



Dipper Auxiliary  
Convention Meeting  
Nashville, Tennessee  
**Thursday, August 3, 2023**  
**8:43a.m. - 12:33p.m.**



**I. Call To Order**

National Big Dipper Auxiliary President Doreen Berggren called to order the Annual Meeting of the National Big Dipper Auxiliary at 8:43 a.m.

**II. Prayer**

Opening prayer offered by National Big Dipper Auxiliary Chaplain/PNP Judy Dorsey

**III. Preamble**

National Big Dipper Auxiliary Sgt. at Arms Trudy Dupuy led the Big Dipper Preamble

For God, our country and sons and daughters, we pledge ourselves to assist in furthering the objects and purpose of our parent organization, Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., to preserve harmony, good will, cooperation and closer fellowship among its members, we so unite to establish a permanent “fun organization.”

**IV. Roll Call of Officers**

President – Doreen Berggren - present  
First Vice President – Amy O’Campo - present  
Financial Secretary – Gen Schindler - present  
Treasurer – Diana Evans Vance - present  
Recording Secretary – Shannon Kennedy - present  
Past President – Beth Bohannon - present  
Past President – Teresa Koontz - present  
Past President – Kade Rutherford - excused  
Dept. of Ohio BD President – Suzanne Hughes Lapp - excused  
Dept. of Michigan BD President – Pat Lomonaco - present  
Chaplain – PNP Judy Dorsey - present  
Patriotic Instructor – Marisol Gonzalez - present  
Historian – Barb Cook - present  
Sgt. at Arms – Trudy Dupuy - present

**V. Old Business:**

**A. Motion to accept the minutes for the 2022 Annual Big Dipper Meeting as corrected.**

**2<sup>nd</sup>**

**Discussion**

**Call for Vote**

**Motion PASSED with 0 abstentions and 0 opposition**

**B. 2022 Financials**

a. National Big Dipper Auxiliary Financial Secretary Gen Schindler presented the 2022 financial documents, including the 2021-2022 IRS 990 form. Financials were in convention folders and on projections screens in the hall.

b. **Motion to accept the 2022 financials as presented.**

2<sup>nd</sup>

**Discussion**

**Call for Vote**

**Motion PASSED with 2 abstentions and 0 opposition.**

**VI. New Business**

**A. 2023-2024 Budget**

a. NBDA Financial Secretary Gen Schindler presented a zero balance budget for 2023-2024. She noted that available JCEA funds are high because of the Pandemic. Additionally, NBDA can only award the funds based upon the number of qualifying applications. 2022 did not have a high number of applicants. Discussion of items in the budget.

b. **Motion to accept the proposed 2023-2024 budget as presented**

2<sup>nd</sup>

**Discussion**

c. **Friendly Amendment to the motion (move \$1,000 from the Ambassador Fund/Travel to JCEA restricted funds)**

**Friendly Amendment accepted**

**Discussion**

**Call for Vote**

**Motion as amended PASSED with 1 abstention and 1 opposition**

**B.** NBDA President Berggren presented the 2023 JCEA Report noting that there were 20 applications received this year; final award numbers will be determined by submission of proof of enrollment by recipients.

a. **Motion to approve that future JCEA awards will be a minimum of \$599, but may exceed that amount, dependent upon the amount of available JCEA funds, with the provision that a person who is versed in the preparation of 1099s may be hired if necessary.**

2<sup>nd</sup>

b. **Motion to TABLE the motion until after a recess**

2<sup>nd</sup>

**Motion to Table PASSED with 0 abstentions and 0 opposition.**

**Short Recess began at 10:39 a.m.**

**Meeting resumed at 10:49 a.m.**

c. **Motion to UNTABLE the above motion**

2<sup>nd</sup>

**Motion to Untable PASSED with 0 abstentions and 0 opposition**

**Discussion**

**Call for Vote**

**Motion PASSED with 0 abstentions and 0 opposition.**

- C. NBDA President Berggren presented the NBDA Golden Dipper Award to IL-6. President Sonya Kay accepted the award for her chapter
- D. NBDA Treasurer Diana Evans Vance reported that initial Silent Auction results are tentatively \$2,185, that the NBDA vendor table was successful, and that tickets were still available for the raffle.

