In Search of Talented, Quality People

The late, great Pat Summit once said, “Surround yourself with people who are better than you are. Seek out quality people, acknowledge their talents, and let them do their jobs. You win with people.” This is what we do on the NAJA side of serving Junior Auxiliary and have successfully done so for 75 years. We have been able to shine like the jewels in our crown because of women like each of you sitting out there, learning, leading, and serving others. I am seeking quality women with a diverse set of talents so that our Association can go forth and continue to do amazing things.

The NAJA Nominating Committee will meet at Headquarters in Greenville on February 18th and 19th, 2017 to conduct phone interviews and slate the candidates for our elected offices.

We are accepting applications for the elected offices of First Vice-President, Third Vice-President, Marketing Vice-President, Recording Secretary, and Treasurer until January 30, 2017. The Candidate Data Form is available on the NAJA website and was also sent to all members via Constant Contact.

If you are interested in running for an elected offices and would like more information, please contact me at najaexofficio@gmail.com or via phone at 615.591.8828.

Amanda Knauer
NAJA Ex-Officio

Junior Auxiliary Developing Leaders

Leadership is such an incredibly important part of our organization, yet our Chapters are struggling more and more to find women that are willing to step up to this all important plate. After discussing this at our NAJA Education Committee meeting, I decided to take on the task of searching for resources to challenge women to step out of their comfort zone and take on the challenge to lead other women in service.

For those of you that enjoy a podcast while traveling or doing exercise, “How She Really Does It” with Koren Motekiaps is an incredible tool for women. Her discussions include topics such as “Stepping Into Your Own Power” with Martha Beck; “Rejection, Refusals + Rebuff” with Dan Pink; and an inspiring message by Simon Sinek. However, my very favorite interview is with Dr. Brené Brown. Brené also has one of the leading TedTalks which has been viewed and shared by millions. The Gift of Imperfection is a must read and Daring Greatly goes more in depth into her research on shame and vulnerability. Don’t let her topics scare you because addressing these universal emotions is life changing.

My friend, Lori Robertson, is my go-to source for good leadership and self-development literature. These are her suggestions:

21 Irrefutable laws of Leadership – John Maxwell
Developing the Good Within You – John Maxwell
How to Win Friends and Influence People – Dale Carnegie
25 Ways to Win With People – John Maxwell
Go Give Leader – Bob Burg and John David Mann
The Leader Who Had No Title – Robin Sharma

I think time spent with a good leadership/self-development book is worth a few Education hours. Don’t you?

Julie Gibens
NAJA Education Committee

Recruiting Life and Associates

As we enter the Holiday season, many Chapters find this to be one of their busiest times of the year. Thanksgiving boxes, Angel Tree, and Breakfast with Santa are just a few of the favorite projects. Members are also involved with their own family traditions and sometimes it can be easy for a member to be over extended during this time of year. This is the perfect opportunity to extend an invitation to your Life and Associate members. Consider having a special task for them. Most importantly, make it easy, fun and don’t forget to recognize them for their service. Here are some ideas that might help:

- Ask the Presidents of a decade to each donate $10 to an Angel Tree gift. “All Presidents of the 80’s…….”
- Golden Oldie Table. If you’re gathering to assemble boxes for Thanksgiving, have a special table set for your Life/Associate members. Be sure to recognize them as an integral part of your chapter.
- Ask a Life member to speak at your Christmas party. Allow her to reminisce about “how they used to do things”. Just might be a project that could make a come-back!
- Everyone loves a good contest! Ask a Life/Associate member to team up to raise money. The winners can be recognized at the end of the year award’s dinner or featured on the Chapter Facebook page.
- Honor a Life/Associate member by naming a portion of a project after them. Example: “This year we would like to honor Sally Smith, member from 1972-1977, by naming our……”
- Ask them to bake cookies or bring refreshments while members are working on a project; then ask them to stay and help wrap a gift.
- Just call them! A personal phone call can go a long way. Be specific about what you would like them to do. Most Life/Associate members do not mind helping when asked.

Rhonda Bryant
Region III, CSC

Exclusive Life & Associate Activity at AEC 2017

Looking for something fun to do in Memphis while you are hanging out with your JA Sista’s this year at AEC? Grab a friend and join us for a tour of Memphis Breweries Saturday afternoon. On tap for the trip include Wiseacre Brewery, Memphis Made Brewery and High Cotton Brewery Company. Registration information will be through NAJA Constant Contact this Spring.

Julie Gibens
NAJA Education Committee