter will continue to provide items to this project for flood relief victims over the next few months. For the past few years, they have also partnered with their parish’s community wellness coalition and provided fun games and face painting to children at “In the Zone.” These events, held before the city’s Christmas and Mardi Gras parades, give kids a place to play while also educating them on health and safety before each parade. Continuing their commitment to newborns, the Chapter hosted two Baby Showers at the Restoration House Pregnancy Resource Center for 20 soon-to-be mommies. At the baby showers they played games with the ladies, had cake and punch, and educated a little bit about newborn health. Each expectant mother got to win gifts including newborn necessities like swaddle blankets, grooming sets, diaper bags, car seat cushions, bottles, and diapers. They also gave each mother a baby bath tub filled with shampoo, baby lotion, wipes, washcloths and a bath toy. They closed out this year of service with their annual Hunt for Health egg hunt and health fair where over 100 children enjoyed relay race games, spring-themed arts & crafts, face painting, bounce houses, healthy snacks, and an egg hunt with over 2,500 eggs. With the help of community partners, the Chapter also provided educational booths on anti-littering, solar cooking, animal safety, and physical activity.

JONESBORO, AR
Junior Auxiliary of Jonesboro, AR loves reading with young children through their project, Literacy and More. This project began in 2008 and is designed for 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students from 9 to 12 years of age. The students are selected by a school administrator who is knowledgeable about the student’s reading ability. This year there were a total of twelve book clubs that served 72 students. Two local schools are served, both having a high number of students who receive free or reduced lunches and also have low test scores. Each Book Club has a JA member, who serves as the Book Club leader, and approximately six students who are all the same gender and in the same grade. This project was created in response to concerns about wide spread illiteracy in their community. There is a correlation between the high illiteracy rates in Arkansas and school drop-out statistics, criminal behavior, early teen pregnancies, drug usage, and the cycle of poverty and dependence on Arkansas’s welfare and social programs. The goal was to help children learn to love reading which would hopefully combat illiteracy and these unwanted consequences of illiteracy.
The clubs meet at least 16 times over the course of the fall and spring semesters, for approximately one hour per week during the students’ lunch and recess time. At the end of each semester, the groups celebrate with a pizza party, and they also are given a Book Club t-shirt. Over the course of the year, this Chapter saw the Book Club kids embrace reading. They would get excited about starting a new book, and even more excited when they would finish it and start another one. As exciting as it has been to witness the children showing their love for reading, the reward has been so much more than this. Over the years, relationships have formed between the children and their Book Club leaders. Some leaders keep their same groups from their start in 4th grade to the end of 6th grade. The hugs these women have given, received, and witnessed go far beyond anyone’s imagination. One members said, “Members grow to love these kids, and I believe it is safe to say these kids grow to love us as well. We also are lucky to witness the encouragement these children provide one another. We usually discuss our week, our grades, our future plans, and this gives the children opportunity to celebrate together or even cry together if the week has been tough. Literacy and More is definitely a project that we can enjoy for years to come. It is exactly what the name implies…Literacy, and so much MORE!”

LAKE PROVIDENCE, LA

The Junior Auxiliary of Lake Providence, LA celebrated their Child Welfare’s little girl’s birthday by hosting her 3rd birthday party in Snow White fashion! With her mother’s help, this party was months in the planning, and the Chapter had an incredible time making decorations and costumes, and buying her some birthday gifts. There was a great group of women that decorated and helped with set up, and then another group which consisted of Provisionals and the Ex Officio, who took the party to a whole other level by dressing up as Snow White and the Seven (in our case six) dwarfs. They sang, Hi Ho, Hi Hum, and Happy Birthday to a sweet three year old, who was so overwhelmed that she cried. One member said, “It sure wasn’t the reaction we expected, but the other children in attendance loved it! We posed for pictures, got and gave lots of hugs, and then wished our little girl another Happy Birthday for pictures, got and gave lots of hugs, and children in attendance loved it! We posed the reaction we expected, but the other cried. One member said, “It sure wasn’t year old, who was so overwhelmed that she Hum, and Happy Birthday to a sweet three case six) dwarfs. They sang, Hi Ho, Hi Snow White and the Seven (in our the party to a whole other level by dressing Provisionals and the Ex Officio, who took that decorated and helped with set up, and groups from their start in 4th grade to the end of 6th grade. The hugs these women have given, received, and witnessed go far beyond anyone’s imagination. One member said, “Members grow to love these kids, and I believe it is safe to say these kids grow to love us as well. We also are lucky to witness the encouragement these children provide one another. We usually discuss our week, our grades, our future plans, and this gives the children opportunity to celebrate together or even cry together if the week has been tough. Literacy and More is definitely a project that we can enjoy for years to come. It is exactly what the name implies…Literacy, and so much MORE!”

JUNIOR AUXILIARY OF JONESBORO, AR

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Tip of Our Crown

Jonesboro, AR
Birthday before we left. We had a great day and her mother told us over and over how happy she was and how much she talked about her party – even though she said we were “scary!” It was a great day and we felt like we had given her something that she had never experienced before!”

