



# Big Dipper Auxiliary Newsletter



## January 2024

### FROM THE PRESIDENT'S MESSY DESK JANUARY 2024

**Happy New Year Everyone! It's a brand new year to start brand new things and look forward to brand new adventures, make brand new friends, visit brand new places, try brand new things, all while sitting at my messy desk freezing my whatevers off while a blizzard is raging outside my window and I'm trying very hard to be positive. If you live in the Midwest you understand, and those in the south and west, you probably don't really care. Ambition and motivation are two things that are hard to come by in this type of weather, when day light is already at a premium, so for those of you you enjoying sunshine and temps in the seventies, please have some understanding when we babble, and not the foreign language program either, all we want to do is curl up under a nice warm blanket with a cup of something warm and a good book.**

**Okay, enough of my pity party, we have got JCEA just about ready to go. Hopefully within the next week or two, you will be able to go to the National website and download the application for this year. All applications MUST be postmarked no later than June 29, 2024 to qualify for consideration for this year's awards. The scoring Rubric will be included to show all applicants exactly how they will be scored on their submissions. Good luck everyone!**

**Our next piece of good news is that in February we will be revealing the theme for this year's FUN NIGHT in Oklahoma City! That gives you 5 months to prepare for the BEST NIGHT OF YOUR LIVES, well, maybe not the best night, but definitely in the top ten! If you haven't already joined the Big Dipper now is the time to do so, we have an application in this newsletter and Gen is waiting to process it patiently. It only costs \$10.00 and it helps so many, maybe even you!**

**Lets go BIG and Lets have  
FUN while we EDUCATE,**

**Pat Lomonaco,**

**National Big Dipper President**



### Contact information for Officers

President: Pat Lomonaco  
[president.bd@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:president.bd@bluestarmothers.us)

Vice President: Connie Moler Shuck  
[1vp.bd@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:1vp.bd@bluestarmothers.us)

Recording Secretary: Coni Brooks  
[recsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:recsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us)

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Editor: Jennie McFarling



# Membership

Happy New Year!

Hopefully, everyone had the opportunity to have quality time with family and friends. And enjoy some downtime this past holiday season.

It's hard to believe that Convention is just around the corner. On that note Let's Start the New Year right. By becoming a Big Dipper Member, and to avoid a second line at registration, I encourage all to attend Convention and join us for Big Dipper for Fun Night. It's a fun/special event which allows quality time with your sisters. Looking forward to seeing you all in Oklahoma.

Our membership is still as it was last month: **179 LET'S GET THOSE NUMBERS UP**. Talk about it at your membership meetings and promote BIG DIPPER.

If you join now, you will be eligible to participate in all of the 2024 convention Big Dipper activities, however, be aware that our membership dues cover us from Sept. 1 through Aug. 31. To continue your membership for 2024-2025, you will be receiving a renewal in June of 2023. If you are attending our 2023 convention, you can renew there at that time if you wish for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Link: [www.bluestarmothers.org](http://www.bluestarmothers.org) or [Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc](http://Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc)

Select: Big Dipper/membership/membership dues

Online payment with PayPal or by check (mailing information listed on the membership form which is in this newsletter).

Respectfully yours in Service,

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Yours in Service

Connie M. Shuck (Moler)





# ATTENTION

## CALLING ALL QUILTERS

### We are bringing back our Quilt Fundraiser

If you are a quilter and would like to make a square or would like to sponsor a square or three, please let us know.

Email: [recsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:recsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us) for all the details.

***WE ARE IN NEED OF SOMEONE TO PUT THE SQUARES TOGETHER & SEND TO THE LONGARMER.***

If you are interested in please email Coni at the above email address.

#### Quilt Themes:

1. **Patriotic Themed: 2024 Big Dipper** (Color to be used: Red, White, Blue)
2. **General Themed: Supporting Sisterhood** (Colors to used: Dk Purple, Lavender, Yellow)

**Space is limited to 100 Squares/ participants.**

We provide you with a piece of starter fabric for each block you sponsor.  
At least a 2x2 piece must be included in your finished block. (This is the common link)

Add your own to fabric to make a finished Quilt block measuring  $9\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$  to allow for seam allowance assembly to make it a 9X9 finished placement block for the quilt.

**You Must leave a 1/2-inch border around the block for seam allowance of the block.**

Please Note: Directions & starter fabric will be mailed January 2024.



