



NATIONAL BIG DIPPER AUXILIARY NEWSLETTER



October 2024



We are thrilled to have you as part of our growing National Big Dipper community! As the fall season brings new beginnings, we wanted to personally welcome you with our October edition filled with exciting updates, tips on how to register your membership, and ways to make the most of your experience with us. Let us dive in!

Convention Updates:

2024-2025 Approved Budget is posted on National Blue Star Mothers Website under Big Dipper. The Standing Rules on the website are not current, they are currently in progress.

Fundraisers:

We currently have three fundraisers in place, your support for Josephine Calenda Educational (JCEA) is appreciated.

Bonfire:

Military Mom T-shirt: [Military Mom | Bonfire](#)

Cookie Dough: [National Big Dipper Auxiliary - Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. \(ifundraise.com\)](#)

Quilt Squares: Mylessia Quillen is our contact person for additional information.

recsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us

Follow Us!

Stay connected with us for the latest news and updates. Follow us on social media for exclusive content and live updates. Facebook: National Big Dipper Auxiliary <https://www.facebook.com/BigDipperAuxillary>

Your Feedback Matters!

We would love to hear from you! Whether you have questions, need assistance, or simply want to share your experience, feel free to reach out to the National Big Dipper President.

Email: president.bd@bluestarmothers.us

If you like to become a National Big Dipper Liaison, please reach out to Rebecca Collins:

1vp.bd@bluestarmothers.us

Wishing you a fantastic October full of cozy moments, pumpkin spice, and exciting opportunities. Thank you for being part of our journey!

Warm regards,

Connie M. Shuck

Big Dipper President

Do you have Big Dipper news to share? Please submit your articles by the 10th of each month for publication. Submit to Sue Sanders newsletter.bd@bluestarmothers.us
Put Newsletter in the Subject line.

How can you help?

Pass the word about our fundraisers



The holidays are comming! Don't have time to mix up those cookies? Save time and support BSM's Big Dipper Cookie Dough Fundaiser!



Choose from six fantastic flavors.

- Sugar Cookies
- WhiteChocolate Macadamia
- M&M
- Oatmeal Raisin
- Snickerdoodle
- Chuky Chocolate Chip

Two-pound scoop-and-bake tubs make approximately 30 cookies.

Proceeds from our Cookie Dough sale go to the Josephine Calenda Educational Assistance Program.

[Place your order](#)



Big Dipper Shirts come in many styles including sweatshirts. Get one for Christmas



Front



Back

[Order Here](#)

Big Dipper Membership

Greetings Blue Star Mothers. I hope you are all enjoying an excellent autumn season. Our Big Dipper President, Connie Moler Shuck, has set a goal of achieving 500 paid members for the 2024-2025 period. At this time our membership total is 160 and growing every day.

I need your help achieving this goal. I kindly request that each chapter consider appointing a Big Dipper liaison to work with our board and facilitate the sharing of information about our mission at your chapter meeting.

It's not too late to join. There are two ways to make your payment:

By mail to:

National Big Dipper Financial Secretary Alethea Tennill
P.O. Box 313,
Columbia, MO 65205

Or through our website at: bluestarmothers.org

Let us strive for greatness, just like the strong women we are proud to know and be.

If you require further details, please feel free to reach out to me.

Best Wishes,
Rebecca Collins
1VP Big Dipper
1vp.bd@bluestarmothers.us



Past National Big Dipper President

Pat Lomonaco - 2023-2024

No photo submitted

I am from Grand Rapids Michigan and have lived here the better part of my life. I was born and raised in Detroit Michigan and ran away from home in 1981. I met and married my husband, Tony, in 1982 and together raised two boys Steven and Corey. Corey gave me the honor of becoming a Blue Star Mother in 2012. I was still working at the time and didn't have the time to investigate a local chapter of BSM's but knew about them. They wanted my mom to join when my brother was in the Air Force during Vietnam.

In 2016, I was having dinner with a friend wearing a Proud Army Mom t-shirt. Before I knew what happened I was accosted by a Blue Star Mom asking me to join her chapter. I still tease her about this. She gave me some literature and left. I went home and read the papers and the rest is history. I went to the meeting and was hooked.

Within the first year I was helping to plan Michigan's Sister's in Action, our Mid-year conference, along with many other functions for the chapter. I held offices of Chaplin and Recording Secretary for my chapter. When I attended my first State Convention, I came home as 1VP of the Michigan Big Dipper. That's when I fell in love with Big Dipper. I held that office for three years, only because we didn't hold a convention one year due to Covid. During that time, I was also the convention chair for our state convention that was held in Holland MI after Covid restrictions were being lifted. In 2021, I was elected as the Michigan Big Dipper President, holding that the following year as well. I was very proud and honored to have served as you President last year.

