Join us to provide

AEC GRANTS  CHAPTER RESOURCES
NATIONAL FOCUS PROJECT GRANTS  ADMINISTRATIVE TOOLS
NATIONAL SERVICE PROJECT GRANTS  AEC SPEAKERS AND WORKSHOPS

How you can help

PLEDGES  I  HONORARIUMS  I  MEMORIALS  I  ANNUAL GIFTS  I  RECURRING GIFTS

ANNUAL FUND GIFTS CAN BE MAILED TO NAJA FOUNDATION, P. O. BOX 1873, GREENVILLE, MS 38701 OR GO ONLINE AT WWW.NAJANET.ORG FOR OTHER OPTIONS
In 1935, two doctors in Greenville, MS, Dr. Montgomery and Dr. Gamble (whose families are still in the area) contacted the society editor of the Delta Democrat Times, Louise Crump, for help. These doctors saw daily the plight of Greenville’s underprivileged children that were living in back alleys and on shanty boats on the river. Shanty boats were floating homes on the river…but these were in poor condition…just pieced together to house a family who did not have any land for a home. Montgomery and Gamble asked Ms. Crump to solicit the aid of her friends in providing food, clothing, toys, and transportation to the doctors’ and dentists’ offices. She contacted nine women who met with her in her home. As it has been written…they laid down their bridge cards and golf clubs and hugged their own well-fed and well-cared- for children…went to meetings and began to go about the business of deciding how to best help these people. They assessed themselves $5 each to begin their work. They got businesses and other individuals in Greenville to provide services and goods. Local dentist and doctors donated their time. Membership grew…and most of the time the members were chosen because of what they had to offer…so doctor’s wives were many of the earliest members. As the membership grew, more services could be provided. Members made clothes for children, took them to the doctor…and as one story goes, one of the members stayed overnight on a shanty boat…maybe to take care of a child while the parents worked…and repapered the walls while she was there.

Now this is where NAJA history begins. The Greenville women began to realize that there were other groups of women similar to theirs in other towns…and by 1940 they began to meet with some of them around the Delta. They decided to join forces…and using the Junior League (which had just started) as a model, they drew up a constitution in November of 1941 with Mrs. Crump as the first President of NAJA. The Charter Chapters were: McComb, Greenville, Greenwood, Leland, Laurel, Meridian, Vicksburg and West Point, MS Pine Bluff and Russellville, AR.

They laid down their bridge cards and golf clubs…and began to go about the business of deciding how to best help these people.
CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OUR NAJA MEMBERS FOR A WONDERFUL ONGOING YEAR OF SERVICE! As we continue to celebrate the year of the volunteer and our 75th Anniversary, let us also begin to think of the future of our Chapters. The good works that you do in your communities depend upon the ladies who dedicate their time to do them. The NAJA volunteer is not someone who gives of herself only when it is convenient or when the mood strikes. The NAJA volunteer is a woman who makes service one of her top priorities and includes a project on her monthly agenda as an important and necessary job!

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose birthday we celebrate in January, is quoted as having said, “Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’” Those of us who work in JA presently know exactly what we are doing for others. Now is the time to start considering others in your town and community who may be candidates to serve in your Chapter. Even if you do not install a Provisional class until the fall, it is never too early to begin looking at the possibility of including an individual or two who you may feel would be “JA material”. Remember, too, that it is the quality of the members in your Chapter that counts and not the quantity. The more the merrier, but be certain that those recruited are “all in” when it comes to JA! Let’s keep the NAJA drive alive!

I am looking forward to our fabulous Annual Education Conference in Memphis on May 5-6! We will have outstanding speakers, a slightly revamped schedule, larger Galleria and special fun for our 75th Anniversary. You do NOT want to miss it! Those of you who have been serving in JA should encourage your newest members to attend. Everyone comes away from AEC inspired and renewed to better the work of their Chapter. Please take advantage of what NAJA has to offer and come and enjoy the weekend!! We are always appreciative of members who continue to serve once their tenure in JA is done, and there is no better example of this group than our NAJA past Presidents. These are the members of the Crown and Gavel and many have served on our Foundation, on committees and as CSCs following their term as President. Dedicated NAJA volunteers! I hope to see many of you in Memphis!

While there is still much to do this year, I want to take this opportunity to tell you all what a great experience I have had serving as your President. It has been my pleasure to visit a few Chapters and I am hoping to see more of you before the year is out. Our Facebook pages keep us all in touch with everything that our members are doing and it is fabulous to read about the projects and the fun that our Chapters are having as they work. Your NAJA Executive Committee, your Board of Directors, all of your CSCs, your NAJA staff, our Foundation and all NAJA Committee members take great pride in serving our organization and help to make our Chapters stronger and more productive. I have an awesome team of ladies this year, and I appreciate them very much!

Let us continue to celebrate our anniversary all year, along with JA Week in April and at the AEC in Memphis in May! Best wishes for continued success and know that I truly value and admire you all!! 😊

Let’s keep the NAJA drive alive!

The NAJA volunteer is a woman who makes service one of her top priorities and includes a project on her monthly agenda as an important and necessary job!
THOSE OF YOU THAT KNOW ME know that continuing to preserve the history of our Association has become one of my focuses. This year, our 75th Anniversary, made me keenly aware of how important it is to make sure this project continues. I realized several years ago that there were bits and pieces of our rich past that were not written down, or at least not written in a manner that could easily be used for research on how things had evolved or changed over the years. I began to delve into minutes of the Executive Committee and Board and read articles from prior Crownlets. I made a list of various subject matters, like Chapter Reviews or Awards, and then began to write a chronology of procedures under each topic. It is lots of fun but it can also be frustrating when difficult to ascertain the true facts. The process will continue until a document exists that will reveal from where we have come and the varying paths we have taken over the years.

I encourage the Chapters to look into documenting their history. Read the minutes from the beginning of your Chapter to present. Talk to Charter members if possible. Write everything down to serve as a roadmap of your organization. That includes the names of Charter members and how the Chapter came to be, methods of membership and officer selection, and service and finance projects, to name a few. This type of information will be invaluable to your Chapter- now and in the future. You may find something in your Chapter’s past that might be able to be reinstated to give a fresh approach to an old problem. You might find out that something members thought had always been done a certain way, had actually only been that way for the last 8-10 years. When your Chapter celebrates a big anniversary year, like NAJA this year, you will have stories to relate that all members would enjoy either hearing for the first time or reminiscing about. Does your Chapter have a Life member that might really love a project like this? Find out and use her interest to accomplish the task.

This year, our 75th Anniversary, made me keenly aware of how important it is to continue to preserve the history of our Association.

Are you preserving the history of your Chapter?
Richard Guerry is the author of multiple cyber safety books and has been a featured speaker at numerous national & international conferences. He has also appeared as an expert on Radio Disney, CNN, FOX, CBS, MTV's Thin Line Campaign, as well as in Parade Magazine and many local, regional, and international publications.

His multi-award winning program will eliminate the myths that Anonymity, Social Privacy and Disappearing Digital Content is possible with digital tools & apps. The audience will gain knowledge to promote responsible use of digital tools while also obtaining the wisdom to prevent negative, irresponsible, and malicious digital behaviors and trends.

All attendees will obtain the solution for preventing: Cyber Bullying; Inappropriate photos; Irresponsible Use of Apps; Poor Social Media Behaviors; and Many Other Current & Future Cyber Issues. // www.IROC2.org

Jimmy Wayne is a former foster kid turned country music singer/songwriter whose songs, story, and walk halfway across America in 2010 continue to help bring awareness to kids who age out of the foster system and become homeless. He earned the prestigious “Million-Air Award” for receiving one million radio spins of his song “Do You Believe Me Now.” He is the author of “Walk to Beautiful”, his (three time) New York Times best-selling memoir, and the author of the novel and made-for-TV movie “Paper Angels”. In 2012, Jimmy helped get legislative bills passed extending the age of foster care to 21 in both California and Tennessee and, in 2015, he did the same in his home state of North Carolina. He is the youngest recipient of the Salvation Army’s William Booth award, and in June of 2016, President George H.W. Bush presented Jimmy with the prestigious Points of Light Award. Jimmy lives in Nashville, Tennessee and continues to work tirelessly on behalf of at-risk foster youth by performing, writing books, keynote speaking and through www.ProjectMMH.org. // www.jimmywayne.com

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.

