

BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.



September 2022



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Happy September,

What a wonderful time of the year. I love watching the seasons change and seeing all the leaves transform colors.... Beautiful! Who loves Pumpkin Spice?

I have enjoyed seeing all your pictures on FB of your new officers. Congratulations to you all! Here's to a great and successful year. Don't forget to send your photos and information in to your 2nd VP so she can add them to the newsletter.

Remember, September 1st your Chapter should have started collecting your forms for compliance. If your Chapter does compliance as a team and together, you can get it done in one meeting. I would like to CHALLENGE each chapter to set a goal and have your compliance completed by December 1st!

We have finished our letter going out to the body, we are looking for the next great state for our 2023 Convention. Please keep a look out for the letter. I am looking forward to seeing where we will go. It would be exciting to go somewhere new.

The next 6 weeks will be crazy for me as I will be traveling and representing BSMA. First stop will be to DC for the Gold Star Mothers weekend. TJ and I will be honored to support our sisters.

Then, I will be attending the Dept of MI, OH, and MN Conventions. I look forward to being a part of their Conventions and sisterhood.

Please remember, we are all BSMA and are sisters, reach out and check on each other. We are always saying I got your 6. **Let's really have each other's 6!!**

Your sister in service,

Stacy Anders, National President 2021-2023



President's Project 2021-2022

It's Not Too Late To Donate



Operation Surf
PO Box 1581
San Luis Obispo, CA 93406
(805) 544-SURF

501(c)3 Tax ID #26-3661313
Based in Avila Beach, CA.

Our website is dedicated to
[John Backe](#).



from your Finance Committee

September 2022

Chapter Grant Program

During our recent 2022 Convention business sessions, the BSMA Convention body approved a budget line item in the amount of \$7,000 for the Chapter Grant Program FYE 08/31/2023.

The purpose of the Chapter Grant Program is to allow new and existing chapters an opportunity to apply for a \$250 grant. New chapters may use these funds to help offset their start up expenses (licensing, registrations, P. O. Box, etc.). Existing chapters may apply to assist with a particular program or event expense that they are planning. There is a limit of one grant per chapter per fiscal year and a chapter may only receive a grant once every two years.

A copy of the application is provided in this newsletter and is also available on the national website. Applications must be submitted to the Finance Committee for approval. The grants are on a first come, first serve basis and will be available until all of the budgeted grant funds are exhausted for any given year.

So . . . put on your thinking caps as to how your chapter could use the funds and start filling out your application!!

If you were a recipient of an existing chapter grant in fiscal year 2021-2022, please be sure that I have received your report and photo as documentation of your use of grant funds.

You are welcome to contact me with your comments or questions at any time. If there are matters that you would like addressed in future "Support" memos, please send those to me as well.

Julie Straw,
National Finance Chairwoman
FinanceChair@BlueStarMothers.us





APPLICATION FOR BSMA CHAPTER GRANT PROGRAM

Chapter Name, State and Number _____

Chapter Address _____

Chapter President _____

Chapter President Phone Number _____

Chapter President Email _____

Check One: New Chapter Existing Chapter

REASON FOR GRANT – Please be specific – i.e. chapter start-up, coats for veterans.

This application is to be submitted to the Chairman of the Finance Committee for approval.

FinanceChair@BlueStarMothers.us

EMAIL

Upon approval, a check will be forwarded to the address listed above. Other than chapter start-up grant, please furnish a picture to the Finance Chairman at FinanceChair@BlueStarMothers.us upon completion of your grant project.

For Finance Committee Use Only:

Approval Date: _____

Date Check Sent: _____

Date Pictures Received: _____

SAVE AS

PRINT



Additional Info from your Finance Committee

September 2022

Convention Body Approved Changes to Financial Policies

It was great to see so many of you at our Convention in July. For those of you that were unable to attend, and by way of reminder to those that were in attendance, I have summarized the recent changes to our BSMA Financial Policies as approved by the Convention body.

