CHRONOLOGY

Nov. 3, 1941 Organizes in Greenville, Mississippi with one hundred women in attendance representing ten towns in Mississippi and Arkansas.

Nov. 14, 1941 Ratifies tentative Constitution; elects Louise Eskrigge Crump as first NAJA President.

1941-1945 Continues child welfare and adds home defense and support of war effort during World War II; convention themes reflect a world at war (1942: "Children, the Last Line of Defense") and a return to peace (1945: "The Way of Peace").

1945 Adopts Crown design for pin with five points symbolizing Charity, Youth, Health, Service, and Leadership—the ideals of Junior Auxiliary.

1946 Incorporates; prints Bylaws; numbers thirteen Chapters.

1948 Begins tradition of a National Gavel inscribed with name and date of each NAJA President for use by NAJA. (Note: Donated by the Leland Junior Auxiliary, the tradition continues at 1990 Convention with presentation of third National Gavel).

1949 Numbers twenty-six Chapters.

1950 Adopts permanent slogan: "Care Today — Character Tomorrow".  

1952 Employs Martha Wise of Warren, AR as Executive Secretary; publishes first National Handbook; institutes annual report for Chapters.

1953 Publishes quarterly newsletter, The Crownlet; assumes responsibility for hosting annual Convention.

1954 Creates four geographic Regions, choosing a Regional Director for each Region; begins fall meetings of Regions; provides annual Bulletin to all members (Convention minutes, National and Chapter reports, membership list).

1961 Divides into five Regions.

1962 Approves emblem (badge); establishes Louise Eskrigge Crump Award; establishes Civic Hour and Annual Report Committee; approves national graduate scholarship project; Scholarship Committee awards first scholarship grant in the amount of $2,000 in August 1962.

1963 Approves Scholarship Committee as Standing Committee to administer graduate scholarship program.

1964 Adopts official uniform, a blue jumper having set-in waist, left side buttons shoulder to hem (Note: current uniform ranges from smock to apron, or T-shirt selected by Chapter with approval of Executive Committee).

1966 Celebrates twenty-fifth year, numbering fifty-one Chapters in four states.

1968 Begins internal system of judging annual report.

1970 Establishes Martha Wise Award.

1975 Presents first Award of Excellence; recognizes sixty Active Chapters at Convention; Association receives 501(c) (3) status.

1976 Recommends Greenville, Mississippi as site for permanent NAJA Headquarters; requires Chapters to have annual audit.

1977 Honors Martha Wise for twenty-five years as Executive Secretary; achieves 501
(c) (3) Tax Exempt Status (all Chapters) from Internal Revenue Service; approves Greenville, Mississippi as site for permanent NAJA Headquarters.

1978 Approves Evaluation Committee as Standing Committee of Association; purchases Headquarters building at 255 South Poplar in Greenville, Mississippi.

1979 Approves Board of Finance as Standing Committee; redraws Regions from five to seven; awards one hundredth graduate scholarship.

1981 Presents first Presidents Award.

1984 Restructures Board of Directors: twenty-one member board vested with management of Association; honors Executive Secretary Martha Wise, retiring after thirty-two years service; employs Norma DeLong as Executive Secretary.

1985 Releases the video, A New Day with JA, providing a history past and present; begins Resource Center function/purpose of Headquarters; makes Headquarters Committee a Standing Committee of the Association; replaces Annual Report with Annual Standards Review; issues Chapter Self-Evaluation Packet and new NAJA Handbook of Information to Chapters; changes title of Executive Secretary to Executive Director; numbers seventy Active Chapters and three Provisional Chapters.

1986 Begins Chapter Self-Evaluation process and Annual Standards Review; dissolves Evaluation Committee; issues first semi-annual NAJA Resource Center Catalog; moves into Alabama with acceptance of petition from Eastern Shore, Alabama; adopts new logo design.