LAWRENCE COUNTY, AR
Junior Auxiliary of Lawrence County, AR transported approximately 100 high school girls from the four county schools to the Walnut Ridge Community Center for the first annual JA Jewels. Guest speakers were Dr. Cassie Glenn Hunter and Allison Munn, local news reporter for KAIT in Jonesboro, AR. These ladies informed the girls about proper hygiene, etiquette, and how to stay safe in today’s social media. There were drawings for door prizes and each girl received gift bags with items donated from local businesses.

MADISON COUNTY, FL
Junior Auxiliary of Madison County, FL’s 2016-17 Provisional class is making a difference in after-school programs in the community. They developed the Healthy Habits, Happy Kids project to teach children the value of making healthy choices. The project focuses on the mind and body. Students are shown fun ways to get active, given ideas for healthy snacks, and taught calming techniques to use when they are feeling stressed. Members model calming activities, pass out healthy snacks, and play fun, physically active games with the students. The hope is that these students will realize how much better they feel when they live healthy. Students are also given a goody bag filled with items to remind them to make healthy choices. The Chapter is certainly hopeful that these healthy choices will become healthy habits.

MILAN, TN
The Junior Auxiliary of Milan TN held their annual Angel Tree project during December. They helped 40 kids from 10 families by asking for donations from the community for items such as toys, clothing and other necessities each child may have listed on a wish list. The children’s parents apply for the program through the school district. The ladies of Milan JA then held a wrap party, with the help of the Crown Club and MHS Soccer team, to wrap the presents for the children to open on Christmas day.

During January, Beth Holbert, former NAJA President, visited to help educate the Chapter on NAJA as well as information on how to plan for potential projects, fundraisers and recruitment ideas. In March, the Provisional class completed their 6 month training and JA of Milan welcomed 7 new members by presenting each member with her pin, service shirt and some goodies. The Milan JA ladies host a Father Daughter dance each May. This year’s theme is “Ties & Tiara’s”. The night includes a photo booth with props, food and lots of dancing. This year the Chapter will also be purchasing dresses and shoes and doing hair and nails for girls from the Angel Tree project.

NATCHEZ, MS
The Junior Auxiliary Natchez, MS held their first awards night ceremony and reception on Tuesday, April 11, 2017. In celebration of awarding the local Chapter’s E.W. Peabody Memorial Scholarship to two local area high school ladies as well as commemorating their Girl Scout Troop and graduating Provisional Class, they wanted to do something special. Each Girl Scout was given one of the newly designed JA merit badges for their service work performed alongside the JA ladies on three separate projects: Pack the Bus School Supply Drive, Baton Rouge Emergency Flood Relief Supply Drive and Breakfast with the Grinch. There were sixteen young ladies in the troop that earned badges. Jennifer Freeman is the Troop Leader for Troop 3777. As a “Thank you” for Jennifer allowing her troop to partner with JA, she was given two tickets to the Chapter’s Annual Shrimp Boil and a copy of The Crownlet which featured the JA ladies and her troop as the “Tip of the Crown” winner. Sydney Jackson of Cathedral High School in Natchez, MS and Caitlin Morgan Ballard of Delta Charter High School in Ferriday, La. were the two scholarship recipients and the four graduating Provisional’s were Ashley Carpenter, Laura Edie, Jenny Townsend and Jennifer Rosso. Jenny and Jennifer have accepted their invitations to become Active members. Jennifer was presented with a special gift of the 75th Anniversary ornament for her countless hours selling tickets and decorating the Chapter owned building for projects held there. When McLaurin School Counselor Pam Robinson reached out to this Chapter about the need to have a stock of feminine products on hand for girls beginning their menstrual cycles at school, JA was all too eager to help and went the extra mile. The Chapter implemented a program in each of the 3 area public schools that
NEW ALBANY, MS
Junior Auxiliary of New Albany, MS took on a new Service project geared toward special needs adults. Twice this year, they scheduled a day to spend time at the New Haven Center. “The center’s mission is to provide a safe environment where mentally challenged clients can experience a variety of activities to enrich their lives, enjoy the company of a peer group, learn life skills, and work toward greater independence through lifelong learning geared to individual needs. While at the center the Chapter provided a meal or snack and played games. The ladies report that they love to play Minute to Win It! The clients love to have visitors and especially ones that come to have fun with them….and they love a chance to win prizes. This Chapter is thankful for the opportunity to be able to service this particular group in their community.

ROGERS-BENTONVILLE, AR
Junior Auxiliary of Rogers-Bentonville, AR is proud to welcome a great group of women who served as Provisionals during the 2016-2017 year. For their project, this dynamic team chose to work with a wonderful organization that has been serving Northwest Arkansas for over 50 years. The Sunshine School and Development Center helps individuals with developmental delays reach their full potential. They enrich the lives of children and adults through education, therapy and support. The first phase of the project involved the strenuous task of preparing the school’s Therapy Garden for spring planting. The second phase included cleaning and sanitizing PT/OT equipment, toys, desks, play mats and special equipment that are used with the kids.

