At its heart, Junior Auxiliary is about service. Our members shine their brightest when providing service to our communities. In keeping with that tradition, NAJA is proud to be able to offer a Service project at AEC 2018 again this year. This year’s project, Roaring Wildcat Readers, will partner with Florence Henderson Elementary school in Mobile, just a mile from the convention center. Groups of JA women will go into classrooms at the elementary school and read a book and perform a craft. The program is designed to promote literacy and excitement about reading. We are also able to gift a set of books to each classroom through a generous donation.

We will meet in the lobby at 8:15 am on Friday, April 27 and travel to the school. We’ll spend 30 minutes in each classroom reading and doing our crafts. All crafts will be prepped to ensure that volunteers have enough time to complete their projects. All materials, along with the book to read, will be provided. Please plan on wearing your Chapter’s service attire. We look forward to seeing you!

To volunteer go to:
1) http://signup.com/go/xOA2nwq
2) Review the options listed and choose the spot you would like.
3) Sign up.

Lauren Lisowe, NAJA PR Chair

Who is Eleanor Slaughter?

She was a shining example for us all that passed away in 2013 and left a large footprint. She was a past NAJA President 1956-1957 and past 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. 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.

In 2008, a NAJA award was created because of her work and dedication. The Eleanor Slaughter Award recognizes Chapters for achievement in areas of the 3 R’s of Membership “recruitment, retention, and reengagement of members.

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

Sug Borgognoni, Membership Committee

Chapter Dues: Send Out Those Notices Now

If your Chapter hasn’t begun sending out dues notices to Active and Associate members, now is the time to start! Dues should be collected no later than April 15th.

This is a great opportunity for Chapters to re-engage dropped Associate members. Your Treasurer’s Manual has a sample Associate dues letter on page 11. These are some tips for Treasurers and Assistant Treasurers on collecting Associate dues:

- Have a written and consistent procedure in place from year-to-year for collection of Associate dues. In December of each year, you will receive information from NAJA Headquarters listing each Associate member of your Chapter and the amount they owe to go straight to Life. That allows you to give each Associate the option of paying current year dues or in full to go Life.

Offer Associates an alternative to mailing a check for payment, such as PayPal and Venmo.

Send out notices via email in addition to a mailed notice of dues. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope in mailed letters and links for payment in emails.

Begin sending out notices as soon as possible (in February) and send reminder notices as needed. You may even want to send out dropped notices in June if dues are still unpaid.

An eager Treasurer can also review past records to determine Actives that never went Associate because they never paid the first payment toward Associate dues. You can add these members back if they pay $35. NAJA can assist in researching individual members.

Keep Associates engaged in your Chapter activities. It is important that Associates maintain a connection with JA.

Gina Spratlin, Treasurer

Charitable Outreach Dollars

Does your family work with a financial advisor? You might ask them if their company has a ‘Charitable Outreach Dollars’ program (might be called something different). With Thrivent Financial, for example, you can direct Choice Dollars(R) through Thrivent Choice. Eligible members select where Thrivent Financial distributes some of its charitable outreach grant dollars among thousands of participating nonprofit organizations. And you can choose the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries! Some of our members have already done so. We just received a check from Thrivent for $8400! All because someone asked them to!!

Merrill Greenlee, Executive Director

AEC Volunteers

We have been hearing from multiple Chapters related to interest in having members come to AEC and volunteer. We are so appreciative! However, we want to remind interested members that registration for the full conference is still required. There is no partial registration for Provisional or Active members. We would love to be able to allow for visiting volunteers, but given the size restrictions of the hotel and other vendors, we are unable to work this out. Therefore, we ask that volunteers plan to be registered NAJA convention attendees.

We are looking for volunteers in a number of places this April. We’d love to have a full house of volunteers Friday morning for our visit to Florence Howard Elementary (see the companion article on how to sign up). We also need members to stuff bags on Thursday afternoon/evening, to assist with registration on Friday morning, to serve as hostesses for speakers on Friday afternoon and Saturday, and to set up for Saturday’s banquet. If you have an interest in lending a hand during any of these activities, please let your AEC Chairman or Chapter President know so they can submit your Chapter’s volunteer form by April 1 to reserve your spot!

For those who prefer more hands-on tasks, we are requesting that each Chapter create a small-medium centerpiece that we will showcase during our annual Awards Banquet. Specifications are contained within the AEC Chairman’s packet.

We are so excited that Mobile seems to be the place to be in April! We’re looking forward to seeing you all. Be sure to check out NAJA’s Facebook page’s AEC event page as we are posting new information and reminders there regularly now through April 27! Feel free to share the event with all of your Chapter members.

Emily Johnson, Second VP

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