FROM THE PRESIDENT

THANK YOU TO ALL CHAPTERS AND MEMBERS WHO ARE PAYING IT FORWARD IN THEIR COMMUNITIES.

I have enjoyed visiting so many Chapters and seeing firsthand how Junior Auxiliary is making a difference in the lives of families and children. From providing school supplies and clothing, encouraging reading, teaching life skills, and providing scholarships, our Chapters are making their hometowns a better place to live and work. It warms my heart to see a child smile when receiving a brand-new backpack filled with school supplies or sitting on Santa’s lap sharing what they would like for Christmas. Thank you also to the NAJA Executive Committee, Board of Directors, Chapter Support Coordinators, NAJA Committee members, Foundation Trustees, New Chapter Development Coordinators, and NAJA staff who work so hard to support our Chapters. As we recite in the JA prayer, I am proud to be part of an organization that seeks to right the wrong, minister to the suffering and forlorn, and keeps their hands ready to help others in their need.

In particular I want to thank our Executive Director for the past 18 years, Merrill Greenlee. Following Martha Wise and Norma DeLong, Merrill is only the third person to lead our organization and has overseen many changes during her time as Executive Director. Some of the accomplishments during Merrill’s tenure are highlighted to the right. Merrill made NAJA a big part of her life and has been an inspiration to countless Junior Auxiliary members over the years. I wish her the best in retirement and many fun times with her grandchildren.

I hope that Chapters are striving to meet my challenge to boost membership by emphasizing recruiting. Increasing the size and diversity of your membership provides the manpower and talent to expand your projects and increase community impact. For small Chapters, additional members permit spreading the workload and help prevent member burn out. Another valuable resource is your Life and Associate Members. The best Provisional recruiting events I attended this year involved personal invitations to prospects and an organized program where Active, Associate and Life Members shared the history and traditions of the Chapter and discussed current projects, expectations, and the benefits of being a JA member. At the Milan, TN event, the Chapter’s Charter President Suzanne Bonds shared how she is still friends with the members she worked with forty years ago and the valuable skills she gained being a member of JA.

Once members are recruited, training is essential to make them productive members. NAJA provides Provisional Trainer workshops at Area Meetings and AEC and provides many Provisional Trainer resources on the new website. In addition, the NAJA Membership Committee recently created a Facebook group specifically for Provisional Trainers. As your president, I’ve had the opportunity to speak to several Provisional classes about NAJA and its history and traditions. Recruitment and training are important to the success of your Chapter. Feel free to call any NAJA representative in your area for help.

At the national level, NAJA Chapter Development Coordinators Beth Holbert and Leslie Vaughn recognized that for our new Chapters to be successful, they needed more intensive training and an extended period of guidance. They developed a new six-month training program for Provisional Chapters and I have seen firsthand how well this program is working for JA of Yell County, AR. Only six months old, the Yell County Chapter has over forty members and is already working with other area organizations to benefit the community and its children.

Plan to celebrate Junior Auxiliary Week April 1-7. This is a perfect time to thank your sponsors and share your accomplishments with your community. Finally, I hope to see all of you at AEC in Mobile, AL April 27-28.

NAJA PRESIDENT
Charlott Jones

ACCOMPLISHMENTS DURING MERRILL GREENLEE’S TENURE AS NAJA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NAJA expanded into Florida
NAJA Foundation and Foundation Hall of Honor established
New awards created:
• Merrill Ann Greenlee (MAG) Award to recognize outstanding provisional projects,
• Eleanor Slaughter Award to recognize Chapter membership recruitment, retention and reengagement
• Outstanding Crown Club Awards
• More Members Matter Award to recognize Chapters who increase membership
• Outstanding Service Project - $1,000 cash prize to a Chapter with the most outstanding service project
• Awesome Attendance Award for bringing a large percentage of membership to Area and Annual Meetings

New manuals for Recording Secretaries and Membership created
New NAJA Marketing Vice President office added
New Membership standing committee added
Policies for service attire adopted
NAJA Facebook page created
NAJA website redesigned
Online reporting for Chapter year-end reports and scholarship application launched
Partnership with the Girl Scouts Heart of the South Council formed to support local troops and the National Stand Beside Her Movement
NAJA 70th and 75th anniversaries celebrated
I am feeling very nostalgic as I sit to write this article. This will be my last chance to give you some direction…as I am retiring on May 1 after 18 years as NAJA’s Executive Director. What should I say?

I will begin by saying thank you! Thank you for your service to Junior Auxiliary. Thank you for all the encouraging words I have received over the years from so many of you. I have made so many new friends all over the south. This has been the greatest job anyone could ever have. I am thankful that I was given the opportunity.

I also want to encourage you to keep up the good work. For those of you still serving your local Chapter, keep on keeping on. I've been there. But you are making a real difference in people's lives. That makes all of your hard work so worth it!

I want to encourage you to take leadership positions in the Chapter. Every Chapter needs a pool of good leaders; step up and say yes to the Nominating Committee when asked. Sure, it is additional work to be on the Board, but you will gain so much from the experience.

For those that are now Associate or Life members of NAJA, I hope you are still making yourself available to help your Chapter in any way needed, whether it is opening up your home for a function, supporting their fundraiser, working a project, or helping with training new Provisionals. I also hope that you are using the volunteer training that you received through JA to help other organizations in your community. You have so much to give to other groups because you were educated on Parliamentary Procedure, you gained organizational skills as you juggled many balls in the air, and you learned about the services that are available to help others in your community.

So, continue to make me proud! Serve on!

We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give.
– Winston Churchill

EXECUTIVE DIRECTIONS
SERVE ON!!

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COVER DESIGN: Merrill A. Greenlee, NAJA’s Executive Director for the past 18 years. The third person to lead our organization and has overseen many changes during her time as Executive Director.
NAJA Foundation Annual Fund
Supporting and Sustaining the Programs and Services of Junior Auxiliary

Pay it Forward
It starts with you...

Donations to the Foundation Provide:
- AEC Grants
- National Focus Project Grants
- National Service Project Grants
- Chapter Resources
- Administrative Tools
- AEC Speakers & Workshops

How You Can Help:
- Pledges
- Honorariums
- Memorials
- Annual Gifts
- Recurring Gifts
- Bequests

Annual Fund Gifts can be mailed to:
NAJA Foundation | PO Box 1873, Greenville, MS 38701
or visit www.najanet.org for more information
Mobile is calling! The time to answer the call is now! Join NAJA as we meet again for the Annual Education Conference. This time we’ve found somewhere in the South to gather for more Education and networking activities with ladies from across the Southeast. Early registration is due March 30.

The Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel is hosting our stay. This lovely hotel is located directly on South Water Street offering unobstructed views of the Mobile River. We’re excited about the number of dining options the Hotel has worked with us to provide throughout the conference. Details related to dining options were sent with the AEC Registration Packet.