“We are so pleased to have a strong Provisional class and inducted eight new members at our luncheon in April,” said Susan Woodward, Provisional Trainer. “This group is dedicated to serving Junior Auxiliary, with several chairing committees and serving on our Executive Board next year.”

SEARCY, AR
Junior Auxiliary of Searcy, AR has been an integral part of the Sunshine School in Searcy, Arkansas. In 1964, six members of JA saw a need in this community and began a “mother’s day out” program to help mothers of children with disabilities. This evolved into the Sunshine School, which is now funded by state and federal monies, tuition from public schools, and donations. Mary Lou Dunn, Director of Sunshine School, said “Junior Auxiliary is the founding mother for the Sunshine School. It has continued to be involved for fifty plus years. JA of Searcy is vital to the Sunshine School both financially and voluntarily.” The Sunshine School project is at the heart of JA of Searcy’s service to children in their community and is their largest project, providing services year-round. These services include providing monthly meals for one of the Sunshine School families and hosting monthly birthday parties for the students and teachers where members serve cake and ice cream and give each child a card signed by all of the JA members. In August, each year before school starts, the Sunshine School holds a 3 day camp at Camp Wyl dewood. The Chapter provides crafts and watches the campers while swimming. Each October, they host the Halloween Carnival and in April, an Easter Party, where members provide hundreds of pre-filled eggs and hide them for an Easter egg hunt. Junior Auxiliary of Searcy also provides meals for the Sunshine School faculty and helps with the Special Olympics.

TIPTON COUNTY, TN
Junior Auxiliary of Tipton County, TN initiated a new project to meet a need in their schools. Year after year, they would hear the teachers say that they needed supplies at the beginning of the second semester, especially tissues, hand sanitizer, and wipes. With that need not being fulfilled, the Chapter started the Great Classroom Cleanup! The local Walmart and Fred’s allowed them to set up and ask for donations. With items purchased by the Chapter and donations, JA was able to donate to each elementary school in the county! That is seven schools who received items to help wipe out germs in the classroom! With the flu striking hard this year those items helped kids stay healthy!

TUPELO, MS
Junior Auxiliary of Tupelo, MS recently received a $10,000 grant from Toyota. This funding is going toward the improvement of the Chapter’s Clothes Closet and Silent Servings program. Thanks to this grant money JA of Tupelo has been able to increase the number of children served. The Clothes Closet scheduled and saw approximately 100 more children this year than last year. The grant also allowed the Chapter to purchase special sized clothing items that were needed. The Silent Servings project has been greatly impacted as well. Silent Servings enables JA of Tupelo to drop off individual sacks of food items every 2 weeks to students in need at local schools, as well as provide Christmas presents to children in need. The food helps to assist students to have nourishment over the weekend. Because of the Toyota grant, Silent Servings is growing and JA of Tupelo has been able to adopt another school, bringing the total number of children served through this program to 135 per week, with a total of 4,860 sacks of food per school year. JA of Tupelo truly appreciates Toyota for awarding the Chapter with this grant money which is helping to make a difference in the lives of the children in Tupelo and Lee County.
CURRENCY FOR PRESIDENTS

For all Chapter Presidents: Join your NAJA President as she opens the vault to cover items of “interest” such as conducting effective meetings, ways to recruit and motivate members, what should be in your Chapter constitution, what is a Child Welfare Project, and Chapter finances. This investment of your time will help you and your Chapter Pay It Forward.$

TREASURER’S WORKSHOP

Knowledge is a TREASURE and the upcoming Area Meetings are a great place to increase your knowledge about Chapter finances. Area Meetings are worth your TIME to increase your TALENT in order to be good stewards of your Chapter’s TREASURE. The Treasurer’s Manuel is our guide but sometimes hearing brings it all together and also offers the opportunity to ask questions as well as network with other Treasurers. See you in Memphis or Hattiesburg.

PAYDAY FOR PROVISIONAL TRAINERS

We’ve all heard it... invest early for the big returns. Do you want to learn the best ways to invest in your Chapter’s future through training your Provisionals today? The Provisional Training workshop at Area Meetings will help you do just that! We can help you to invest in new members and train them to be successful and productive members throughout their time in your Chapter. You will also have the opportunity to strategize with other Provisional Trainers on how you can strengthen your “Provisional portfolio” and how you can “Pay It Forward” for your Chapter with a great Provisional class.

Networking:
YOUR MOST “VALUABLE” TOOL

Join the NAJA Education Committee members and other NAJA representatives for an interactive, round-table discussion at both Northern and Southern Area Meetings. Get your phones charged and ready for a little friendly competition to test your NAJA knowledge and bring a little twist of fun. Each table will use the game as conversation starters, but our priority is to allow Chapter members to network and share ideas, with a NAJA rep handy to answer questions and provide clarification if needed. If your Chapter has any concerns or issues, please email those to: heathernaja@gmail.com anytime between now and the Area Meeting.
Pay It Forward
INVEST IN YOUR LEADERSHIP!