Purpose: *(Next to the last sentence regarding Standing rules of Chapters or Departments.)* If a Standing Rule/Financial Policy is found to be in conflict with National BSMA Financial Policy, it will need to be approved by the NEB.

The prior policy needed approval by the NFC and NEB - the approval by the NFC was removed.

Section 1.1: *(Fourth line from the bottom of the section regarding email voting.)* Email voting can be held when a financial emergency arises requiring an expenditure not to exceed \$500.

The prior policy had a not to exceed limit of only \$250.

Section 1.7: *(Final sentence regarding fund-raising startup funds.)* A proper accounting of the startup funds is necessary by matching the disbursement to the subsequent repayment.

The final sentence was replaced completely to clarify and accurately describe the procedure.

Section 1.9: *(First sentence regarding Reconciliation.)* All statements for banking, merchant card and other accounts (such as PayPal) will be obtained by the Financial who will review and reconcile each statement on a timely basis.

This revision just changed the wording to be more grammatically correct.

Section 1.12: *(First sentence regarding Uncashed Checks.)* Outstanding checks should not remain on the books for more than 200 days without reason.

This revision changed Section 1.12 from 180 to 200 days and into agreement with Section 1.12.3.

Section 1.13: *(New section.)* Non-sufficient Funds (NSF) - Any time a payment is present to National by a member, Chapter, or Department and is returned by the bank for any reason (e.g., Non-Sufficient Funds), all associated banking fees charged are to be reimbursed to National within 15 days of being notified. Any respective membership status will be placed on hold until all NSF fees and the original payment amount have been received, via certified funds.

Section 1.14: *(New section.)* Accounting and financial records:

Section 1.14.1: *(New section.)* There needs to be provision for a backup of all financial records OR a method of secondary online access made available to the Chapter Executive Board quarterly.

Section 1.14.2: (New section.) All financial records must be stored with the recording secretary at the end of the fiscal year.

Section 1.14.3: (New section.) All financial records must be surrendered by outgoing officers to the incoming officers.

Section 3.1.9: (New section.) Departments/Chapters must be in good standing in order to receive any funds from National, such as “due to Department/Chapter” for membership reimbursement.

Section 4.3: (Combination of Sec 4.3 & 4.4.) Mid-Year NEB Meeting and other events

Section 4.3.1: (Second line.) If deemed necessary, the NEB members shall receive travel and lodging (two per room) for not more than four nights, for a mid-year Executive Board Meeting.

Increase from three to four nights.

Section 4.4: (Omitted.)

Section 4.3.2: (Renumbered from 4.4.1.)

Section 4.3.3: (Renumbered from 4.4.2.) When Departments/Chapters are conducting “games of chance” they must follow the respective State Regulations. (Examples are raffles, bingo, lottery type activities.) Departments/Chapters must maintain all records associated with games of chance.

This clarified the wording and purpose of the policy.

Section 6.1: (First line concerning Convention body approved donation.) Convention delegates may approve a donation up to 45% of the annual net income to a 501(c)3 Organization supporting our Mission, as the recipient, (YTD 6/30 used for estimating purposes only) if the National BSMA organization is financially stable.

This increased the upper level of a potential donation from 30% to 45% of annual net income.

I would encourage all members to set aside time to download our governing documents and financial policies from the national BSMA website and review them, at least annually. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Julie Straw,

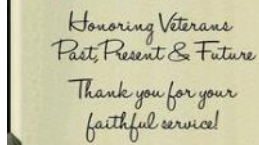
National Finance Chairwoman

FinanceChair@BlueStarMothers.us



From the desk of
National VAVS Representative/PNP

Anne Parker



We live in the diverse and everchanging world of VAVS. There were several questions before and during convention about where Blue Star Moms can volunteer. I hope that this information will clarify and offer new opportunities to serve our veterans as a Blue Star Mother.