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

1946 Incorporates; numbers thirteen Chapters.

1949 Numbers twenty-six Chapters.

1949 Adopts Crown design for pin with five points symbolizing Charity, Youth, Health, Service, and Leadership—the ideals of Junior Auxiliary.
Jeff McManus
grows things! As the Director of Landscape Services at the University of Mississippi, he grows plants….he grows people….he grows ideas.

Jeff is a problem-solver; understanding that he does more with less is a 21st century mandate. After coming to the University in 2000, Jeff took on the challenge of managing a multi-million dollar landscaping beautification implementation project. Faced with a demand for excellence and high productivity, and a stagnant budget, Jeff knew that growing the people was critical to growing the plants. Through that experience, Jeff developed his approach to managing resources and developing personnel-his GROW-theory; a management and professional development approach based in the belief that all humans either strive for or have within them the elements of Greatness, Resiliency, Opportunity and Wisdom-they just need a fertile environment to GROW.Taking his grounds staff, affectionately known as “weeders”, and developing them into “leaders” has been a joyous challenge that reaped acres of rewards in the form of national recognition by the Princeton Review, PGMS, Newsweek and every faculty, staff, student and visitor who has walked onto the Ole Miss Campus. Jeff’s new book, Growing Weeder into Leaders will be released September 5, 2017.

Jody Urquhart
A highly sought-after funny motivational speaker, Jody Urquhart is the author of All Work & No Say, a bestselling book that shattered assumptions that work can’t be rewarding and fun.

Every motivational talk features Savvy, Uplifting and Hysterical advice to help the audience develop a buoyant, positive and meaningful perspective in the midst of stress and change.

Jody is passionate about spreading the message of the importance of fun and meaningful work. A motivational speaker for over 16 years, Jody speaks at over 60 organizations and associations every year, and is a top keynote speaker.

Jody’s trademark is to deliver very funny motivational speeches; humor is a key part of her audience connection.

A former stand up comedian, Jody ONLY uses clean humor and original content catered to the audience.

Jody is author of the best selling book All Work & No SAY. Her mission is to help motivate people to derive more meaning, fun and satisfaction from their work.

Watch Jody Speak: http://www.idoinspire.com/video-thank-you
On October 16, 2006, Tina Meier’s life took a devastating turn when her 13 year old daughter, Megan Taylor Meier, took her own life. All attempts were made to save Megan, but unfortunately Megan passed away on October 17, 2006, just weeks from her 14th birthday.

Approximately 5 weeks prior to her passing, a 16 year old boy by the name of Josh Evans, contacted Megan through her MySpace account and they began a friendship. Tina Meier, allowed Megan to have a MySpace account with many restrictions and under her watchful eye. Unfortunately, on that fateful day of October 16, 2006, Josh Evans and Megan began to have an argument over MySpace. A few others joined in and horrible and hurtful messages and bulletins went out publicly to hundreds of kids. The last words that were said to Megan from Josh were, “The world would be a better place without you” and “Have a shi**y rest of your life.”

Six weeks after Megan’s suicide, Tina Meier was informed that Josh Evans never existed. In fact, he was the fictitious creation of Lori Drew, an adult neighbor that lived down the street, her 13-year-old daughter Sarah, which was Megan’s former friend, and an 18-year-old employee that worked out of Lori Drew’s home.

In December of 2007, Tina Meier, founded the 501 (c)(3) non-profit Megan Meier Foundation. The Foundation’s mission is to “Promote Awareness, Education, and Positive Change in Response to Issues Surrounding Bullying, Cyberbullying, and Suicide.” Tina’s hope is to make a difference through spreading Megan’s story along with internet safety and educating others on the consequences of bullying and cyberbullying and to help one child at a time cope with these negative social issues. Ultimately, her goal is to empower children to be the change and continue the Foundation’s mission.

At the time of this tragedy, the State of Missouri did not have laws in place to prosecute someone using electronic communications to cyberbully another person. Tina worked closely with Senator Scott Rupp and Governor Matt Blunt’s Internet Task Force for the State of Missouri to help pass Senate Bill 818, which went into law on August 28, 2008. This law amended the harassment and stalking laws to include electronic communication.

Each year, Tina travels throughout the country as a keynote speaker addressing the issue of bullying and cyberbullying in today’s world to students, educators, administrators, parents, youth rallies, counselors, law enforcement, and other professionals. Through Tina’s inspirational and educational message, the audience is empowered to make a difference not only for themselves but others also.

Tina has continued to spread the Foundation’s message and Megan’s story through national and international media appearances such as network television stations, radio, news magazines and syndicated talk shows. She also accepted a Presidential invitation to attend the 2011 White House Anti-Bullying Conference, presented at the U.S. Department of Education’s Safe and Drug Free Schools National Conference in Washington, DC, and served as a consultant during the production of the ABC Family movie, “Cyberbully.”

Tina Meier resides in St. Louis, Missouri, with her daughter Allison. www.meganmeierfoundation.org
Junior Auxiliary of Cleveland congratulates NAJA on 75 years!
AEC IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER so it’s time to make plans to join us at the Memphis Hilton May 5 – 6 as we celebrate the 75th anniversary of NAJA’s founding. Site of AEC 2016, we are excited to be returning to this beautiful property, staffed by an enthusiastic Hilton team who are high on Junior Auxiliary and ready to serve! The Memphis Hilton is conveniently located at I-240 and Poplar, with excellent shopping at nearby Saddle Creek and lots of wonderful restaurants on every corner.

Upon arriving at the Hilton, you will find the NAJA Photo booth set up in the Lobby for your group to take a few fun pictures. The JA 411 Info booth will also be set up in the Lobby to answer your questions about getting the most out of AEC, questions about the schedule, to provide directions, and whatever else you might want to ask. Additionally, the Hilton will be offering a lunch buffet from 11:00am – 1:00pm to provide a quick lunch option prior to Plenary.

The Education Committee has worked hard to pack the conference full of speakers and workshops to challenge and recharge and give you opportunities to network with other Chapters. (See the AEC schedule on pages 11-12). The conference kicks off at 1:00 pm with country music singer, author, and child advocate Jimmy Wayne, so you do not want to be late! For this, our 75th Anniversary, we have included a few extra activities at AEC to commemorate this milestone: a NAJA History Room will be set up for you to browse featuring artifacts from our 75 years, information about our founding Chapters, and more; the NAJA Time Capsule will be waiting to be refilled and sealed; a wine tasting event will take place Saturday for Life and Associate members; and an AEC group photo will be taken by drone on Saturday afternoon! We will continue to offer great shopping at the Galleria and NAJA Store, and the Foundation will have their raffle items as well. And once again, the Hilton will provide bus transportation to and from Beale Street Friday night, giving you plenty of reasons for justifying a girls JA weekend in Memphis!

We will be providing a service opportunity at Youth Villages, a national organization that was founded in 1986 in Memphis with a mission of helping children and families live successfully, focusing on helping the most vulnerable and troubled children. We will be visiting one of the two Memphis campuses and working with the children with recreational therapy (PE) and/or art and crafts activities. Offered as a pre-conference event, JA members will leave the hotel at 8:30am Friday morning and will be at the Village from 9:00am until 11:00am.

Make your hotel reservations now and talk up AEC to your members. The more who attend from your Chapter, the bigger the impact AEC will have on your service! Our Annual Education Conference offers opportunities for everyone to learn and grow!

