



Big Dipper Auxiliary Newsletter



June 2024

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S MESSY DESK

GET YOUR KICKS ON ROUTE 66

Wow, we are only 6 weeks away from the National Convention and our annual FUN NIGHT! Have you signed up for FUN NIGHT yet? Tune up those singing pipes and prepare those memory banks for a trip done memory lane that will be filled with fun, laughter, sisterhood, and the possibility of going home with some awesome prizes!

On a serious note, if your chapter is paying your registration but not for FUN NIGHT, the registration application will NOT let you back in to pay for FUN NIGHT. In order to save you some money when you purchase your ticket at registration in Oklahoma, send me an email when your chapter pays for your registration that you are coming and I will have a list going for Gen, our Financial Secretary, who will only charge you \$35.00 and not \$40.00 if you decide after June 30th. Another option is to use PayPal or mail your personal check or money order to Gen. She must have all checks no later than July 15th. Mail to: Gen Schindler, P O Box 423, Coarsegold Ca 93614

Something new that we will be doing this year is a White Bag Auction. Some of the items on the tables will have a white bag next to it with a number matching the item. After you check in at the door, our wonderful staff will ask if you would like to make a donation to the JCEA in various amounts. For \$1.00 you will receive 1 ticket, \$5.00, 6 tickets, \$10.00, 12 tickets, and \$20.00, 25 tickets. You MUST put your name and phone number on the back of each ticket. As you walk around the room and look at the items attached to the white bag, if you like it, drop a ticket in that corresponding bag and wait and hope for the best! As the evening winds down, we will let you know that it's your last chance to drop a ticket in a bag, we will close the tables, and the winning ticket will be pulled from the bag and attached to the item. If it's your name, pick it up and enjoy your gift. We will also have our standard silent auction as well. Plus 50/50, so bring lots of money!!!!

All of the funds from FUN NIGHT go to JCEA and the applications are finally starting to come in every day now. As of this writing, we have 13 days to go and I only have 8 applications on my desk. If we don't use the monies this year, we save it for next year.

I truly hope to see everyone at FUN NIGHT in their very best memories of the heyday's of Route 66, the 50's, 60's, when we were young and there was no internet to record the silly things we probably shouldn't have done!

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 the days grow longer and the temperatures rise, we are excited to embrace the vibrant energy of summer.

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

\$10.00 Renewal: Membership renewal for 2024-2025 is now open. You can renew 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.

Deadline for JCEA application is June 29, 2024. Mail application to BSMA Big Dipper National Auxiliary President Pat Lomonaco, 1939 Garret NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49525 2024 National Level applications must be postmarked by June 29, 2024.

This year's Fun Night theme is Get your Kicks on Route 66. Looking forward to seeing your all.

Warm regards,
Connie Shuck (Moler)
Email:
1vp.bd@bluestarmothers.us
Cell: 408-807-8564