Your new JA year is in full swing, and Area Meetings are quickly approaching! What better way to “Pay It Forward” than to invest in the leadership of your Chapters? We will use our time at the Northern and Southern Area Meetings to create a more intimate environment for your members to come together and learn, to discuss ideas and ask questions, and learn tools and tips from our speakers and workshop leaders to take back to your Chapters. Attendance at a NAJA Area Meeting will ultimately benefit the communities you serve!

Southern Area Meeting
August 12, 2017
Lake Terrace Convention Center
Hattiesburg, MS.
Registration $50
Deadline: July 28
Block of rooms for Friday night, August 11 at Courtyard By Marriott
Room rate is $99-601-268-3050
Reservation cut-off date is August 1

Northern Area Meeting
September 23, 2017
Memphis Hilton
Registration $50
Deadline: September 8
Block of rooms for Friday night, September 22 at the Hilton
Room rate is $134-901-684-6664
Reservation cut-off date is August 23

Heather Fox
is an Arkansas native who moved to Memphis in 1998 to pursue a career in advertising. Heather has been with FedEx for 15 years and currently works in Human Resources at FedEx Services as a Manager leading the Learning and Development team. Her true passion is inspiring others to grow both personally and professionally. She is also very active in mentoring with the Memphis City School’s ‘Connect’ program, as well as the University of Memphis Senior for the MILE program. Heather shares her inspiring story titled IMPACT in which she describes how she stopped to help a stranded motorist and it unexpectedly took a turn for the worse. At our Area Meetings this fall you will have the opportunity to hear Heather’s incredible story of how a young girl saved her life – changing her outlook forever, and you see how she is paying it forward to change the lives of others.

Navigate the NAJA “GAME OF LIFE” with the NEW WEBSITE!

Did you miss the new website training session at AEC? Well, no worries. You have a second chance to find your compass to navigate the new website at Area Meetings. During this session you will go down the path exploring the different sections of the website. For bonus dollars $$, you can encounter a trip through the award application submission process! Last, but not least, will be Q&A on those hard to figure out life choices (your website questions). We can’t wait to play the NAJA “Game of Life” with you!
AEC 2017 is in the books...

BUT WHAT A GRAND TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!!

Kristi Prince, Life Member of JA of Monticello, AR, in 1940's attire.

Speaker Jeff McManus and Past NAJA President Christy Kern

JA of Forrest City, AR

JA of Columbus, MS

JA of Tipton County, TN

JA of Madison County, MS

NAJA Foundation After Hours Party decorations
FORTY NINE COMPLETED APPLICATIONS were reviewed by the Scholarship committee. Fourteen (14) semi-finalists were interviewed via telephone. Five (5) finalists were selected to receive scholarships totaling $27,200.

To date, five hundred and forty-two (542) scholarships have been awarded for a total of $1,268,504. The scholarships are awarded to individuals pursuing graduate degrees in fields of study which meet the special needs of children.

The National Scholarship Program is funded through donations from JA Chapters, honorariums, memorials and special gifts. Seventy-nine percent (79%) of the Chapters have given to the scholarship program. Seventy-nine (79%) of those Chapters donated at a Crown level. The National Scholarship Committee is very thankful to the Robbins family for their continued support of the National Graduate Scholarship program.

Respectively submitted,

Debbie Bailey
National Association of Junior Auxiliaries Scholarship Chairman 2015 – 2017

THE NAJA SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE AWARDED THE FOLLOWING RECIPIENTS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 2017–2018

Jennifer Anti
SLIDELL, LA
Masters in Dyslexia Therapy
William Carey College

Amanda Hodges
BRANDON, MS
Masters in Nursing
University of Mississippi Medical Center

Jessica Nelson
KNOXVILLE, TN
Masters in Counseling
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Lynette Reno
PONCHATOULA, LA
Masters in Counseling
Southeastern Louisiana University

**Katherine Taylor
BRANDON, MS
Masters in Nursing
University of Mississippi Medical Center

**Katherine Taylor was named the recipient of the Memorial Scholarship in memory of Annie Payne McAllister, 1946-47 NAJA President of Meridian, MS.

PLATINUM CROWN
($1,250 AND UP)

DeSoto County, MS
Oxford, MS
Starkville, MS
Tipton County, TN

SAPPHIRE CROWN
($500 - $749)

Batesville, MS
Brookhaven, MS
Crittenden County, AR
Grenada, MS
Gulfport, MS
Houma, LA
Madison County, FL
McComb, MS
Meridian, MS
Paragould, AR
Russellville, AR

DIAMOND CROWN
($750 - $1,249)

L & M Charitable Foundation, Inc.
The Jackie Robbins Family/Irrigation Mart
Clarksdale, MS

PEARL CROWN
($350 - $499)

Debbie Bailey
Charlott Jones
Abbeville, LA
Arkadelphia, AR
Booneville, MS
Cabot, AR
Camden, AR
Clarksville, AR
Corinth, MS
Crossett, AR
Crystal Springs, MS
East St. Mary, LA
Eastern Shore, AL
Hammond, LA
Hope, AR
Hot Springs, AR
Humboldt, TN

