

Questions and Answers



How do we donate as a chapter? [If you are donating to National Big Dipper, send a check to National Big Dipper Financial Secretary.](#)

Financial Secretary

Lori Thueme

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Port Huron, MI 48061-1246

[If donating to your state's Department Big Dipper, you would mail a check to your state's Department Big Dipper Financial Secretary. Currently, Michigan and Ohio have a Big Dipper Department Board.](#)

What are the beginning and ending dates for Big Dipper's yearly membership? [Membership in Big Dipper runs from September 1st to August 31st just like our parent organization.](#)

Can an associate member join Big Dipper? [No, associates are not full dues paying members of the parent organization and therefore cannot become a member of Big Dipper. We do appreciate their dedication and labor on behalf of the parent organization! They are welcome to donate to the Josephine Calenda Fund.](#)

How do we order the Big Dipper guard pins? [They can be ordered from the National Financial Secretary, Lori Thueme at the address listed above. Send your request to Lori at the address above, with your \\$10 payment plus the cost of shipping and one will be sent to you. You will save on postage by ordering with your chapter and getting the pins shipped together.](#)

Who may apply for Josephine Calenda Funds? [Big Dipper provides educational assistance to a child\(ren\) and grandchild\(ren\) of a veteran or BSMA member; a veteran, active duty personnel, a BSMA member or the spouse of a veteran or active duty personnel. These people are eligible to apply for educational financial assistance.](#)

Can the veteran request for a wife? [Yes, this was voted in Convention 2015.](#)

When our children are going to college, what is the deadline for applying for Josephine Calenda Funds???? [The applications for awards must be turned in to the Department Big Dipper President or National Big Dipper President \(depending on whose funds they are applying for\) 30 days prior to the first day of Convention.](#)

Is there anything special about the Educational Assistance form that must be done? The application form now has a checklist that is to be used and submitted with your application. The Checklist will walk you through the application process. Remember to get the Chapter President's signature after you have completed all other steps, but before you submit your application!

Why is the Educational Assistance Fund named the Josephine Calenda Fund? The Educational Assistance Fund was dedicated to the memory of Josephine Calenda of PA # 1 at the National BSMA Convention held in Lansing, Michigan in 1989. Josephine, after many years of active service in BSMA, died that year while holding the office of Big Dipper National President.