Clinic volunteering – VA Center for Development and Civic Engagement (CDCE) offices, formerly VAVS, coordinate placement of volunteers at both VA Medical Centers (VAMCs) and the clinics within their VAMC's network. While you **do not need** to coordinate with the VAVS Representative at the parent medical center your placement at the clinic will still occur through the local CDCE office. CDCE staff work with an office manager and/or nursing supervisor at the clinic to establish new volunteer assignments, and place new volunteers into those new and already existing assignments. There are often occasional and regularly scheduled volunteer opportunities at VA clinics, but the CDCE office remains your point-of-contact. The hours are recorded at the clinic and the office manager and/or nursing supervisor will assist in ensuring your hours are reported to the parent VAMC's CDCE office for proper documentation.

Please ask the VAVS National Deputy via email at vavs.deputy@bluestarmothers.us to put you in contact with the Blue Star Mothers local VAVS Representative at the nearest hospital so the clinic volunteer hours can be recorded through the VAVS Representative. If there is no Blue Star Mothers Representative at that hospital the VAVS National Deputy will ask if you would like to serve in that capacity (but distance may not allow). Most clinics do not have a VAVS Committee to be appointed to as the VAVS Committee typically resides at the parent VAMC level.

Blue Star Moms who wish to be a local **VAVS Representative** should contact the National VAVS Representative at vavs@bluestarmothers.us and advise which hospital you're interested in serving at. If there is a local VAVS Representative already in place the National VAVS Deputy will contact a new person and coordinate their efforts. Anytime a new local Representative or Deputy Representative is appointed where there is already representation the National VAVS Deputy will make sure all at the same facility are aware of one other and that they coordinate their reporting efforts into one report, if possible.

Monthly reports are to be sent in the first week of each month to report hours volunteered and any chapter donations given.

I hope that this information opens new volunteer opportunities.



Order Yours Today

10% Off in
September

2021—2022
Yearbook

Hurry
Order Yours Today

DEDICATED
TO ALL
BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA



To Each Mother Who Is Giving Of Her Time, Talents
and Love, When and Where Those Services
Are Needed.



The online store sold out at Convention but you can still order one online at www.TreeRing.com/validate, code101416260317183– Be sure to scroll to the year 2021-2022 to order this years issue. It is full of History, Respect and a Ruby (80 Year) Celebration of the Mission! We know you will love it!



The Big Dipper is an Auxiliary of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. which came into being in Milwaukee, Wisconsin on November 7th at the 1951 National Convention.

In 1989, Big Dipper's educational assistance fund was dedicated to the memory of Josephine Calenda (PA22) at the National BSMA Convention held in Lansing, Michigan. After many years of active service in BSMA, Josephine passed away that year while holding the office of National Big Dipper President. The fund has carried her name ever since.

The goal of the Big Dipper Auxiliary is to raise money throughout the year, so we can offer Educational Assistance to qualified applicants and to provide fun and sisterhood for our members while raising said funds. Applications for membership are available on the website; for states with departments, please register through that state's Big Dipper Auxiliary.

Your membership dues are the first step in Big Dipper's fundraising efforts. For \$10 a year, BSMA members can become an auxiliary member.

Funds are also raised through other means. For example, Big Dipper has a store from which you can order the traditional Big Dipper guard & chain to go with your BSM pin as well as other fun items.

Plus, each year we plan a Fun Night at convention which not only raises funds, but also provides a social event. Big Dipper Fun Night is held to bring everyone together for a themed event where we have a silent auction, games, food, music and just plain old FUN.

Finally, donations are also an important fundraising component. Besides receiving donations from the public, chapters play a significant role. YOUR chapter can receive an award and recognition for the largest donation during the year

Our National Big Dipper Auxiliary is a FUN organization with the objective of helping our Active Duty Military, Veterans, Blue Star Mothers and their families reach their educational goals with less stress.

