

## Welcome to San Francisco!!



### Convention Chatter #4– July 2014

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

Well, it is almost here! We are only 3 weeks away from our 2014 Convention and I am getting so excited! This will be the last Chatter and it will be short and sweet...just a few last reminders.

I hope by now you have your registrations in and your reservations made. As of today Registration cost is \$150 and you cannot request any refunds.

If you have ordered extra meal tickets for the banquet on Friday night please notify Tami Jenkins of the number of dinners you have ordered and what they are. We need to make sure we have them in the dinner count. We have received some orders that came through with no names or payment.

**VENDORS:** If you are planning on having a vendor table please get your reservations in. We have plenty of room.

If you are planning on bringing a centerpiece for the live auction at the banquet please let Tami know asap. She needs to have a count for the hotel.

**SILENT AUCTION ITEMS:** If you are providing an item/items for the silent auction, a bid sheet is attached for you to fill out before you turn in your items. We need all we can get so I hope you are planning to bring something from your home state to share with everyone...show your PRIDE!!

I have left all the rest of the information in this chatter for your review. **DON'T FORGET BIG DIPPER FUNd NIGHT!** Contact Linda Bayer if you have questions! I look forward to hearing from many of you concerning Silent Auction Items, centerpieces and vendor tables. **SEE YOU SOON!!**

If you have not made room reservations, the MMC is full but you can check out the hotels below:

## Hotel Options

Hotel Monaco – a little different than what you might be used to but if you are up for an adventure, this will be fun! <http://www.monaco-sf.com/>

Beresford Hotel (right next door to Marines Memorial Club) this hotel is cozy, but old. It is the closest to MMC and it is very affordable.

Beresford Arms Hotel – an old but very nice hotel about 3 blocks from MMC.

<http://www.beresford.com/>

JW Marriott, San Francisco - <http://www.marriott.com/>

San Francisco Marriott - <http://www.marriott.com>

## Transportation to the Hotel

(Also see attachment flyer from hotel)

There are several ways to get to the hotel from the San Francisco Airport. We suggest that you do NOT rent a car, it really won't be necessary and parking at the hotel is expensive (\$32.00 a day). Here are some options:

1. **BART** (Bay Area Rapid Transit) – This will be the cheapest way but the nearest drop to the hotel is about 5 blocks. If you have trouble walking or a lot of luggage you will not want this option
2. **Taxi** – This is very expensive (about \$45 one way)  
**Shuttle van or bus** is probably the most economical and best way. You can book online and prepay (suggested) for each of the following companies: Go Lorries – 415.334.9000 or [www.gosfovan.com](http://www.gosfovan.com);  
SF City Shuttle – 415-215-2500 or [www.sanfranciscocityshuttle.com](http://www.sanfranciscocityshuttle.com);  
Airport Express – 415.775.5121 or [www.airportexpresssf.co](http://www.airportexpresssf.co)

## Chapter Reports

We are attempting this year to allow ample time for chapter reports for all who want to submit them. This was addressed in the Call to Convention but I wanted to elaborate on it just a little. When preparing your report please include no more than 3 projects/accomplishments for the year. We would like to hear things that are unique that your chapter does, not including care packages, we all do that at some level. You will have 3 minutes to share your report NO EXCEPTIONS!

## 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; P.O. Box 2518, Pocatello, Idaho, 83206-2518**

## **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
3. Each convention attendee will receive a **RED FRIDAY** T-shirt.
4. Special convention pins will be available for sale at convention

## **Big Dipper FunD Night**

The Big Dipper fun night will be on Wednesday night, July 30<sup>th</sup>. 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**

Convention is fast approaching and we have lots to share with you! Last month we announced that we are now accepting Educational Assistance applications. Applications were sent to all chapter presidents, if your president has not received the application, they can be downloaded from the Big Dipper page on the BSMA website. You can also request an application from Big Dipper President, Linda Bayer at [bdpres@gmail.com](mailto:bdpres@gmail.com). Those eligible are: A child(ren), and grandchild(ren) of a veteran or BSMA member; a veteran; an 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 Education Assistance applications are due no later than June 29, 2014.

