



# Big Dipper Auxiliary Newsletter



May 2024

## FROM THE PRESIDENT'S MESSY DESK

### GET YOUR KICKS ON ROUTE 66

*A time to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom. Those who gave in combat and those who came home, lived long and loving lives, to then join their fellow military brothers and sisters in arms in the peaceful loving skies in heaven. Remember this Memorial Day.*

*We want to take care of not only their heirs, but our children and grandchildren and even ourselves, if we so desire, by helping with educational needs through the JCEA and the time is NOW. You only have until JUNE 29th to get the applications postmarked in time to be considered for National's awards this year.*

*Go to the Blue Star Mothers of America website and go down to the Big Dipper line, click it, find the JCEA application, print it out, fill it out completely, and mail it in. IT MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN JUNE 29, 2024 to be considered for this years awards.*

*Now for FUN NIGHT!!! GET YOUR KICKS ON ROUTE 66! Travel back with us to the days when Route 66 was the way to go, the heyday of travel, the motorcycle road of James Dean, the fancy race cars, the all night diners, back to the 50's and 60's when life was simply, easy, no cell phones, no computers, none of the things that keep us going 24/7 now. Let's take this night and go back to sneaking a sip of whiskey out of Dad's cabinet and filling what you took with water so he wouldn't know, to singing at the top of your lungs your favorite songs on the radio, that's why will have a karaoke contest for you! Maybe you don't want to sing but know every tune in the book, then maybe you might play Name that Tune!*

*We're going to get that in too if time allows. And don't forget our 50/50 and silent auction and brown bag tables. Lots to do and have fun doing it.*

**REMEMBER, YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A MEMBER TO ATTEND FUN NIGHT!**

**JUST PAY YOUR ADMISSION FEE OF \$35.00 AT REGISTRATION, GET YOUR**

**TOKEN FOR ADMISSION, AND YOUR GOOD TO GO! We look forward to seeing everyone there!!!**

**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](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)

Financial Secretary: Gen Schindler  
[finsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:finsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us)

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[treas.bd@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:treas.bd@bluestarmothers.us)

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[President.bdmi@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:President.bdmi@bluestarmothers.us)

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[president.deptmn@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:president.deptmn@bluestarmothers.us)

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Lynn Feldman

[President.bdoh@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:President.bdoh@bluestarmothers.us)

## Chaplain

Carla Brodacki

Newsletter:  
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Editor: Jennie McFarling



# Membership

May 2024

As we welcome the summer season, we are excited to bring you the latest updates.

June promises to be a month filled with announcements.

**Membership Status:** We currently have **Two Hundred Sixty Six** Big Dipper Members.

**Get Involved:** We are looking for an enthusiastic Big Dipper Chapter Representative. Please reach out to let me know if you are interested. Send inquires to [1vp.bd@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:1vp.bd@bluestarmothers.us) or 408-807-8564.

**Correction from April Newsletter:**

You do not need to be a Big Dipper member to participate in Fun Night. Our theme for Fun Night is Get your Kicks on Route 66, we are looking forward to seeing you all.

If you have any question regarding Josephine Calenda Education Assistance, Ask Me - it would be my pleasure to explain JCEA Educational Assistance Program.

Thank you for being a valued member of our Big Dipper community. We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events and working together to make a positive impact!

