

Welcome to San Francisco!!



Convention Chatter #2– April 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/>

It's hard to believe that we are only a little over 3 months from convention 2014! 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 jenks219@hotmail.com or 925-784-5014.

Room Reservations

Rooms were released for reservations on Monday, March 17th. If you have not yet made your reservations, you need to do that as soon as possible. Next month we will have the names of other hotels around the MMC that might be available. Please check Chatter #1 for all the details of reserving a room.

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.
- ♥ And, if your son or daughter will be attending the banquet with you, consider allowing us to auction off a dance with them (or two)! Just might generate some intra-service rivalry...
- ♥ **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, P.O. Box 2518, Pocatello, Idaho, 83206-2518

- ♥ **Newly added to this chatter:** We need help with donations for the hospitality room. We know you like having the snacks available and the goal is to help defer costs to you by trying to have lunch type items available on the days we don't have lunch provided. If your chapter can help either with funds or with "stuff" please let Tami know as soon as possible. If your chapter would like to sponsor a day of hospitality that would be awesome!! We will only have 3 days of hospitality and two of those days have lunch provided. If your chapter would like to sponsor a day, you would need to provide the manpower for that day. There will be more on this later but hopefully this will get the wheels rolling and the gears turning 😊

New For This Year's Convention

There are going to be some changes this year that you should be aware of. Please read these carefully so that you can come to convention prepared. These changes include the following:

1. In an effort to save some time and some money, goodie bags will not be available at convention so please bring your own tote bag with you.
2. Again, to save money, we will not be providing copies of all of the Governing Documents so be sure to bring your draft copies once the proposed changes are

- released to everyone. All of the proposed changes will appear on the screens, but be sure to bring your own marked up copies.
3. Each convention attendee will receive a **RED FRIDAY** T-shirt.
 4. Special convention pins will be available for sale at convention

Big Dipper Fun Night

The Big Dipper fun night will be on Wednesday night, July 28th. The theme is “Red Carpet”. More details will follow for this event but be warned.....it promises to be a LOT of fun! This event supports the Josephine Calenda Educational Assistance Fund. It is a good cause so please be thinking about attending this event and helping them meet their financial goals to provide educational assistance to those who need help.

News from Big Dipper!

It's that time again to submit applications for the Josephine Calenda Educational Assistance Fund. Applications can be obtained from your local Chapter President or by logging onto the [BSMA website](#) and click on the Big Dipper page. There you will find the 2014 application along with the application checklist to insure all required information is received for consideration. The application is also attached to the email for you so that you can share with your Chapter. You can also request an application from Big Dipper President, Linda Bayer at bdpres@gmail.com. Those eligible are: a child(ren), and grandchild(ren) of a veteran or BSMA member; veteran, active duty personnel, or a BSMA member. All applications are due 30 days prior to convention and must be received by the National Big Dipper President, no less than 30 days prior to convention. Forms can be submitted to:

Linda Bayer
President Big Dipper Auxiliary
2250 Monroe St. #255
Santa Clara, CA 95050.

Convention this year is being held July 29 thru August 2, 2014 and EA applications are **due by June 29, 2014.**

Stay tuned for more exciting news about this year's FunD Night! Be sure to check out our [Facebook page](#) and newsletters for updates! FunD Night will be on Wednesday, July 30th at the Marines Memorial Club in the Crystal Ballroom. Thank you for your continued support of the Big Dipper Auxiliary. Let's continue to work together to make a difference in the educational future of many deserving recipients. See you there!

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,
jenks219@hotmail.com or 925-784-5014. TTFN!!