The Annual Education Conference begins again this year with a Service project. We are excited to have been welcomed into a local Elementary school. We are recruiting for Friday morning volunteers. Offered as a pre-conference event, ladies will leave the hotel at 8:15 a.m. and will visit with the Roaring Wildcats at Florence Howard Elementary. Our volunteers will work on a literacy project with these students. The project will be complete prior to registration which begins back at the Hotel at 10:00 a.m. We encourage anyone with availability to arrive Thursday evening or early Friday morning to participate and Pay It Forward!

SPREAD THE WORD WITHIN YOUR CHAPTER ABOUT THE UPCOMING ACTIVITIES AND LET YOUR AEC CHAIRPERSON KNOW YOU WANT TO PARTICIPATE!

The Education Committee has planned a full program of speakers and workshops applicable to members in all levels of Junior Auxiliary. Our programming will be presented both within the Riverview Plaza Hotel and across the street at the Mobile Convention Center. You will also have plenty of opportunities to network with all ladies in attendance. We have two networking events with cash bars available on Friday evening (NAJA After Hours) and Saturday evening (Reception prior to Awards Banquet) planned during AEC. We are also excited to include in your registration a seated luncheon in addition to our Annual Awards Banquet on Saturday. We look forward to sharing your accomplishments with everyone!

We are also bringing you great shopping at the Galleria and NAJA Store. The Foundation has an impressive variety of raffle items planned as well.

Make your hotel reservations now. The reservation link for AEC’s group block at the Renaissance Mobile Riverview Plaza Hotel can be found on the NAJA website under EVENTS. Spread the word within your Chapter about the upcoming activities and let your AEC chairperson know you want to participate!

NAJA SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT
Emily Johnson
Kim Gravel
BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

Kim Gravel is a veteran television host, entrepreneur, public speaker and leader, but most of all she has a passion for people and hearing their stories. Kim is regularly seen on The Steve Harvey Show and Headline News Network as a recurring contributor, was featured on the SiriusXM Radio show Dirty Pop with Lance Bass in the weekly advice column segment “Gravel Mail” and starred in the hit weekly docu-series “Kim of Queens” on the Lifetime Network. For Kim’s newest venture, she partnered with television and on-line retail giant QVC to launch the Belle By Kim Gravel™ apparel line in 2016 and launched Belle Beauty Cosmetics in 2017.

In 1991, at the age of 19, Kim became one of the youngest winners of the Miss Georgia pageant in its history. She went on to represent her home state in the renowned Miss America pageant and thus was asked to serve as US Goodwill Ambassador to Japan. Combining her expertise skills of communication and leadership, Kim is also a certified Life Coach. Her compassionate yet straight forward “Dr. Phil-esque” style keeps her in high demand as a Life Coach, mentor, advisor and consultant. Kim is a sought-after keynote speaker, specializing in the areas of women’s empowerment, inspirational motivation, and beauty & image perception. She also hosts her own sold-out women’s conferences annually in Atlanta. Kim lives in metro Atlanta with husband Travis and her two young boys, Beau and Blanton.
There are a lot of performers who make people laugh, and there are a lot of speakers who give audiences solid principles for living. Jane does both. Combining humor, truth and her award-winning singing, Jane adds pizzazz to her presentations with life skills helping audiences work smart, laugh often and live their dreams.

A recent inductee into the prestigious Speaker Hall of Fame, Jane is one of the 232 men and women to be awarded this honor. Her keen sense of humor evolved from being labeled Dyslexic and constantly told, “You can’t do that!” Jane changed the word NO to NEXT and the rest is what dreams are made of. Audiences learn the healing power of humor when handling negative people and circumstances for more productive, positive living. Jane delivers a simple message that she lives every day...“prove people wrong and laugh while living your dreams.”

In addition, she is a professional singer, songwriter and recording artist. Jane’s latest book, “Bury Me with My Pearls” is an Amazon Best-Seller and was awarded the Gold Medal in the Illumination Book Awards. Her award-winning singing and humor is featured on Sirius XM Radio and Pandora Internet Radio.

With a sense of humor and smart work, Jane traveled from the rows of her family farm to the runway of the Miss America Pageant all the way to performing at Radio City Music Hall. Today, Jane travels around the world featured at speaking events in New Zealand and Germany as well as several venues around the United States.
SERVICE PROJECTS THEATER
Stop by the Service Projects Theater to get some great, new Service project ideas. Learn from the best...each other! Chapters will be sharing their successful project ideas. You will have an opportunity to visit with other Chapters in an “exhibition-like” format. Handouts will be available, to take great ideas with you! Drop in on Friday from 3p-4p OR 4:30-5:30.

FINANCE PROJECT WORKSHOP - GETTING THOSE NEEDED DOLLARS TO PAY IT FORWARD
Does your Chapter struggle generating income to fund your Service projects? Are your Finance projects in need of a re-do or in need of some new ideas? This session will feature Finance projects that require minimal effort to lots of effort; ideas on identifying and engaging community partners; making the pitch for support; and grant writing tips to help your Chapter pay it forward.

CHILD WELFARE WORKSHOP
Every Chapter is required to have a National Service Project- a Child Welfare Project. Have you ever wondered why? Is your Chapter struggling to meet the requirement? Would you like to get ideas and suggestions? The Child Welfare Workshop on Friday afternoon will provide answers to these questions and more.

Jessica Lahey
EDUCATOR AND BEST SELLING AUTHOR OF THE GIFT OF FAILURE

Teacher, NY Times best-selling author and columnist Jessica Lahey is inspiring audiences with her rallying cry to allow children to experience failure as an integral part of becoming successful, resilient and self-reliant adults. Jessica addresses “overparenting” with the helpful authority of a seasoned teacher and the empathetic, often humorous, personal perspective of a mom who has truly been there. Her engaging presentations simplify complex cognitive neuroscience and pedagogy, making the case that children learn and develop best when they are given autonomy, allowed to feel competent and valued for the content of the character rather than the letters on their report card. She also provides actionable recommendations to help parents (and those that work with children) reframe children’s temporary setbacks as beneficial steps toward lasting, longer-term success.

Jessica has become internationally recognized as an expert and thought leader on how parenting styles affect students’ motivation, learning, and resilience. She is a member of the Amazon Studios Thought Leader Board and wrote the educational curriculum for Amazon Kids’ The Stinky and Dirty Show, designed to model resilience and innovative thinking for preschoolers. She earned a BA in Comparative Literature from the University of Massachusetts and a JD from the University of North Carolina School of Law, concentrating on juvenile and education law.