**VI. Elections**

- A. Instructions given by National Big Dipper Auxiliary Nomination Chair Joyce Fabian
- B. Introduction of Election Judge Christin McCracken and Tellers Deb Molen and Marlaine Gaylor.
- C. **Election of Officers**

President

Doreen Berggren – CA9  
Pat Lomonaco – MI194 \*

First Vice President

Coni Brooks – TN5  
Anne Berkins – LA7  
Connie Moler Shuck – CA46 \*

Recording Secretary

Shannon Kennedy – CA9  
Coni Brooks – TN5 \*

Financial Secretary

Genevieve Schindler – CA10 \*\*

Treasurer

Diana Evans Vance – OH9 \*

**VII.** Closing Prayer offered by PNP/Chaplain Judy Dorsey

**VIII.** Meeting adjourned at 12.33 p.m.

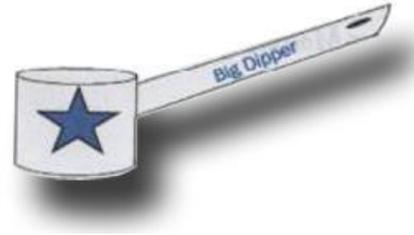
**2023-2024 National Big Dipper Auxiliary Elected Officers were installed on Friday, Aug. 4, 2023.**

**Respectfully submitted,  
Shannon Kennedy  
Aug. 30, 2023**

# **ATTACHMENTS & REPORTS**



70<sup>th</sup> National Big  
Dipper Auxiliary  
Convention Meeting  
in Long Beach, CA  
**Thursday July 28<sup>th</sup>,  
2022**  
**9:40am-11:00am/ PST**



*Meeting called to order  
Moment of Silence and Prayer  
Pledge of Allegiance*

*Elizabeth Bohanan, President  
Gloria Gaxiola, Chaplain  
Berva Treat, Patriotic Instructor*

***Preamble***

*Marisol Gonzalez, Historian*

“For God, our country and sons and daughters, we pledge ourselves to assist in furthering the objects and purposes of our parent organization, “Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.,” to preserve harmony, good will, cooperation and closer fellowship among its members, we so unite to establish a permanent “Fun organization”.

***Roll Call of the Officers-***

President - Elizabeth Bohanan-\*  
1 VP **ProTEM** -Ann Cordero-\*  
Financial Secretary -Charla Fletcher\*  
Treasurer **ProTEM** -Teresa Koonz - \*  
Recording Secretary **ProTEM** - Joanne Darlington-\*  
Chaplain – Gloria Gaxiola-\*  
Patriotic Instructor -Berva Treat-\*  
Historian – Marisol Gonzalez-\*  
Parliamentarian – Brenda Turnillo- \*  
Sgt at Arms – Trudy Dupuy - \*  
PNBDP - Teresa Kootz-\*  
BSMA National Representative (1<sup>st</sup> VP) Rebecca Stafford\*  
Michigan BD President - Patricia Lonomaco- absent  
Ohio BD President – Gloria Jordan- absent

***Welcome Guests-***

**Presidents Report:**

- ***Monetary/Awards given-***  
*2020-2021 There were: Due to committee chair having to leave due to covid, these were postponed*
- ***Donations/Fundraisers-***
  - *Assistance from fundraisers Quilting Bee in Ohio, who donated the services of quilting and backing, excess of \$400, of 2 quilts to be raffled*
  - *\$1,435 raised from Fun Night Silent Auction*

***Officer Reports-***

**Approval of 2020/2021 Convention Minutes:**

*Motion to accept the minutes , 2nd, PASSED*

**Financial Secretary/ Treasurer's Reports:**

- *Statement of Activity- see attached*
- *Statement of Financial Position-see attached*
- *Proposed Budget 2022/2023- See Attached*

*Motioned to accept financials as presented with noted corrections (1) Membership Dues should be recorded as whole with merchant/paypal fees deducted as a different line item.(2) report paypal balance as a bank. (3) Deferred liability is from previous year and needs a journal entry to enter expenses \$136.60. (4) 2022-2023 Proposed Budget change QuickBooks cost from \$75 to \$100. 2nd, Accepted*

**Application Process**

- *30 days moving forward, not 60 days as listed in the guidelines. Motion to approve JCEA application with housekeeping to reflect "Circle relation to BSMA" in directions. 2nd, Approved*