See you in Memphis.

GAYLE BROWN
NAJA 2nd Vice President
### Event Schedule

**AEC 2017**

**Memphis, TN - Hilton**

**May 5-6, 2017**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FRI</strong></td>
<td><strong>8:30 - 11:00</strong></td>
<td>Service Project Opportunity at Youth Villages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10:00 - 5:30</strong></td>
<td>NAJA History Room</td>
<td>Ridgelake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10:00 - 12:30</strong></td>
<td>Registration</td>
<td>Lobby Annex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10:00 - 12:30</strong></td>
<td>Projects Theater - Setup</td>
<td>SE Ballroom Foyer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10:00 - 12:30</strong></td>
<td>JA 411-Answers to JA or Meeting Questions</td>
<td>Lobby Annex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>10:00 - 5:00</strong></td>
<td>NAJA Foundation Raffle</td>
<td>Director Rows 1 &amp; 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>11:00 - 1:00</strong></td>
<td>Lunch Buffet</td>
<td>Rooks Restaurant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>12:00 - 5:30</strong></td>
<td>Galleria</td>
<td>Directors Row 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>12:00 - 5:30</strong></td>
<td>NAJA Store</td>
<td>Directors Row 6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>1:00 - 2:45</strong></td>
<td>Plenary Session - Jimmy Wayne</td>
<td>Tennessee A &amp; B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3:00 - 4:00</strong></td>
<td>Parliamentary Procedure - Wilma Wilbanks</td>
<td>SE Ballroom C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3:00 - 4:00</strong></td>
<td>Provisional Trainer Workshop - NAJA Membership Committee</td>
<td>Tennessee C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3:00 - 4:00</strong></td>
<td>Public Relations Workshop - NAJA PR Committee</td>
<td>SE Ballroom B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3:00 - 4:00</strong></td>
<td>Recording Secretary Workshop - Julie Springer</td>
<td>Tennessee D &amp; E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>3:00 - 4:00</strong></td>
<td>Treasurer's Workshop - Londa LeBrun</td>
<td>SE Ballroom A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4:30 - 5:30</strong></td>
<td>Richard Guerry - Public and Permanent©</td>
<td>How to Encourage Responsible Use of Technology &amp; Prevent Digital Abuse</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4:30 - 5:30</strong></td>
<td>CSC/President Workshop</td>
<td>Region I - Davidson Boardroom</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>4:30 - 5:30</strong></td>
<td>Region II - Directors Row 2</td>
<td>Region III - Tennessee D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4:30 - 5:30</strong></td>
<td>Regional IV - Promenade 1</td>
<td>Region V - Tennessee E</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>4:30 - 5:30</strong></td>
<td>Region - VI - Promenade 2</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>5:30 - 6:30</strong></td>
<td>NAJA After-Hours - Cash Bar</td>
<td>Lobby Annex</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>6:30</strong></td>
<td>Buses to Beale Street - Return to hotel at 11:00pm (First come-first served)</td>
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</tbody>
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**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; begins sending certificates to new Life members.

**1995**
- Adopts National Focus: Violence Free

**1996**
- Numbers 97 Active Chapters and 4 Provisional Chapters

**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 Memill Greenlee as the new Executive Director upon the retirement of Norma DeLong after sixteen years of service.
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.

2004
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.

2006
Adopts National Focus: Healthy Children – Healthy Futures; numbers 102 Active Chapters

2007
Approves the publication of a NAJA Cookbook.

2008
Publishes cookbook with the title of Silver Spoons, Blueberry Afternoons and orders 10,000 copies; establishes the Eleanor Slaughter Award to recognize Chapters in the area of membership; adopts Child Welfare logo and tag line “Impacting the Future of a Child”.

2009
Adopts National Focus: Keeping Our Children Safe; numbers 106 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.

2010
Establishes the PAG Award in honor of Executive Director Merrill Greenlee for outstanding Provisional Projects.

2011
Begins calling the annual meeting of the Association the Annual Education Conference.

2012
Adopts National Focus: Keeping Our Children Safe; numbers 108 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.

2013
Establishes the MAG Award in honor of Executive Director Merrill Greenlee for outstanding Provisional Projects.

2014
Begins calling the annual meeting of the Association the Annual Education Conference.

2015
Adopts National Focus: Keeping Our Children Safe; numbers 110 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.

Taking Time Off
Employers may allow you to get continuing education credit for attending AEC.

Did you know that you might be able to take time off from work to attend the NAJA Annual Education Conference as professional development time instead of personal time? Depending on your job and the continuing education requirements for your profession, you may be able to get continuing education/professional development time credit for attending certain sessions at AEC. One of our members from Mountain Home, Arkansas, was able to work this out with her school’s administrator for a past AEC. She wrote, “I went to the conference and documented all of the conference sessions that I attended and wrote a synopsis of my experiences from those sessions (one page total for the entire conference) and in that I talked about how those sessions impacted me as a teacher, teacher-leader, and future administrator.”

Take a look at our lineup of great speakers featured in this issue and see how they can impact you professionally as well as a Junior Auxiliary volunteer:

See you in Memphis in May!
Congratulations NAJA for 75 wonderful years of service!
Junior Auxiliary of Columbus also wants to recognize our Life members that are currently serving at the national level. Marian Chancellor, Celia Ford and Cindy Rood are members on the NAJA Board of Trustees and Londa LeBrun is serving as our NAJA Treasurer.
At AEC 2018, a new award will be presented recognizing high attendance at AEC and Area Meetings. The NAJA Board of Directors wants to show their support and thankfulness to those Chapters that bring a large percentage of their members to NAJA educational events. NAJA appreciates the commitment this high attendance represents. Making AEC and Area Meetings a priority shows your Chapters’ efforts to grow future Chapter leaders and to continually improve Chapter Service projects and to your belief that time spent at NAJA events is time well invested!

This award will be presented annually to Chapters with 25% or more of their Active members attending AEC and/or Area Meetings for the prior calendar year.
Junior Auxiliary of Tupelo congratulates the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries on 75 Years

MERRILL GREENLEE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
MISSY STEPHENS, MEMBERSHIP SERVICES/SCHOLARSHIP ADMINISTRATOR
KATHY DUNAVANT, BOOKKEEPER
PATRICIA KELLY, CHAPTER SUPPORT COORDINATOR REGION III
GINA SPRAITLIN, FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBER
SUG BORGOGNONI, MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE MEMBER
DEBBIE BAILEY, SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN 2015-17
DARLENE CAREY, FOUNDATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES CHAIRMAN 2016-17
SHERRY HALEY, FOUNDATION TRUSTEE

Junior Auxiliary of Greenville, Mississippi Founding Chapter 1941-2016
SERVING WASHINGTON COUNTY FOR 75 YEARS

Current Service Projects
BELLE OF THE BALL, BOOK BUDDIES, CAMP LOOKING GLASS, CARING AT CHRISTMAS, EAT AND PLAY THE HEALTHY WAY, FROGFEST, FUN RUN, NATIVE AMERICAN DAYS, PRE-K ART (PART), SCHOOL SUPPORT, SMART KIDS, SPECIAL OLYMPICS, SPREAD THE WARMTH, TACKLING SPORTS & YMCA ACHIEVING THROUGH READING

Recognizing Our Current National Officers & Naja Staff Members

Current Service Projects
BELLE OF THE BALL, BOOK BUDDIES, CAMP LOOKING GLASS, CARING AT CHRISTMAS, EAT AND PLAY THE HEALTHY WAY, FROGFEST, FUN RUN, NATIVE AMERICAN DAYS, PRE-K ART (PART), SCHOOL SUPPORT, SMART KIDS, SPECIAL OLYMPICS, SPREAD THE WARMTH, TACKLING SPORTS & YMCA ACHIEVING THROUGH READING
**Making a Difference**

**HOW ONE CHAPTER HELPS THE COLLEGE STUDENTS IN THEIR COUNTY... BUILDS LASTING RELATIONSHIPS...AND ENCOURAGES SERVICE TO OTHERS**

The Junior Auxiliary of Jonesboro, AR's Scholarship Program is the most financially beneficial project taken on by members during the fiscal year.