Her presentations are filled with laughter, tales from her own life, experiences in the classroom and on the front lines of educational research. Taking on difficult, often emotionally challenging topics with grace, sensitivity and humor, she provides an uplifting and hopeful experience that changes thinking, inspires new behaviors and forever transforms how we feel about failure.
Girl Talk was founded in 2002 and serves more than 60,000 throughout North America and beyond. The organization provides a leadership opportunity for high school girls to mentor middle school girls, by leading a Girl Talk Chapter in their communities, each week throughout the school year. Girl Talk exists to help inspire all girls to develop the confidence to lead. Haley believes that if girls have the tools to lead a confident life, they will grow in to women who support and encourage one another. Girl Talk’s goal is to provide the necessary resources at no cost, for all girls, during their most formative years.

Haley’s dedication to helping young girls inspired her to write the bestselling book, The Drama Years, (Simon & Schuster, 2012), a guidebook for parents and educators to help girls navigate the often-difficult transition into adolescence. She is currently leading research and working with thought leaders to help better understand how to address what she’s coined the “Confidence Crisis” facing women and girls. Her hope is that her work will help to instill the values that will help girls grow up to become kind, confident women.

She serves as a contributor for NBC’s Today Show and CNN, has been featured on NBC Nightly News, HLN, and Forbes. Haley received the 2016 Points of Light Tribute Award and has been named one of Glamour Magazine’s “20 Young Women Changing the World Now,” and People Magazine’s “All-Star Among Us,” among many other honors. She regularly volunteers, contributes and writes for publications and documentaries that invest in girls. Some of her recent efforts include, She is Without Limits; Hear Me Now; The Body Image Workbook for Teens; Bullying Workbook for Teens; Quiet Influence; and BULLY. She is proud to serve on the Boys and Girls Club of America’s SMART Girls Advisory Board and to have been a Founding Board Member to two nonprofits that she wholeheartedly believes in, I AM THAT GIRL and Team Summer. Haley lives in Atlanta, Georgia with her husband, Paul and their daughter, Grace.
WHEN I BECAME CHAPTER PRESIDENT and attended one of our annual conferences, I went to the Incoming Presidents Work Shop. The question was asked, “Why did you become a JA lady?” At that moment, my childhood years began to flash before me as I raised my hand to answer. My response was, “I became a JA lady because the Junior Auxiliary ladies were a huge part of my life as a child while growing up in a children’s home in Natchez.” At the time, I really didn’t know just how much that question was going to impact my life in my days ahead of becoming the new President for the Natchez Chapter.

Several months later, in conversation with friends in our search for the family that would become our Child Welfare family, a new Provisional began sharing with me how her Sunday School class was trying to take up money for school supplies for this particular family. Her Sunday School teacher was also a school teacher that I happened to know so I decided to give her a call to see how JA could assist. Several of us met with the grandmother that is the legal guardian and as we began to ask basic questions about the children in her care, we asked for each child’s birthday. I realized one of the children had just turned ten years old about a week before our meeting so I asked the grandmother how the child’s birthday was celebrated. She began to
softly weep and said there was no celebration because there was not enough money, but she had taken her granddaughter in her lap, hugged her and told her she was sorry, but she loved her very much. The granddaughter’s response was “it is okay MawMaw. I have you and that is the best gift I could ever wish for.” Well, that is quite a response from a ten year old and a mature one for today’s world. I probably cried for an hour after hearing this and out of nowhere memories flooded my mind of my own tenth birthday. Before I knew it I was on the phone making arrangements with this and that person and had made it my determination to give this little girl the best surprise birthday party celebration she would ever have. All of the ladies in our Chapter know that once I set my mind on something, there really is nothing else to do but hop on board or leave me alone. One by one, I began sharing this story with each member and each were happy to add something to the party. I sent a text to the grandmother asking her that if her granddaughter could have anything for her birthday, what would be her wish. She told me she wanted new tennis shoes like the other little girls had because the grandmother had taken her last $20 to buy the child school shoes, but they weren’t like the other girls. Everyone in her class picked on her and made fun of her on the first day of school. It so bad that the child slammed her feet on the pavement so hard she took the soles off of the bottom of the shoes and refused to wear anything other than a pair of flip flops she had. Well, the day of her party, everyone arrived, a cake was donated especially for her by a friend of JA, we were given access to a pool at one of our antebellum mansions, her best friend was invited and pizza was ordered for everyone in attendance. To her surprise, as she unwrapped one gift after another with each one getting more excitement, she unwraps a box with a pair of new shoes just like the other girls wear. I tell you…give a girl a pair of new shoes and she is going to accomplish great things in life!

When I got home that evening I remembered my own 10th birthday which was also at one of the Natchez antebellum homes. I went upstairs of my home and sat in the middle of the floor going through a photo album of what seemed like a lifetime ago that I had closed a door. There, jumping out of the yellowed pages, were the photos of my 10th birthday hosted and given to me by a Junior Auxiliary lady. It occurred to me at that moment that I had just made the circle complete, paid it forward and was now a Junior Auxiliary lady giving a child a birthday party that otherwise probably would not have had one.

It is said that when choosing your Child Welfare project you want to try to have an ongoing relationship with a child or family. I was not the actual child welfare project for the Chapter, but I am happy to say that since I became a member of Junior Auxiliary that I have been able to reconnect with a handful of the ladies that were Active JA ladies when I was child. They are now Life members of NAJA and I was able to see them again at our Chapter’s annual Christmas party. The night I first reconnected with four of the ladies I immediately recognized them, ran up to them, and blurted out “YOU KNOW ME, but you don’t know” and began to explain to them I was a little girl in the children’s home when they were Active members. One of them fell out laughing, turned to her best friend/fellow Life JA member and said, «OH MY GOD, it is a mini me and my kindred spirit»........If that is not enough to make one feel proud, I am not real sure what would.😊

**KEEPING ASSOCIATE AND LIFE MEMBERS ENGAGED**

The Junior Auxiliary of Slidell, LA’s Associate and Life “Lunch on the Bayou” event was well attended at Bayou Haven Bed & Breakfast. Food donations were collected to benefit the “Backpacks for Kids” Service project which provides non-perishable food for children at Brock and Florida Avenue Elementary schools on the weekends. Best of all, $170 was collected for the NAJA Graduate Scholarship Program from a 50/50 raffle organized by Lena Joyce and Sandra Chavers. Alison Cuevas won and donated most of her winnings back to include with the donation to the NAJA Scholarship. Pictures were taken of members and questionnaires collected from those present to use with Flashback Fridays on Facebook starting in January. Active members chose Associate and Life members to be their Bon Ami (French for “Good Friend”) and will send cards for birthday and holidays, take to lunch, invite to participate in projects etc… to keep them engaged in Junior Auxiliary. 😊

**MORE MEMBERS MATTER AWARDS**

**CHAPTERS WITH 25 OR LESS MEMBERS WHO HAVE INCREASED THEIR MEMBERSHIP BY AT LEAST 25%**

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**CHAPTERS WITH MORE THAN 25 MEMBERS WHO HAVE INCREASED THEIR MEMBERSHIP BY AT LEAST 10% AND ADDED AT LEAST 5 MEMBERS**

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It’s Not About the Crown of Glory but the Apron of Service

CAROLINE RAMAGOS WALTERS
Junior Auxiliary of Laurel, MS

DO YOU REMEMBER WHERE YOU WERE the day you were asked to serve? It is a day I will never forget! In that moment, I was so excited to become a part of this incredible group of Junior Auxiliary women. From the outside, I saw an assembly of dedicated, sophisticated, educated, and fun loving ladies who always wore a smile. On the inside, I saw all those things and so much more. I discovered through countless hours of project preparation, strategic planning, continuous fundraising, and on-going volunteerism that the women of the Junior Auxiliary put the needs of others in the community and at home above the needs of themselves. At any given moment, a member could be spotted at a local school reading to children, stocking the clothes pantry for needy families, gathering backpack supplies, assisting in eye screening, and the list goes on. The overarching message was and still is the same…lead by serving.