**JCEA Award Review Committee Report:**

**JCEA Guidelines- Elizabeth**

*8 Submitted packets.  
2 applications did not have Chapter Pres. signature  
2 essays not signed and dated  
1 Application not current year*

**Scoring Rubric:**  
*Slide show presentation shared with the Big Dipper convention body.  
Discussion & review of the Rubric  
Big Dipper Convention body Accepted*

**Nomination Chairman:**

**Nominated for the Office of:**

<i>President-</i>	<i>Charla Fletcher</i>	<i>TX 6</i>	<i>Doreen Berggren</i>	<i>CA 9</i>
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President-</i>	<i>Amy O'Campo</i>	<i>CA 26</i>	<i>Ann Cordero</i>	<i>TX 6</i>
<i>Recording Secretary-</i>	<i>Shannon Kennedy</i>	<i>CA 9</i>		
<i>Financial Secretary-</i>	<i>Charla Fletcher</i>	<i>TX 6</i>	<i>Genevieve Schindler</i>	<i>CA 10</i>
<i>Treasurer-</i>	<i>Diana Vance</i>	<i>OH 9</i>		

*Elected to the Office of:*

<i>President-</i>	<i>Doreen Berggren</i>	<i>CA 9</i>
<i>1<sup>st</sup> Vice President-</i>	<i>Amy O'Campo</i>	<i>CA 26</i>
<i>Recording Secretary-</i>	<i>Shannon Kennedy</i>	<i>CA 9</i>
<i>Financial Secretary-</i>	<i>Genevieve Schindler</i>	<i>CA 10</i>
<i>Treasurer-</i>	<i>Diana Vance</i>	<i>OH 9</i>

Remarks for the Good of the Order:

*Closing Prayer –*

*Adjourned: 11:37 am PST*

DRAFT

# Blue Star Mother's of America Inc.- National Big Dipper Auxiliary

Statement of Activity  
September 2021 - August 2022

	TOTAL
Revenue	
Donations	2,790.00
Membership Dues	2,250.00
Non Profit Income	
2021 Fun Night Admission (deleted)	3,481.86
2022 Fun Night Revenue	
2022 Long Beach Fun Night Admissions	3,785.00
<b>Total 2022 Fun Night Revenue</b>	<b>3,785.00</b>
2023 Fun Night Revenue	
Non-Profit Revenue- auction sales at fun night	1,741.00
Non-Profit Revenue- non cash donation	3,066.95
<b>Total 2023 Fun Night Revenue</b>	<b>4,807.95</b>
Fundraising - Other (Amazon, GivingBean, etc.)	15.01
Fundraising -Vendor Table sales	956.00
Fundraising Guard Pins	10.00
Fundraising Quilt	1,071.12
2021-2022 Fundraising Quilt Tickets	1,265.00
<b>Total Fundraising Quilt</b>	<b>2,336.12</b>
<b>Total Non Profit Income</b>	<b>15,391.94</b>
Shipping Revenue	4.00
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$20,435.94</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$20,435.94</b>
Expenditures	
2021-22 JCEA	1,797.00
BANK CHARGES	5.00
Expenditure	
Convention Expenses	194.89
Lodging	0.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>194.89</b>
Fun Night Expenses	
Catering	3,164.54
Fun Night General Expenses	111.80
<b>Total Fun Night Expenses</b>	<b>3,276.34</b>
Fundraiser Items	
Hat Bags	413.45
Non Profit Expense -Guard Pins	464.95
Non Profit Expense -Quilt Fundraiser	889.11
Non Profit Expense -Silent Auction Sales Cost of Goods	2,381.83
<b>Total Fundraiser Items</b>	<b>4,149.34</b>
Merchant Fees	
Chase Merchant Fees	150.99
PayPal Fee	4.39
<b>Total Merchant Fees</b>	<b>155.38</b>
PO Box Rental	146.00
Postage	37.90
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$9,761.85</b>
<b>NET OPERATING REVENUE</b>	<b>\$10,674.09</b>
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>\$10,674.09</b>