Unlike other scholarship programs, Junior Auxiliary of Jonesboro strives to look at more than just grades and ACT numbers. Instead, we evaluate each applicant based on their need, grades, expense of the University, financial aid already being received, ACT scores, and involvement in the community. We also review the relationship the applicant may have with Jonesboro JA.

For the student recipient - we initially award a scholarship from $250 to $2500 per semester. Each committee member then “adopts” a student and establishes a relationship with him/her throughout the semester.

The goal is to mentor and encourage scholarship recipients and continue to provide financial assistance if they continue to succeed in their program of study. Each December, the scholarship committee hosts a Christmas party with the recipients to help celebrate their successes. Not only has this event been well received, it allows the committee members to grow lasting relationships with each recipient.

In 2012, Junior Auxiliary of Jonesboro completed funding a $100,000 endowment to Arkansas State University. This enables the scholarship committee to award an endowed scholarship every year of approximately $3500-$3800 to one individual. After several semesters of establishing a relationship with our students, the committee selects one student per fiscal year to award the endowment to.

These interactions encourage communication between the Junior Auxiliary members and the students, in hopes of building lasting relationships. The goal for our scholarship recipients is for them to one day give back to the community and support others who are in need.

Debbie Bailey
NAJA Scholarship Chairman 2016-2017

*Currently, our scholarship program does not award graduate school scholarships, but we do refer them to the NAJA Graduate Scholarship program. Last year, one of our students was awarded a NAJA scholarship! We were very proud.
WITH THE MANY BLESSINGS OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF JUNIOR AUXILIARIES SCHOLARSHIP, I have completed my Masters in Occupational Therapy at the University of MS Medical Center. I am continuing to follow through with my plans to serve the special needs children in my community of Jonesboro, Arkansas.

I feel my job as an occupational therapist is an incredible gift rather than a job. I have the opportunity to help children with physical, sensory or cognitive disabilities perform everyday activities that most take for granted. I develop activities and programs that also build the children’s self-esteem, enabling them to manage their disabilities in a positive and productive way.

Pediatric occupational therapy allows me to love and care for each child by not only being their therapist but also their companion and friend.

The key goal in occupational therapy is to allow every child to “live life to the fullest”. As we provide the best care for each child, we also provide them with hope and the ability to set goals. Our goal goes hand in hand with the NAJA’s slogan, “Care Today - Character Tomorrow.” The children who once felt hopeless learn what they can do and they in turn, become givers to society. I believe investing time into our children will yield a high return in their futures.

I would like to thank each of you that donate time and money to NAJA. My gratitude not only comes as a scholarship recipient but as a member of a community positively affected by your tireless efforts. Since I work in the community, I see the difference your organization makes in the many lives of our children. I personally know children who would not have school supplies on their first day of school or a coat to wear in the winter if it were not for your humble contributions.

The most beneficial aspect of being a scholarship recipient is being recognized by NAJA for the work I do with children and the future I plan to spend helping them build their own healthy future. Now and for years to come, I hope to fulfill your investment in the lives of special needs children. May God bless each of you for making a difference in so many children’s lives in all of our communities.

Chelsea Pearson Saxton

Why I Give

TO THE NAJA FOUNDATION

GOD IS GOOD! Joining JA of Brandon/Reservoir in 1991 was a life changing experience. I have met so many kindred spirits and made long-lasting friendships. While serving on NAJA’s Finance Committee, Wilma Wilbanks and I clicked on one very important topic—the Foundation.

With an organization like NAJA that touches the lives of so many in our communities, a need for financial security and stability exists. Because of this need, it is very apparent that it be perpetually funded in order to be the much needed “road map” to success for its Chapters where the servants of God are at work. We all have our talents, and supporting NAJA through the Foundation is my privilege. May the “JA Armies of Compassion” march on.

— Mary Carole Bowers
Life member of JA of Rankin Co., MS
**Why I Give**

**TO THE NAJA FOUNDATION**

I SUPPORT THE NAJA FOUNDATION because Junior Auxiliary not only furnishes valuable, irreplaceable service in communities where the immense needs would not be met without us, but it also provides our members with leadership training opportunities, instilling in each of us a sense of purpose, civic responsibility, and a passion for service that translates into every part of our lives.

When I was a child, my mother taught me that JA is the highest calling for a woman in her community. She was right about JA, just as she has been right about so many things that she taught me. JA does represent the opportunity for women with a commitment to service to make a real and measurable difference in the quality of life in their communities. Momma and I both donate regularly and consistently to the NAJA Foundation because we recognize the value and the great need for our support.

JA is a particularly meaningful investment for me. As a member, I have contributed many hours of service and invested my time and my heart to our vital mission. It would seem unthinkable NOT to continue to contribute to the organization that has given so much to so many people in need and has trained thousands of volunteers who have continued to work to make their communities better places to live. JA ignites in all of us the zeal for meaningful service, and supporting the NAJA Foundation ensures that present and future generations of volunteers will have the same opportunities that I have had to invest myself in my community.

—Wilma Wilbanks
Life member of JA of Cleveland, MS

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**JA Chapters at Work**

**ABBEVILLE, LA**

Junior Auxiliary of Abbeville, LA tapped into the creative talents of the members at the Boys and Girls Club-Vermilion Unit through their Service project, Artfully Yours. Members of the Club were invited to join the ladies of the Junior Auxiliary in a morning filled with arts and crafts. This annual project is a fun filled, hands on project that is fully funded by the Chapter and thoroughly enjoyed by not only the members of the Boys and Girls Club but also by the members of JA of Abbeville. “Every child is an artist at Artfully Yours. We get to know that child through their creations and through our interaction. That’s the best part. There are some really great kids at the Boys and Girls Club”, states Chairman Laurie Hulin. Breakfast and lunch are provided to ensure artistic talents are peaked and ready for craft sessions. Sessions consisted of creating pinch pots with planted succulents, lighthouses, paper dragons with age appropriate reading books and personalizing pillowcases. All sessions were created and led by crafty JA members. Upon the projects’ completion, attendees entered one of their creations from the morning into an Art Contest. Mr. Tony Mayard, Curator of the Abbeville Cultural Center, graciously donated his time and eye for talent to judge the Art Contest with prizes awarded by the Project’s Chairmen. Prizes awarded were arts and craft oriented for additional creativity at home.

**AMORY, MS**

Junior Auxiliary of Amory, MS kicked off a brand-new school year by hosting its Back to School Bash. This service project grew from the year before and was a huge success. The project was held on July 30, 2016 which was the Saturday before school started. They began the morning with a one-mile color fun run for the kids. This was not only fun for the kids but it also encouraged exercise and movement. Once the run was over, the park was full of free games that Chapter members had created for the kids. The kids got to enjoy activities like face painting and football toss as well as free hotdogs and drinks provided by a local business. They also had the opportunity to dunk several community members that included local coaches, youth ministers, and even the mayor in a dunking booth. To cap this event off, they held a pep parade and invited all local
CLARKSDALE, MS
Games even bigger and brighter. home to commemorate the exciting day. child was given a T-Shirt and medal to take and party that followed. Each participating success of their day with a balloon-release they so deserve.” Students celebrated the

BOONEVILLE, MS
Junior Auxiliary of Booneville, MS started off the year by delivering “Care Crates” to each teacher working in the seven local elementary schools in Prentiss County. Each crate contained school supplies that could be used in the classroom throughout the year. The Provisional members held the inaugural “BOYS Day” as their Provisional project, while Active members held the 3rd Annual “GIRLS Conference”... both on November 12th. “BOYS Day” stood for Building On Your Strengths while “GIRLS Conference” stood for Gaining Intelligence, Reasoning, Life Skills & Style. Each event was hosted for local fifth grade students. The boys learned about bullying and self-defense, how to tie a tie, and health and hygiene. The girls learned about social media and internet safety, self-esteem, fitness, health and hygiene.