Robert Greenleaf coined the phrase “servant-leader” in an essay published in the 1970’s titled The Servant as Leader. Not to be confused with a leadership style or technique, servant-leadership is a behavior, which becomes ingrained into a leader over time. The Greenleaf Center for Servant Leadership states, “servant leadership is a philosophy and set of practices that enrich the lives of individuals, builds better organizations, and ultimately creates a more just and caring world.” The notion of leadership behavior that focuses primarily on the growth and well-being of people and community mirrors the core of values set by the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries. It can be seen in the Crown logo with its five points representing charity, youth, health, service and leadership, and again in the NAJA slogan, “Care Today – Character Tomorrow.” But nowhere does it more clearly reflect than in the NAJA Prayer:

“Send us, O God, as Thy messengers to the hearts without a home, to lives without love, to the crowds without a guide. Send us to the children whom none have blessed, to the famished whom none have visited, to the fallen whom none have lifted, to the bereaved whom none have comforted.

Kindle Thy flame on the altars of our hearts, that others may be warmed thereby; cause Thy light to shine in our souls, that others may see the way; keep our sympathies and insight ready, our wills keen, our hands quick to help others in their need.

Grant us clear vision, true judgement, with great daring as we seek to right the wrong; and so endow us with cheerful love that we may minister to the suffering and forlorn even as Thou wouldest. May the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, rest upon us and upon all our work. May He give us light to guide us, courage to support us, and love to unite us now and forever more.

Amen”

Through my years of active service, I discovered Junior Auxiliary was not about the crown of glory but rather the apron of service. The many women that came before me pathed a solid foundation of selfless service, and I learned by working side by side with these women the true meaning of “servant-leadership.” Though my apron is now tucked away, I strive to continue down the path of service of others before self, and in doing so I encourage you to embrace a servant-leadership mindset as you go into your communities doing the good work of Junior Auxiliaries.
JA MEMBERS AND CAMP SUNSHINE FRIENDS, ALIKE, LOOK FORWARD TO CAMP EACH YEAR TO MAKE NEW FRIENDS AND RENEW OLD FRIENDSHIPS.

THE JUNIOR AUXILIARY OF MCCOMB, MS, sponsored their annual Camp Sunshine for the 42nd year on July 10-16, 2017, at Percy Quin State Park in McComb, MS. Camp Sunshine is a 5 day/4 night camp for mentally and physically challenged adults and children living in Southwest Mississippi. This year’s theme was, “Where Our Treasure Lies.” Pirate themed decorations adorned the campground and gave campers the feel of being on a real pirate ship with their “mates.” 118 campers and 143 teenage counselors attended camp this year. Each camper is paired with at least one counselor who supervises and assists him or her during their entire stay at camp. Campers enjoyed activities such as arts and crafts, hiking, swimming, fishing, dancing and riding horses. On Thursday morning, the McComb firefighters donated and served...
THE MISS ARKANSAS PAGEANT
CELEBRATED its 80th anniversary this summer. And to mark the anniversary, the Old State House Museum partnered with the Miss Arkansas Scholarship Pageant to host a collection of dresses worn by past Miss Arkansas winners. Junior Auxiliary of Jonesboro, AR 2017 Provisional class member Maegan Waldrip led the effort for this monumental and historic undertaking. "A lot of history was shown in this display and we were thrilled to share it with more than 2000 fellow Arkansans from all over the state," Maegan Inzer Waldrip, a top finalist in Miss Arkansas 2012 as Miss Greater Jacksonville said. Hours and hours were spent gathering information on each of the former Miss Arkansas’ crowning gowns and coordinating their display. Maegan is a 6-year veteran local pageant director and current state level volunteer living in Jonesboro. Maegan is currently the scholarship coordinator for Miss Arkansas Outstanding Teen and she is also responsible for securing the wardrobe sponsorships. Maegan began volunteering with the Miss Arkansas scholarship pageant system almost immediately after crowning her successor."It feels great to be able to give back in such a tangible way to a program that has given me so much – I was blessed to be one of the few students who finished graduate school debt free," Maegan said. She also benefited from receiving a NAJA scholarship while attending graduate school. Maegan is an alumna of Chi Omega women’s Fraternity. Maegan and her husband, Nathan, welcomed their first child, a son, on January 9th. They are members of Journey Baptist Church in Jonesboro, AR.

Maegan Inzer Waldrip
PEARLS IN OUR CROWN

CAMP SUNSHINE IS TRULY THE HIGHLIGHT OF THE YEAR FOR THE JUNIOR AUXILIARY OF McCOMB, MS!

a breakfast of eggs, grits, sausage, biscuits, orange juice, and milk to the camp attendees. On Thursday night, campers went on a field trip to the McComb Mill where they enjoyed a pirate themed Scooby-Doo movie night. Campers and counselors dined on a delicious meal donated by the local hospital, and they munched on popcorn and "scooby snacks" during the movie. Campers competed in the Special Olympics on Saturday where they ran races, had an egg toss, and had a shaving cream fight with their counselors! The Southwest Mississippi community unites with the JA of McComb, MS, to make Camp Sunshine the outstanding event that it is! Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Active, Associate, and Life JA members, individuals, and multiple civic organizations can be found volunteering their time at Camp Sunshine. JA members and Camp Sunshine friends, alike, look forward to camp each year to make new friends and renew old friendships. A “Count-down for Camp Sunshine 2018” began on the JA of McComb’s facebook page at the conclusion of this year’s camp. Camp Sunshine is truly the highlight of the year for the JA of McComb, MS!
BATESVILLE | MS
Junior Auxiliary of Batesville, MS auctions off a Haunted Mansion Party each year at their Charity Ball. This is one of the larger live auction packages and is such a fun party to work! The past few years it has been hosted at the home of Life member Carole Murphey and her husband Smith. Life members and others in the community love to bid on this live auction party package. JA Active members like putting this party together and seeing the spook-tacular fun that is had!! JA of Batesville would like to thank their Life and Associate members and the community for their support! Without their help and contributions, the Chapter would not be able to serve the children and families in their area.

