



Big Dipper Auxiliary Newsletter



July 2024

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S MESSY DESK

GET YOUR KICKS ON ROUTE 66

It's nearly time for convention and FUN NIGHT! We hope that you will find many ways to GET YOUR KICKS not only ON ROUTE 66, but in the things we have planned for you. We hope you have tuned up your singing voices to enter our BIG DIPPER IDOL! Our DJ will play your song and you can sing your hearts out and we will applaud and cheer you on! The end of the night will reveal our IDOL winner and she will win a special award! We have other events as well along with our White bag raffle, silent auction, 50/50, and a one of a kind t-shirt quilt raffle.

Bring lots of cash, checks, and credit, debit cards, we are ready for you! Remember, the proceeds from the evenings events go to JCEA and this year is turning out to be a banner year. Numbers will be revealed at convention!

As you will see in this newsletter we are trying something new this year, a White Bag raffle where we have smaller items that have a white matching numbered bag next to it. When you made your donation at the door for your raffle tickets, after you put your name and phone number on the back of the ticket, drop the ticket in any of the bags for the item you would like to win. Simple. At the end of the evening, if your ticket is attached to that item, it's yours!

I look forward to having a great time filled with lots of fun and laughter, making new friendships to last a lifetime, and memories I'll never forget with sisters that fill my heart with love.

With all that being said, I would like to take a moment and thank my executive board, Connie Shuck, Coni Brooks, Diana Vance, and Gen Schindler, past presidents, Doreen Berggren, Beth Bohannon, and Theresa Koontz, as well as my appointed board members, Cheryl Masters, Berva Treat, Sylvia Gaxiola, Carrie Stout, Carla Brodacki, Amy O'Campo, and Jennie McFarling. I have learned so much in this past year, made mistakes and learned from them, realized how much more there is to learn and that I'll never know it all, but with women like these by my side, we can conquer the world! I thank you all for the opportunity and trust you bestowed on me this past year as your Big Dipper President and hope and pray for continued success for the Big Dipper. Now I will clean my messy desk!

AND 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

Vice President: Connie Moler Shuck
1vp.bd@bluestarmothers.us

Recording Secretary: Coni Brooks
recsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us

Financial Secretary: Gen Schindler
finsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us

Treasurer: Diana Vance
treas.bd@bluestarmothers.us

Michigan Dept. President:
Trudy Wysocki

president.bdmi@bluestarmothers.us

Minnesota Dept. President:
Jen Pecarina

president.deptmn@bluestarmothers.us

Ohio Dept. President:
Lynn Feldman

president.bdoh@bluestarmothers.us

Newsletter:
newsletter.bd@bluestarmothers.us

Editor: Jennie McFarling



Membership



As we embrace the warmth of July, we are excited to celebrate Independence Day. Whether you are celebrating with friends and family or planning a backyard barbecue or a day out with your BSM chapter. Stay safe while temperatures rise, hydrate, and keep cool during summer activities.

Get Involved: We are looking for an enthusiastic Big Dipper Chapter Representative. To engage and be involved as a chapter liaison, I am excited to hear from you.

Send inquires to 1vp.bd@bluestarmothers.us

Renewal: Membership renewal for 2024-2025 is now open. You can renewal your membership at convention or online at Blue Star Mother website under Big Dipper with PayPal. Under the note, please indicate your name, contact information, chapter name and number.

I appreciate your continued support and would like to Thank you all, for a wonderful 2023-2024 year as your 1 st Vice President. It was truly my honor to serve and support our Big Dipper Board and members. Your support makes an enormous difference!

I hope to see you all at Fun Night! Our 2024-2025 Board is looking forward to bringing you more exciting news in the coming months!

Have a wonderful Summer!

Warm regards,

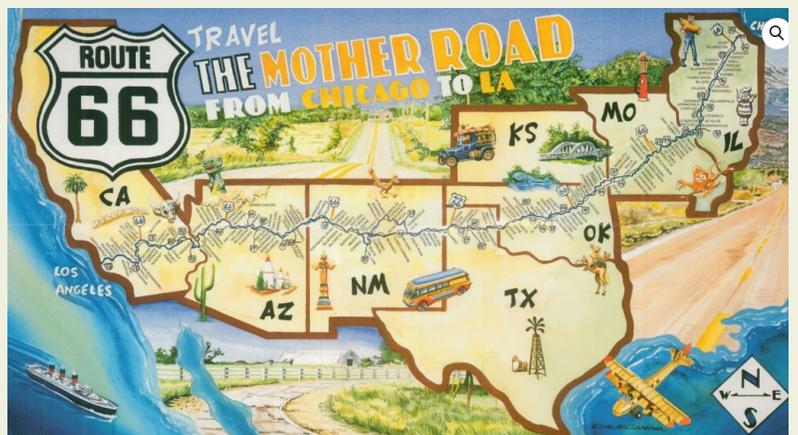
Connie Shuck (Moler)