Indianola, MS
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Lake Providence, LA
Laurel, MS
Macon, MS
Monticello, AR
Mountain Home, AR
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New Albany, MS
Rankin County, MS
Rogers-Bentonville, AR
Saline County, AR
Siidell, LA
Taney County, MO
Tate-Panola, MS
West Point, MS
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2016-2017 NAJA Foundation

ANNUAL FUND AND CUMMULATIVE DONORS

CUMMULATIVE DONORS

CROWN BENEFACTOR
($100,000.00 + )
Mary Carole Bowers

PLATINUM CROWN
($50,000.00 + )
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Sharon Hudson
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JA of Houlum, LA
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WDW Community Relations
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JA of Greenville, MS  
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JA of Saline County, AR  
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Lucy Janoush  
Charlott Jones

Lynn Kinard  
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Margaret Brooks  
Gayle Brown  
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Cathy Chase  
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Julie Springer  
Vickie Tidwell  
Johnnie Tolleson  
Jacque Turner  
Marci Walt  
Mary-Virginia Watson  
Janet Webb  
Suzanna Williams

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**Plan Ahead for AEC 2018!**

In April 2018, we have the chance to explore a city that has not held a NAJA conference for eight years. It’s the City of Six Flags – or Mobile!

Join us for our return to the coastal Alabama city full of seafood, nightlife, and Southern hospitality. We’ll explore Mardi Gras history while also learning about our local Chapters and their community initiatives. The event will be held at the Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza and the Mobile Convention Center.

NAJA is excited to announce that Kim Gravel will be returning to AEC, this time as Plenary speaker. She was a big hit with attendees in 2016. Plan now to be in Mobile to hear her at 1:00 p.m. on April 27th. There will be designated training opportunities for your elected members serving as Provisional Trainer, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and President. Training events are planned as well for women in all other levels of Junior Auxiliary. Other speakers will be announced in the upcoming months. Your experience will conclude with the opportunity to dress up and show off your Chapter’s projects on Saturday evening during the annual Awards Banquet.

Come see the power of women from 7 states Paying It Forward! It will be a weekend to remember!!
THINK BACK TO THE YEAR 2003 and all the technology advances that we have become accustomed to since then. Some examples are:
- Facebook – 2004
- Google goes public and makes search a way of life – 2004
- Twitter – 2006
- Apple iPhone and Amazon Kindle – 2007
- Apple iPad – 2010
- Mobile pay – 2015

So why am I talking about 2003 when it is the year 2017 you ask? Well that was the last time the NAJA website had a major update. In technology years that puts our website and, in the opinion of some, our organization behind the times. That is why the NAJA Board of Directors knew they had to invest in updating the website in order to:
1) make the site a PR tool for the organization
2) make NAJA more appealing to younger generations, and
3) add needed technology to the site.

The project started in 2015 and completed with the launch of the new site at AEC 2017. The site was completely redesigned to have a cleaner look and a more logical ordering of information. From the Home Page you will see six sections across the top:

Also added to the site was a search option and functionality. It can be found at the top right of the Home page by simply clicking on the magnifying glass to make the search box appear. Say you are trying to find infor-
mation on the MAG Award on the website. You would simply click on the magnifying glass and in the search box type “award”. Then all award information will return in the search results.

Next on the Home Page in the top right corner you will see three vertical dots. When you click on these dots the NAJA social channels will appear and when you click on them individually, you will be taken to that social channel.

If you haven’t taken a tour around the new website yet, I encourage you to take the time to do this today. In order to access the information meant only for JA members, you will need your own user id. The old najaweb/chapters user id and password will no longer work. To set up your own id simply go to the bottom of the Home Page and click on the Log In link. From there you will select Register. Then create your personal user id and password and you are ready to go. Also, if you forget your log in information, the website has the functionality to reset that for you.

While the website is a great step in the right direction, the NAJA BOD realizes there will be ongoing enhancements needed to keep the website updated with changing technology. Therefore the Board has plans to send a survey out in the next couple of months to ask what you would like to see added or changed about the website. We will take this feedback to help prioritize future enhancements, so please participate.

EARLIER THIS SPRING, a new show debuted on Netflix called “13 Reasons Why” and the Internet went ablaze with posts, both in praise of—and against—this show about teen suicide, adapted from the book of the same name by Jay Asher.

You may wonder how this ties in to the NAJA National Focus. Let’s consider the fact that kids, tweens, and teens can watch this show anytime and anywhere on any kind of device that connects to the Internet if they have access to a Netflix account. This on-demand viewing capability allows for children to watch things they are not mature enough to process on their own, and many kids are watching this on their own without the important conversations that need to happen with the adults in their life. They aren’t armed with the information about where they can turn for help if they or a friend are having suicidal thoughts—or to process the horrible things that happened to the main character.

I have had many conversations with my own kids about this show and we have decided as a family to opt out of the graphic depiction and to read the book together if they decide that they want to read it. As an added precaution, I have taken full advantage of the parental controls that Netflix offers to restrict their access to this program, as well as others, with the TV-MA rating that this show has. Netflix offers profile-level controls where the user sets a maturity level for a profile and parents ensure that the kids use the correct profile. A more secure option is the account-level controls where a four-digit PIN must be entered to play any TV show or movie above a selected maturity level on any profile. This is great for keeping kids from seeing things that cannot be unseen.