BILOXI-OCEAN SPRINGS | MS
Junior Auxiliary of Biloxi-Ocean Springs, MS hosted its 12th annual Gala for the Kids on June 16, 2017 in the Magnolia Ballroom of the Beau Rivage Resort & Casino. The whimsical Willy Wonka-inspired event was truly a Night of Pure Imagination that brought to life the child within all of us and served as a reminder to guests of how critical the Service projects provided by JABOS are to the children and families within the service area. Guests enjoyed live and silent auctions, split the pot raffle, delicious hors d’oeuvres, cash bar, and live entertainment by Triggerproof. The event was a record-breaking success raising over $160,000 to support Service projects for the upcoming year. The Chapter has already begun putting these funds to work by expanding and enhancing existing Service projects and implementing new projects to address the needs of children and families within the service area.

BROOKHAVEN | MS
Junior Auxiliary of Brookhaven, MS added a new Service Project this year. Special Focus is devoted to providing engaging activities for students of all ages with special needs. On November 2nd and 3rd, Special Focus hosted their first Fall Festival for over 150 students from 7 different schools. Groups of students rotated through a variety of activity centers from bean bag tosses and soccer drills to a sensory corn bin. The Crown Club of Brookhaven was on hand for face painting, as well as assisting students at activity stations. Special Focus Co-chair, Whitney Holmes, was pleased with the turnout and support for this inaugural event and hopes to add to the Festival each year. Teachers from Brookhaven City Schools and Lincoln County Schools expressed their gratitude for an accessible and sensory-friendly event for their students. Each attendee took home a candy/snack bucket, a pumpkin, and a Fall Festival shirt. Special Focus looks forward to expanding their projects over this service year.
each teen was required to visit. The various stations included child care, food, entertainment, housing, etc. Visiting each station afforded the teens the opportunity to budget based on their monthly income and family size, teaching them how to make and manage basic living expenses and purchases. At the end, the teens expressed what they learned from the activity and how it helped them to realize the importance of setting goals and using education as a foundation to better themselves for the future.
CORINTH | MS
Junior Auxiliary of Corinth, MS held a week long camp during the summer for special needs kids. The camp had a “camping” theme this year with crafts, story time, snacks, recreation, and special guests. A park ranger came to teach about bugs in nature, a local fireman and Sparky the fire dog came and read books to the children who enjoyed climbing onto the fire engine and learning about fire safety. The children also got to visit with local policemen, paramedics and see emergency vehicles. It was a fun filled week with some extraordinary children.

CRITTENDEN COUNTY | AR
Junior Auxiliary of Crittenden County, AR hosted its annual Back to School Bash in August, 2017 at the local Boys and Girls Club in West Memphis, AR. Families were lined up before doors even opened, motivated and excited to receive goodies and information. Members of the Crittenden County Chapter provided nearly 300 backpacks filled with school supplies such as paper, folders, pencils, pens, rulers and much more! The Back to School Bash also offered eye screenings, dental information, emergency service demonstrations, health and nutrition tips, face painting, bouncy house and snacks. The primary goal this annual event is to provide children with necessary tools to make their school year as successful and safe as possible.

EAST ST. MARY | LA
Junior Auxiliary of East St. Mary, LA recently delivered 100 snack packs to two local schools for their PACKS Project. For each holiday break (Thanksgiving, Christmas, Easter and Spring Break), the Chapter assembles bags of easily fixable foods for students who may not have enough food over the break.

Vice President, Darby Ratcliff, stated “This is one of my favorite projects. We know this food is going to help a student who may not have food to eat, which just the thought of it breaks my heart. I hope this project can one day grow to feed more children and more often.”
The Chapter also recently participated in Morgan City Main Street’s Trunk R Treat event. The event was held on October 21, 2017. There were hundreds of children and families that attended the free event put on by Morgan City Main Street. This was only the second year, and it was a great success. Trunk R Treat Chairman, Ambre Wilson, stated “The kids loved the idea of “picking a nose” to get their candy. They thought it was hysterical!” Our booth was definitely a crowd hit.

HATTIESBURG | MS
Now in its third year, the Junior Auxiliary of Hattiesburg, MS’s Crown Club is thriving with 46 members committed to serving and caring for others. These wonderful, young women have already made an impact within their community by serving at the Hub City Region Special Olympic fall games, the Empty Bowls fundraiser for the Edward Street Fellowship Center and pantry, Lamar County Roll and Read, the Little Free Library, Trunk or Treat at Pennington’s Night Out with the ARC, and the Junior Auxiliary Annual Coat Drive. They are looking forward to getting to know one another better at a holiday social and working together in the spring.

KOSCIUSKO | MS
In October 2017, the Junior Auxiliary of Kosciusko, MS kicked off a new project, “Love from Above.” The project focuses on showing love to the children in the community by sending home bags of nonperishable food items with them for the weekend. After working in the public-school system for two years, Chapter member Beth McAdams saw a need for this project. “The Lord has called all of us to be in His service; whether or not we accept this calling is up to us as individuals. The ladies of JA have answered this calling that the Lord has put on our hearts to reach out to the children in need that are in our area,” McAdams explained. Chapter members contacted Kosciusko Lower Elementary which serves students from pre-kindergarten to first grade. They requested that teachers complete a confidential form with the names of students who might benefit from receiving a bag of food. The teachers submitted 50 names to the Chapter.

“Love from Above’ is probably my all-time favorite project,” said Chapter President Leslie Edwards. “I am so honored to be a part of an organization that provides food each weekend. I know by doing this we are giving these precious children hope, and I believe that this will show them that they are loved and cared about.”

LAWRENCE COUNTY | AR
Junior Auxiliary of Lawrence County, AR held its second annual Blue Jeans and BBQ on Saturday, October 28th at The Studio in Walnut Ridge, AR. Over 180 people from the community attended this year’s fundraising event. The evening featured a catered meal from Strawberry’s, a silent and live auction as well as a raffle, and live entertainment from Chris Claude & Irish Redd Band. Generous corporate sponsors and attendees of this event helped the Chapter raise over $22,000 this year to fund their various Service projects, which include Polar Express in the Park, Prom Princesses, If the
Shoe Fits, county scholarships, and Adopt-a-Family.

**MADISON COUNTY | FL**

Junior Auxiliary of Madison County, FL - The Junior Auxiliary prayer asks for hands quick to help others in their need. Quick hands and hard work allowed for the ladies of JA to organize a Hurricane relief project two days after Hurricane Irma blew through their hometown of Madison, FL. Knowing that power was out and people were in need of a hot meal, the ladies of JA served free hot dog lunches on the courthouse lawn and even delivered some to work crews in the area. They also prepared grab and go bags and baskets filled with goodies and snacks to show appreciation to the power crews and emergency responders that were working long hours in the community. Baked goods were assembled in baskets with thank-you cards and delivered to the local offices in gratitude for all the work and long hours put in by these organizations helping to get Madison up and going again. The ladies of Junior Auxiliary are thankful to serve in such an amazing community and are excited when they are able to give back.