BROOKHAVEN, MS
Junior Auxiliary of Brookhaven, MS held its inaugural Smile Games in 2016. With invaluable community support, JA members were able to host around 75 special needs children for an Olympic-style sporting event. Each child participated in four sports: tug-of-war, relay race, basketball and tennis. High school and junior high students from area schools also came out to help make sure all events ran smoothly and spirits were high. “The teachers, students and JA member’s faces had success written all over them,” Child Welfare Co-Chair Whitney Holmes said. “Smiles were beaming and laughter filled the building. It was a day set aside to honor these children and provide them with a fun-filled experience, which they so deserve.” Students celebrated the success of their day with a balloon-release and party that followed. Each participating child was given a T-Shirt and medal to take home to commemorate the exciting day. Anticipations are high to make 2017’s Smile Games even bigger and brighter.

CLARKSDALE, MS
Junior Auxiliary of Clarksdale, MS was informed about Deandrea Cordera Hawkins four and a half years ago when one of his teachers reached out to them for help after realizing his tremendous potential. Deandrea was a brilliant student and had recently applied to the Mississippi School of Math and Science in Columbus, MS. Deandrea had no one to take him to his interview since his mother did not drive, so his teacher offered to drive him herself. That was the moment when she reached out to JA of Clarksdale for help. After that one phone call it did not take long for this Chapter to take him under their wings and make him a part of their JA family. Deandrea was accepted on a full scholarship to MSMS, which was greatly deserved. He had no money for text books, school supplies, project supplies, sheets or other necessities nor did he have transportation to take him to school. Dallas Earnest, the current president, and other members offered to drive Deandrea to school and help support him. Upon leaving, they realized he had no money for food so they drove back and took him to the grocery store. Deandrea wanted to work while being in school but you are not allowed to do that while attending MSMS so the Chapter took care of him financially throughout his attendance. Once it became time to apply for college, Dallas and the rest of the Chapter helped him. He applied and got accepted to multiple colleges, but he ultimately chose Millsaps College in Jackson, MS. Millsaps offered him a partial scholarship but he chose to attend there because he wants to attend Medical School in the future. Before Deandrea left for college, the Chapter taught him how to drive a car, obtain a driver’s license, open a checking account and balance a checkbook. An attorney in Clarksdale even bought him his first car. Since Deandrea is interested in Medical School, he shadowed Dallas at her clinic in Clarksdale all summer after graduating MSMS. He worked every week from 8am-5pm just to get experience. He continues to work with Dallas at Family First Clinic of Clarksdale when he is home from Jackson and in the summer between semesters. He also helps with Chapter projects whenever he is in Clarksdale. Deandrea is currently a sophomore at Millsaps College, has a 4.0 GPA and is a Resident Assistant (RA) in the dorm. His dream is to be a Gastroenterologist and he is currently shadowing a G.I. doctor in Jackson and is participating in cancer research with him. Deandrea came from a family who had very little and he could not have made it without this Chapter’s help. However, he has tremendous self-drive and is quickly becoming the American dream.

CLEVELAND, MS
Junior Auxiliary of Cleveland, MS’s Provisional class developed a project entitled “Food for Thought” which engaged over forty elementary aged children in an afternoon workshop teaching healthy food and lifestyle choices. The program consisted of a group presentation with a video highlighting the food pyramid and nutritional recommendations geared toward children. This time was followed by three 15 minute breakout sessions. One was food group bingo, where winners won healthy prizes such as water bottles and toys that promoted a healthy activity. Another was a presentation on packing a healthy lunch, in which students chose between healthy and junk food options. The third was a get-moving activity led by a local fitness instructor allowing the children to not only hear about the importance of daily physical activity but also participate in a workout routine that incorporated “pound” aerobics and dance. The workshop also had a snack time where the participants were provided
healthy snacks and instructed on making healthy snack choices such as fresh fruit over processed food.

**COLUMBUS, MS**

Junior Auxiliary of Columbus, MS’s Choose Your Path project’s main objective is to find motivational and educational speakers who encourage students to make good decisions on their own and to stay on the right path. The goal is to help them realize that their actions and choices today have consequences which affect their future. The speakers are chosen each year with input from the school principals and counselors according to what they deem the most important current issues with their students. In the spring, the Chapter brought Marc Mero, Former WWE Wrestling Champion and Author of “How to be the Happiest Person on the Planet”, to all of the Lowndes County Middle School students. Marc was able to teach and empower over 1,500 middle school students the importance of “Dream Big”. Junior Auxiliary of Columbus held the event at Mississippi University for Women which allowed their Education Department to participate. Teachers in learning were exposed to what students are facing every day in the classroom. Marc reached the pinnacle of sports-entertainment success – then lost it all — but in the process discovered what’s most important in life. Everyone faces adversity. “It’s not how many times you get knocked down, it’s how many times you get back up. You can do anything you set your mind to!” Marc shares his captivating journey with audiences worldwide and inspires people to examine their life choices. Listeners feel a greater sense of appreciation toward their relationships and the “gift of time” – and are empowered to make a difference in their personal life, school, career, and community. Marc Mero’s “Time is Now!” Tour addresses the issues of bullying, suicide prevention, substance abuse, goal-setting, dreaming big, making positive choices and achieving your highest potential.

**CRYSTAL SPRINGS, MS**

One of Junior Auxiliary of Crystal Springs, MS’s longest standing Service project serviced 127 children on June 6th-10th and 13th-16th teaching annual swimming lessons. The Chapter was blessed to teach 44- Level 1 swimmers, 39- Level 2 swimmers, 26- Level 3 swimmers, 10- Level 4 swimmers, and 8- Guard Start swimmers. The swimmers were also taught CPR Basics from local nurses from Sta-Home Health and Hospice. This project brings this Chapter together because Active, Life, and Crown Club members have the opportunity to be involved through teaching swimming lessons and/or donating snacks. Through this amazing Service project, Junior Auxiliary of Crystal Springs was able to contribute $1,000.00 to Friends of Chautauqua/City of Crystal Springs Pool to purchase commercial umbrellas for the city pool!

**DESGOTO COUNTY, MS**

Junior Auxiliary of DeSoto County, MS hosted a new Service project, “Coats for Kids”, on October 23, 2016. The event was held at the Armory in Hernando, Mississippi. This Fall Festival served children identified through the Chapter’s Jump Back to School program held during the summer that may also need continued assistance through the winter months. During “Coats for Kids”, children and their families were entertained through a fun, old fashioned fall event, complete with games, pumpkin decorating, face painting, a bounce house, and yummy treats. Special guest, Mayor Chip Johnson of Hernando, stopped by to participate in the fall festivities with the kids. JA of DeSoto County appreciates his continued support and knows the children enjoyed spending some time with him. The Chapter also provided each child with a warm coat for the winter and replenished some needed school supplies. This Service project allowed JA of DeSoto to meet the needs of 79 children.
NAJANET.org

SPRING 2017

THE JUNIOR AUXILIARY NATCHEZ, MS

Chapter kicked off their new partnership in August with Girl Scout Troop 3777 by hosting an overnight slumber party for the girls at the Duncan Park Canteen. Girls arrived to the party being welcomed by JA members who were serving pizza. The supper was followed with a surprise show from Magician Burnley Cook of Natchez. As the evening progressed, girls had plenty of activities to choose from such as hula hoops, a selfie photo booth, nail polish station, popcorn bar, the candy corner booth, face painting and art table, sumo bumper games, and a night filled with karaoke singing and dancing under the disco lights. Included in the event were two little girls who the Natchez Chapter will be sponsoring for the year so they can be involved in Girl Scouts and learn how to serve others while also developing new friendships. Different JA members stopped in at various times to offer assistance—some bringing goodies, while others just came to have a good time with the girls. The JA ladies found out it was one of the Girl Scout’s birthday so they called in another JA member to surprise her with a cake. Her parents also showed up with a birthday cake, so the Girl Scout troop and JA ladies were able to give her a celebration she will not soon forget.