# Blue Star Mother's of America Inc.- National Big Dipper Auxiliary

## Statement of Financial Position

As of August 31, 2022

	TOTAL
<b>ASSETS</b>	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Chase	31,764.76
Restricted FunD Night Funds	740.77
Restricted JCEA Funds	5,628.00
<b>Total Chase</b>	<b>38,133.53</b>
<b>Total Bank Accounts</b>	<b>\$38,133.53</b>
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	0.00
Lodging Receivable	433.60
<b>Total Accounts Receivable</b>	<b>\$433.60</b>
Other Current Assets	
Items donated for Fun Night	0.00
Undeposited Funds	0.00
<b>Total Other Current Assets</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>\$38,567.13</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>\$38,567.13</b>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	
Accounts Payable (A/P)	0.00
<b>Total Accounts Payable</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
Other Current Liabilities	
2018-19 JCEA Restricted Funds	0.00
Deferred Income Liability	0.00
Deferred Dues 2022-2023	1,070.00
Due to Michigan Big Dipper	10.00
Due to Ohio Big Dipper	15.00
<b>Total Deferred Income Liability</b>	<b>1,095.00</b>
<b>Total Other Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$1,095.00</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>\$1,095.00</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$1,095.00</b>
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	0.00
Retained Earnings	26,798.04
Net Revenue	10,674.09
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>\$37,472.13</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<b>\$38,567.13</b>

## Blue Star Mother's of America Inc.- National Big Dipper Auxiliary

Budget vs. Actuals: Fiscal Year 2021/22 - FY22 P&L

September 2021 - August 2022

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
<b>Revenue</b>				
Donations	2,790.00	6,000.00	-3,210.00	46.50 %
Membership Dues	2,250.00		2,250.00	
Non Profit Income		10,500.00	-10,500.00	
2021 Fun Night Admission (deleted)	3,481.86		3,481.86	
2022 Fun Night Revenue				
2022 Long Beach Fun Night Admissions	3,785.00		3,785.00	
<b>Total 2022 Fun Night Revenue</b>	<b>3,785.00</b>		<b>3,785.00</b>	
2023 Fun Night Revenue				
Non-Profit Revenue- auction sales at fun night	1,741.00		1,741.00	
Non-Profit Revenue- non cash donation	3,066.95		3,066.95	
<b>Total 2023 Fun Night Revenue</b>	<b>4,807.95</b>		<b>4,807.95</b>	
Fundraising - Other (Amazon, GivingBear, etc.)	15.01		15.01	
Fundraising -Vendor Table sales	956.00		956.00	
Fundraising Guard Pins	10.00		10.00	
Fundraising Quilt	1,071.12		1,071.12	
2021-2022 Fundraising Quilt Tickets	1,265.00		1,265.00	
<b>Total Fundraising Quilt</b>	<b>2,336.12</b>		<b>2,336.12</b>	
<b>Total Non Profit Income</b>	<b>15,391.94</b>	<b>10,500.00</b>	<b>4,891.94</b>	<b>146.59 %</b>
Public Support Funds		100.00	-100.00	
Sales of Product Revenue		400.00	-400.00	
Shipping Revenue	4.00		4.00	
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$20,435.94</b>	<b>\$17,000.00</b>	<b>\$3,435.94</b>	<b>120.21 %</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$20,435.94</b>	<b>\$17,000.00</b>	<b>\$3,435.94</b>	<b>120.21 %</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>				
2021-22 JCEA	1,797.00	13,000.00	-11,203.00	13.82 %
BANK CHARGES	5.00	100.00	-95.00	5.00 %
Expenditure				
Convention Expenses	194.89		194.89	
Lodging	0.00		0.00	
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>194.89</b>		<b>194.89</b>	
Fun Night Expenses				
Catering	3,164.54		3,164.54	
Fun Night General Expenses	111.80		111.80	
<b>Total Fun Night Expenses</b>	<b>3,276.34</b>		<b>3,276.34</b>	
Fundraiser Items		3,500.00	-3,500.00	
Hat Bags	413.45		413.45	
Non Profit Expense -Guard Pins	464.95		464.95	
Non Profit Expense -Quilt Fundraiser	889.11		889.11	
Non Profit Expense -Silent Auction Sales Cost of Goods	2,381.83		2,381.83	
<b>Total Fundraiser Items</b>	<b>4,149.34</b>	<b>3,500.00</b>	<b>649.34</b>	<b>118.55 %</b>