Hey Moms, THIS FUNDRAISER IS COMING TO AN END. BE SURE TO STOCK UP BEFORE IT IS OVER.

We are excited to be partnering with FUN PASTA FUNDRAISING again!

Shop now and order some creative, delicious pasta goodies. It's simple, and you'll love the selection.

Each purchase earns 35-40% profit for our group and helps support our fundraising effort- so thank you!

Copy and paste from this link and start your shopping. This fundraiser will be ongoing until May 24, 2024 So...start your shopping now.

<https://www.funpastafundraising.com/shop/blue-star-mothers-of-america-auxiliary>

Your order will be shipped from Nashville, TN within 3-5 days.

Minimum order is \$20 online.

FREE Shipping on all orders over \$65.00 and we earn 40%!

If your order is under \$65, there is a flat rate of \$8.95



A8 - FLAMINGO \$7.00  
Shapes: Flamingos & Suns



A26 - GOOD LUCK \$7.00  
Shapes: Shamrocks & Clover



A27 - BUNNY HOP \$7.00  
Shapes: Bunnies



A3 - PRINCESS \$7.00  
Shapes: Princesses, Castles & Crowns



REMEMBER:

Sharing is caring...feel free to share this link with all your friends, on your social media pages and in person. The more we buy, the more money we bring in to Big Dipper.

# NATIONAL BIG DIPPER AUXILIARY STORE GALLERY 2023-2024



Item #1 Big Dipper Guard Pin



Item #2 Eagle Pin

Item #3 Heart Earrings  
Item #4 Heart Necklace



Item #6 Big Dipper Lapel Pin



Item #7 Proud Veteran Pin



Item #5 Earrings and Necklace Heart Set



Item #8 Earring  
Item #9 Necklace



Item #11 Patriotic Cross Pin  
Item #12 Patriotic Cross Necklace



Item #10 Star Earring and Necklace set



Item #14 Gold Flip Flop Earrings



Item #15 Wooden Sunflower Earrings



Item #13 Silver Flip Flop Necklace



Item #16 Bow Earrings



Item #17 Blue Star Hat Bag  
hat and gloves available through the National Online Store. The lining varies



Item #18 Flag Knit Hat, cozy and warm



**National Big Dipper Auxiliary Store Order Form**  
**WINTER SPECIAL ORDER FORM**

**Winter Special expires Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> or until hats run out.**

**Do not use this form after Jan. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

**--PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY--**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ State & Chapter # \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ ( Circle: Landline Cell )

Email \_\_\_\_\_

# Ordered	Item	Cost Each	Total Cost
	#1 Big Dipper Guard Pin	\$12	
	#2 Eagle Pin	\$8	
	#3 Heart Stud Earrings	\$12	
	#4 Heart Necklace	\$8	
	#5 Heart Stud Earrings & Necklace Bundle	\$18	
	#6 Big Dipper Lapel Pin	\$12	
	#7 Proud Veteran Pin	\$8	
	#8 Star Stud Earrings	\$12	
	#9 Star Necklace	\$8	
	#10 Star Stud Earrings & Necklace Bundle	\$18	
	#11 Patriotic Cross Pin	\$7	
	#12 Patriotic Cross Necklace	\$8	
	#13 Flip Flop Necklace	\$10	
	#14 Flip Flop Earrings	\$12	
	#15 Blue Star Hat Bag	\$10	
	#16 Flag Knit Hat	\$14	
	Shipping for Winter Special (\$6)		
	Shipping for hat (\$6 each)		
	Shipping for hat bag (\$6 each)		
	Shipping for jewelry (see below)		
	<b>TOTAL</b>		

Shipping for one hat = \$6

Shipping for one hat bag = \$6

Shipping for one hat and up to four jewelry items = \$6 (WINTER SPECIAL)

Shipping for 4 or fewer jewelry items = \$5

Shipping for 5-8 jewelry items = \$6

Shipping for 9-12 jewelry items = \$8

**Make Checks Payable to "National Big Dipper Auxiliary"**

Mail this order form and your check to:

National Big Dipper Auxiliary

c/o Genevieve Schindler, National Big Dipper Financial Secretary

PO Box 423

Coursegold, CA 93614

**GIVING=BEAN**.COM  
great coffee {and tea} for great causes

*You are supporting.*

Blue Star Mothers of America Inc Big Dipper  
Auxillary



*For Several Years, Big Dipper has been fundraising with*

**GIVINGBEAN.COM**

*Giving Bean provides quality coffee (beans, ground and K-Cups) at reasonable prices direct to your door. They also carry black, green, herbal, ~~caf~~caf-free and organic teas & blends, Chai latte, all natural cocoa, scrumptious cookies, coffee & tea accessories.*

