

## Big Dipper – History & Purpose

Big Dipper is a national auxiliary of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., (BSMA) that came into being in Milwaukee, WI on November 7<sup>th</sup> at the 1951 National Convention. **The objectives of the organization are threefold:**

- ★ Honor outstanding BSMA members
- ★ Sponsor a “Fun Night” at conventions
- ★ Provide funds for the Josephine Calenda Educational Assistance Funds for Active Duty US Military, Veterans, BSMA members and others (see information inside this pamphlet).



The emblem is a flat bottom dipper with a long handle, used on all stationary and worn as a guard pin, attached to the official pin of Blue Star Mothers of America, our parent Organization.

Visit our Facebook page at  
[www.facebook.com/BigDipperAuxiliary](http://www.facebook.com/BigDipperAuxiliary)

**Donations are always gratefully  
accepted.**

## Be a Part of Big Dipper!

*Membership in Big Dipper is open only to members in good standing of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.*

Membership dues are \$10 and are due by September 1st each year.

Membership applications may be obtained from the National Big Dipper 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President at [1vp.bd@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:1vp.bd@bluestarmothers.us) or chapter presidents.

Completed applications and dues payment should be submitted to your chapter's Financial Secretary or mailed to the National Big Dipper Financial Secretary. Please check the Big Dipper page on the BSMA national website for the current mailing address.

Find us at

[www.bluestarmothers.org/big-dipper](http://www.bluestarmothers.org/big-dipper)

or go to the national web page and click on Big Dipper on the red ribbon to the right.

If you live in Ohio or Michigan – Both of these states have state departments and state level Big Dippers. When you join Big Dipper you are automatically a member of your state's Big Dipper Auxiliary, too!



**BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF  
AMERICA, INC.  
BIG DIPPER AUXILIARY**

*Big Dipper traditionally sponsors a FUN NIGHT at the Department of Michigan, Department of Ohio and National Conventions!*

## Sisterhood, Harmony & Goodwill

FUN NIGHT is a time for members to - you guessed it - have fun and support a cause. The event is one way Big Dipper garners funds for the Josephine Calenda Educational Assistance awards (JCEA). Each event has a theme. Past themes have included *Heroes of WWII, Pajama Party, Costume Party, Mardi Gras, Denim & Diamonds, and There's No Place Like Home*. Moms are free to dress up to fit the theme if they choose. Fun Nights may also include a Silent Auction (to which chapters and individuals are encouraged to donate items), games, music, food, mixers, dancing, and more. It's an opportunity to socialize with other military moms from across the country.

## Educational Assistance ...

*Education is a major key to success. Providing educational assistance funds to the military community and their families as well as to our members is a way to honor and support them.*

### Eligibility>>>

- Active Duty US Military, National Guard or Reserve Member
- Retired US Military Member or Veterans
- Spouse, Child or Grandchild of the above
- BSMA member in good standing
- Child or Grandchild of BSMA member in good standing or of a Blue Daisy

### Restrictions>>>

- Cannot have received the JCEA award twice already per level
- Cannot be enrolled in a military tech school/military academy or be receiving full military pay to attend schooling
- Cannot be for Continuing Education classes or for maintaining a certificate or license

JCEA National Applications must be returned  
 ✓ to National Big Dipper President no less than 30 days prior to the first day of the annual national convention

JCEA Department Applications must be returned  
 ✓ to the Michigan Big Dipper President or the Ohio Big Dipper President (as applicable) no less than 30 days to the first day of the applicable convention.

**JCEA awards are offered by National Big Dipper, Big Dipper Ohio and Big Dipper Michigan.**

JCEA applications are available through BSMA chapter presidents, Big Dipper executive boards, & [www.bluestarmothers.org/big-dipper](http://www.bluestarmothers.org/big-dipper)



**Comaraderie and fun for all Blue Star Mothers helps the Big Dipper Auxiliary fund the Josephine Calenda Educational Assistance Fun.**

**We are with you every step of the way – Contact us at >>>**

### National Big Dipper Board >>>

President	<a href="mailto:president.bd@bluestarmothers.us">president.bd@bluestarmothers.us</a>	Past President	<a href="mailto:bdpnp.kade@bluestarmothers.us">bdpnp.kade@bluestarmothers.us</a>
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President	<a href="mailto:1vp.bd@bluestarmothers.us">1vp.bd@bluestarmothers.us</a>	Past President	<a href="mailto:bdpnp.theresa@bluestarmothers.us">bdpnp.theresa@bluestarmothers.us</a>
Recording Secretary	<a href="mailto:recsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us">recsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us</a>	Past President	<a href="mailto:bdpnp.elizabeth@bluestarmothers.us">bdpnp.elizabeth@bluestarmothers.us</a>
Financial Secretary	<a href="mailto:finsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us">finsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us</a>	Ohio BD President	<a href="mailto:president.bdoh@bluestarmothers.us">president.bdoh@bluestarmothers.us</a>
Treasurer	<a href="mailto:treas.bd@bluestarothers.us">treas.bd@bluestarothers.us</a>	Michigan BD President	<a href="mailto:president.bdmich@bluestarmothers.us">president.bdmich@bluestarmothers.us</a>

Big Dipper Auxiliary is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization.