Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

Department of Michigan

OCTOBER 2019

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1st Vice-President: Penny Wright
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3rd Vice-President: Catherine Meintsma
Treasurer: Jackie Ransom
Financial Secretary: Peggy Pawelek Brown
Recording Secretary: Kim Flores

2019 Department Convention In Review

Congratulations to the 2019-2020 Department of Michigan Board!

2019 Department Convention

2019 Big Dipper FunD Night!

2019-2020 Michigan Big Dipper Board

Chapters in Action!

Thank you to Blue Star Mothers Chapter 179 for their donation of $1,000 to support our Veterans.

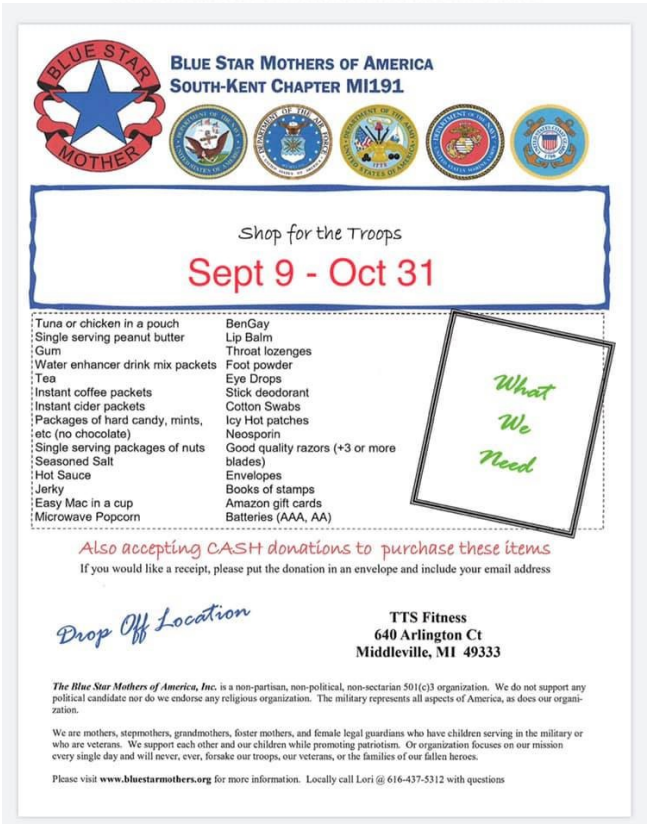
Michigan # 179 at Battle Creek VA Medical Center

MI 195 - 2019-2020 Officers

Chapters in Action!

Late one August evening, I received an email from a Blue Star Mother in Indiana. She noticed the stateside death of an Air Force Captain from our area - Captain Tranay Lashawn Tanner from Facebook. She was kind enough to notify me so we could order a Gold Star Banner. There was very little on the Internet and just Air Force Bulletin, but when I saw her face she seemed so familiar. I then used Facebook and found her sister's website and we had a mutual friend who was a student I taught in the past. He then provided me the information about her family. But when he said she was actually from Romulus then I realized why she was familiar. Captain Tanner came to my school seven years ago. I had a 9/11 Day of Service Project with my students to plant a "Spring of Hope" garden to honor veterans. The ground had to be prepared first and lots of vines and unwanted foliage removed from the front of the school. Nothing had been done for years in our neighborhood and it was tough work. Captain Tanner and her unit showed up to help my freshmen and I prepare the soil and remove the unwanted overgrowth. They worked diligently with the boys and I until finished. The next day, we honored both active duty military and veterans in a ceremony and planted 100 red, white, and blue bulbs to bloom each spring - our Spring of Hope Garden. Now each year as the flowers bloom, Captain Tanner will weigh heavy on my heart but her spirit will always be a part of Loyola. I have included a photo of one of my freshmen the first year they bloomed, as well as Captain Tanner with the students working diligently.

Chapter Events



South Kent MI-191 We will be collecting new or gently used gloves, hats, scarves, boots, and coats. Home-made gloves, hats, and scarves will also be welcome. Our collection runs from September 1st- October 31st. We have multiple drop off locations and will continue to update as we get more. If you have any questions or would like to donate, please feel free to contact us. Winter is around the corner and there are a lot of Vets out there who need assistance.

Chapter Events

VA National Creative Arts Festival They have asked Blue Star Mothers to sponsor the Evening activities for Saturday, Nov. 2nd from 7:30 to 11pm at the Radisson Hotel in Kalamazoo. Refreshments for the evening are estimated to be $1000.00 for the Veterans and their companions. We will also need Volunteers for the event. I am writing to ask that your chapter please help sponsor this event for our Veterans. All donations can be sent to BSM MI 179, P.O. Box 406, Paw Paw, MI 49079.