The following morning the girls started painting and creating a six foot long canvas to share what they each could do to help ward off racism. Each girl created their idea by painting an art motif on how to accomplish that goal. TheJA ladies and Girl Scouts collected enough school supplies that each area school was delivered two bags of basic school supplies to either the school counselor or the librarian. The school personnel will dispense to children in need as supplies are needed. Throughout the party time several door prizes were awarded for knowing random facts about the Girl Scouts, including their motto and prayer. Paige Dickie, President and Chassity Cannon, Vice-President/Treasurer were both on hand, staying the night to entertain the girls until the wee hours of the morning. They set up a breakfast bar/buffet for the girls that included assorted cereals, milk and juice, sausage biscuits, pop-tarts and pastries. As the morning came to a close and clean-up began, everyone pitched in. A couple of the girls even took the initiative and mopped the floors.

DYER COUNTY, TN

Junior Auxiliary of Dyer County, TN is NAJA’s newest Provisional Chapter. One of their first projects was an event called “Unplugged” in the Park. The Chapter provided lots of candy, drinks, popcorn and tons of games for the kids to play outdoors. The parachute game was their favorite but there was also a giant yard twister game, horse stick races, spoon races, corn hole and other games and activities.

EUNICE, LA

Junior Auxiliary of Eunice, LA - Prior to 1980, volunteers from this Chapter had adopted vision screenings at St. Edmund Catholic School and other local schools since children were not being screened and the state could not fund a nurse to facilitate screenings in rural areas. The volunteers were trained by the Department of Health and Hospitals. Dr. Rhonda Fink Moser, an optometrist and founding member of JA of Eunice, began conducting screenings annually starting in 1985. In 2009, Dr. Sarah Moser Fruge’, the daughter of Dr. Moser, joined JA of Eunice and now, as a Life member, continues this Service project with current Active and Life members. “This is the third year that I have volunteered with the JA of Eunice’s Vision Screening and it is such a delight to hear the young student’s excitement knowing they “passed” their vision screening test!”-Candace Perry, Ex-Officio, 4th Year Active. This year’s vision screening was held on September 20, 2016. Classes which were tested include 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, and 11th grades. Of the 161 students tested, 36 failed their vision screening and were provided follow up appointments with Dr. Fruge.
GREENVILLE, MS
In 2013, the Provisional class of the Junior Auxiliary of Greenville, MS saw a need for projects that supported preschool age children in the community. Many of the Chapter’s programs had focused on ages 6 and up, and the class was determined to create a new project that would address younger children. JA members then researched the pre-school curriculum and found that the art programs had received funding cuts in recent years. Several studies have linked the arts with important developmental skills and increased literacy, thus, “PART” (Pre-K Art) was born to bring the arts to young children in the Greenville area. JA members worked with the local Headstart Program to identify a school with eight Pre-K classes that members could serve. Each month, JA members visit the Headstart to provide a hands-on art lesson that also has curriculum connections, including literacy, science, and math. For example, one month members read Who Will

Plant a Tree? and brought in sticks, leaves, and berries to help students create their own 3-dimensional trees using play-doh. In another visit, JA members read Chicka Chicka Boom Boom and helped children create their own music makers using dried vegetables and paper towel tubes that children decorated. The monthly read-aloud is always given to the teachers so that they can give their students repeated readings, another important tool in developing fluency in reading. PART is now one of the Chapter’s favorite projects, and the children love getting to participate in creating art projects they can take home and show their families.

GRENADA, MS
Junior Auxiliary of Grenada, MS has been honored and blessed to serve a selective group of sixth grade middle school students at Grenada Middle School with their new “Lovin’ Lunch Boxes” project. Lovin’ Lunch Boxes was a 2015 Provisional class project that was voted on by all Chapter members to continue. After learning that a number of students of this age group do not always
have enough food to eat at home after leaving school for the weekend, this touched the hearts of Active JA members. With the goal of the project being to fill the student’s bellies with food, JA members also show a small act of kindness by adding personalized written notes to the lunch sacks which encourage the students to be the best they can be while always being a light to shine towards others. Non-perishable food items are purchased as the school year begins to help fill the lunch sacks. At the end of each month, JA members meet to fill the lunch sacks for delivery to the middle school. Every Friday, 31 lunch sacks are filled with non-perishable food items and are discreetly delivered to the selected group of sixth graders to take home over the weekend to keep them fed until they return back to school on Monday. JA of Grenada understands the importance of proper nutrition for all students so they can perform to the best of their ability in and out of the classrooms. It is through the generosity of the community and JA members donating food items that lunch sacks are able to be filled and delivered for the school year.

HAMMOND, LA
Junior Auxiliary of Hammond, LA has been very busy this fall providing service to their community. On August 13, their area of South Louisiana was hit with torrential rainfall that resulted in a flood which devastated tens of thousands of families. Thankfully, none of their members were directly affected, but the Chapter felt it was necessary to do their part in aiding those in need. With the help of very generous donations from various JA Chapters, they partnered with the First United Methodist Church of Hammond to assist the Laurent project. This project is helping families get back on their feet after the flood. So far, JA of Hammond has provided almost $3500 worth of household supplies including bedding, bathroom necessities, small kitchen appliances and other kitchen items, towels, cleaning supplies, and more to these families. The Chapter will continue to provide items to this project for flood relief victims over the next few months.

At the “Believe in Girls” (BIG) event in September, the Hammond Chapter helped 60 young Girl Scout Cadettes receive their Science of Happiness badge by teaching them three pillars of happiness: gratitude, kindness and mindfulness. They created a workbook for each girl with lessons and fun activities to practice these three happiness techniques on a daily basis. Some of these activities were dancing (because that makes everyone happy) and sharing six-second hugs, which are scientifically proven to make you happy.

HOT SPRINGS, AR
Junior Auxiliary of Hot Springs, AR hosted a JA Fun Day project on November 3, 2016 at the Family Farm Day Camp. JA Fun Day is an event that provides a day of fun organized to accommodate special needs students of Garland County in grades K-4. The day included a hayride, petting zoo, arts and crafts, a puppet show, a slide and carousel plus a trip to the pumpkin patch for each child to take home a pumpkin. Over 115 students from 7 area schools were in attendance. Outback Steakhouse of Hot Springs provided hamburger lunches for all students, teachers, parents and volunteers. This was the first year to move the project to the fall from spring which found them always facing potential rainy weather. The feedback on the switch was fantastic from the schools in attendance as well as JA members.

LAKE PROVIDENCE, LA
The Junior Auxiliary of Lake Providence, LA donated over 300 Junior Auxiliary sponsored t-shirts to their friends in south Louisiana. In August of 2016, Baton Rouge and the surrounding areas received over two feet of rain in less than 72 hours. This resulted in devastating flooding across the area with catastrophic loss to many families. This Chapter made the decision to gather these articles of clothing to donate to those in need. A Junior Auxiliary of Lake Providence Associate member, Tisha Parker, made the trip to south Louisiana to deliver the shirts.

LAUREL, MS
The Junior Auxiliary of Laurel, MS, along with the Lauren Rogers Museum of Art and Laurel Arts League, hosted their annual Very Special Arts Festival on Friday, November 11th at the Cameron Center in Laurel. Several hundred children with special needs from area schools attended the event. The Very Special Arts is a festival for special needs children to participate in making arts and crafts. This year’s theme was “Under the Sea”. The kids were treated with face painting, fishing for candy, making shark hats, building pirate and mermaid puppets, and much more! Junior Auxiliary President Anna Thornton said, “The Very Special Arts festival is one of our favorite events because

CONGRATULATIONS ON 75 YEARS OF SERVICE!
We are proud to be a Charter Member and part of JA’s legacy, tradition, and work over the past 75 years.
we get to have one on one interaction with these beautiful children. They enjoy all of the cute arts and crafts, photo booths, jewelry and music! It is a true joy to see their faces light up when we play and help them create all the arts and crafts we prepared for them.” Space at the Cameron Center was donated by the City of Laurel.