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



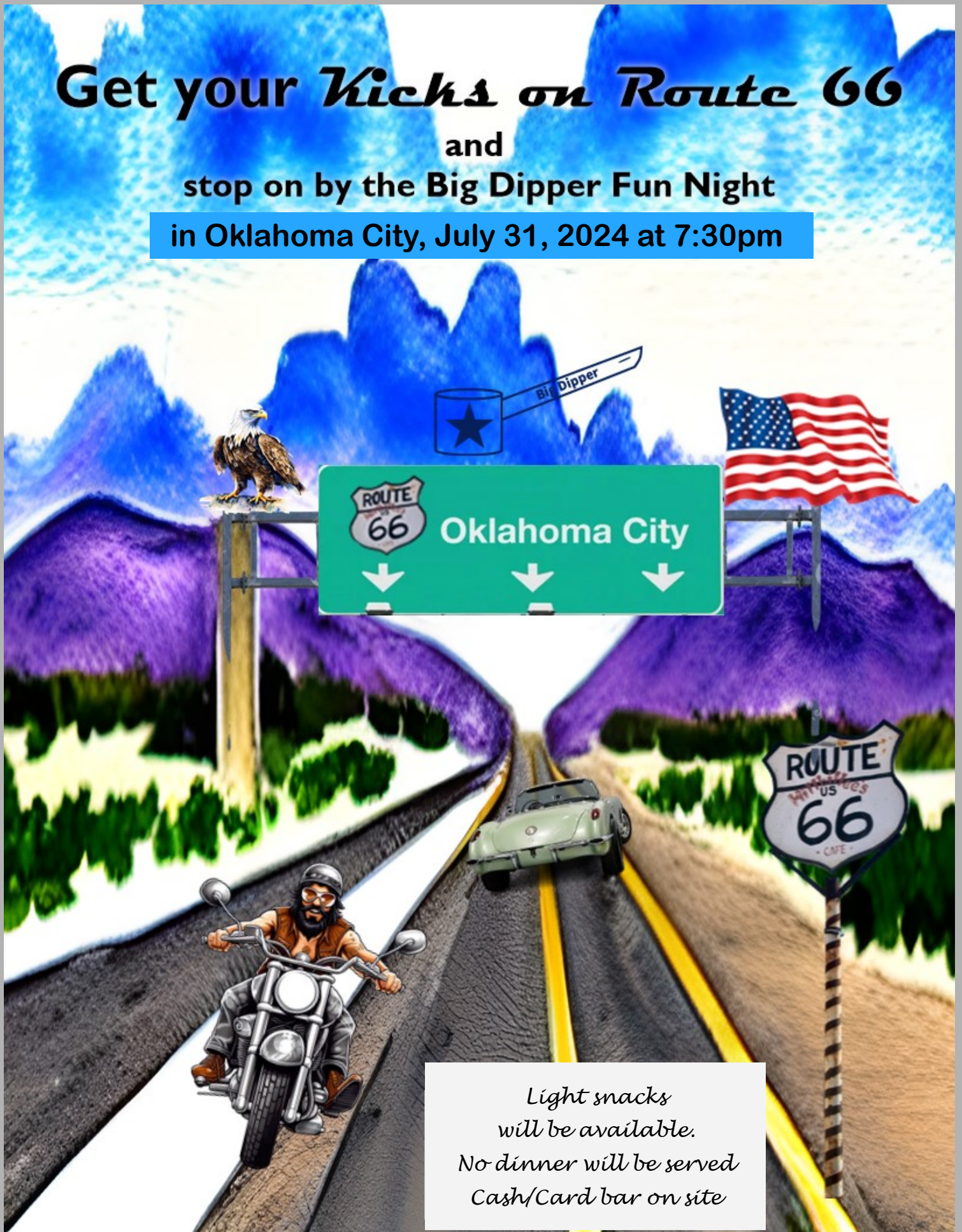


# Get your *Kicks on Route 66*

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!



# 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](mailto:recsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us)





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](mailto: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.

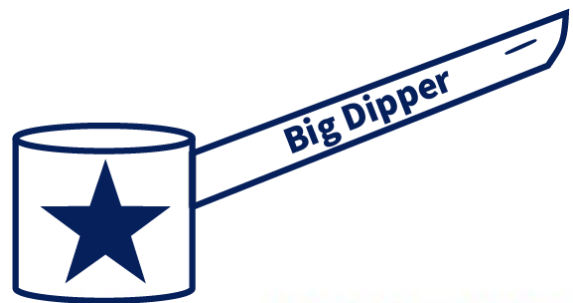


**CHAPTER MEMBERS: Please use this summary sheet to promote JCEA to eligible recipients. Remember, they don't have access to the national website to download the forms. This will give them a place to request the actual forms, or you can download and print the 2024 application forms yourself and provided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



# 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**



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 & Cloves



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 #5 Big Dipper Lapel Pin



Item #7 Proud  
Veteran Pin



Item #3  
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 #13 Silver Flip Flop Necklace



Item #14 Gold Flip  
Flop Earrings



Item #15 Wooden  
Sunflower Earrings



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



# NATIONAL BIG DIPPER AUXILIARY STORE 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	
	<b>Shipping for Jewelry Items (see below)</b>		
	<b>Shipping for Hat Bag(s) &amp; Knit Hat(s) (see below)</b>		
	<b>TOTAL DUE</b>		

Shipping & Handling for Jewelry Items:

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

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



**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!**

**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](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 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.

**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](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**