It is time for my husband and I to take some time for ourselves. We both have spent many years volunteering for Veterans groups. I have helped him with the Vietnam Veterans of America and he helps with BSM whenever I voluntold him, without complaint. Our boys have been involved whenever they could from a very young age. They knew their way around the Veterans Home like they lived there. Now they have lives of their own, and Tony and I are going to enjoy ours. We are heading West very soon to see the mountains, wildlife, and Mount Rushmore. Going to check these off our bucket list!



Past National Big Dipper Presidents

Doreen Berggren - 2022-2023



National Big Dipper Auxiliary has been part of my Blue Star life since 2014. I have had the honor of serving as Treasurer, 1VP, and 2022-2023 President.

What I most enjoy about the Auxiliary is the relationships that have been formed and nurtured over the years. Speaking with our moms across the country about the Josephine Calendar Educational Assistance and sharing how it can make a difference in the life of Veterans, Blue Star Mothers, and all the applicants is how the Auxiliary grows and becomes stronger. This is my passion and my goal this year is to work alongside the 2024 – 2025 Board and reach new heights.

My “why” is my veteran daughter who served for nearly 10 years as a JAG (Judge Advocate General) in the US Army. Karen traveled the world, and like our Blue Star Sisters have, developed close ties with her brothers and sisters who serve.

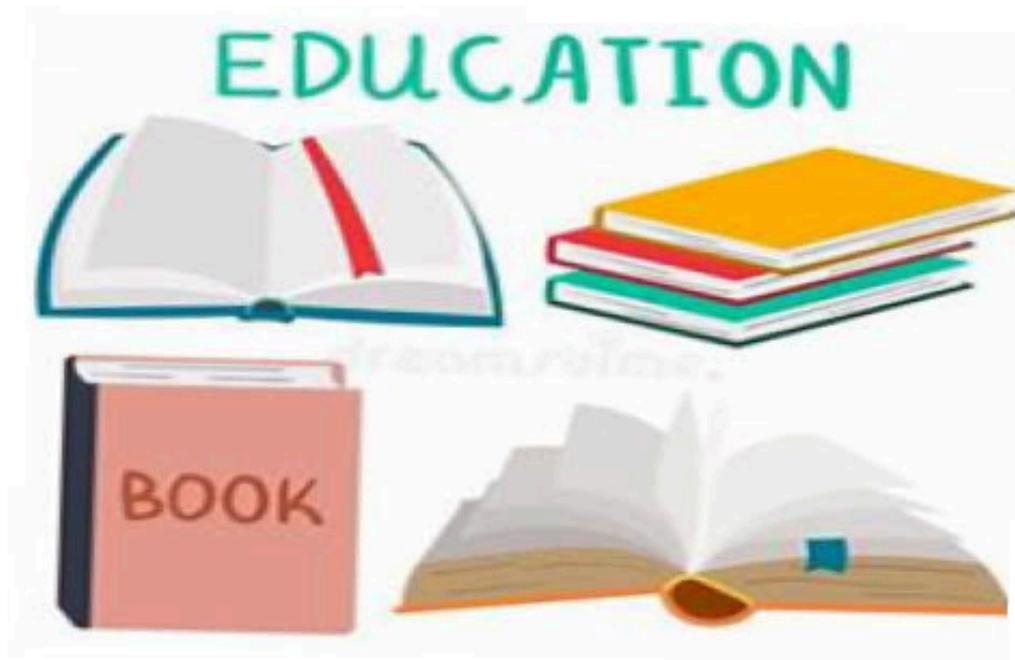
It is my honor to now be a Past President of the Auxiliary, continue to serve and work to grow the membership, and grow the funding for the Educational Assistance Awards and build a lasting cornerstone.



Elizabeth Bohannon - 2021-2022

Hello Big Dipper Members. I am Elizabeth Bohannon, Past Big Dipper President 2021-2022. I have served on various positions on the National Big Dipper Board, starting with becoming the Treasurer in 2012. Currently, I am serving as the financial secretary for the Department of Michigan Big Dipper. I have a military family. My Navy father, Ken served two tours in Vietnam. My husband, Manuel (Bo) was in the second calvary while serving in the Army. My son Kenny, served in Afghanistan as a National Guard MP. I am extremely proud of my family's service to our country. I am a member of Blue Star Mothers Southwest Michigan Chapter #179 in Paw Paw. I stay busy managing two to four post offices at a time. I love my Blue Star Sisters and am proud to be a member of Big Dipper since 2012.