JOIN our Auxiliary today by submitting your application. Once an exclusive organization, now all Blue Star Mothers in good standing are welcome and encouraged to become a part of the Big Dipper Auxiliary.

Be part of Serving Others.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE!!

We are well into membership renewals and you have all kept me VERY busy ~ thank you so much for your patience as I get these updated and enter new memberships.

As a reminder:

- For new members ~ encourage them to join online. This is a much quicker process for them and us as well.
- Renewals ~
 - Through the Chapter works great; or,
 - Online is fine as well

We really discourage paper applications, if at all possible, as these are mailed to our National FinSec. She has to process and scan the application to the National 1VP to be completed. Not only does it take longer going through the mail system, sometimes the forms are incomplete or not legible, so we then have to track down the information.

If you are having issues renewing, **please don't join as a new member**. This simply causes more issues for everyone, takes more of our time to straighten out, which then causes delays for others who are trying to get their profiles updated. If you are trying to renew and having issues, **PLEASE** email me at 1VP@bluestarmothers.us ~ I am happy to help!

Just another reminder - you have the authority to update your profile at any time. If you change phone numbers, email address, or perhaps you had added a Star because you have another kiddo who just enlisted; **YOU** can make those changes. This is great because you don't have to wait for me to make these minor changes for you, especially in the midst of this busy time.

And again, if you need assistance or have any membership questions, please feel free to contact me at 1VP@bluestarmothers.us

Yours In Service,
Rebecca Stafford
National 1VP



CA 101



Long Beach, CA, a city of gentle breezes and colorful sunsets backdropped the Blue Star Mothers of America 2022 Convention. Attending from CA-101 was President Christine McCracken and delegate Rhonda Hammons.

Each day was filled with important items including Bylaw discussions, allowance of via voce voting when only one candidate is nominated for an office, and the election of our National Executive Officers, designated, The NEB.

While our primary reason for attending was business, we were able to enjoy a dinner cruise aboard the yacht “Spirit” on Tuesday evening. Big Dipper Fun Night on Wednesday showcased costumes that included witches, flying monkeys, and scarecrows. “Dorothy” was well represented. A drawing was held for two lovely quilts. Each was beautiful and one quilt featured a square with a pair of boots and a pair of ruby slippers that fit in with the “There’s No Place Like Home” theme. I’m happy to report our own Christine was the winner of the drawing for one of the quilts.

The most beneficial part of these activities was the shared comradery of getting to know our Blue Star sisters from around the country. Sharing what we all have in common, our children in the military, we were able to share ideas and wisdom. Especially knowledgeable and greatly appreciated were the experienced mothers helping the newer members.

CA-101 would sincerely like to congratulate our newly elected representatives and wish them success.

Respectfully submitted: Rhonda Hammons CA-101

Cape Fear Blue Star Mothers have been extremely busy over the last few months! We had the privilege of volunteering with the Cape Fear Honor Flight. Many of our members were able to help out during the training day event and at the welcome home celebration. We also donated \$1,000 towards the purchase of personalized flags that were gifted to the veterans on the flight. It was such an amazing experience and one that we hope to participate in every year.

Our chapter volunteered at the Irreverent Warrior Hike in Carolina Beach. What a fantastic day! We sponsored a rest stop and had a wonderful day feeding and talking to all of the military members and their families. We can't wait to do this again next year!

Our local American Legion sponsored a high school summer baseball team and asked us if we could help out at the games by selling tickets & running the concession stand. We are always eager to partner with our local organizations and it was a wonderful experience for all.

Thanks to all the fundraising that we have been doing, we were able to make a \$1,000 donation to the Veterans Memorial Reef in Southport, NC. This terrific organization provides dignified burials at sea for veterans. Our donation will help offset the cost of burial for a veteran whose family doesn't have the funds to pay for it.