## Blue Star Mother's of America Inc.- National Big Dipper Auxiliary

Budget vs. Actuals: Fiscal Year 2021/22 - FY22 P&L

September 2021 - August 2022

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Merchant Fees				
Chase Merchant Fees	150.99		150.99	
PayPal Fee	4.39		4.39	
<b>Total Merchant Fees</b>	<b>155.38</b>		<b>155.38</b>	
PO Box Rental	146.00		146.00	
Postage	37.90	200.00	-162.10	18.95 %
Quickbooks		50.00	-50.00	
supplies		150.00	-150.00	
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$9,761.85</b>	<b>\$17,000.00</b>	<b>\$ -7,238.15</b>	<b>57.42 %</b>
NET OPERATING REVENUE	<b>\$10,674.09</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$10,674.09</b>	<b>0.00%</b>
NET REVENUE	<b>\$10,674.09</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$10,674.09</b>	<b>0.00%</b>

This is IRS Form 990N, the Statement of Financial Activity, 8/31/2022 was used to prepare this form.

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL [sa.www4.irs.gov/epostcard/secure/990n/status/10065520213545098528](https://sa.www4.irs.gov/epostcard/secure/990n/status/10065520213545098528). The IRS logo is visible in the top left. The page title is "Confirmation". In the top right corner, there are links for "Home" and "Security Profile". A progress bar below the title shows five steps: "e-Postcard Profile", "Select EIN", "Organization Details", "Contact Information", and "Confirmat". The "Confirmat" step is currently active. The main content area states: "Your Form 990-N(e-Postcard) has been submitted to the IRS". Below this, a list of submission details is provided:

- Organization Name: BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA INC
- EIN: 900608381
- Tax Year: 2020
- Tax Year Start Date: 09-01-2020
- Tax Year End *Date*: 08-31-2021
- Submission ID: 10065520213545098528
- Filing Status Date: 12-20-2021
- Filing Status: Accepted

At the bottom of the page, there is a blue button labeled "MANAGE FORM 990-N SUBMISSIONS".

**Blue Star Mother's of America Inc.- National Big Dipper Auxiliary  
PROPOSED 2023-2024 Budget**

Based on Statement of Activity from September 2017 to August 2023

	Zero Balance Budget Amounts
<b>Revenue</b>	
Big Dipper Store Sales	1,000.00
Convention Vendor Table Sales	1,150.00
<b>Total Store Sales Income</b>	<u>2,150.00</u>
Fundraising Income	
Operational/Discretionary Fundraiser	1,000.00
Fundraising - Other (Amazon, GivingBean, etc.)	100.00
<b>Total Fundraiser Income</b>	<u>1,100.00</u>
Donation Income	
Fun Night Donations	1,000.00
General Donations	2,500.00
JCEA Donations	3,000.00
Temporary Restricted Donations	450.00
<b>Total Donation Income</b>	<u>6,950.00</u>
Dues Income	
Membership Dues	3,000.00
<b>Total Membership Dues Income</b>	<u>3,000.00</u>
Fun Night Income	
Fun Night Admission	4,000.00
Fun night Silent Auction	3,500.00
Fun night Miscellaneous Fundraising Projects	2,000.00
<b>Total Fun Night Income</b>	<u>9,500.00</u>
<b>Total Revenue</b>	22,700.00
<b>Expenditures</b>	
Program Expenditures	
JCEA Expense	7,550.00
<b>Total JCEA Expenses</b>	<u>7,550.00</u>
Operational Expenditures	
BANK CHARGES	46.00
Big Dipper Conventions Expenses	
Ambassador Fund	2,000.00
Convention Expenses	500.00
Lodging	1,449.00
<b>Total Convention Expenses</b>	<u>3,949.00</u>
Dues & subscriptions	250.00
Merchant Fees	

Chase Merchant Fees	75.00	
PayPal Fee	30.00	
Square Fees	25.00	
Total Merchant Fees		130.00
PO Box Rental		200.00
Postage		700.00
Purchases		300.00
Quickbooks		300.00
Supplies		750.00
Total Operational Expenses		6,625.00
Fun Night Expenses		
Catering	3,500.00	
Decorations	200.00	
Fun Night General Expenses	450.00	
Games and Activities	200.00	
Photo Booth	150.00	
Silent Auction Sales Cost of Goods	2,500.00	
Total Fun Night Expenses		7,000.00
Online Store Expenses		
Big Dipper Store Expense	100.00	
Guard Pins	250.00	
Hat Bags	325.00	
Jewelry	500.00	
Lapel Pins	300.00	
Shipping	50.00	
Total Online Store Expenses		1,525.00
Total Expenditures		22,700.00
Net Revenue		0.00

## Big Dipper President's Report 2022–2023

It has been my honor and pleasure to serve as President of the National Big Dipper Auxiliary.