FUND Night this year will be on Wednesday, July 30th at the Marines' Memorial Club in the Crystal Ballroom. You can now order your tickets and pick them up at convention at the registration table. You don't want to miss any of the FUN we have planned for you! We have a fun "Keepsake" Pendant for you to commemorate this year's convention. We hope you will enjoy it and want to purchase one even if you can't make it to convention and show your support!

We are still selling coffee via The Giving Coffee Bean and we have had many of our mom's say that this makes for great gifts while supporting our mission! 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!

Linda Bayer  
President Big Dipper Auxiliary  
Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

## **Agenda for convention**

(Subject to Change)

Welcome Day    Tuesday, July 29, 2014

2:00-4:00    Board Meeting (timing tentative based on NEB arrival times)

5:00-6:00 Registration; or throughout Reception  
6:00-8:30 President's Reception  
Vendor Room open (noon)

## BSMA Business Day Wednesday, July 30, 2014

7:00-8:30 Breakfast  
7:00-7:45 Registration  
8:00-8:30 Music & Social in Convention Room  
8:30 Opening Ceremonies  
8:45 Welcome to Convention  
9:00 Introduction of Officers  
9:05 Naming of Judges, Timekeepers and Spotters  
9:10 Naming of Minutes Approval Committee  
9:15 Explanation of voting cards  
9:20 Credentials Committee Report  
9:30 Convention Chair Report/Agenda  
9:40 Convention Rules  
9:50 Approval of Convention 2013 Minutes  
10:00 Break and Rehearsal for Memorial  
10:30 Memorial / National Convention picture  
12:00 Lunch w/speaker – Col. William Peacock, Ret.  
1:30 President's Report  
1:45 Audit & Financials  
2:15 Finance Committee: Financial Policy & Budget Approval  
7:00-10:00 Big Dipper Fun(d) Night

## Education Day Thursday, July 31, 2014

7:00-8:30 Breakfast  
8:00-8:30 Music and Social in Convention Room  
8:30 Credentials Committee Report  
8:35 Convention Chair Report/Agenda  
8:40 Financials, Compliance & 990's update  
10:00 Break  
10:30 Website Introduction and Training for Chapter Officers  
12:00 Lunch – Hospitality Room  
1:00 Website and Compliance  
1:45 Strategic Planning overview  
2:15 VAVS/Veterans' causes  
2:45 Break  
3:15 Big Dipper  
3:30 Tim Maggart

## Education/Governing Documents Day Friday, August 1, 2014

7:00-8:30	Breakfast
8:00-8:30	Music and Social in Convention Room
8:30	Credentials Committee Report
8:35	Convention Chair Report/Agenda
8:40	Speaker - Bert Upson, 911 Survivor
10:00	Break
10:15	Breakout sessions/transition responsibilities
12:00	Lunch – Hospitality Room/on your own
1:00	Governing Documents Amendments
3:30	Chapter Reports (time permitting)
4:00	Big Dipper Meeting; election of Officers
5:00 – 6:30	Silent Auction preview and bidding
6:30-11:00	Banquet, dancing and Silent Auction

## Election Day    Saturday, August 1, 2014

7:00-8:30	Breakfast
8:00-8:30	Music and Social in Convention Room
8:30	Credentials Committee Report
8:35	Convention Chair Agenda Report
8:40	Review of Tellers
8:45	Review of Judges
8:50	Explanation of Ballots
9:00	Election of Officers
11:30	Lunch provided
12:30	Election of Officers
	Chapter reports during ballot counting
3:00	New Business
3:15	End of Convention
3:20	Installation Rehearsal
3:30	Installation of Officers

## Post Convention    Sunday, August 3, 2014

9:00 AM	Officer Transition meeting
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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](mailto:jenks219@hotmail.com) or 925-784-5014. TTFN!!

