The NAJA Board of Directors and the Marketing and Technology Committee are always looking out for ways to enhance your communication experience with us. So this summer when our committee met we decided to revamp eCrown Points to make it something that everyone could benefit from each month. The first change you will notice is the name change. This monthly delivery will now be called “NAJA News” as it will encompass all forms of news from and about NAJA. You will also notice a difference in delivery. Some months this may come in newsletter format to your email inbox and other months it may be shared as a video on our social media formats. We want to keep the content and delivery fresh and interesting and also keep you informed about what is happening at the national level. If you have any questions or topic suggestions we welcome them at najamarketingvp@gmail.com.

CHECK OUT THE NEW NAJA STORE ITEMS

Be sure to login into your personal account on the NAJA website to shop the new logo store items!
MEET YOUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR!

In July NAJA HQ welcomed a new executive director, Melanie Livingston. During her first week on the job Melanie sat down with each member of the executive committee to learn about their roles and introduce herself. Here's a little of what we learned about Melanie during our sit down.

Tell us a little about yourself.
I am originally from Rolling Fork, MS. I attended the University of MS where I earned a B.B.A., was involved in many organizations, and president of my sorority. My husband, son, and I lived in Greenville the first ten years following college. I was involved with many organizations and was president of the Greenville Symphony League and St. James Episcopal Day School, treasurer of the Junior Woman's Club, board member of the Delta Children's Museum, member of Little Greenville and Junior Greenville Garden Clubs, and a provisional member of Junior Auxiliary. During that time, I earned a B.S.E. and M.Ed. from Delta State University. My family moved to Baton Rouge, LA for seven years where I resumed volunteerism as a member of Junior League, and was a rush advisor at L.S.U. We have lived in Lake Village, AR for the past twenty-one years. I have been a member of the Economic Development Board, Heritage and Century Service Clubs, secretary of The Kings Daughters and Sons Circle #2 and Greenville Garden Club. Professionally, my background is education, and I currently serve on the Accreditation Council of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (N.A.E.Y.C.) in Washington D.C.

What is your history with Junior Auxiliary?
I was a provisional member in 1991-1992 before moving to Baton Rouge.

What are you most excited about as our new Executive Director?
The dynamic and diverse membership! Junior Auxiliary has a rich heritage and I look forward to meeting and working with each of you, sharing the culture of volunteerism with the focus on children.

What does our mission mean to you?
It defines who we are as a collective group of responsive and giving individuals, resulting in a difference in the lives of others.

If your Chapter had to pause or postpone a signature Service project due to the pandemic, you're not alone. But as you move forward on safely making a difference in the lives of children and families, consider applying for grants awarded by the NAJA Foundation to deserving Chapters to help cover project expenses. The opportunities include:

- National Focus Project grants help fund service that addresses specific areas of concern and societal trends affecting children and families. The project must address NAJA’s National Focus of 'DON'T STAND BY: Stand Up, Stand Strong, Stand Together'
- The Foundation awards, specifically for Chapters with financial challenges, National Service Project grants. That award helps cover the cost of a Chapter's Child Welfare project that aims to break the cycle of dependency, be it physical or emotional. All Chapters are required to have at least one National Service Project.
- Chapters new to the Association can apply for special grant funding to help defray start-up expenses incurred before Chapters create and carry out finance projects.

Find out more about Foundation grants and how to apply by visiting the NAJA Foundation's webpage. Let us hear from you!