Email:

1vp.bd@bluestarmothers.us

Warm regards,

Connie Shuck (Moler)



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.
Members who join AFTER June 1, 2024 will have their membership good now through August 31, 2025



Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.
National Big Dipper Auxiliary
Membership form for **2024-2025**



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

FOR BIG DIPPER USE ONLY BELOW THIS LINE

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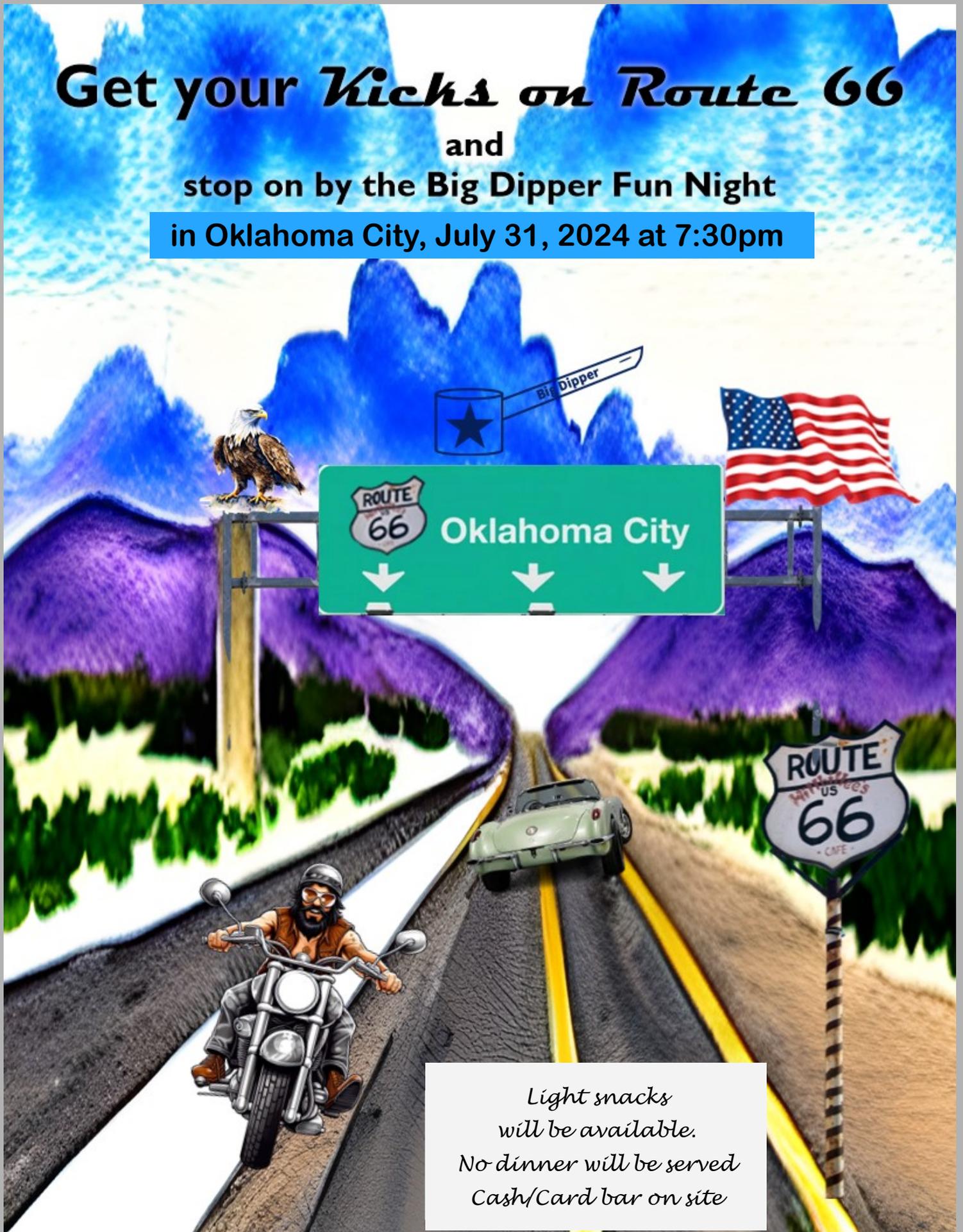
Deposited: _____