**LAWRENCE COUNTY, AR**
Junior Auxiliary of Lawrence County, AR works closely with the public school counselors to identify children in need of shoes. 50 pairs of shoes were purchased by the Chapter and divided among the four schools in the county for counselors to distribute to children in need.

**MCCOMB, MS**
The Junior Auxiliary of McComb, MS recently started a new project, “The Bookshelf Boogie.” The project, which began at Southwest Mississippi Community College’s Childcare Center, asks for children’s book donations. The bookshelf will continue to “boogie” to a different Pike County business each month. The book collection will be donated to Excel by 5 of McComb, an organization which aids in ensuring that the children of that community are prepared to begin school by age 6. After its first location, the bookshelf collected 222 books for Excel by 5.

**MADISON COUNTY, FL**
Junior Auxiliary of Madison County, FL hosted its 4th annual Fire Safety project on Tuesday, October 11, 2016, as part of national Fire Prevention Week. The Fire Safety project was initiated by the Provisional Class of 2013-14 as a response to fires that claimed the lives of two elementary children in the community. The project has since been adopted as an annual event due to its high impact. All second graders from across the county were brought to Madison County Central School to participate in the event. Students rotated through stations hosted by various community groups. The Madison Fire Department gave tours of the fire truck followed by a lesson in how to stop, drop, and roll. The National Forestry Service taught students about forest fire prevention. Tri-County Electric Co-Op demonstrated electrical line safety. Perhaps students’ favorite part was “escaping” from the Red Cross fire demonstration trailer, practicing important evacuation skills. Sparky the Fire Dog was on hand to greet the kids, and everyone left with their own fire helmets and goody bags of fire safety stickers, pencils, and safety reminders.

**MILAN, TN**
The Junior Auxiliary of Milan, TN held its annual Stuff the Bus Service project in August to collect school supplies for Milan school children. On a designated Saturday morning they set up at the local Wal-Mart to collect school supplies from shoppers. As items are dropped off and sorted and then stored on the school bus. At the 2016 event they collected 282 items plus over $300 in donations. Supplies will fill the supply closets at all Milan schools for children who do not have them. Milan Mayor BW Beasley made a donation of backpacks and was grateful for the ladies helping the children of Milan. A note received from the school counselors expressed gratitude for the continued support and hard work in collecting the supplies for the students.

In September, BBQ and Blue Jeans, a fundraiser for their big Christmas Angel Tree project, was held prior to the high school football game. The event raised over $2700.
which housed many evacuees from Southwest Mississippi. The JA ladies rounded up supplies and some monetary donations from locals and were able to get the goods to the Baton Rouge area with the help of a local man, Mr. Steve Newman, who was also on the ground helping with disaster relief during the aftermath of Hurricane Camille. Goods were distributed to evacuees in the local shelter with the help of some of the local Girl Scouts. The ladies of JA in Natchez are always happy to assist those in need whenever and wherever they can.

NEW ALBANY, MS
Junior Auxiliary of New Albany, MS assisted with the annual Museum Madness held by the Union County Heritage Museum. This is a fun Service project that helps educate various children in the community. The day camp took place on June 20 - 24, 2016. The theme this year was “When I Grow Up.” Each day focused on a different career: Archeologists, Train Conductors, Musicians, Cartoonists, and Scientists. This Service project allows members to serve creative snacks and help with interactive crafts each day. A special guest from the Memphis Train Museum spoke to the children and assisted with the construction of a Lego Train set. Museum Madness inspires growth in the future generation of our community.

OBION COUNTY, TN
Junior Auxiliary of Obion County, TN hosted one of their biggest Service projects, Healthy Start Healthy Finish, on Saturday, October 1, 2016. This project’s main focus was to teach children and their families how to live a better life by making healthy choices on a daily basis. Through this Service project, members were able to provide a day of healthy exercise by having field day type races such as a sack race, hula hoop contest, an obstacle course, a yoga class, and jiu jitsu class. Professionals throughout the community, from the Union City Police Department, Redfoot family Walk-In Clinic, and nursing students from the Tennessee Technology Center, also set up booths to talk about health and safety. The Chapter was able to serve 88 children and their parents in one afternoon. The Provisional class saw this project as an opportunity to display the history of the Chapter in order to help educate the community on the purpose of Junior Auxiliary and some of the other things the Chapter has done over the years. At the end of the day, all participants were provided with a healthy meal which consisted of

Local businesses were asked to be sponsors and in return they received recognition in the local newspaper as well as on the advertisement page at the event. Food was donated by several local restaurants and enjoyed by all who attended. “It’s a great cause to support, convenient location and inexpensive way to enjoy dinner before the football game as a family” said David Zarecor. “We look forward to it every year” quoted the Barnhill family.

NATCHEZ, MS
Junior Auxiliary of Natchez, MS - A few months ago much of South Louisiana, and some of Southwest Mississippi, was devastated by a flood of historic proportion. With little immediate aid, most of the help to folks in these areas came from the fortunate locals who were spared, and generous souls in surrounding areas. The Natchez Chapter of Junior Auxiliary began two simultaneous disaster assistance drives to meet the urgent needs of flood victims in the greater Baton Rouge area and the local shelter in Natchez.
smoked chicken, baked chips, fruit, raisins, and bottled water.

**PARAGOULD, AR**

2016 marked the second year for the annual Cheers for Charity event for the Junior Auxiliary of Paragould, AR. Cheers for Charity is a cocktail attire event where community members join together for an evening of food, music, and friends. This event’s main attraction is the Angel Christmas Tree which allows attendees to take home a beautiful ornament for their own tree. Attendees then shop for the child’s Christmas Wish List. The presents are wrapped and given to JA of Paragould. Provisional members are in charge of setting the tree up, tagging the ornaments, and organizing the management of the tree. This event raises funds for the Chapter’s biggest Service project, Christmas Blessing. Christmas Blessing, held in December, is a time for parents to take home Christmas presents while their children play games, eat, and pick our presents for their parents.

**ROGERS-BENTONVILLE, AR**

Junior Auxiliary of Rogers-Bentonville, AR works closely with the girls of Crown Club on a heart-warming project that serves local families with special needs children. It can be very expensive to take care of a special needs child and getting a babysitter is sometimes out of the budget for most families. Parent’s Night Out provides a fun-filled evening for these amazing kids and their siblings, as well as a worry-free night of childcare for the parents so they can have a much-needed night off. The event is held twice a year and features games, crafts, and food based on a popular children’s movie. Past events have included Frozen, Lilo & Stitch, and Madagascar, with the latest event having a Monsters, Inc. theme. The Crown Club girls created fun activities such as Scream Machine Bowling, Mystery Door Game, and Monster Face Painting. The crafts consisted of making Monster Bracelets, decorating Monster Bags, and transforming a paper plate into a Monster Mask, to name just a few. After all the hands-on activities were done, the kids settled in with their pillows & blankets to watch the movie, Monsters, Inc. while they waited for their parents to return. It takes a lot of volunteers and planning to make the evening a success, but all the hard work is worth it to be able to provide this wonderful service to these deserving families.