**And the AWARDEES of the
2023-2024 Josephine Calenda Educational are.....**

EMILY FISHER

PATRICIA GIRARD

ANNEKA HILL

VALENTINA LEBA

SHERRY MIKESELL

LIAM O'HARA

SARA PIAZZA

ALAINA SCHAEFER

CINDY SILVA

JACOB WALLIN BECK

**Our other awardees have asked us not to disclose their names
and we respect those wishes and congratulate them all.**



Imagine being a part of something big. Make a quilt square to incorporate into an exquisite quilt to raffle off at the 2025 National Convention. Each stitch seamlessly weaves together the essence of our sisterhood. Your support will directly benefit the JCEA program for the 2025-2026 year, making a meaningful impact. Please join us in creating something truly special.

Whether you're an experienced seamstress or just starting out, you can join in the fun. If you would like to participate but need assistance creating your quilt square, no worries, simply state that on the form you would like to donate and have someone from the Big Dipper make your square. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity to contribute to a great cause!

Quilt Blocks

We provide you with a starter fabric piece, you will then add your own to make a finished quilt block measuring 9-1/2 inches by 9-1/2 inches to allow for the seam allowance to complete the 9"x9" placement block for the quilt. You can choose to finish the block or have us finish it for you.

We are hoping to have enough quilt blocks to make two quilts. You can choose which theme/themes you would like to do. Red, White, & Blue Patriotic theme or Sisterhood Togetherness Theme. (Brown, Green, Blue)

To participate in this fundraiser please email Mylessia Quillen, for additional information and sign up forms.
recsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us

- The cost per quilt block is \$20.
- The deadline for signing up is November 20, 2024.
- The starter fabric will be mailed out the first week of January 2025.
- All blocks are to be returned by February 28, 2025.



**Stay tuned for
the November edition of the
Big Dipper Newsletter
featuring
your favorite holiday memory with your
service hero**



If you would like to share a holiday memory please submit to
Sue Sanders - newsletter.bd@bluestarmothers.us
Please have "Memory" in the subject line.

I would like as many as possible, so I am asking you to keep stories to
one or two paragraphs. To submit a photo please send as a JPEG.
Your memory needs to be submitted no later than November 10. I am
looking forward to sharing your memories!

Big Dipper Mission

The purposes of the corporation shall be: to perpetuate the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., and the memory of all the men and women who have served our country as members of the Armed Forces; the further object of this organization shall be patriotic, educational, social, and for service; to maintain true allegiance to the Government of the United States; to educate our members and others not to divulge military, naval, or other Government information; to assist in veterans' ceremonies, to attend patriotic rallies and meetings; to foster true democracy; to care for the unsupported mothers who gave their sons to the service of the Nation; to aid in bringing about recognition of the need of permanent civilian defense for each community and to ever be alert against invasion of un-American activities; to uphold the American institutions of freedom, justice, and equal rights, and to defend the United States from all enemies.

Contact the Big Dipper Board

Elected Officers 2024-2025

President: Connie Moler Shuck

president.bd@bluestarmothers.us

Vice President: Rebecca Collins

1vp.bd@bluestarmothers.us

Recording Secretary: Mylessia Quillen

recsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us

Financial Secretary: Alethea Tennill—Pro Tem

finsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us

Treasurer: Gen Schindler

treas.bd@bluestarmothers.us

Michigan Dept. President: Claudette Lunney-Talbot

president.bdmi@bluestarmothers.us

Ohio Dept. President: Suzanne Hughes

president.bdoh@bluestarmothers.us

Appointed Officers 2024-2025

Chaplain: Doreen Berggren

chaplain.bd@bluestarmothers.us

Standing Rules Chair: Diana Vance

vancedi@gmail.com

Historian: Debbi W.Molen

bd.historian@bluestarmothers.us

Parliamentarian: Brenda Ternullo

bd.parliamentarian@bluestarmothers.us

Patriotic Inst: Stephanie Manchen

bd.patriotic@bluestarmothers.us

Sgt at Arms: Susan Rowley

bd.sgtatarms@bluestarmothers.us

Newsletter: Sue Sanders, Editor

newsletter.bd@bluestarmothers.us