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

Processed: _____

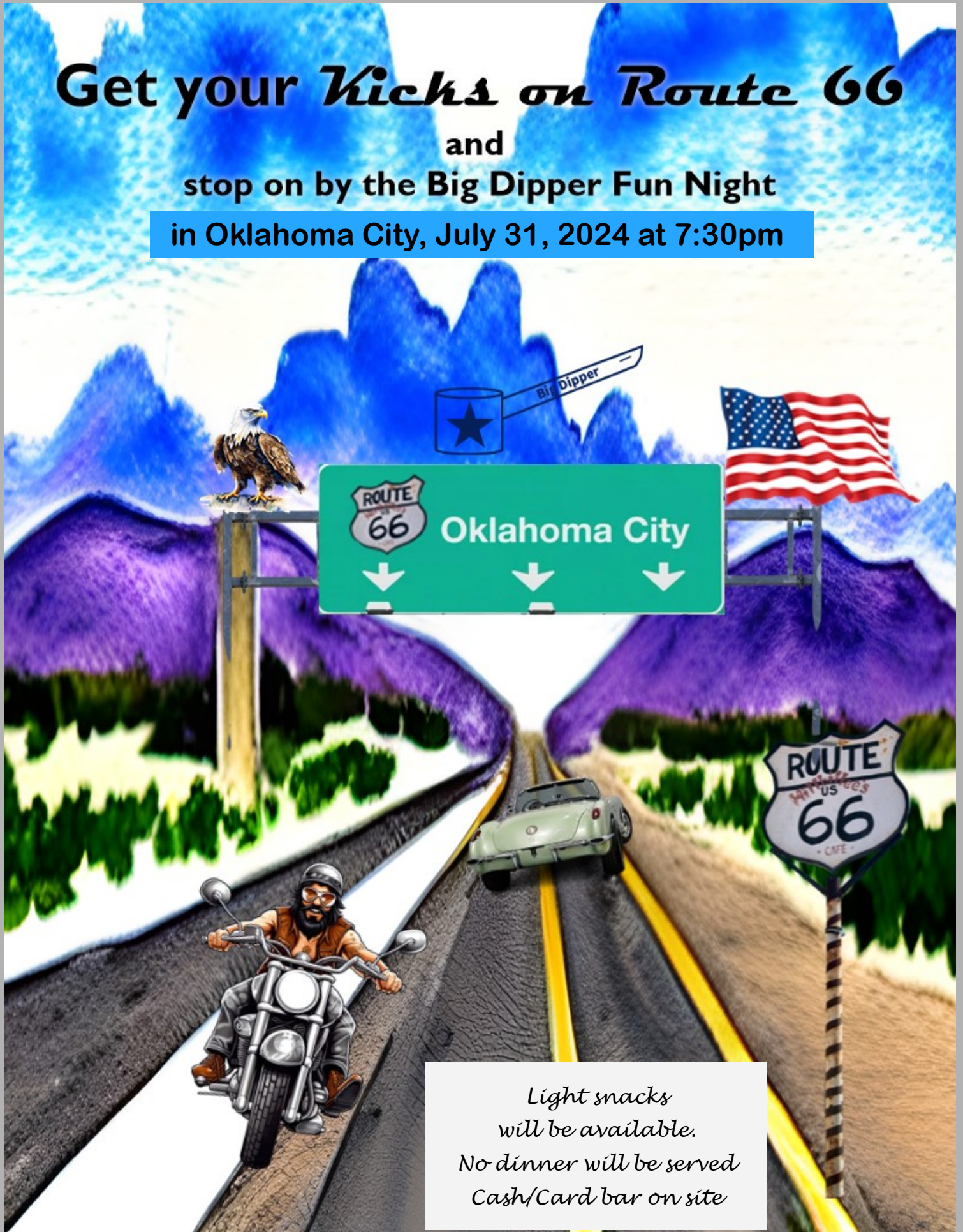
Deposited: _____

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*

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.



JCEA Application Deadline is upon us. Applications must be complete, signed by a Chapter President, and postmarked no later than June 29th.



See you in Oklahoma!



Big Dipper Store will close for Convention on July 12th.

ORDERS POSTMARKED AFTER JULY 12th WILL BE HELD UNTIL AFTER CONVENTION.

NATIONAL BIG DIPPER AUXILIARY STORE FINAL ORDER FORM 2023-2024

--PLEASE PRINT LEGIBLY--

Name _____

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 Earring	\$12	
	#9 Star Necklace	\$8	
	#10 Star Stud Earrings & Necklace Bundle	\$18	
	#11 Patriotic Cross Pin	\$7	
	#12 Patriotic Necklace	\$8	
	#13 Flip Flop Necklace (Silver Tone)	\$10	
	#14 Flip Flop Earrings (Gold Tone)	\$12	
	#15 Wooden Sunflower Earrings	\$10	
	#16 Bow Stud Earring	\$10	
	#17 Blue Star Hat Bag	\$10	
	#18 Flag Knit Hat	\$14	
	Shipping for Jewelry Items (see below)		
	Shipping for Hat Bag(s) & Knit Hat(s) (see below)		
	TOTAL DUE		

Shipping & Handling for Jewelry Items:

- Shipping & Handling for 4 items or less as \$:
- Shipping & Handling for 5-8 items is \$6
- Shipping & Handling for 9-12 items is \$8

**ORDERS RECEIVED WITH A
POSTMARK LATER THAN July
12th will be held until after
Convention.**

Shipping & Handling for Hat Bags and Knit Hats: \$6 each; \$9 for 2 items; \$12 for 3 items

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

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 Heart Earrings & Necklace Bundle



Item #8 Star Earrings

Item #9 Star Necklace



Item #10 Star Earrings & Necklace Bundle



Item #11 Patriotic Cross Pin

Item #12 Patriotic Cross Necklace



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 – Lining of the interior of the bag varies.