**MADISON COUNTY | MS**

Junior Auxiliary of Madison County, MS is excited to announce the addition of new signage for their JA House. The Chapter extends a special thank you to Budget Signs of Jackson, MS for the design concept, production and installation of the sign. Formerly the Good Buy Shop, the JA House now serves as a meeting location, project headquarters and storage facility for the Junior Auxiliary of Madison County. The JA House is located in the heart of downtown on Main Street in Madison, Mississippi.

**NEW ALBANY | MS**

Junior Auxiliary of New Albany, Mississippi members are excited to welcome a new project that provides local foster children with backpacks, personal hygiene items, and a Bible. Each month members stuff twenty backpacks and deliver them to local social workers to be given to children when they are removed from their homes. Luke’s Project ensures that each foster child is given a comb, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, shampoo, and a loofah or washcloth. Instead of having to put their personal belongings in a garbage bag, they are able to fill a new backpack as they move to another home. Social workers are able to form a bond with these children by providing them with these items during a difficult situation. Luke’s Project embodies the motto of Junior Auxiliary, Care Today – Character Tomorrow, by equipping these children with a sense that they are loved and valued.

**OXFORD | MS**

The Junior Auxiliary of Oxford, MS conducts a project each year called Camp Bats and Balls. This is a baseball camp put on by the University of Mississippi’s baseball team, coaches, and Diamond Girls. This Chapter has worked with the University on this project for 16 years and it continues to be an on-going success as well as a rewarding experience for everyone involved. The Camp is held on a Saturday morning in the fall and is free for Second- Fourth Graders at both public schools and private schools in Lafayette County. Chapter members work with elementary school counselors to distribute sign-up forms as well as plan and facilitate the entire camp. This is an opportunity for children who normally wouldn’t be able to afford expensive sport camps to have one on one time with the players and coaches. Members on this project love watching the team enjoy every minute of “coaching” these little guys! Lunch is provided for the campers and is usually donated by local restaurants. This year Dominoes and Larson’s Cash Saver donated pizza, chips and drinks to the campers. Huge thanks to them for that. The boys also received an autographed copy of a group photo from the camp, which is everything to them and a keepsake for years to come! “We are beyond thankful for Head Coach Mike Bianco, Coach Matt Swenson, the team, and the Diamond Girls for making this all possible and giving some of these children a once in a lifetime chance to enjoy America’s favorite past-time!”

**ROGERS-BENTONVILLE | AR**

Junior Auxiliary of Rogers-Bentonville, AR has recently become involved with a rewarding new Service project called Lunch Buddies. A Lunch Buddy is a...
caring and supportive adult who offers elementary students ongoing guidance and emotional support to further their personal and academic growth. Each Lunch Buddies committee member is paired with a student from schools that participate in the program. The intent of this project is to maintain the relationship between the JARB member and child from year to year, as long as possible. Doing so helps to promote the objectives of the Child Welfare Project criteria: to break the cycle of dependency, provide emotional support and provide an on-going relationship of commitment and support. Each member makes a commitment to get together with their Lunch Buddy at least nine times per school year, but are certainly encouraged to meet with them more as their schedule allows. Kristy Jurik, Lunch Buddies committee member, meets with her buddy every Tuesday. “This is a wonderful project that is so rewarding for the students who are involved. I have really enjoyed getting to know this sweet little girl and look forward to our time together.”

RUSTON | LA
Junior Auxiliary of Ruston, LA - Christmas Clearinghouse is one of this Chapter’s oldest Service projects. The project was started in 1987 after realizing there was a need in the community for more assistance during the Christmas season, other than what other organizations and churches were already doing. The project started as an “angel tree” project. JA members made and sold bread dough angels (in the pouring rain, as the story goes) to raise money in order to buy things for the children being served. Members who participated in this initial project agree that it was not the most successful service project; it took a lot of time, did not raise much money, and did not have the overall outcome they were hoping for. However, the project began to evolve over the next several years. They publicized the project and began taking applications from churches and schools. The response was overwhelming at first – too many people to serve and too little resources! But working through the schools allowed the Chapter to keep the applicants at a manageable size. The Chapter helped the children with clothing and food, and the Ruston Jaycees helped with toys through their Toys for Tots program. Back then, the suggested amount per child was $25.00. In the early years, elderly people were helped as well. Once, the smoke alarm was set off at Trinity’s Fisherman’s Wharf kitchen while a group of JA women tried to bake half a turkey for three elderly men who had no stove! “We made so many mistakes and did so many things the hard way at first,” says charter member Catherine McVe. Still, the project continued year after year, and now it is a well-oiled machine. One current Active member, Carolyn Jones, loves to tell her story of when JA provided Christmas for she and her siblings when she was younger. She says her family was going through a rough time, and their mother had told them they would not be getting any Christmas presents that year. Although they were saddened, she and her siblings had accepted that fact.

**LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL**

**PREPARING STUDENTS FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION**

LIFE AFTER HIGH SCHOOL (LAHS) is a multi-faceted project of Junior Auxiliary of Biloxi- Ocean Springs, MS that is aimed at preparing students for their lives after high school graduation. One aspect of LAHS is offering high school juniors and seniors the chance to learn ACT testing strategies in hopes of helping those students increase their ACT scores. The Chapter partners with their local Get 2 College Center to offer four sessions per year. Some Junior Auxiliary members have been trained to facilitate the class to the students while other members serve to greet and check-in students and offer refreshments during session breaks. The Life After High School project also offers career fairs in partnership with local high schools and businesses in their service area with the focus on giving students the opportunity to begin a plan to become successful in achieving their career goals. Each business has their own booth offering valuable information regarding their industry. Students are able to discuss with the representative specific details regarding the specific industry, including salary ranges, education requirements, growth opportunities, and internship possibilities. The career fairs provide students valuable insight as to what their field of interest would require of them, not only after high school, but while they are in school as well. Some students learn they are able to apply for an internship during the summer to learn more about the industry and gain experience in that industry as a real-world worker. LAHS aims to prepare students before leaving high school to develop a true understanding of what will be available to them once they graduate and develop a plan to meet their career goals. In 2017, over 50 businesses from different industries participated at the career fair and served over 3,000 students. LAHS administers the Ann Wesson Memorial Scholarship in memory of the late Ann Wesson, a former JABOS president. These merit-based scholarships are awarded based on essay submission. In 2017, $10,000 in scholarships was awarded to deserving high school seniors. New to the project this year is a pilot outreach program to mentor at-risk youth through a local alternative school. The Biloxi- Ocean Springs Chapter members offer life-skills presentations to the students, as well as individually mentoring students in need.
Then, a JA member showed up at their door on Christmas Eve and had gifts for everyone! Carolyn was so touched by that moment and so thankful for Junior Auxiliary, she decided that she would do something to give back when she was older. She ended up joining Junior Auxiliary and loves to volunteer and give back as a part of an organization that inspired her so much as a child. Her story always brings tears to our eyes!