We were extremely honored to be asked to perform the Flag Lowering Ceremony at the Southport waterfront from August 7-13. We had several members participate each evening and it was a beautiful ceremony.

Our largest fundraiser of the year will be held on Sept. 17. All of the proceeds from this event will be donated to the 501(c) 3 organization, Stop Soldier Suicide. We are working closely with a local Gold Star family on this event and we are passionate about raising awareness surrounding PTSD in the military.

NC 16



American Legion Event Above

Flag Lowering Ceremony Below



Warrior Hike



Honor Flight



WILCO BLUE STAR MOTHERS TX15

The fourth quarter of our 2021-2022 year has again been very busy. We've been working hard to top off a very busy year. We love serving our community and our veterans and active duty.



We not only celebrated our Independence day but also our 11th Birthday! Happy Birthday WilCo Blue Star Mothers TX15.



Blue Star Mothers lost one of its biggest supporters this month Medal of Honor Recipient Marine Corps CWO4 Hershel "Woody" Williams stepped into heaven. He was a great supporter of Gold Star Families erecting these monuments all over the country. We are honored to have one here in Cedar Park. He will be missed.



Our doughnut dollies served coffee and doughnuts to our Viet Nam Veterans at the Sertoma Independence Day Parade.



It is our goal to always attend unaccompanied burials at the Central Texas State Veterans Cemetery in Killeen. We had several this month.



Our lovely ladies getting ready to crew the balloons in the Annual Sertoma Independence Day Parade.



We had the honor of preparing 75 care packages for airmen living in the dorms at Spangdahlem AB, Germany.



With our "We Can Do It" attitude we assisted Share the Will and others filling backpacks for military children and veterans.



We received a Donation from the Sun City, TX Women Helping Others. Thank you Maria Tolleson and your organization.

We are working diligently to prepare for our Gold Star Mother's luncheon and looking forward to seeing all our Gold Star family and friends.

Submitted by Greta Moore IVP, TX15, WilCo BSM

Four Corners Blue Star Mothers



September, 2022



From care packing and replacing the yellow ribbons on Main Street to participating in the Wounded Warriors Extreme Weekend, we have been serving and supporting our military members and their families. A highlight was being a part of the ceremony that honored the sailors of the USS Theodore Roosevelt and their families. We have continued to raise awareness and funds in preparation for the September 24th Gold Star Monument Dedication Ceremony with the Woody Williams Foundation which will be held in our own All Veterans' Memorial Park, Farmington, New Mexico.



Thumb Chapter MI 178

The family of Michael May (from Vassar, MI) who died in combat during the Vietnam war, has generously purchased a spot dedicated to the Blue Star/Gold Star Mothers of America in the Frankenmuth, MI Heroes and Space Museum. This ceremony was conducted on August 11th at the location of the tribute area with 3 Blue Star Mothers Thumb Chapter MI 178 in attendance. Jim and Cindi Atwood (Sister and Brother-in-law of Michael May) and a special forces Veteran. Blue Star Moms in attendance were Marcia Janik, Sherry Kramer. Gold Star Mom Deb Robinson.



BLUE STAR MOTHERS

FREDERICKSBURG CHAPTER VA4



The VA4 Chapter held their Chapter Executive Board Elections for the 2022 - 2023. L – R Teri Reece, 3VP; Faye Mohler, 2VP; Mary Kulesa, 1VP; Teresa Sumners, President; Pat Stello, Treasurer; Alicia Salyer, Financial Secretary; Martha Poillon, Recording Secretary.



The VA4 members organizing donated items for the upcoming November Care Packing. Sedona Taphouse presented a \$747 check for our Care Package Program.



Fun outing at the Fredericksburg Area Museum outdoor concert enjoying the sounds of the Acoustic Onion Band playing Beatles tunes. A great time was had at the Fredericksburg Nationals Ball Park on Military Day. VA4 members paid tribute to those killed in the 9-11-01 terrorist attacks by parading through town in decorated cars as a reminder to our fellow Americans – WE WILL NEVER FORGET.