*They even have a coffee club!*

**BIG DIPPER will receive 25% of sales and 100% of this fundraiser will go to the JCEA Fund to provide educational assistance funds to active duty members & veterans, their spouses, their children & their grandchildren as well as BSMA moms in good standing, their children & their grandchildren.**

GO TO <https://www.givingbean.com/store/home.php?partner=eb4ff>

**This fundraiser is on-going, so you can enjoy ordering throughout the year!**

## WHAT IS BIG DIPPER YOU ASK? Well, here is your answer

### The “Big Dipper” Organization

The Big Dipper is an auxiliary of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., that came into being in Milwaukee, Wisconsin November 7 at the 1951 National Convention.

The objectives of the organization are threefold: 1) honoring outstanding members of the Blue Star Mothers, 2) sponsoring a “Fun Night” at conventions and 3) providing educational assistance. In the beginning membership was very exclusive.

To be a member of Big Dipper a Blue Star Mother (BSMA), all BSMA's in good standing are encouraged to become a member of Big Dipper. Membership is easily accomplished. You submit your name, address, application form (found on the National Website **AND IN THIS NEWSLETTER**).

The second objective is to sponsor a Fun Night which is held annually during Convention for both the National and Department. This event is held at the request or permission of the Big Dipper President and the President of the parent organization. This is a time to promote harmony, goodwill, cooperation and fellowship, not just among Big Dipper members, but among all BSMA. This event is also a way to garner more money for the educational assistance fund, which comes from the dues of Big Dipper members and any possible donations. Each event has a theme.

One of the most popular activities held on Fun Night has been a silent auction. Chapters and individuals are encouraged to collect items and donate them to be sold. The bidding goes on throughout the evening during the other activities and then about 30 minutes before the evening ends, the bidding is closed and the winners are announced.

The last objective is to provide 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 are eligible to apply for educational financial assistance.

The educational assistance fund was dedicated to the memory of Josephine Calenda of PA 22 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 National Big Dipper President.

**NEW MEMBERS AND RENEWALS, EVERYONE, PLEASE FILL OUT THIS FORM AND SEND IT IN SO WE HAVE A RECORD OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP.**

**This is the only application to use, Please check the mailing address.**



Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.  
National Big Dipper Auxiliary  
Membership form for **2023-2024**



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Chapter: \_\_\_\_\_ Department: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Check #: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* if you belong to a Department, please send form to your Department Big Dipper Financial Secretary\*\***

Send form **AND** check for \$10.00 paid to the order of Big Dipper Auxiliary.

if paying through Paypal, please fill out this form and email it to: [finsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:finsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us)

**FOR BIG DIPPER USE ONLY BELOW THIS LINE**

Processed: \_\_\_\_\_

Deposited: \_\_\_\_\_

# Chapter Donation information

Every year, members of chapters donate funds to the JCEA. This plaque/award goes to the chapter that donates the most money. Could this chapter be yours?



It will be awarded at the 2024 National Convention in ??????????????.

Please send all donations to the Big Dipper Financial Secretary, Gen Schindler.

Be sure to specify where your chapter donation is to go, ie: JCEA fund or convention expenses. If no notation is stated, it will automatically go to the JCEA Educational Fund to be awarded at the end of the fiscal year.

Hello Big Dipper Sisters,

When sending any monies to Big Dipper, as your 2023-2024 National Financial Secretary, I am shariig the following pointers to facilitate locating any checks:

- Please send all requests for missing checks to [finsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:finsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us)
- Include the following with your request:
  - The check number
  - The amount of the check
  - The approximate date the check was mailed
  - Your state/chapter number or state department
  - A working email (several emails have been returned as undeliverable)
- When issuing a check to the Big Dipper Financial Secretary, please make your checks payable to

National Big Dipper Auxiliary

- Please mail your payments to:

National Big Dipper Auxiliary

c/o: Gen Schindler, Big Dipper Financial Secretary

P O Box 423 Coarsegold, CA 93614

By helping me with the above information, I will be able to help you as quickly as possible.

Thank you so much, Gen Schindler,

2022-2024 National Big Dipper Auxiliary Financial Secretary