Marie Center

VAVS Rep for Battle Creek VA

Blue Star Mothers of America

(269)377-2585

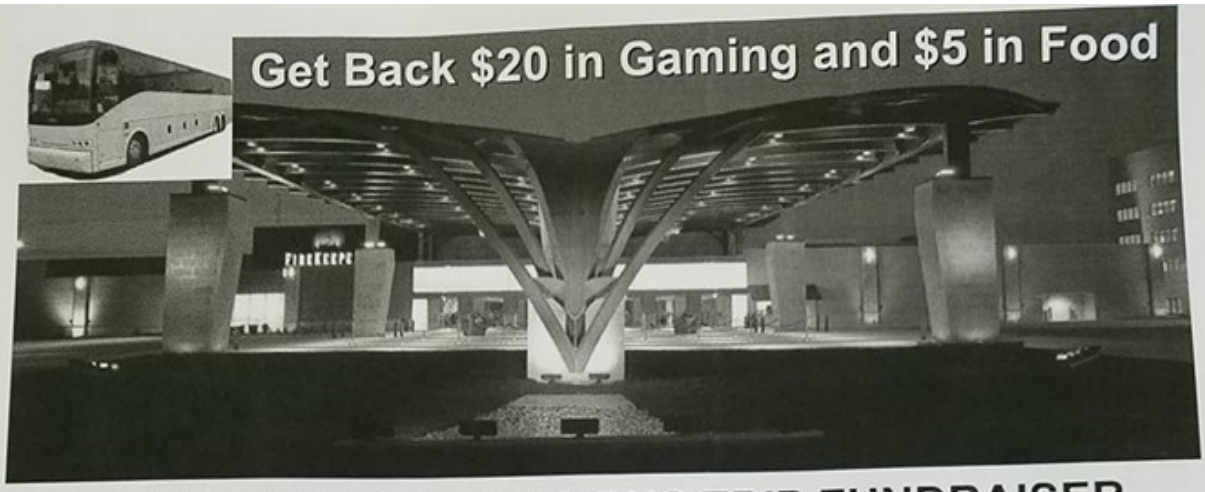
Creative Arts Cont...

Potential Wish List
Pool tables/air hockey
Gilmore Car Museum entry
Donuts/cider for Gilmore car museum outing
Judson Laiply, Evolution of Dance presentation (motivational speaker)
Alcohol Ink workshop
Almost Chihuly workshop
KIA gallery tours
AirZoo
Monte Janssen/DJ Wiser Productions
Guest gifts – MI ornament
Table Decorations
Casino Night, 8-11pm Wed, Oct 30
Gift Cards: $100 Meijer $100 WalMart $100 Walgreens
Movie Night, Halloween, 9-11pm Thurs, Oct 31
Michigan Night, Trivia and Karaoke7:30 -11pm Sat, Nov 2
Veteran Gift – die cast cars

Volunteer Needs	Number of volunteers needed, Date/Time
Welcome: airport and hotel	5 – 10 people Mon, Oct 28 and Wed, Oct 30 Time is TBD. 2 people for transport
Departure: airport and hotel	5-10 People Mon, Nov 4 Time is TBD 2 people for transport
Reflexology	
Massage therapist	
Reiki	

Volunteer Needs	Number of volunteers needed, Date/Time
Alcohol ink workshop	2 per classs Friday, November 1: Noon-2:00p Workshop, and 3:30 – 5:30p Workshop
Ushers at Miller	16 vol needed 11am on Nov 3
Hair and makeup application	1-2 volunteers Sat, Nov 2 from 1245-145 Sun, Nov 3 from 12-2
Moving Crew *People must be able to lift, carry, push. Looking for someone who can be independent	Sun, Oct 27; time is TBD (4-6 ppl) Wed, Oct 30 – a.m. (4-6 ppl) Thurs, Oct 31: 1p (4-ppl) Sun, Nov 3 – post stage show (approx 4:30pm) (3-5 ppl) Mon, Nov 4 – load out of rehearsal rooms at hotel (6-8 ppl)
Casino Night	Wed, Oct 30 9 – 11p Volunteers and prizes
Writer's Showcase "Vet Gala"	Fri, Nov 1 6pm – 10pm Decorate, host, tear down 2 volunteers needed
Casino Night	10 volunteers to decorate and host Wed, Oct 30; 8-11pm
Halloween Movie Night Rocky Horror Picture Show	Thurs, Oct 31; 8 – 11p Decorate, host
Sponsor Recognition Reception	6 people for set up and tear down Sat, Nov 2. Noon setup 4:30 tear down. Times are subject to change.
Almost Chihuly Art workshop	Fri, Nov 1, arrive at 8am. Set up, assistance, tear down 9-11a and 1-3p workshops
Companion Outing	Oct 29; 8a-12p 4 volunteers Candle making and Kalamazoo Valley Museum
Opening Ceremonies	Oct 30; 2pm 4-6 people for set up

Chapter Events



FIREKEEPERS CASINO BUS TRIP FUNDRAISER
Sunday, October 20th, 2019

Proceeds to Benefit: Blue Star Mother's Macomb Chapter 180

$50.00 Per Person

Trip Includes:
- Round trip motor coach transportation to Battle Creek, MI
- 4 hours of gaming at Firekeepers Casino
- Each person to get back $20 in gaming and $5 in food from the casino

Itinerary:
10:00 AM – Depart from CPL Richard W, Menge VFW Post 6756, Warren
12:00 PM to 4:00 PM – Firekeepers Casino
6:00 PM – Return to Warren

Full Payment Due Upon Sign-Up - Registration Deadline: 10-04-19
- **Limit 56 seats**
- **Must be at least 21 years of age and will need a valid ID (Must bring with you to get incentive)**
- **Limit (1) casino incentive package per person**
- **Must arrive on the bus to get the casino incentive**
- **Casino Incentives subject to change without notice**

SIGN-UP AT THE BAR!

Disclaimer of Liability:
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Chapter Events

Bluestarmothers.us Email Addresses

Do you hold an office at the Chapter or Department Level?

Are you using your Bluestarmothers.us email address?

Beginning October 31, 2019 the officer emails are the only ones that will be used for official business.

No personal addresses will receive any official information.

If you need help getting the email address up and running you can reach out to the 4th VP at National: webmaster@bluestarmothers.us

Monthly DEB Meetings

The Monthly DEB (Department Executive Board) Phone Conference will continue to be held on the 2nd Thursday each month at 7:30 PM. As a reminder, all Chapter Presidents should participate, or provide an alternate if you are not available.

Submissions to the Department of Michigan monthly Newsletter must be emailed to 2vp.deptmi@bluestarmothers.us