Working with the Big Dipper officers to bring forth change, update information and explore new ideas this year has been a rewarding experience.

The year has been busy: working with both the OH and MI Big Dipper Auxiliaries to address their concerns, support their ideas and help them grow as well as staying in touch with National Big Dipper board members in between monthly meetings to establish rapport and support their new ideas. These efforts strengthened the bond among board members and between the national and state-level board members.

I attended the Ohio, Michigan, and Minnesota Department Conventions to foster good relations with their members and assist with new memberships in Big Dipper. Later in the year at my own expense, I traveled to the National Mid-Year Meeting to further a working relationship with the NEB by discussing the Big Dipper Board's ongoing efforts and the growth of Big Dipper.

Directly after the 2022-2023 election, a Big Dipper JCEA Committee was formed. Within the first few months, a healthy discussion of the JCEA guidelines, application and rubric occurred, positive administrative changes were suggested by the committee and approved by the Big Dipper Board, then approved by the BSM National Executive Board for posting. Additionally, a series of items to be presented to the membership for discussion and approval was developed for the next By Laws Year of Convention. Once the updated JCEA applications were available, a training and review session was held with the committee. There was consistent work to follow policy and procedures through the review of documents.

Segregating JCEA funds from the operational monies by the establishment of a Savings Account specifically for JCEA funds was approved by the Big Dipper Board. This will assure that there is a clear accounting of JCEA funds versus operational funds.

Working with the Financial Secretary and Treasurer, a new line of items were introduced to the Big Dipper Store. This not only brought in funds, but helped the membership engage with us. Additionally, new fundraisers were developed to provide additional revenue for the operational expenses of Big Dipper.

Across the year, consistent updates have been made on the website by creating a new Big Dipper Pamphlet, posting a Fun Night Flyer, updating information, and posting all financials and monthly board minutes. A monthly newsletter was established that was both sent to all BSMA members and posted on the website.

And of course, planning for *Boots - Stars - Guitars (the 2023 Fun Night)* has been an ongoing project. We hope that the membership will enjoy themselves at this event; we had a great time planning it.

None of this would have been possible without a team effort that was respectful with a productive work environment. I thank each board member for their hard work, extra time, and effort towards the success of the 2022- 2023 year.

Respectfully,

Doreen Berggren

2022-2023 National Big Dipper Auxiliary President

June 15, 2023

Hello Ladies,

It has been my pleasure to serve as your Vice President, Big Dipper Auxiliary for the 2022-2023 year.

Throughout this year, I processed 340 applications for the 2022-2023 year and 8 applications for the 2023-2024 year for Big Dipper. I also attended 9 monthly ZOOM meetings.

With the help of our Editor, Jennie McFarling, I helped create and distribute up 9 newsletters that went out to the entire body.

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve all of you during this year.

Amy O'Campo  
VP Big Dipper Auxiliary  
2022-2023

**Big Dipper – Recording Secretary, 2022-2023 – Shannon Kennedy**

It has been my honor to serve as the Big Dipper Recording Secretary for 2022-2023.

This year I attended Big Dipper Executive Board Meetings.

I took minutes and provided them to the board.

Made corrections to the minutes as needed.

I was available to the President to accomplish whatever she may have needed.

Helped to plan Fun Night for the 2023 Blue Star Mothers Convention in Nashville, Tennessee.

Respectfully Submitted,

Shannon Kennedy

Big Dipper Recording Secretary, 2022-2023

## Big Dipper National Financial Secretary

Report for 2022 – 2023

June 2023

I was elected to this office during the Big Dipper meeting at the annual Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. (BSMA) Convention in Long Beach, California, in August 2023. Thank you to all who participated in the election.

The last 9 ½ months have been very productive. After the election, I immediately rented a new Post Office Box and started procedures to change the signers on the Big Dipper banking account. The turnover was completed before the middle of September 2022. I compiled the August 2022 Financials and Bank Reconciliation in September and used those documents to prepare the tax documents for that Fiscal Year of September 1, 2021, to August 31, 2022, before the BSMA due date of December 1, 2022. I changed the mailing address of Big Dipper Auxiliary with the IRS to current Post Office Box. August 31, 2021, Financials will be presented to the Big Dipper body at our annual meeting. I will also present a current set of financial documents at the same meeting.