The project has improved since the early years. It is truly a “clearinghouse” project now. The community really loves to be involved and several people look forward to participating year after year. The suggested sponsorship per child is now $50.00. People are encouraged to use the money for clothing and necessities. The Chapter has partnered with Trinity United Methodist Church in Ruston the last two years, with their “Stuff Santa’s Sack” toy drive, to provide a couple of toys per child as well.

They have even begun to get businesses involved. A few local businesses have used this project as their staff Christmas party; they adopt several families and take the staff shopping for them and then wrap the gifts together. This year is the 30th year of Christmas Clearinghouse and so the Chapter is doing a “30 for 30” campaign which challenges local businesses to adopt 30 children ($1500.00 sponsorship). Over 400 children have been served the last three years.

**SLIDELL | LA**

Junior Auxiliary of Slidell, LA - The Happy Feet project began in 2014-15. The goal was to teach line dancing to teens with learning disabilities and promote social interaction among teens and their families. The project was such a success that the Chapter decided to extend the targeted age group to include middle school students as well as young adults. They approached a local health club as a possible venue and they graciously allowed the Chapter to use their exercise studio for the dance sessions. Dates were set for six consecutive Saturdays in the spring between Mardi Gras and Easter. The instructor is an accomplished dancer and mother of a special needs high school daughter. Their enthusiasm is absolutely contagious! One of her helpers is a Special Ed major at Southeastern University. After the flyer was designed and approved, this Chapter applied for and received permission from the school superintendent’s office to distribute flyers in the schools. It was also submitted and published in the Northshore Families Helping Families newsletter, where interested parties could register. Flyers were hand-delivered to the Special Ed teachers at local schools; email reminders followed. One of the area’s most enthusiastic school teachers works with hearing-impaired students at a local middle school. Because the State of Louisiana mandates that the teachers provide opportunities for their students to interact with others outside of the school environment, Happy Feet provides an excellent setting for them to accomplish their goal and have fun at the same time. She says that all of her students love to dance. She taps out the beat for them to keep time with the music. One family has three handicapped sons who love to dance. Another family with two adopted sons were new to the area. They were looking for an opportunity for their sons to meet friends. One mother felt that her young adult daughter was somewhat isolated. She was looking for an opportunity for her daughter to be with her peers and have fun. An autistic young man is accompanied by his sister and her friend because the girls love to dance and didn’t want
to miss out on the fun. A young woman brought her elderly father who has Alzheimer’s. They both danced the entire hour. She had happy tears in her eyes to see her father interacting and enjoying himself. When the students arrive, their parent sign a Media Release. They are all accompanied by family members. Those attending range in age from babies to grandmas and grandpas. How fun is that! This Chapter has been privileged to serve special needs children, hearing impaired children, young adult STARC members (an organization that helps people with “disABILITIES”), as well as a man with Alzheimers. As these folks and their families dance together you can feel the excitement in the air. Lots of laughter is heard and to quote Jerry Lee Lewis, there is “a whole lotta shakin’ goin’ on.”

The Junior Auxiliary of Slidell, LA hosted the Scripps Spelling Bee at Boyet Jr. High and Clearwood Jr. High. This is the 5th year that the Chapter has sponsored and coordinated the spelling bee. Once the students are selected to participate, they meet with the JAS Spelling Bee committee to have a kick-off party with pizza and drinks and they watch the movie “Akeelah and the Bee”. This introduces the new participants to the format of a spelling bee competition and the preparation that is required to compete. Two spelling bee practices are then scheduled with the students leading up to the spelling bee. This year one Associate and two Life members assisted with each Spelling Bee. State Senator and JA Life member Sharon Hewitt opened each contest impressing upon the students the importance of good spelling and proof reading skills no matter what your occupation may be. The spelling bee at Boyet Jr. High had 26 spelling bee competitors and Clearwood Jr. High had 43. Champions Michael Bartels from Boyet and

SCHOLARSHIP SHOUT OUT!
JENNIFER ANTI

JUNIOR AUXILIARY OF SLIDELL, LA is so proud to congratulate Associate Member Jennifer Anti, a recipient of a NAJA Graduate Scholarship for the 2017-2018 academic year. Jennifer will attend William Carey University, Biloxi, MS where she will begin work on the Master Degree in Dyslexia Therapy. Jennifer has previously earned a Master of Arts in Teaching from Southeastern Louisiana University, Hammond, LA and a Bachelor of Business Administration from Millsaps College, Jackson, MS. Jennifer has been working as a kindergarten teacher at Florida Avenue, since 2012. Jennifer has served in the following committees: St. Tammany Parish School Board LEAD Academy (2016-2017), PBIS committee (since 2015), where she helped redesign the current school wide behavior program at Florida Avenue Elementary, and is currently serving on the Relay for Life team for Florida Avenue Elementary. Jennifer is involved in several community service organizations including being a life member for the Junior Auxiliary of Slidell, Chairperson for Literacy Liaison and Backpack 4 kids for Junior Auxiliary of Slidell (from 2010-2015), Kappa Delta Pi Board member for Blessings in a Backpack at Southeastern University, and Wedding Coordinator of First United Methodist Church in Slidell, LA. Jennifer has lived in Slidell since 1985. She has been married to Damian Anti for 18 years and she has two daughters, Mollie Ann (11) and Mary Grace (2).

Jennifer is just one more example of how NAJA Graduate Scholarships, which are everyone’s scholarships, pay it forward to change the lives of the children we serve.
Olivia Holmes from Clearwood each received a trophy. The final 8 contestants from each school received a medal and won a spot to compete at the Regional Scripps Spelling Bee to be held in March 2018 at Xavier University in New Orleans. The winner of the regional bee will continue to Washington, DC for the National Scripps Spelling bee.

The 2016 Provisional class of Junior Auxiliary of Slidell, LA put their heads together to create a project to address the issue of their youth needing to acquire the life skills required for them to be successful. The headlines were about assassinating police and putting first responders in danger, suicide due to being bullied, children being led into human trafficking through the internet, and child obesity…among other things. As a result, the Children’s Life Skills project was created. The Provisionals created three templates: First Responders Are Our Friends, Cyber Safety, and Relieve Stress in a Healthy Way with Yoga. The decision was made to implement the program once a month during the school year at the Boys & Girls Club with the idea that once the templates were created, the Chapter could go anywhere with the project. Templates consist of a lesson plan with a presenter and games or hands on activities to reinforce the subject. Most of the money raised for the project was used to purchase yoga mats for the Boys & Girls Club. The project was such a success that the Slidell Chapter voted to add Children’s Life Skills as a regular project. New templates are continually added such as Nutrition, Self Defense, The Blessing of Giving, and Manners Matter.

