

Welcome to San Francisco!!



Convention Chatter – March 2014

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. 2014 National Convention, San Francisco, CA July 29-August 2, 2014

We are excited and proud to host our 72nd annual convention in the beautiful city of San Francisco for a 2nd year! Please plan to come and be a part of this exciting week of planning and fun with Blue Star Mom sisters. This year's convention will again be held at the beautiful and historic Marine's Memorial Club in Downtown San Francisco <http://www.marineclub.com/>



Many of you attended convention last year and experienced the excitement and fun that we had while taking care of our business. We are planning another exciting, fun filled week so we hope you will make plans now to attend. This chatter will be short but we need to take care of some housekeeping business. **I hope that when you receive the Chatter throughout the year that you will open and read it completely. It will be filled with information that you will need to know for convention.** Of course, at any time if you have any questions you can contact Tami Jenkins, Convention Chair at convention@bluestarmothers.org or 925-784-5014.

Room Reservations

Rooms will be released for reservations on Monday, March 17th. There are a few things you need to be aware of when making room reservations. Based on lessons we learned from last year and conversations with the hotel on how to make things easier for them and for us we have made a few adjustments to the process of reserving rooms. We hope that you will see the benefits of these adjustments and will follow the steps we have put in place. The hotel is acting upon the request of the convention team so if you have any problems or questions please contact Tami. So...here goes:

1. If you are a chapter President calling in to make reservations for your chapter **please have your delegate names ready to give to the hotel for each room you are reserving**. You will be allowed to reserve multiple rooms on one card to make it easier but you **MUST** have names. We are hopeful that the names you are giving will be your delegates. Last year, many chapters reserved more rooms than they needed, and then released them closer to convention; we want to avoid that this year. We really want as many of you as possible to stay at the MMC and get the full experience of convention so **PLEASE** be mindful of others when making your reservations. **PLEASE NOTE THAT IF YOU DO NOT HAVE NAMES YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RESERVE ROOMS.**
2. You will be able to request rollaway beds but you will be charged \$10 + tax per night for each rollaway you request. Most rooms will accommodate one rollaway but you should confirm with the hotel.
3. With your room reservation each person in the room is issued a Hospitality Pass that allows you breakfast and the complimentary happy hour. If a room will accommodate 2 people and you have 4 people in your room, there will be a \$20 + tax charge for the extra 2 people per night for the Hospitality pass. If you are in a suite or room that accommodates 2-4 people, any over that amount will be charged the extra \$20 + tax per night.
4. Please keep in mind that there are very few double/double rooms available so please, carefully consider what your needs are and make reservations accordingly.

How you can help

Convention is a huge undertaking but it is totally worth it and it truly is just around the corner! We want to have another successful convention, but we need your help. Below are some suggestions on how you can help us:

- ♥ Last year we had some wonderful **table centerpieces** that we auctioned off at the banquet. Oh my goodness, we had such a great time auctioning these off! We would love to have some beautiful centerpieces again this year. It is always fun to have stuff from each of the cities represented at convention. If you can provide a centerpiece, please let Tami know.

- ♥ We need to **have silent auction items** to showcase at our banquet. This auction helps us raise funds for the convention so we would love to see lots of items. In years past we have had some wonderful baskets, handmade items, etc. We do have some wonderfully talented Blue Star Sisters; many of you gifted with special skills, such as beading, woodworking, jewelry making, quilting, etc. Please consider sending us an item for the Silent Auction even if you cannot attend. Items should be sent to Tami Jenkins, 11300 Dublin Canyon Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Please let her know when you send something so she can be sure to watch for it.
- ♥ **A Chapter Fundraiser** to help with the cost of convention would be gratefully accepted. There are many simple fundraisers that can be done with little effort. Please consider doing something to help out.
- ♥ If you can't help in any other way, **a simple monetary donation** to convention would be graciously accepted. All donations received will be earmarked and used strictly for our convention. You must note on your check that it is for convention.

Monetary donations (with your Chapter name/number clearly indicated) can be mailed to: Kathryn Venable, National Financial Secretary, PO Box 2518, Pocatello, ID 83206-2518

Ok, I guess that's it for now! We are so excited to have you all in Beautiful San Francisco again this year, we hope you are excited too! Stay tuned for the next Chatter we will be adding information as we go. Remember, if you have any questions or concerns please contact Tami Jenkins, convention@bluestarmothers.org or 925-784-5014. TTFN!!

WE HAVE A GREAT NIGHT OF FUN
AND LAUGHS PLANNED FOR YOU!

PLEASE JOIN US IN SUPPORT OF THE
JOSEPHINE CALENDA EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FUND



Red Carpet



THE
MARINES' MEMORIAL HOTEL
CRYSTAL BALLROOM

WEDNESDAY JULY 30TH, 2014

DETAILS TO FOLLOW