Get your *Kicks on Route 66*

and

stop on by the **Big Dipper Fun Night**

in Oklahoma City, July 31, 2024 at 7:30pm



*Light snacks
will be available.
No dinner will be served
Cash/Card bar on site*



GET YOUR KICKS ON ROUTE 66

Fun

NIGHT



open

7:30PM



Arcadia Auction Information

Don't forget we will have two different auctions at Fun Night. The first half will be our white bag auction where you will place a ticket for your chance to win. The second half is our bidding auction where you will write down your bid for the item/s you would like to take home with you. If you or your chapter would like to donate an item for the bidding half of our auction please contact Coni @ recsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us All items for both auctions need to be turned into Coni NO LATER THAN 6 pm MONDAY NIGHT.

If you are donating to the white bag auction please fill out the form provided in the newsletter or email Coni @ recsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us for one. I cannot accept items with out this form.

For those who are donating to the bidding auction, please provide the following information:

- 1. Item Name
- 2. Value of the donation.
- 3. Description of items in basket
- 4. Donated by Chapter/Donor Name
- 5. Chapter State & Number donated by.
-
-

***White Bag
Donation Sheet***



Description of item(s) _____

Donated by Chapter/Donor Name: _____

Chapter State & Number of Donor: _____ Value of donation \$ _____

***White Bag
Donation Sheet***



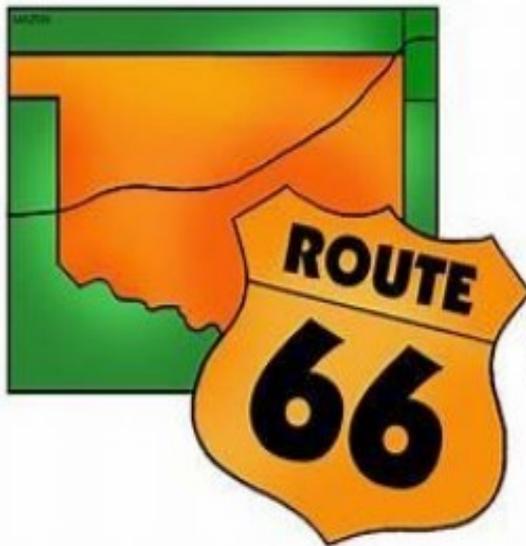
Description of item(s) _____

Donated by Chapter/Donor Name: _____

Chapter State & Number of Donor: _____ Value of donation \$ _____



National JCEA Application Deadline has past. We have received quite a pile of applications and the JCEA committee is hard at work scoring them.



*See you at
Fun Night 2024!*



***Big Dipper Store
has closed until
after Convention.***

COMING SOON

to a Convention near you



Patriotic

Quilt

Sisterhood QUILT



POWER

— 2024



A MESSAGE FROM YOUR EDITOR:

I was my honor to have been appointed to be the editor of this years newsletter. I hope everyone has enjoyed reading it and, hopefully, learned a lot about BIG DIPPER.

I will see you at convention...

Jennie McFarling

Big Dipper Newsletter Editor, 2023-2024

CA9



**YOU CAN OWN THIS
ONE-OF-A-KIND
BLUE STAR MOM QUILT**

A lot of Blue Star love went into this item! Big Dipper Moms from across the country donated gently used vintage BSMA and military tees to help create this offering. It is 5'x6' two-sided blanket/quilt. The front side is pictured above; the back side is navy blue fleece. One corner on the backside is embroidered with a commemorative message. The project was organized, designed, sent to Project RePat for long-arming, and assembly paid for by Bob and Diana Vance. The proceeds from this project will go towards this year's (2023-2024) JCEA awards.

So, dig deep. Donate and receive tickets for a chance to take this beautiful item home and support a really great cause. Cozy Up!

Big Dipper 2024 Convention shirt.

The Big Dipper Auxiliary of the Blue Star Mothers of America are raising funds to help our military and their families further their education. Use this link to order!

<https://www.bonfire.com/i-am-my-sisters-keeper-3/>

[I AM MY SISTERS KEEPER | Bonfire](#)



SEE YOU ALL IN OKLAHOMA CITY!





**Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.
National Big Dipper Auxiliary
2024 Josephine Calenda Educational Assistance**



Program Overview

Big Dipper, a national auxiliary of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., annually offers educational assistance.

What You Need to Know!

