



Big Dipper Auxiliary Newsletter



February 2024

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S MESSY DESK FEBRUARY 2024

Happy Valentine's Day! Ahh, February, the month of love, hearts, roses, fancy romantic dinners, and best of all, JCEA application is on line and ready for you to download and handout!

I want to thank my Big Dipper Board, especially Diana Vance, for her never ending work to make sure the application was correct, not only for everyone on the National level, but for Michigan and Ohio as well. After board approval, and one more set of eyes from our National President, it's finally on the website for you to download and fill out.

I know that many chapters do not participate in the Big Dipper or have had issues with us for whatever reason, and we sincerely hope that you will give us a second chance. We have not increased dues, they are still \$10.00 per year. Our sole purpose is Educational Assistance for our kids, veterans, and you too. The funds that we raise from our FUN NIGHT go directly to our Educational Assistance account which is a separate savings account and only accessed when checks are written to our winners once a year. Any donations we receive for JCEA go into the savings account and nowhere else.

One of our goals for this year is to increase our membership and this is where you all come in. We would like to see each chapter select one member to become a Big Dipper Rep and contact our 1st VP Connie Shuck with your name and chapter number. Once we have a group together, we will begin holding meetings to get you excited so you can get your chapter excited.

I know that I said I would tell you the theme for FUN NIGHT this month but I am waiting until our National President announces hers. I'm like that little kid before Christmas sneaking around looking for presents because she can't wait!

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

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treas.bd@bluestarmothers.us

Michigan Dept. President:

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Editor: Jennie McFarling



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.

Membership

Happy February!

We hope this newsletter finds you well and thriving. As the month of love unfolds, we are sending warmth and appreciation your way. Welcome to the latest edition of our monthly newsletter, with updates and events.

Membership Spotlight: Embracing Love and Passion we currently have **200 Big Dipper members**.

February Challenge: we are looking /searching for Big Dipper Representative from each Chapter, please reach out to let us know if you're interested.

Thank you for being a vital part of our sisterhood. We look forward to another month of growth, collaboration, and success together.

If you join now, you will be eligible to participate in all of the 2024 convention Big Dipper activities, however, be aware that our membership dues cover us from Sept. 1 through Aug. 31. To continue your membership for 2024-2025, you will be receiving a renewal in June of 2023. If you are attending our 2023 convention, you can renew there at that time if you wish for the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Link: www.bluestarmothers.org or [Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc](#)

Select: Big Dipper/membership/membership dues

Online payment with PayPal or by check (mailing information listed on the membership form which is in this newsletter).

Respectfully yours in Service,

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Yours in Service

Connie M. Shuck (Moler)

Email:

1vp.bd@bluestarmothers.us





ATTENTION

CALLING ALL QUILTERS

We are bringing back our Quilt Fundraiser

If you are a quilter and would like to make a square or would like to sponsor a square or three, please let us know.

Email: recsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us for all the details.

WE ARE IN NEED OF SOMEONE TO PUT THE SQUARES TOGETHER & SEND TO THE LONGARMER.

If you are interested in please email Coni at the above email address.

Quilt Themes:

1. **Patriotic Themed: 2024 Big Dipper** (Color to be used: Red, White, Blue)
2. **General Themed: Supporting Sisterhood** (Colors to used: Dk Purple, Lavender, Yellow)

Space is limited to 100 Squares/ participants.

We provide you with a piece of starter fabric for each block you sponsor.
At least a 2x2 piece must be included in your finished block. (This is the common link)

Add your own to fabric to make a finished Quilt block measuring $9\frac{1}{2} \times 9\frac{1}{2}$ to allow for seam allowance assembly to make it a 9X9 finished placement block for the quilt.

You Must leave a 1/2-inch border around the block for seam allowance of the block.

Please Note: Directions & starter fabric will be mailed January 2024.

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 & Cloves



A27 - BUNNY HOP \$7.00
Shapes: Bunnies



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



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.



**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.

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 #6 Big Dipper Lapel Pin



Item #7 Proud Veteran Pin



Item #5 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 #14 Gold Flip Flop Earrings



Item #15 Wooden Sunflower Earrings



Item #13 Silver Flip Flop Necklace



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

--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

Shipping & Handling for Hat Bags: \$5 each

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

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-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 ??????????????.

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.

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