TIPTON COUNTY | TN
Junior Auxiliary of Tipton County, TN hosted the 9th Annual Fall Shopping Frenzy to benefit children. Referred to as “Tipton County’s largest shopping weekend” this annual tradition featured over 80 artisans and vendors and gave shoppers the ability to check off their entire holiday shopping list while supporting the Chapter’s Service projects. With over 1,400 shoppers across the two-day event, this has become the Chapter’s largest Finance project and a highly-anticipated event in the community. “The Fall Shopping Frenzy takes the entire Chapter working together to make it a success,” said Fall Shopping Frenzy Chair Jennifer Hall. “Each year it continues to grow and we couldn’t do it without dedicated members, supporters and the community.” The event also serves as an effort to engage Life and Associate members who were treated to a special invitation that offered free admission to the two-day event. “This was one of the first projects I worked on as a Provisional member and it is very special to me,” said Life member Annalyn Henderson. “This event brings members old and new back together to support children in our county. I am thrilled to be here shopping at this year’s event.”

Special to this year’s event were the shopping totes given to the first 200 shoppers with NAJA President Charlott Jones’s theme, “Pay It Forward”, in hopes of inspiring acts of kindness and charity in Tipton County.

TUPELO | MS
Junior Auxiliary of Tupelo, MS serves the needs of school age children in their community in a variety of ways. One way is through their School Aid service
project committee. This committee works with three local school districts to help make sure basic school needs are met for each student. In August of this year, this committee held its annual School Aid Luncheon for the schools’ administrators, counselors, and nurses to educate them about the Chapter services available to them. One of the main service projects of this committee is to help coordinate the blue jean and coat drive held at each school. The drive takes place for one month. Hundreds of coats and blue jeans were donated this year through the generosity of our community. These donations help supply the Chapter’s Clothes Closet which has clothed 349 students through October 2017. Their School Aid and Clothes Closet service projects work hand in hand helping to make sure the basic need of clothing is met.

VICKSBURG | MS
Heart & Sole’s mission is to help girls gain a better understanding of who they are and what’s important to them by providing exercise and a healthy lifestyle mentoring service. The Junior Auxiliary of Vicksburg, MS has partnered with the Vicksburg Family Development Girls Club to implement this program. Members and the Girls Club participate in community races, learn about using workout equipment safely and about important nutrition for their bodies.

WINONA | MS
Junior Auxiliary of Winona, MS brought back their “Bunko Night” Finance project this past October. The members of JA hosted this event on a Thursday evening at the local Pizza Inn. This event had 38 participants and the night was filled with laughter and smiles from the crowd. Not only did players receive small goodies from rounds won, they also left with new friends. After all, who doesn’t love a night out with prizes and pizza for all? A closing statement made by this year’s Ex-Officio ONE OF THE MOST common questions asked about the NAJA Graduate Scholarship Program is why does it matter to individual Chapters? So often Chapters think solely in terms of their own local scholarships and forget that the NAJA Scholarship Program is everyone’s scholarship program, not just that of Life members. It is part of NAJA’s commitment to changing the lives of children in all our areas.

Starting in 1962, the NAJA Scholarships focused on providing graduate educational opportunities for applicants whose careers center on helping children in our seven state area.

THE STATISTICS ARE TRUELY AMAZING:
• Started with a $2000 grant in 1962; this year awarded 5 scholarships for a total of $27,200; this is a long way from that first award.
• Interviewed 14 applicants after winnowing down to 49—more than a 100 applied.
• Between 1962 and today, 542 scholarships for $1,268,500 dollars.
• If everyone who received the scholarship helped 30 children a year, we will have touched the lives of at least 487,800 children.

This year the Scholarship Committee has worked to increase opportunities for all Chapters to help fund their NAJA Scholarship Program. We have changed the levels of giving to help the program continue to grow. Starting next year, we will have new jewels in the NAJA Scholarship Crown:
• Jade, $350-$499
• Sapphire, $500-$749
• Ruby, $750-$1249
• Emerald, $1250-$2499
• Pearl, $2500-$4999
• Diamond, $5000—above

Please help us assist graduate students in our areas to pay it forward for the future of our children.
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Rhonda Cobb
Charlott Jones
Jr. Auxiliary of Madison County, MS
Jr. Auxiliary of Rogers-Bentonville, AR

SPONSOR - ($500.00 + )
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Missy Helton
Elizabeth Holbert
Jr. Auxiliary of Batesville, MS
Jr. Auxiliary of Cleveland, MS
Jr. Auxiliary of Columbus, MS
Cindy Rice
Janet Stinus

SUSTAINER - ($250.00 + )
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Jr. Auxiliary of Biloxi-Ocean Springs, MS
Jr. Auxiliary of Booneville, MS
Jr. Auxiliary of Brookhaven, MS
Jr. Auxiliary of Byram-Terry, MS
Jr. Auxiliary of Clinton, MS
Jr. Auxiliary of Collierville, TN
Jr. Auxiliary of Corinth, MS
Jr. Auxiliary of Crittenden County, AR
Jr. Auxiliary of Crossett, AR
Jr. Auxiliary of Eastern Shore, AL
Jr. Auxiliary of Greenville, MS
Jr. Auxiliary of Greenwood, MS
Jr. Auxiliary of Hammond, LA
Karen Knight
Janie Osso
Cindy Rood
Wilma Wilbanks

SUPPORTER - ($100.00 + )
Camille Bianco
Sug Borgia
Nancy Canerday

Marian Chancellor
Mary Ann Dutton
Celia Ford
Kandace Formaggio
Cheryl Giordano
Merrill Greenlee
Jeanne Hildebrandt
Jr. Auxiliary of Conway, AR
Jr. Auxiliary of Gulfport, MS
Jr. Auxiliary of Hope, AR
Jr. Auxiliary of Hot Springs, AR
Jr. Auxiliary of Kosciusko, MS
Jr. Auxiliary of McComb, MS
Jr. Auxiliary of Meridian, MS
Jr. Auxiliary of Nashville, AR
Jr. Auxiliary of Neshoba County, MS
Jr. Auxiliary of Oxford, MS
Jr. Auxiliary of Searcy, AR
Jr. Auxiliary of Slidell, LA
Jr. Auxiliary of Starkville, MS
Jr. Auxiliary of Tupelo, MS
Jr. Auxiliary of Warren, AR
Jr. Auxiliary of Wayne County, MS
Joyce Kennedy
Amanda Knauer
Lee & Lee, PA
Marie Nester
Vicki Pentecost
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