Persons applying for educational assistance must be currently enrolled in a college or vocational school pursuing a degree or certificate at the time of award disbursement.

Application for JCEA includes a letter of recommendation, an original 350-400 word essay, and the completion of application forms and attachments.

ELIGIBILITY/LIMITATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE AWARD - Applicant must meet one or more of the following eligibility requirements:

- Active Duty U.S. Military, National Guard, or Reserve Member;
- Retired U.S. Military member or Veteran;
- Blue Star Mother of America, Inc. member in good standing
- Spouse of Active Duty U.S. Military or Veteran;
- Child or Grandchild of Active Duty U.S. Military or Veteran;
- Child or Grandchild of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. member in good standing or a Blue Daisy.

An applicant is ineligible if he/she has already received a JCEA award twice before, is enrolled in a military tech school or military academy, is receiving full military pay to attend school or is applying for funds for continuing Educational Class to maintain a certificate or license.

JCEA is not a scholarship or grant; it is educational assistance. The funds may be used for the traditional expenditures such as tuition, fees and books; however, the funds can be used for anything that advances the applicant's progress towards his/her educational goals – tutoring, laptop, parking permits, etc. The award check is written directly to the recipient.

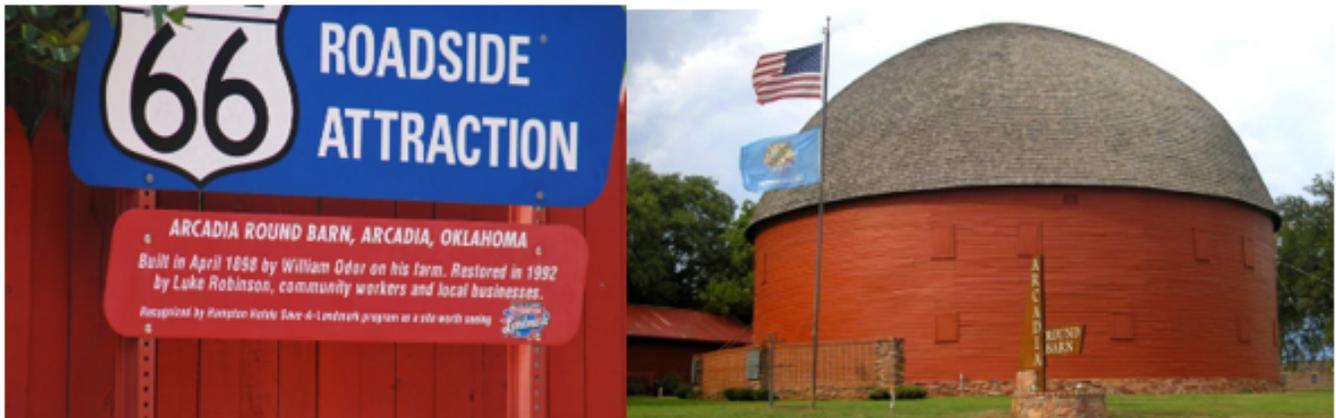
YOU ARE OUR HEROES; YOUR SERVICE IS YOUR GPA ... If you would like detailed information about this program, please email Treas.bd@bluestarmothers.us to request an application packet. The next program cycle will begin in early Spring with a June application due date with awards being made in late August or early September.



CHAPTER MEMBERS: Please use this summary sheet to promote JCEA to eligible recipients. Remember, they don't have access to the national website to download the forms. This will give them a place to request the actual forms, or you can download and print the 2024 application forms yourself and provided them to potential applicants.

CHAPTER PRESIDENTS: Remember that you will need to sign the applications. Please also make sure the application is complete at the time of your signature.