**RUSTON, LA**

Junior Auxiliary of Ruston, LA recently hosted “Bake Sale for A Cause” on November 5, 2016. The event was held at My Happy Place Vintage Market’s “Happy Holiday Market”. With over 50 vendors, Junior Auxiliary spent the day selling a wide variety of baked goods to market goers and vendors alike. They were also joined by charter members of their recently formed Crown Club. “These girls are so eager and ready to serve our community and were happy to lend a hand at the Bake Sale,” Crown Club Chair, Calysta Manning stated. “We know that they are going to make a huge impact on our community,” she added. Members baked everything from pecan pies and individually wrapped brownies to turtle cheesecakes and savory items like garlic bread knots. Based on the Finance project’s success, Junior Auxiliary of Ruston hopes to host another Bake Sale in the spring. “It was a great opportunity to promote the many Service projects we offer our community, while raising funds so that we can continue to grow and serve,” DeShae Pardon, Public Relations Chair, said.

**SALINE COUNTY, AR**

The Junior Auxiliary of Saline County, AR
spent the morning of November 8, 2016, celebrating the 75th Anniversary of the National Association of Junior Auxiliaries (NAJA) by handing out free donuts, coffee and balloons within the local community. Members of the Chapter set up a tent on election day on the county courthouse lawn, and across from a polling location, offering free donuts and coffee to voters, poll-workers and county employees. Pre-printed business cards with the 75th Anniversary notation and local Chapter contact information were also handed out to spread the good news about JA of Saline County and what the organization does within the community. Members also delivered donuts to local fire stations and police departments, as well as delivering balloons to children at the local hospital. What better way to celebrate 75 years of community service through NAJA by spreading some cheer in the community that we love and serve?! Happy 75 years NAJA!

**TIPTON COUNTY, TN**

Junior Auxiliary of Tipton County, TN hosted their Service project, “Unplugged”, twice over the Fall of 2016! This project was part of their National Focus Project, “Keeping It Real in a Virtual World.” The purpose of this project is to get children off their electronics and outside to play and have fun! This project was started by the Provisional Class of 2014 and has become a growing event for this Chapter. With the combined effort of strong leadership by Maureen Wignes and Jennifer Hall, a wonderful event was planned that members and the community loved. There was tremendous community support from several local municipalities and businesses including the Tipton County Sherriff’s Office, local police and fire departments, both of the libraries, the local hospital, and several non-profit organizations who came out and played with the kids and Chapter members! Kids played games such as toilet bowl toss, parachute play, corn-hole, an obstacle course, painting 901 rocks, and more! Over 80 children, 32 members, 14 Crown Club girls, and 22 organizations participated in the two fall events. Planning is in the works to hold Unplugged again this spring!

**VICKSBURG, MS**

Junior Auxiliary of Vicksburg, MS has a project called Career Development Day. This project is aimed at junior high students and provides the students with an opportunity to gain career insight through exposure. JAV members partnered with an 8th grade career discovery class at the Academy of Innovation in Vicksburg and coordinated a Career Development Day on November 2, 2016. This day brought over 90 students together with members of the community including fellow JAV members across 18 different workplaces for a job shadowing event. The students were asked to submit requests for job sites and JAV members worked to accommodate requests along with coordination of transportation, food and chaperones. The job sites included the Mayor’s office, District Attorney’s office, Sherriff’s department, medical clinics, engineering firms, a pharmacy, elementary schools, a dental clinic, an eye clinic, a nursing home, ERGON, and a pet shop. Another Career Development Day is scheduled for next semester that will include 95 students for a total of over 180 students affected by the project. Many students spend extra years in college at an increased cost trying to develop their career goals. The goal of this project is to assist students to begin the process of career discovery at an earlier age while adding purpose to their educational goals.

**WATER VALLEY, MS**

The Junior Auxiliary of Water Valley, MS recently started a new project called Project Safe Kids. They joined with the local Sheriff’s Department, Beta Club members, Life members, community members, and the local Sports Complex. The basis of the project was to fingerprint children in the community to help in case of an emergency. The kits had a place for fingerprints and allowed parents to send in a lock of hair for DNA. The kits were ordered from the McGruff Crime Dog Website and over 300 children were fingerprinted. After the children were fingerprinted, the card then went home with parents to help in case of an emergency. Parents also took home information on social media tips and bullying prevention methods. After the emergency kits were prepared, the children participated in trunk or treating, face painting, bouncy houses, and a snack. These all helped to encourage attendance! The project was a huge success for the Chapter and the community!

**WINONA, MS**

Junior Auxiliary of Winona, MS recently hosted their first ever “Movie Night” on November 4th, 2016. The event brought 33 children and 16 adults from the community together for a big night of fun and relaxation amidst a busy school year. Families enjoyed complimentary popcorn and hotdogs together as they watched “Zootopia” in the auditorium of their local high school. The ladies of Junior Auxiliary had a wonderful time serving their community. Not only were they able to provide a meal to these area children and parents, Junior Auxiliary of Winona was also able to provide parents access to a safe and healthy environment where they could focus on spending quality time with their children.

(Clockwise from top left) Paragould, AR; Saline County, AR; Rogers-Bentonville, AR; Vicksburg, MS; Ruston, LA; Tipton County, TN
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Pears in our Crown

Pearls in our Crown

Candace Zarecor
MILAN, TN

JUNIOR AUXILIARY OF MILAN, TN
ACTIVE MEMBER
CANDACE ZARECOR
was recognized as one of the top Under 40 in West Tennessee on November 3, 2016. Candace is in her fifth year of Junior Auxiliary membership. She currently serves as Ex-Officio and Corresponding Secretary as well as the Publicity Chair. She has previously served as Recording Secretary, Vice President and 2015-2016 President. Candace is also active with Relay for Life and plays hand bells in the First United Methodist Church hand bell choir.

Meredith Cook
JONESBORO, AR

JUNIOR AUXILIARY OF JONESBORO, AR
LIFE MEMBER
MEREDITH COOK
was recently awarded the Ed Way Young Professional of the Year Award through the Jonesboro Chamber of Commerce. This award is named in honor of a man who during his life daily mentored young professionals in our community. Like Ed, the outstanding young professional must be involved in numerous community activities and strive to give back to others with enthusiasm. Meredith was recognized for her outstanding leadership and countless efforts to help make Jonesboro a better community. She shares Ed’s vision and commitment to community volunteerism. Just like Ed’s impact on the community, she has made huge strides as a young leader in mentoring and leading. She is actively involved in the Chamber, serving on many committees as well as a member of the Young Professionals Network. She was a 2008 graduate of Leadership Jonesboro and actively serves as a Goodwill Ambassador and on the A-State Committee. Other organizations she is involved in include Downtown Jonesboro Association, United Way, Chi Omega Alumni, and Junior Auxiliary. During her time as a Junior Auxiliary member she mentored to young women through Consolidated Youth Services and Girls Enrichment and continues to serve on these projects when needed. As an Active member of Junior Auxiliary, Meredith exemplified leadership. She was both Chair and Co-Chair of Charity Ball Corporate Donations, Chapter Membership Chair, and Chair and Co-Chair of the Girls Enrichment Project. Congratulations to Meredith Cook on this distinguished award in the Jonesboro Community.

Why I Give
TO THE NAJA FOUNDATION

I GIVE TO THE NAJA FOUNDATION as a way to continue helping others in need. As a JA volunteer, I served in many different capacities through several decades, and I have received SO MUCH MORE! I treasure the friendships that I have because of my involvement with JA. Working with others—first in my home Chapter of Cleveland, MS, then with area Chapters as a director and advisor, and then with all of our Chapters as NAJA President, and now back home as the Associate/Life representative—has given me the opportunity to realize how far the influence of NAJA reaches. As a donor to the Foundation, I feel that I am still helping in a small way by easing some of the financial burden that hinders many Chapters. Foundation grants help JA members attend AEC, which gives these volunteers the opportunity to see that JA spreads much farther than just their local communities. These meetings always served as a great spirit and enthusiasm booster to me as an Active member, and I hope others receive that same kind of inspiration.

—Vicki Pentecost
Life member of JA of Cleveland, MS
Junior Auxiliary Of Lake Providence, LA Celebrates Our 50th Anniversary

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