Item #18 Flag Knit Hat – cozy warm



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.

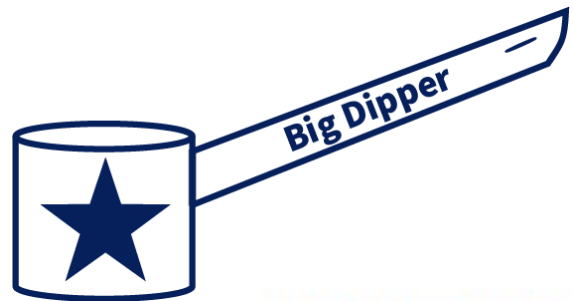
The Arcadia Auction will be two-fold this year. The first half will consist of items that will be part of our white bag auction. Each item will have a white bag next to it, and you just drop a ticket in the bag of the item you would like to win. The second half will be Silent Auction. Bid sheets with 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

HEY!



It's Time for JCEA!

It's time to start promoting JCEA - Big Dipper Educational Assistance Program. This issue of our newsletter has a flyer included that you can use. Please share it. Your Treasurer and 1VP have been using it already this year; and, we have already received our first request for an application packet!!! Last year, we increased the number of applicants and awards given to 19. We'd like to do even better in 2024; but, we need your help.



You can help by doing any or all of the following:

- a) **Print out our flyer and share it wherever you can. Connie and I keep these flyers in our cars.**
- b) **Print out the application packet and rubric (available on the national website Big Dipper page) and provide it to potential applicants. Connie, Pat and I keep these forms in our cars so we always have them handy.**
- c) **Donate to increase the number & amount of awards we can provide by making a personal donation - there is a donate button on our page on the national website - make sure you note in the seller's instructions that this donation is restricted to use for JCEA awards.**
- d) **Do a fundraiser with your chapter that would raise JCEA funds**
- e) **Attend Fun Night at the 2024 Convention**
- f) **Participate in our Quilt Project - this project supports JCEA**

Yours in Service...Diana Evans Vance, National BD Treasurer

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>

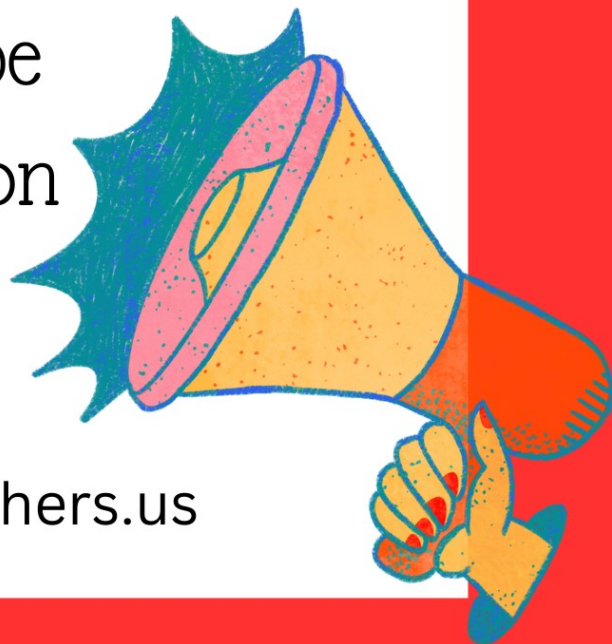
This fundraiser is on-going, so you can enjoy ordering throughout the year!

QUILT UPDATE

**DUE TO CIRCUMSTANCES OUT OF
OUR CONTROL. WE WILL NOT
BE SENDING OUT QUILT STARTER
SQUARES AT THIS TIME.**

Starter squares will be
available at convention
for pick up.

Please email:
recsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us



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