1988 Presents first National Focus Awards; revises and reprints NAJA Handbook of Information; publishes Child Welfare Manual; completes Convention Manual; numbers seventy-two Active Chapters, and eight Provisional Chapters.

1989 Continues National Focus: Kids Count (1989-1991, Teen Esteem); returns to Texas with the addition of Mt. Pleasant, Texas as a Petitioning Chapter; adds exhibit function to Convention via Convention Carousel; presents first Public Relations Awards (Service and Finance); relocates NAJA Headquarters in Greenville to 845 South Main Street; numbers seventy-seven Active Chapters, three Provisional Chapters.

1990 Establishes Steering Committee to plan 50th Anniversary; holds first NAJA Leadership Conference for Chapters, Board of Directors; publishes NAJA Public Relations Workbook; employs Chapter Development Coordinator to actively pursue expansion of NAJA; approves Education Committee as Standing Committee; establishes Forward from Fifty Ad Hoc Committee to study the structure of NAJA and make recommendations for future; numbers seventy-eight Active Chapters, two Provisional Chapters; issues commemorative Crownlet/Convention program; celebrates "The Community Spirit for 50 Years" at 50th Anniversary Convention, Biloxi, Mississippi (May 1-3); celebrates actual anniversary at NAJA Headquarters, Greenville, MS on November 3.

1992 Approves per Active member 24 Service hour and 12 Education hour requirement, with minimum of six Chapter meetings counting toward the required 12 Education hours; Finance and Administrative hours being at the discretion of the Chapter; allows Non-Resident member to achieve Associate status by completing 24 hours of community service within the community and 12 Education hours per remaining year to fulfill the requirement.

1994 Numbers 86 Active Chapters, 3 Provisional and 4 Petitioning Chapters; issues *A Manual for Education* to instruct Chapters in understanding the education concept and the development of a Chapter Education program; presents first Norma DeLong Education Award to recognize excellence in Chapter Education; produces *Partners in a Caring Community*, a new video which gives both the historical and present perspectives on the Association; begins sending certificates to new Life members.

1995 Adopts National Focus: Violence Free Youth; moves into state of Missouri with acceptance of Caruthersville as a Provisional Chapter; establishes the Betty W. Robbins Endowed Scholarship.

1996 Numbers 97 Active Chapters and 4 Provisional Chapters; approves changes to Nominating Committee composition; Nominating Committee proposes a single slate of candidates for National office; re-defines duties of Third Vice-President to serve as Chairman of the Education Committee and for the committee to plan the program details of Annual Meeting, Area Meeting, and Leadership Conference; increases number of Regions from seven to ten.


1998 Numbers 98 Active Chapters, 2 Provisional Chapters, and 2 Petitioning Chapters; in seven states: Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Tennessee, and Texas; expands Headquarters facility to add additional office space for staff and growing Resource Center.

1999 Numbers 102 Active Chapters and 1 Petitioning Chapter. Robbins Family Challenge begins with a challenge to the Chapters of $10,000 annual matching funds for the NAJA Scholarship Program.

2000 Adopts National Focus: Care Today-Character Tomorrow; numbers 102 Active Chapters and 3 Petitioning Chapters; July 1, Hires Merrill Greenlee as the new Executive Director upon the retirement of Norma DeLong after sixteen years of service; implements *CrownPoint* computer program for Chapters.

2001 Numbers 102 Active Chapters and 3 Petitioning Chapters; NAJA celebrates 60th Anniversary.

2002 Adopts National Focus: Keeping Our Children Safe; numbers 104 Active Chapters and 2 Petitioning Chapters; expands into the state of Florida; forms NAJA Foundation; replaces Regional Directors with Chapter Support Coordinators (2 per Region). Each Region is also represented by a Director on the NAJA Board.

2003 Numbers 102 Active Chapters and 2 Provisional Chapters (Madison Co., FL and Webster Co., MS); NAJA Foundation mails its first contribution to the Chapters to be used with their Child Welfare Project ($80 per Chapter); designs Crown Club pin; celebrates the 20th Anniversary of Angela Pierce as Executive Secretary.