Southwestern Pennsylvania

Chapter PA16



**Mission Possible 5K Race
benefitting City Mission's
Veterans House
August 6**



**Vietnam Veterans Moving Wall
58,261 Names
August 18**



With featured speaker Rocky Bleier



**Gathering donations for
care packages
August 21**





See the pictures below from our MN State Fair Military Appreciation Day information table and parade, August 30th. This is the 13th year Minnesota Blue Star Mothers have participated in the State Fair. Look close and you can see our Heroes on a Stick, after all everything at the fair is on a stick

The Dept of Minnesota



BLUE STAR MOTHERS SE WI 2



SEPTEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

Member Meet up at Java
Dreams- September 15, 2022

Gold Star Luminaries Evening-
September 25, 2022
(Invitation featured below)

Board & Brush Fundraiser-
October 3, 2022

Cooking Class Fundraiser-
October 31, 2022



The Blue Star Mothers of SE Wisconsin, Chapter 2 and Eagles Nest
Association invites you to attend a luminary ceremony to express their
love, sorrow, and reverence towards Gold Star Mothers and their
families.



Luminary Ceremony promptly at 6:30 pm
Sunday, September 25, 2022
Eagles Nest Association
15526 Washington Ave.
Sturtevant, WI
Arrival 6:00 pm



Located on the Northwest of Hwy 20, just West of Hwy 14.
Please bring a bag chair if you are unable to stand.

Order of Events

Color Guard: Indian Trail Kanawha Military Academy
National Anthem: Tampa Reddy, US Army Spouse
Pledge of Allegiance: led by Patricia Inghosier BSM SE WI CH2,
Denise Villalobos
Invocation: Chaplain BSM SE WI CH2, Cathy Ramage
Ceremony Speaker: US Army Veteran, Linda McLanahan, "Sister Sergeant"
Gold Star Family Luminaries Lighting
Gold Star Families invited begin lighting candle luminaries
Blue Star Mothers continue lighting of Luminaries
Moments of silence to honor our fallen hero's
Closing Prayer for the fallen: Cathy Ramage
Bugler: Bill Swanson, TapplinVeterans.org

On behalf of the Blue Star Mothers SE WI Chap. 2 and Eagles Nest Association
We thank you for attending and honoring our fallen.
May our Gold Star Families find comfort and peace in their hearts

The request went out that a few sister mom's sons needed care packages, and in typical BLUE STAR MOM fashion, we delivered. Pictured below are several of the boxes that were sent to our troops overseas!



In August, members of our group gathered for an evening to meet and listen to several very special guests, including past president Anne Parker, Michelle & Rob from ShipThrifty and Mary from Operation Baked Home Goods. We were also joined by 2 members from our WI1 Chapter! A great night with good food & better company was enjoyed by all.



In early September, we were able to take a tour of the VOW Tiny Homes & Marketplace Food Pantry.



Blue Star Mothers Rochester NY8
September 2022



Rochester, NY chapter officially chartered in 2011
Website: www.bluestarmomsroc.com

BSM NY8 Officers 2022-23




LtCR Christine L, Lara W, Mary Anne Z, Amy V, Debbie T, Rochelle H Jill H, Veramae RY.
Blue Star Mothers begin the New Year fiscal year with a renewed spirit and dedication to serving our active military, reserves and veterans. Officers include:

President Amy VanDerwerken, 1st VP Jill Harris, 2nd VP Rochelle Hoffmeister, 3rd VP Mary Anne Zani, Treasurer Debbie Trevette, Financial Secretary Lara Whitney, Recording Secretary Veramae Rudd-Young. Appointed Positions: Chaplain & Blue to Gold Liaison, Mary Anne Zani, Stand-in Chaplain Pat Witt, Sergeant of Arms, Christine Littlefield.



