



Big Dipper Auxiliary Newsletter



April 2024

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S MESSY DESK

GET YOUR KICKS ON ROUTE 66

WE ARE GOING BACK TO THE SIMPLER TIME WHEN LIFE WASN'T SO COMPLICATED, FAMILY ROAD TRIPS INCLUDED CLIMBING INTO THE CAR AND GETTING ON THE ONLY ROAD TO TAKE YOU CROSS COUNTRY, ROUTE 66.

While you were in that car on those long those long trips, mom would pack bags of food along with the metal cooler for picnics along the roadside and snacks in the car while everyone sang songs that were playing on the radio. We are going to do that again! Minus the car, sorry. We will have a DJ that is going to have your favorite songs from long ago and far away and we want YOU or maybe YOUR GROUP to sing them! We are sponsoring the 1st BIG DIPPER IDOL.

We want you to sing your hearts out! There will be prizes! But that's not the only thing you can enter, we are also bringing back that old TV show, NAME THAT TUNE. Clear the memory banks and start listening to the oldies once again, it's going to be a FUN NIGHT!

Make sure to bring your wallets as we will also have our Silent Auction, and we are going to do a Bag Auction this year as well. We will have tickets that you can make a donation to the Big Dipper for, and place a ticket in the bag that is connected to the item you wish to try your luck at. We will also have a chance to win at a 50/50 with a donation to Big Dipper.

Fun Night will begin at 7:30 on Wednesday July 31, 2024. That will give everyone plenty of time to grab some dinner before Fun Night begins, including us, as this is a Governing Documents year and that takes time. There is much to discuss and it's too important to rush through. If the day session happens to run a little longer, you will still have plenty of time to have dinner, change into your 50's/60's, or whatever era you want to go back to, and get to Fun Night in time for everything Fun.

AND THE BEST PART, REGISTRATION STAYS THE SAME, \$35.00!

Our time is starting to get short for JCEA as all applications need to be postmarked no later than June 29th. The application is on the website, just look under the Big Dipper page for the JCEA and fill it out.

The Big Dipper has also launched a T-shirt from Bonfire that is absolutely awesome. Check it out on our Facebook page as well as our ad right here in the newsletter.

Please don't forget, we are in need of donations for our silent auction and bag raffle. Ask your chapters if they would be so kind to donate to the Big Dipper, who knows, it could be your child or grandchild who receives one of our awards!

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

Chaplain

Carla Brodacki

Newsletter:
newsletter.bd@bluestarmothers.us

Editor: Jennie McFarling



Membership

April showers bring May flowers.

As the days grow longer and the flowers bloom, we welcome the arrival of April with open arms and a spirit of rejuvenation.

Stay Connected: by becoming a Big Dipper Representative for your Chapter. Please reach out to let me know if you are interested.

Send your inquires to:

1vp.bd@bluestarmothers.us or 408-807-8564.

Appreciation: As a token of our gratitude for your continued support for those who Have become a Chapter Representative/ Liaison. Thank you ... Looking forward to working together.

Membership Status: We currently we have **Two Hundred** Big Dipper Members If you join now, you will be eligible to participate in all the 2024 convention Big Dipper activities, however, be aware that our membership dues cover us from Sept. 1 through Aug. 31.

Spring is a time of renewal and growth, and we are excited to embark on this journey with you. Thank you for being part of our Big Dipper and for your ongoing support. I am looking forward to seeing you all at Convention and Fun Night

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



Get your *Kicks on Route 66*

and

stop on by the Big Dipper Fun Night
in Oklahomas City, July 31, 2024 7:30pm



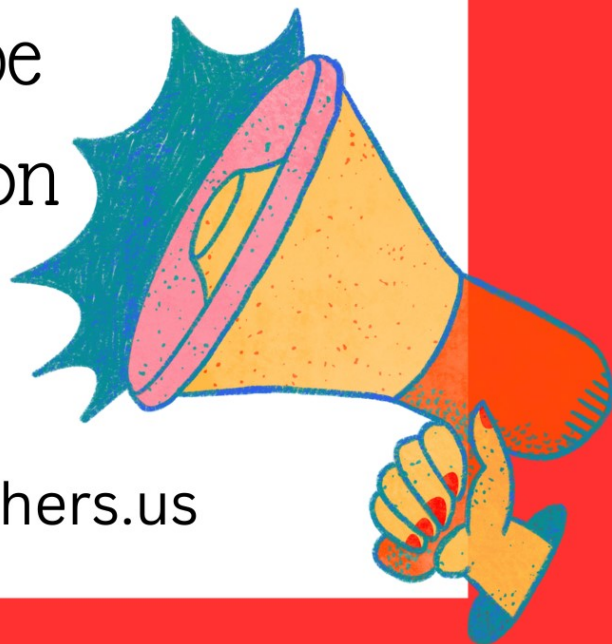
*Light snacks
will be available.
No dinner will be served
Cash/Card bar on site*

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





**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.

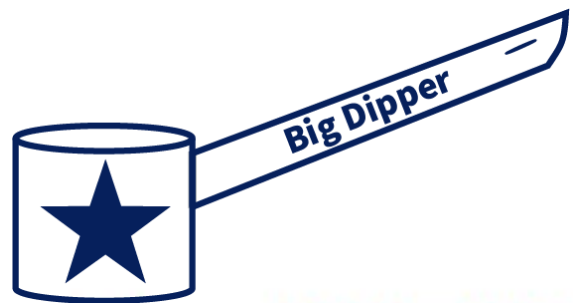
YOU ARE OUR HEROES; YOUR SERVICE IS YOUR GPA ... If you would like detailed information about this program, please email Treas.bd@bluestarmothers.us to request an application packet. The next program cycle will begin in early Spring with a June application due date with awards being made in late August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

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 & Clover



A27 - BUNNY HOP \$7.00
Shapes: Bunnies



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.



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



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	
	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 \$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.



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, 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 shariig 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