2004 Continues National Focus: Keeping Our Children Safe (2004-2005); numbers 103 Chapters and 1 Provisional Chapter (Tate-Panola, MS); holds Area Meetings in each Region (Six); produces a new NAJA video entitled Care Today – Character Tomorrow; establishes the MAG Award in honor of Executive Director Merrill Greenlee for outstanding Provisional Projects.
2005 Begins calling the annual meeting of the Association the Annual Education Conference. Linda Smith retires as Membership Services Secretary; continues as Crownlet Editor as an independent contractor. Dolores Fratesi retires as Chapter Development Coordinator; NAJA Ex-Officio resumes these duties; eliminates the office of NAJA Corresponding Secretary and creates the office of NAJA Marketing Vice-President; establishes a NAJA Honorary Membership classification.

2006 Adopts National Focus: Healthy Children ~ Healthy Futures; numbers 102 Active Chapters with the Junior Auxiliary of Tate-Panola, MS receiving its Charter at AEC 2006.; produces the first manual for Chapter Recording Secretaries; designs Foundation pin; approves Membership Committee as a Standing Committee; establishes the Crown Jewel Award.

2007 Approves the publication of a NAJA Cookbook; designates Child Welfare as the National Service Project; grants Junior Auxiliary of Collierville, TN Active status.

2008 Continues National Focus: Healthy Children ~ Healthy Futures; adopts Child Welfare logo and tag line - "Impacting the future of a child"; publishes the first Membership Manual; establishes the Eleanor Slaughter Award to recognize Chapters in the area of membership; publishes cookbook with the title of Silver Spoons, Blueberry Afternoons and orders 10,000 copies.

2009 Establishes new awards for recognizing Chapters with Outstanding Crown Clubs and Outstanding Crown Club Projects; adds a new category for Existing Projects to the Martha Wise Award; creates an Ambassador Program to involve Non-Resident members in Chapter expansion; makes Bulletin available on the website; approves Child Welfare as the name for the National Service Project; establishes a Facebook page.

2010 Implements online reporting of Chapter Year-End reports; Linda Smith retires as The Crownlet Editor; publishing of The Crownlet is taken over by Caraway Designs; eliminates Mid-Year Board of Directors Meeting; replaces Director position on Board with one CSC per Region; encourages donations to the Foundation with a $10 in 2010 promotion; changes Chapter Fee to $300.00 per year; dissolves JA of Leland, MS and JA of Jacksonville, AR.

2011 Raises Active dues to $55 and Associate dues to $35; changed the Chapter year end report deadline to May 15th; celebrates 70th Anniversary of NAJA with "Day in the Delta"; establishes a new membership award called More Members Matter for small Chapters who increase in membership by at least 25%.

2012 Celebrates 10th Anniversary of Foundation at AEC; grants active status to JA of Pike County, AR.

2013 Celebrates Wilma Wilbanks’ service of 20 years as NAJA Parliamentarian; adopts new National Focus for 2013-15 of Teen Pregnancy Prevention; renames the National Focus Award to the Wilma Johnson Wilbanks National Focus Award; grants Provisional status to Lawrence County, AR; adopts Service Attire Policy.

2014 Numbers 98 Active Chapters in seven states with the loss of Iberia Parish, LA, Mount Pleasant, TX, and Lewisburg, TN and the granting of Active status to Lawrence County, AR. Independence County, AR takes inactive status. The NAJA Handbook is reprinted. Implements new Service Attire policy that all Chapters must comply with by May 2016. Establishes Foundation Annual Fund. Partners with Girls Scouts Heart of the South for National Stand Beside Her Week. Adds Bitcoin as a payment option for donations and is the first all-women’s non-profit organization to do so.
2015 Establishes Foundation Hall of Honor at NAJA Headquarters.