Part of our National Focus is teaching the kids in our lives how to handle the ever-evolving technology and how it has changed the way we live our lives. We also want to make sure that the kids in our lives are able to live their lives to the fullest. We can accomplish this by helping others learn to limit content that can damage fragile, young minds and by providing resources to help them cope with the topic of youth suicide and the stresses of growing up in this digital age. If you’ve been to an AEC where we have had a member of the Flatt family from the Jason Foundation speak, you’ll know that one of the keys to youth suicide prevention is to open the door to honest conversations with the kids in our lives.

Whether you are a parent, an educator, a grandparent, an aunt, or a volunteer with kids, information is power in our hands and can make a difference.


National Suicide Prevention Network: https://suicidepreventionlifeline.org/ or 1-800-273-8255 (available 24/7)

13 Reasons Talking Points from the JED Foundation: https://www.jedfoundation.org/13-reasons-jed-point-view/
CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2017 AWARD WINNERS
Presented at Hilton Hotel Memphis, Tennessee, May 6, 2017

PRESIDENTS
Byram-Terry, MS
Columbus, MS
Gulfport, MS
Hattiesburg, MS

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

NEW PROJECT
Under 15,000: Brookhaven, MS – Kelso’s Choice
15,000-29,999: McComb, MS – Ready to Read/Bookshelf Boogie
30,000 & above: Gulfport, MS - GARDEN

MARTHA WISE

Under 15,000:
15,000-29,999:
30,000 & above:

EXISTING PROJECT
Under 15,000: Arkadelphia, AR – Angel Tree
15,000-29,999: Columbus, MS – Clothing (Welfare)
30,000 & above: Columbia, TN - LIFE

MARTHA WISE

Under 15,000:
15,000-29,999:
30,000 & above:

LOUISE ESKRIGGE CRUMP

Under 15,000:
15,000-29,999:
30,000 & above:

NORMA DELONG EDUCATION

Under 15,000:
15,000-29,999:
30,000 & above:

MAG

Under 15,000:
15,000-29,999:
30,000 & above:

ELEANOR SLAUGHTER

RECRUITMENT/RETENTION/REENGAGEMENT
Brookhaven, MS
Tipton County, TN

WILMA JOHNSON WILBANKS NATIONAL FOCUS EXISTING
Under 15,000: Batesville, MS – Boy and Girls Club Project
15,000-29,999: Russellville, AR – The A.C.E. Project
30,000 & above: Tipton County, TN – UNPLUGGED

CROWN CLUB

EXISTING PROJECT
Under 15,000: Grenada, MS – Kuddles for Kids
15,000-29,999: Russellville, AR – Bike Service
30,000 & above: Biloxi-Ocean Springs, MS – Candy Cane Lane

CROWN CLUB

EXISTING PROJECT
Under 15,000: Clinton, MS
15,000-29,999: McComb, MS
30,000 & above: Hattiesburg, MS

CROWN CLUB

NEW PROJECT
Under 15,000: Abbeville, LA – “Get H. A. P. P. Y. with JA!”
15,000-29,999: Columbus, MS – Choose Your Path
30,000 & above: DeSoto County, MS – Characters Cabins

PUBLIC RELATIONS

Under 15,000: Cleveland, MS – Overall Chapter Promotion
15,000-29,999: Columbus, MS – In My Shoes
30,000 & above: Tipton County, TN - UNPLUGGED

RUSSIAN VOLUNTEER-OF-THE-YEAR

Region I: Dianne McKissack, Clarksville, AR
Region II: Christina Palmer, DeSoto County, MS
Region III: Vicki Pentecost, Cleveland, MS
Region V: Marian Montgomery Chancellor, Columbus, MS
Region VI: Laurie Stetelman, Hattiesburg, MS

FINANCE

Under 15,000: Abbeville, LA - unWINEd
15,000-29,999: Laurel, MS – Casino Night
30,000 & above: Biloxi-Ocean Springs, MS – 2016 Gala – Mad Tea Party

Gulfport, MS – Charity Ball – Starlight Spectacular

CHARITY BALL – STARLIGHT SPECTACULAR
Efficiency Award 2017
The EFFICIENCY AWARD was established in 1987 to recognize Chapters for their punctuality and administrative excellence.

REGION I
Cabot, AR
Clarksville, AR
Forrest City, AR
Jonesboro, AR
Osceola, AR
Paragould, AR
Taney County, MO

REGION II
Collierville, TN
Columbia, TN
Corinth, MS
DeSoto County, MS
Humboldt, TN
Lauderdale County, TN
Milan, TN
Tipton County, TN

REGION III
Cleveland, MS
Clarksdale, MS
Grossett, AR
Greenville, MS
Grenada, MS
Monticello, AR
Nashville, AR
Saline County, AR
Winona, MS

REGION IV
Amory, MS
Columbus, MS
Oxford, MS
Tate-Panola, MS
Tishomingo Co., MS
Tupelo, MS