Veterans Outreach Center 2022 Pound the Ground 5k run/walk on August 24, 2022 Blue Star Moms, Veterans and Grandchildren
LtoR: Kathy Quichocho, JoAnn Cooper, Kathy Quinones, Dory Braun, Amy VanDerwerken, Maria Monacelli, Nancy Lopez .

Sponsor Wreaths to Honor Veterans
Wreaths Across America is coming to Webster Union Cemetery, Webster, NY on December 17th. There are 650 veteran graves on site from the Revolutionary War to Conflicts of War.

 The Canandaigua Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution are helping BSM NY8 chapter to raise money to send care packages to deployed service persons. For every \$15.00 Sponsored Wreath received BSM will earn \$5.00 toward sending a care package overseas.

 **BSM link to sponsor wreaths:**
[Click to sponsor wreaths](#)

**Veteran Women's Coffee House Retreat
August 26-28, 2022**

Special thanks to Marvin Hankinson and Project New Hope NY, Inc. for sponsoring the Veteran Women at Lions Camp Badger, Spencer, NY. Participants included 16 veteran women and two Blue Star Mothers: Dory Braun and Nancy Lopez. The activities ranged from fishing, hiking enjoying Cayuga Lake, working on puzzles, reading, playing Rummikub and just plain relaxing. Most important was to reconnect with past participants and making new friends. The veterans are already talking about planning Lions Camp Badger 2023 Retreat.



Remembrance Annual Blood Drive September 10th sponsored by Blue Star Mothers NY8 took place at the Rochester Museum and Science Center. Sue Louis, BSM, Red Cross Rep reported that the Red Cross collected 15 units, 3 Power Red Donors and 2 first time donors. Thank you to BSM: Sue, Amy and Jill for your participation at the RMSC.

September Event Calendar

- Saturday 9-17 **Blue Star Mothers Monthly Meeting**
Ely Fagan American Legion 9:30-11:30
- Sunday 9-8 **Stokoe Farms Military Appreciation Day**
Scottsville, NY 10:30-4:30 Bring military ID
Active Duty, Reserved, Retired, National Guard & Veterans. Service Personnel and three of their family members can enjoy a day on the farm
- Sunday 9-25 **Gold Star Family Ceremony**
White Haven Memorial Park
210 Marsh Rd, Pittsford, NY 2:00 pm



Many thanks to MVP Health Care and Stacy Rice for the donations of cooling towels, hand sanitizers, tissue packs and notepads for our November Care Package Drive. Kudos to Dory Braun for asking for donations at the MVP table while at the VOC 2022 Pound the Ground 5k run/walk

August 2022 CA 7 Sacramento Blue Star Moms



What an honor to be invited to carry the U.S. flag out onto the field at the River Cats game Friday during a special tribute for the 13 Fallen Marines on the one-year anniversary of their tragic death in Kabul, Afghanistan. Marine Sgt Nicole Gee of Roseville was one of the Fallen and her father, Richard Herrera, threw the first pitch. The SBSMs held the flag during the National Anthem, which was beautifully performed by amazing 10 year old Henry Pullen.

Everyone had loads of fun at the Spaghetti Fundraising Event!
The bar even had a special drink in honor of the Moms!



Welcome to the 22/23 Sacramento Blue Star Moms Board

- Debbie Konvalin (Pres)
- Juli Traylor (Rec. Sec.)
- Mandy Johnson (Treas)
- Margo McKay (Blue to Gold)
- Karla Sedgwick (2nd VP)
- Kimberly Steinman-Elmquist (1st VP)
- Loraine Browning (Fin. Sec.)



Buckeye Military Moms OH9

Chapter 9 sends warm greetings to all our sisters and chapters out there! We are keeping busy, as everyone else is, working our mission and supporting the troops and veterans.

A group of us had a great time having a 'field trip' to the **Motts Military Museum**! It's always wonderful just to be social with everyone!

