The NAJA Foundation is able to bless various Chapters throughout the year with grants and ALL Chapters with AEC speakers, NAJA website improvement and other ways.... because of your support of their AEC Annual Raffle.

We need your help! Please consider a raffle donation. Some examples of raffle items are: baskets (pamper me, kitchen, stationery, Mom’s night out, sweet treats, etc.), a weekend getaway at your vacation home, household decorative accessories, jewelry, purses, artwork, and pottery. All donations to the Foundation are tax deductible.

Please contact Raffle Chairman, Vickie Tidwell, at vltidwell@suddenlink.net or 870-219-6224 regarding your donation. You may also click here for the form on the NAJA website that can be filled out and emailed to Tidwell. Raffle donations may be dropped off at AEC on Thursday afternoon, April 25, or Friday morning, April 26, in the Ridgelake room. Please notify Vickie Tidwell by Monday, April 22, if you plan to donate an item to the NAJA Foundation Raffle.

-Vickie Tidwell, Foundation Raffle Chairman & Past NAJA President, 2007-2008

Eleanor Slaughter Award

In 2008, a NAJA award was created called the Eleanor Slaughter Award. This award recognizes Chapters for achievement in areas of the 3 R’s of Membership: recruitment, retention, and reengagement of members.

So who was Eleanor Slaughter? Why did NAJA recognize her by naming an award after her? She was a shining example for us all that left a large footprint. She was a past NAJA President 1956-1957 and Life member of the Junior Auxiliary of Columbus, Mississippi. She was known for her life long commitment to JA and never missing an AEC until her health began to fail. In 2013, she passed away. Her work and dedication to Junior Auxiliary’s Service in our communities provides a role model for all of us, and how we should meet membership challenges in order to serve our communities well.

The application, previous award winner narratives, and tips for writing winning submissions are on the NAJA website at www.najanet.org. Deadline for submission is March 15. Let us award you for your membership success!

-Sug Borgognoni, Membership Committee Chairman

Let’s Have a Pajama Party at AEC!

Renee Rongen, our Plenary speaker, is the founder of the Ultimate Pajama Party, an ongoing campaign responsible for inspiring the donation of nearly 1 million pairs of pajamas to domestic violence shelters across the country, impacting the lives of women and children every day.

Renee is also an award winning humorous and inspirational speaker, author, and business consultant. Soulful and sassy, she is one of the most in-demand and top-rated speakers in the U.S. and Canada. You will learn that her energy is contagious, her stories are priceless and her passion for living life full throttle can sometimes get her in trouble. Be ready to be inspired and have a great time! We will have a drop off station at Plenary so bring pajamas!

-Julie Gibens, Education Committee Chairman

AEC Service Project

When JA members gather each spring at the Annual Education Conference, the words “service” and “learning” are front and center.

Before we learn valuable insights from our AEC speakers, there’s a chance for you and your Chapter to give back on the national level and to serve children in need. Last year, NAJA members read to children and stressed lifelong literacy during their project entitled “Roaring Wildcat Readers” at Florence Howard Elementary in Mobile. This year, we’re having a pajama party to benefit Memphis women & children in one of the city’s domestic violence shelters. We ask that each AEC attendee bring a new pair of pajamas, any size for any age or sex, newborn through adult, and to label them for sorting. Drop them off at a booth to be set up before and after Friday’s conference Plenary Session. To help out at the booth, send an email to najamarketingvp@gmail.com. We are also asking Chapters to participate in making a fleece blanket together. You will need to bring two pieces of fleece (same size) 1.5-3 yds. and any decorative yarn you would like to tie into the trim. We will have a station with fabric scissors, cutting boards, and yard sticks. These blankets will also go to the shelter.

A representative of the shelter will speak during AEC about the shelter’s mission and those it serves. Thanks for your participation in once again making a difference in the lives of children and families!

-Ruth Cummins, Public Relations Committee

Reminder for Upcoming Deadlines:

-March 1st: Incoming Chapter Presidents Form due
-March 1st: Submissions for NAJA Scrapbook due

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