THE ARCADIA AUCTION



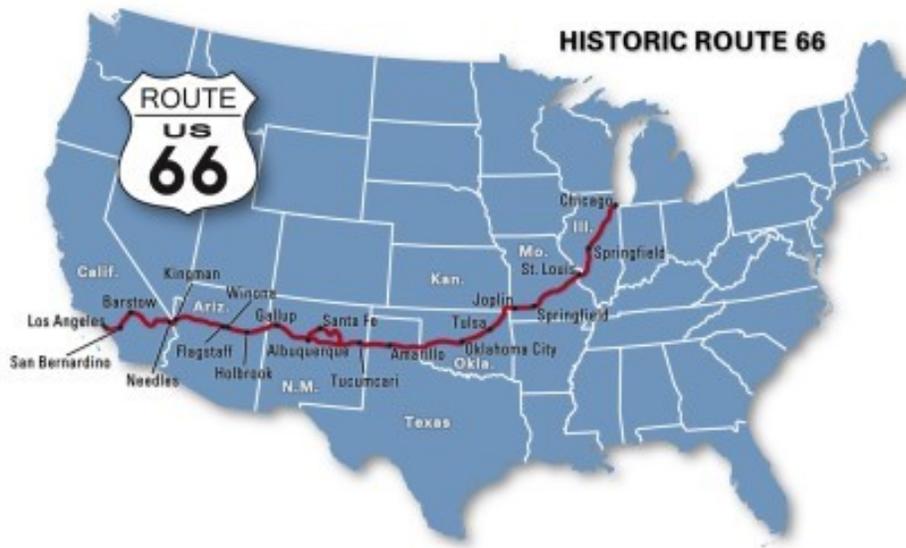
Summer has arrived, and that means that Fun Night is just weeks away. Are you ready? Your Big Dipper Board is working hard to create a lot of FUN so that you can Get Your Kicks on Route 66.

In keeping with the Route 66 theme, our silent auction this year will be named after one of the famous stops in OK. Once you have arrived on Route 66 be sure to hit the Arcadia Round Barn (otherwise known as the silent auction). This barn has been around since 1898. It was built by "Big Bill" Odor and is 60 ft in diameter and 43 feet high. It is one of the community's most popular gathering places, as well as a popular stop along the route. Just like at the real Arcadia Barn, there will be lots of goodies for you gaze upon.

The Arcadia Auction will be two-fold this year. The first half will consist of items that will be part of our white bag auction. Each item will have a white bag next to it, and you just drop a ticket in the bag of the item you would like to win. The second half will be Silent Auction. Bid sheets with the item description, donor and approximate value will be located in front of those items. You simply print your name, chapter number, cell phone number and bid. Pens will be provided for those of you who choose to bid on our amazing goodies.

Tickets for the Arcadia White Bag Auction are available for a donation once you have passed through the Welcome Center. Tickets are available in the following quantities: 1 for \$1,, 6 for \$5, 12 for \$10, or 25 or \$20. Once you have your tickets, please make sure to print your name and cell phone number on the back. If you are not still traveling along Route 66 at the time the ticket is drawn, do not fear. I will be sure to notify you that evening. Items may be picked up from me, the following day.

Donations for both the Silent Auction and the White Bag Auction may be shipped to:
National Big Dipper Auxiliary
c/o Brenda Bingham
914 Mill Run
Enid, OK 73703



A Message from your outgoing National Big Dipper Treasurer

Life is a journey. Part of my journey includes being a daughter of a World War II Navy veteran, a wife of a Vietnam War veteran and a mom of an active duty Coast Guard member for the past 13 years. Prior to my retirement from 38 years of teaching, service as a department chair for over 20 years and countless school committees and related non-profit boards, and my parents' deaths, our son's enlistment at age 26 after 5-1/2 years of college set me on a new path; I became one of the many blue star moms across the country. It was the outreach of one remarkable person who has since become a dear friend that brought me to Blue Star Mothers of America in 2016. I am so grateful to all those moms who embraced me and put me to work. Hands down, the mission of this wonderful organization has become my focus and my passion. Over the years, I have been given the opportunity to serve on all levels of this organization. I cannot express how transformative this involvement has been and how appreciative I am for the opportunities that this organization has provided me to serve our Active Duty, Veterans, and Gold Star Families and support other blue star moms. Our love for our children enables us to do incredible things for our military. Whether its simply a compassionate care call to a Vet or a massive fundraiser to pay for a shipment of care packages - Blue Star Moms "Show Up - Honor - Support- and Serve." The grace and greatness that is practiced day in and day out in service of our mission is awesome! Please accept my heartfelt thanks to each of you for everything that you can do. Together, Blue Star Moms can do almost anything -

Blue Star Strong!

Big Dipper Convention Store

Big Dipper Convention Store will be open Monday after Registration opens, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.



**New
Arrivals!**
(Limited Supply)

Of course, all of our previous 2023-2024 items will also be available! Plus, a few Rt. 66 surprise items!



Earrings



*Uniform
Guard Pin*



Casual Lapel Pin



Patriotic Pins



Necklaces



Hat bag and Flag Hat

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 Oklahoma City.

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

National Big Dipper Auxiliary

c/o: Gen Schindler, Big Dipper Financial Secretary

P O Box 423 Coarsegold, CA 93614

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.

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!

Hello Big Dipper Sisters,

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

- Please send all requests for missing checks to 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