Is Your Provisional Training Report Due?

Your FINAL task as the Provisional Trainer will be to complete the Provisional Training Report, located on pages 26-30 of the 2014 Provisional Training Manual. You must complete the report and have it to NAJA Headquarters within 30 days of your last Provisional meeting. This documentation must be submitted on time to be eligible for the Efficiency Award. Currently, the form is available to complete in an online format or you may print a hard copy of the Word document, both located under Online Forms on the NAJA website. There are also two colored copies in the Provisional Training Manual for the two years covered by that publication. The blue one is for the current JA year. If you elect to complete the online submission, then a copy will be automatically emailed to NAJA Headquarters. If you desire to complete the form by hand, you can either scan in a PDF format and submit to Merrill Greenlee at najanet@bellsouth.net, or mail it to NAJA Headquarters. Documentation should be mailed to:

NAJA Headquarters
P.O. Box 1873
Greenville, MS 38702-1873

If you need help completing your Provisional Training Report, please feel free to contact Kristen Savage, NAJA Membership Committee Chair, at najamembershipchair@gmail.com, or Executive Director Merrill Greenlee at najanet@bellsouth.net.

Time to Get Your Capes Ready!

Your “Cape” awaits you in Memphis, TN. Have you made your reservations? If you have never attended an Annual Conference, you are missing out! Just what are you missing?

- Learning your true power as a team member of a dynamic organization
- Defining your mission as a JA member
- Establishing life-long friends
- Sharing ideas to help you grow as a JA member
- Re-evaluating your goals for yourself and your Chapter

These are just a few things that you should consider when deciding to attend. By being an ACTIVE member of Junior Auxiliary, you and your Chapter become a stronger force within your community. Don’t YOU want to be a part of the solution for the children you serve? Come be a part of a super conference. Come share your super power. Come learn! April 29-30, 2016

Should Your Chapter Use a Crowdfunding Website?

It seems that there is a new charitable appeal daily on Facebook and the number of crowdfunding websites has exploded: Causes, CauseVox, Crowdrise, Firstgiving, Fundly, fundraise.com, Givelocity, GoFundMe, Indiegogo, Kickstarter, and Razoo, just to name a few. The question is, “Should your Chapter use a crowdfunding website to raise funds?” When deciding to use a crowdfunding website, the National Association of State Charity Officials recommends that a charity research the following issues:

- What fees will the website deduct from each contribution?
- Will a charity be provided with its donors’ information?
- How will the website use a charity’s donors’ information? Is a privacy policy in place?
- What kind of account will the website provide to a charity? If questions arise, what procedures are available for the charity to challenge the accounting?

Your Chapter should also consider the following issues:

- All finance projects (including using a crowdfunding website) must be voted on by the entire Chapter.
- Chapters have a fiduciary responsibility to ensure that the site and any authorized representatives are not misrepresenting your Chapter or the nature of the solicitation in any way.
- Chapters must be careful to abide by any representation made on the site that may cause such funds to be restricted for a specified use (e.g., to fund a particular project).
- Chapters should ensure that appropriate donation receipts are issued to their donors, including written disclosure statements for quid pro quo contributions where the donors received something of value in return for their payments.

While many of the above websites advertise that there are no fees to start a campaign or only a small fee to use the site, checking the terms of service often reveals other fees or fees that are charged to the donor. Before deciding to use a crowdfunding website, your Chapter should carefully review and understand the terms of service.

Public Relations for the Holidays!

It’s time to dust off that turkey platter, pull out the wreath I bought at the after Christmas sale and find those lights that I think are stored neatly in the hall closet, then prepare myself mentally to celebrate the holidays stress free...who’s with me? I love Christmas, but doesn’t everyone get busy this time of year? Many JA Chapters get very busy in the last two months of the year with large service projects. I was excited to read on several Chapter websites recently about some of those amazing projects including Christmas Clearing House, Santa’s Helpers, A Very Special Christmas, Christmas for Kids and Looking for a Christmas Miracle. (Visit www.najanet.org and click on Chapter links to visit JA Chapter websites for more information about each of these projects.)

PR for holiday service projects is essential for fundraising later. The holidays are a great time to promote your Chapter’s projects by letting potential sponsors and donors know that your service projects demonstrate Junior Auxiliary’s significance as an integral part of the community. Your Chapter’s greatest PR asset is its commitment to community service.

JA service projects are full of news and human-interest stories. Help your local media by sending them a press release and picture showcasing a holiday or special service project and then post the information to social media and your Chapter’s website.

The NAJA PR Committee hopes you take time to enjoy your family and friends this holiday season and unless royalty is coming to your house, put off cleaning the bathroom but don’t put off snuggling by the fire.

By Jeannie Tinker, NAJA PR Chairman