



Big Dipper Auxiliary Newsletter



September 2023

Hello and Happy Autumn Moms,

As we welcome Fall, cooler temperatures, football games, falling leaves, and everything pumpkin, we also know that our children are all back in school. Most of our own children are adults and many with kiddos of their own, and some furthering their own education. That's where we come in.

Have you talked to your kids, and your grandkids about JCEA? We are here to help them. If they are a veteran, still active and continuing their education, retired, going to a brick and mortar building or on line, or that grand kid of yours, your own kiddo, or even you, as long as it's an accredited institution of learning, it qualifies.

Right now is the time to start that conversation with them. Get them to start thinking about the future and the financial expenses that they will incur in the months and years ahead, We can help with some of that.

After the first of the year, we will hopefully have our new application on the website available to everyone to download and fill out, send in, to try and qualify for a financial award.

These awards do not come without work on both sides. They have to do their part and complete the necessary paperwork to qualify, which is all included and explained in detail in the packet they will download. It will even tell them how we will grade it, kinda like an open book test!

These awards are paid directly to the recipient for whatever they need the money for at the time, not necessarily for tuition or books, it could be for rent, food, a bill, gas in the car, whatever they need at the time.

Raising the funds to give to our kids can be easy too. If you join the Big Dipper, your yearly dues will help defer those costs. Your \$10.00 goes to support the Big Dipper's JCEA and our major fundraiser, FUN NIGHT the best night of the National Convention. If you live in Michigan or Ohio, we receive \$5.00 and their Department keeps \$5.00 for their JCEA awards program. At FUN NIGHT we have a silent auction of which 100% of the proceeds goes directly to JCEA.

When you renew your membership to Blue Star Mothers, please think about joining Big Dipper, our kids are depending on us and your dues will brighten someone's world.

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:

President.bdmi@bluestarmothers.us

Ohio Dept. President:

President.bdoh@bluestarmothers.us

Chaplain

Carla Brodacki

Newsletter:

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Editor: Jennie McFarling



Membership

Good day Ladies,

I would like to Thank all of you who have renewed your Big Dipper membership for 2023-2024.

Our membership is a bit low and hope that it will increase before the holidays. We currently have 109 members. For those who are interested in becoming a member the form can be located on the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. website:

Link: [Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc](#)

Select: Big Dipper / Membership Form / Membership Dues

Online payment with PayPal or by check (mailing information listed on the membership form).

The membership form can also be found in this newsletter.

With our membership funds, it allowed us to have Fun-Night at convention where we raise money for the Josephine Calenda Educational Assistance (JCEA) project. THIS IS THE ONLY PURPOSE for Big Dipper. Without your membership and participation, we could not follow our mission statement.

Thank you all for your patience while I transition into this position. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Yours in Service

Connie M. Shuck (Moler)

Big Dipper 1st Vice President



My reason for being a Blue Star Mom is my son Josh who has served in the US Coast Guard for thirteen years, my husband Bob who is an Air Force veteran, and my late father Ed who was a World War II Navy veteran. Bob and I have three wonderful grandchildren (ages 2, 6 and 8). Two are local and we spend a lot of time with them; one is a military child and we travel as much as we can to see him and spend a lot of time on Facetime. We have two sons and two DILs. I have been a member of OH9 since 2016. Since joining BSMA, I have served as my chapter's financial secretary & as president for the last five years. I have also served as treasurer and financial secretary for the Dept. of Ohio BSMA and as BSMA National Treasurer for three years. I am currently serving in my second term of Big Dipper National Treasurer. I have a BS, BA and MA from The Ohio State University and served as a high school English/Theatre teacher for 38 years. I am so thankful for the friendship and support from all my BSM sisters over the years and, most importantly from my family (especially Bob). We are so proud of both our sons who are responsible young men, loving husbands and fathers, and servants. Thank you for allowing me to serve as your national treasurer. Respectfully, Diana Evans Vance



NATIONAL BIG DIPPER AUXILIARY STORE GALLERY



Item #1 Big Dipper Guard Pin



Item #2 Eagle Pin

ONLY 1 IN STOCK

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



STAR EARRINGS OUT OF STOCK

Item #8 Star Earrings

Item #9 Star Necklace



ONLY 1 IN STOCK

Item #10 Star Earrings & Necklace Bundle

BUNDLE UNAVAILABLE



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



OUT OF STOCK

Item #13 Flip Flop Necklace



Item #14 Hat Bag (Gloves and Hat not included. They are available through the National BSM Online Store.



MANY PATRIOTIC JEWELRY ITEMS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE IN LIMITED QUANTITIES.

NATIONAL BIG DIPPER AUXILIARY STORE ORDER FORM

—FOR AUGUST & SEPTEMBER 2023 —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	\$7	
	#3 Heart Stud Earrings – Limited Stock	\$12	
	#4 Heart Necklace – Limited Stock	\$8	
	#5 Heart Stud Earrings & Necklace Bundle – Limited Stock	\$18	
	#6 Big Dipper Lapel Pin	\$12	
	#7 Proud Veteran Pin – Limited Stock	\$8	
	#8 Star Stud Earrings	Out of Stock	
	#9 Star Necklace – Limited Stock	\$8	
	#10 Star Stud Earrings & Necklace Bundle	Unavailable	
	#11 Patriotic Cross Pin – Limited Stock	\$7	
	#12 Patriotic Cross Necklace – Limited Stock	\$8	
	#13 Flip Flop Necklace	Out of Stock	
	#14 Blue Star Hat Bag	\$10	
	Shipping for Jewelry Items (see below)		
	Shipping for Hat Bag(s) (see below)		
	TOTAL DUE		

Shipping & Handling for Jewelry Items:

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

HAT SHIPPING CHARGES: \$6 for 1, \$9 for 2 and \$11 for 3


**WE ARE RESTOCKING NOW
AS WELL AS ADDING NEW
ITEMS. WATCH FOR
UPDATES!!!!**

Make Checks Payable to "National Big Dipper Auxiliary"

Shipping and Handling for Hat Bag

\$6 for 1 | \$9.00 for 2 | \$11 for 3

National Big Dipper Auxiliary

 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!



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 mid November. 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%!

There is something for everyone. Take a look at the order page. Makes a great addition to a gift bag or camping food box.



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.



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION ANNOUNCEMENT!!

If you joined Big Dipper after
June 1st 2023, including at
convention...

***THERE IS NO NEED TO JOIN
NOW!***

Your membership is good
through August 31, 2024

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

FOR BIG DIPPER USE ONLY BELOW THIS LINE

Processed: _____

Deposited: _____

Chapter Donation information

Every year, 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.

*Be brave
enough
to be
yourself*

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,,

2022-2023 National Big Dipper Auxiliary Financial Secretary