We followed our museum trip up with a yummy lunch at BrewDog's, tearing ourselves away from the delicious food, like chicken wings and buffalo cauliflower 'wings', to take this picture!



Old Hilliard Fest

Some of our members had quite a busy weekend in September. The weekend started with a military/veteran appreciation night at a local high school. Members separated and conquered *Old Hilliard Fest*, the *Empty Pockets Cruisers Patriot's Day Car Show*, and the Columbus *Oktoberfest*. The events are fun and a great

way to reach out to our communities!



Oktoberfest!



Patriot's Day Car Show

We want to wish everyone a happy fall!





MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2022



Meet Our 2022-2023 Board Members

- President
Heather Herlong
- 1stVP
Cara Johnson
- Financial Secretary
Michelle Allen
- Treasurer
Margie Taylor
- Recording Secretary
Johnna Darnell
- Sergeant-At-Arms
Victoria Tomkins
- Parliamentarian
Debbie Wilson
- Chaplin
Heather Wall
- Historian
Misty Thomson
- Patriotic Instructor
Jolayne Miller
- Financial Committee
Jolayne Miller
- VAVsRep
Christine Hofmann



Our 2021-2022 Accomplishments

Carepackages Shipped Out	417
Stars for Heroes program	565
Flags Collected	99
Flags Retired	12

BSM.TX18@BLUESTARMOTHERS.US

Western Slope Blue Star Mothers - CO8

September Chapter Happenings



Mesa County Fair Military Night

Our chapter participated in our local county fair by hosting a booth to reach other moms in our community and to raise awareness about our chapter and the various ways that our community can support Blue Star Moms.



The featured speaker was a well known military advocate, Kris "Tonto" Paronto. Kris grew up in our community and he has an incredible story about his experience. Our Chapter President was able to meet him and get a signed copy of his book.



VA S.A.V.E Training

Our chapter hosted a S.A.V.E. Training event. A representative from our local VA hospital spent the evening educating the community on tips to help act with care and compassion if you encounter a Veteran, or anyone, who is in crisis or experiencing suicidal thoughts.



- S** Signs of suicidal thinking should be recognized
- A** Ask the most important question of all — *"Are you thinking of killing yourself?"*
- V** Validate the Veteran's experience
- E** Encourage treatment and Expedite getting help





IL
6



Chicagoland IL 6

Chicagoland IL6 has had a busy couple of months! We participated in The National Gathering of Veterans: Celebrating All Veterans in a Native American Way, had a social at Mission BBQ, sent two members to National Convention, participated in Rolling Thunder Big Thunder Run, and packed care packages at Operation Support Our Troops. We also had our annual elections and elected the same members to continue on in their positions in the chapter. We are having a great time working our mission and look forward to a successful year together!



CONGRATULATIONS

SC 1 2022-2023 Board

Left to Right:

Roxie Schermann, Treasurer;

Tracy McElhaney, 1st VP; Kaye Smith, President; Audrey Lorence, Recording Secretary; Reba Wilson, Financial Secretary

Below in Chapter photo:

Tina Mack, Chaplain, Nancy Jordan, Parliamentarian; KerryAnn Ratzlaff Sgt. At Arms



SC 1 Chapter Photo



Pine City MN 16

The month of September has been busy winding down from summer. Our small but mighty group walked in the Military Appreciation Parade at the State Fair the beginning of September. We had our monthly meeting on the 12th and did a Flag Retirement Ceremony. On September 17th and 18th we will hold our annual garage sale. Hoping everyone has a blessed start of the fall season.



Sometimes we need someone to simply be there. Not to fix anything, or to do anything in particular, but just to let us feel that we are cared for and supported.



September

Indian summer breezes blow
the geese are taking flight
A softly glowing harvest moon
lights up the starry night.

The special warmth and happiness
we feel throughout September
Will fill our hearts all winter long
with beauty to remember.