REGION V
Byram-Terry, MS
Brookhaven, MS
Clinton, MS
Crystal Springs, MS
Laurel, MS
McComb, MS
Madison Co., MS
Natchez, MS
Neshoba County, MS
Rankin County, MS
Ruston, LA
Vicksburg, MS

REGION VI
Abbeville, LA
Gulfport, MS
Hattiesburg, MS
Houma, LA
Madison County, FL
Slidell, LA

Foundation Outstanding Service Project:
Clarksdale, MS

Why I Give
TO THE NAJA FOUNDATION

My heart connected to Junior Auxiliary in 1990 when I became a Provisional member of the Slidell, LA Chapter, and that love continues through the years because of our united cause – to improve the lives of those who struggle, especially children. I learned early on that JA volunteers really do make a difference because they CARE, and when we share the blessings we have received with those who need love and support, we are all blessed again.

I am inspired by our members’ passion to help the vulnerable. Providing the basic necessities of life is an essential part of our cause, and I feel strongly that the real difference is made through mentoring and connecting to the emotional support so many children crave and need.

Junior Auxiliary is successful not only for our passion in serving but also through JA’s training and continuing education in leadership skills and community knowledge that sets us apart from other organizations. This ongoing education is essential because it establishes and maintains high standards for our individual Chapters.

We can demonstrate our love of JA during and beyond our Active volunteer service by supporting the NAJA Foundation, which ensures that our Chapters have the ability to serve effectively through its support of educational opportunities for our members and financial grants that provide assistance to Chapters. Our voice is stronger when we are united in service, skill, and a passion to help others.

By continuing to give to the NAJA Foundation, I connect to all of the communities we serve and to every child that is nurtured and helped by our JA members. Junior Auxiliary will forever be in my heart, and I encourage each of you to join me in supporting the NAJA Foundation.

Carol Caruso
NAJA President 2006-07
Life Member, JA of Slidell, LA
The Crownlet

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE asked Past NAJA President Carol Caruso of JA of Slidell, LA, to be in charge of a history room at AEC 2017 that would showcase the past 75 years of the Association. The final product was a sight to behold! Attendees at the annual meeting in Memphis were awed by the colorful and educational exhibits. The NAJA Staff brought displays on founder Louise Crump, including her Underwood typewriter, past Executive Directors Martha Wise and Norma DeLong, Bulletins from each decade, and a copy of every Crownlet ever published. They produced special displays for Parliamentarian Wilma Wilbanks and her over 25 years of service, as well as one on her mother, Ellen Ann Johnson, who had served as Galleria Coordinator for as many years. Under a tent in the middle of the room were tables of Annual Meeting scrapbooks and convention bags, t-shirts, and programs from throughout the years. Hanging from the tent were 75 diamond “maps” of each convention. The map was the location of the AEC, and printed on the map was the theme of that year. Another exhibit was a bookcase that contained a copy of the cookbooks produced by various Chapters as fundraisers. Caruso requested that each Charter Chapter bring displays, and past National Presidents also brought memorabilia from their year as President. Seven large colorful posters told of the seven decades of NAJA’s existence, with the Chapters listed that chartered in that decade and important historical events that had occurred during that time. A large wooden crown was used to educate the attendees on the National Standing Committees that were either still in existence or had once been a part of the organizational
JA Angels

WORKING TO PAY IT FORWARD
TO THE NEXT GENERATION

JUNIOR AUXILIARY OF GRENADA, MS

would like to ask, “Have you ever wondered why you do the things you do when
helping others, whether it is known to the
public eye or not?” Well, listen to this story
from 27-year-old CiCora Leigh from Gren-
da, MS. CiCora was recently asked by an
Active JA member from Grenada to come
to and speak with the Ingénues girls, a Service
project done by JA of Grenada that helps
with under privileged 4th and 5th grade
Girls teaching them about manners, person-
al hygiene, exercise, all around things
to help them become the best student and
young lady they can be. CiCora was ecstatic
when asked to give the girls a “workout”
since CiCora is a local member of Cross-
Fit Grenada. You see, CiCora’s experience
with Junior Auxiliary started over 15 years
ago, and here is how... “My first experience
with JA occurred when I was at Grenada
Middle School. My mother died in a house
fire 16 days before my 12th birthday. She
was a single parent of three children. I’m
the oldest. My father was alive at the time,
but we didn’t have a very close relationship.
My teachers, Mrs. Jordan and Mrs. Jackson
stepped in immediately. I remember them
visiting my home to check on me and my
family. This was also when I first met Mrs.
Jan Walton. I had no clue who she was, but
just like Mrs. Jordan and Mrs. Jackson, she
had a soul full of light. I remember her tak-
ing my brother, sister, and I to a warehouse
to get clothes. We didn’t have any clothes.
Everything was either burned or filled with
the smell of smoke from the fire. At the age
of 12, I never knew that there were people
out there who came in like angels during
times like this. They kept in contact with me
during my short break from school, and they
helped me transition back into the classroom
by surrounding me with love and support to
carry on with life. I’m sure I may have forgot-
ten that these women were connected to JA
or if I ever noticed it because I was so young
at the time. I know Kathryn Shirley, a cur-
rent Active JA member, from events at high
school and more recently and personally
through CrossFit Grenada. We often have
classes together. One morning, she asked if
Matt or I would be interested in helping out
with a kids’ class. I coach a kids’ class so I
volunteered. After we talked more about it,
she said that it was for the Ingénues girls. I
did a little research, and I instantly contact-
ed her on Facebook to let her know that I
believe this is God’s way of allowing me to
give back to an organization that stepped in
for me during the most tragic time in my life.
I just thank God for those people who give
selflessly. You never know who you’re going
to touch and what it may mean in their life!
To think, my experience with JA was over a
decade and a half ago, but I still remember
every detail. Mrs. Jordan, Mrs. Jackson, and
Mrs. Walton were angels doing the work of
God through JA. They stepped in to do all
that they could. It was genuine. That is truly
rare. People remember what you do. They
remember the impact that you have on their
life whether it’s good or bad. Because I re-
member the impact they had on me, I thank
God that I was able to take part in and give
my time and energy to the Ingénues girls. I
pray that I touched their lives in some way
that they will remember a decade from now.
It may seem small, but I was touched to be
able to contribute in any way to an organi-
zation that contributed to me. That is how
you make a difference. They planted a seed
in me, and I paid it forward by doing the
same in a way that I could. I currently live
in Grenada, MS and I am an Intelligence
Analyst for the U.S. Army and in the MS
National Guard. I coach a kids’ workout
class at CrossFit Grenada. I am now con-
centrating on God’s voice to send me in the
right direction.”

structure. A favorite of attendees were the
framed pictures of the NAJA Boards from
1989 to present and a scrapbook that held
pictures of the NAJA Executive Committees
and Board of Directors from 1953 to 1988.
Of course, what look at history would have
been complete without an exhibit on the
NAJA Graduate Scholarship Program and
the Betty Robbins Endowed Scholarship,
as well as a display of the various logos and
symbols that had branded our Association
throughout time. As the attendees exited the
room, they were given a copy of the NAJA
Cookbook, Silver Spoons, Blueberry After-
noons on which a special 75th Anniversary
sticker had been placed. Many of the ex-
hibits took hours of research and production
and will become permanent fixtures at NAJA
Headquarters to educate and delight mem-
bers that visit.
NAJA FOUNDATION HONORARIUMS

VALENTINES
NAJA FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES
DEBBIE BAILEY
MIKE BOYD
VICKI PENTECOST
GINA SPRATLIN
CAROLINE WALTERS
Celia Ford

NAJA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NAJA CROWN & GAVEL
NAJA FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Leslie Vaughn

KRISTEN BACON
DEIDRE BUSH
TERESA BLANKENSHIP
ESTHER CORDEE
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MINDI HARKNESS
VICKIE HARRIS
PAULA HICKS
CAMPBELL HQUE
SMITH HOWE
HANNAH ADDIX
DONNA PEARL
JON CHISOLM SMITH
HARTMAN SMITH
SMITH FAMILY
BLANCHE STRING
TRA ELEMENTARY TEACHERS
Noel Howe

LISA BENJAMIN
RHONDA BYRANT
EDITH CROSBY
MEG GLENN
BERT GREENWALT
TJ. HIGGS
NOEL HOWE
DEBBIE JONES
PATRICIA KELLY
VICKIE PERSON
Charlott Jones

MIKE BOYD
JIMMY PEARSON

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Debbie & Erwin Bailey

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GINNY SIMS
SANDRA STILLMAN
Darlene Carey & Bill Harmon

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MR. & MRS. ROBERT E. FORD, SR.
DR. ROSEMARY OLIPHANT-INGHAM
Celia, Norman, Madison & Mary Dade Ford

ASHLEY GARDNER
MARY SCHREIBER
Sara Schrekenhofer

BILL HARMON
Darlene Carey

MOTHER'S DAY
AVERY ADKINS
PHYLLIS ROBINSON
ELIZABETH WESSE
Esther Herring

ANN COOK
NANCY FORD
Norman, Cela Madison & Mary Dade Ford

CINDY GALEY
KATHY HAMM
KATHY HART
JEANNE HILDEBRANDT
DEEDEE HOLLAWAY
SUSAN KINARD
AMANDA KNAUER
LINDA PITCOCK
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Debbie Bailey

JOYCE GREEN
LOUISE VAUGHN
Leslie Vaughn

ELLEN ANN JOHNSON
Wilma & Bob Wilbanks

CARLA RATLUFF
SHERRY ROSE
CAROL JANE TAYLOR
Cana Newsom

SANDRA SCHREKENHOFER
Sara Schrekenhofer

FATHER'S DAY
DOUG VAUGHN
Leslie Vaughn
NAJA 75th ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE
Goyle Brown

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2016-17 NAJA FOUNDATION TRUSTEES
2017-18 NAJA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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Amanda Knauer

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VICKIE TIDWELL
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Lindsay Clemons
With a Foundation Annual Fund donation of $100 or greater, you will receive this lovely crown print designed by NAJA Past President Vicki Pentecost of Cleveland, MS.
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