Each month, I have reconciled the bank account and compiled the Financial Reports and submitted to the Big Dipper Executive Board for approval before publication on the BSMA Website.

During this time, I have prepared a Zero Balance Budget for the Executive Board and it has been approved and will be presented to the Big Dipper body at our annual meeting. I streamlined the accounts in the budget to make it clear and easy to read and understand.

My monthly duties included depositing all funds received in the mail or via PayPal. I forwarded copies of all membership applications to the Big Dipper First Vice President Amy Ocampo and On-Line Store orders to Big Dipper Treasurer Diana Vance. I coordinated with Big Dipper Treasurer on ordering products for the Big Dipper On-Line Store and convention. I signed all checks that were written and approved all Bill Payments made through the bank, reimbursement request made by various members of the board.

I have also answered questions from members of Big Dipper via phone calls and emails and have made many new friends while doing my duties.

Thank you all for an enjoyable year as your Big Dipper Financial Secretary.

Respectfully submitted,

Gen Schindler,  
Big Dipper Financial Secretary

**NATIONAL BIG DIPPER AUXILIARY  
NATIONAL TREASURER  
REPORT 2022-2023**

Thank you for the privilege of serving as the National Big Dipper Auxiliary Treasurer. I has been an honor to put into action Big Dipper's governing philosophies of "Harmony, Good Will, Cooperation, Fellowship & Fun" in striving to fulfill its Mission of honoring outstanding BSM moms, sponsoring Fun Night at Convention, and administering JCEA along with its ancillary responsibilities such as building membership, fiscal responsibility, promotion of NBDA, and stewardship of the organization.

Over the last year, I have:

- Worked with past BD officers and current BD President & Financial Secretary to provide a smooth transition between the outgoing board and the incoming board and assure all bills were paid including 2022 JCEA awards
- Attended all NBDA meetings and events
- Ran the NBDA Store – stocking it with new products and instituting inventory controls as well as shipping and tracking all packages to assure delivery; transported Store to Convention
- Traveled the NBDA Store to both Dept. of Ohio's annual BSM Convention and North South Conference & sold items (As an Ohio member, I regularly attend these events.)
- Worked with the NBDA Financial Secretary on creating a stream-lined and easy-to-read 2023-2024 budget, reconciling Quickbooks each month, creating Due to Department lists, and processing reimbursements
- Worked with the NBDA Financial Secretary on improving the organization's use of Quickbooks, including attaching documentation to every expense transaction recorded therein and establishing categories that show a clear relationship of monies in & monies out
- Paid quarterly "Due to Department" membership reimbursements to Big Dipper Ohio & Big Dipper Michigan as well as any other accounts receivables of NBDA
- Worked with a small committee to make administrative revisions to the NBDA's JCEA application, guidelines, checklist and rubric and worked with the NBDA executive board to develop motions to further improve the JCEA process to be approved by the Big Dipper membership during our next By-Laws Year at National Convention; created a new format for the application to make it clearer to fill out and to process
- Heavily promoted the JCEA in Ohio in conjunction with Big Dipper Ohio and provided suggestions to others as how to promote JCEA in their home states
- Co-hosted a Zoom session with the NBDA President for JCEA selection committee regarding the use of the revised JCEA materials
- Provided JCEA packets to Ohio VA Services, Military One, Chalmers Wylie VAMC, Ohio National Guard, and numerous VSO representatives (Ohio reps & national reps)
- Researched & purchased individual portable hard drives for each NBDA elected board member for the keeping of all records pertaining to NBDA, rather than on personal computers, so that all records could be efficiently transitioned to incoming officers and records would be consistently secured
- Worked with NBDA board to develop new revenue streams for operational costs of the organization
- Created and submitted for approval new 2023-2024 membership form, 2023 Silent Auction form, 2023 NBDA pamphlet, Store order forms and item gallery, artwork for 2023 Fun Night Button
- Established a ShipThrifty account
- Researched, ordered/secured and transported decorations and other items needed for Fun Night
- Created and printed bingo, word jumble, and trivia page for Fun Night.
- Printed, assembled and transported BD Convention Folders
- Returned emails and calls; answered members' questions

Respectfully,  
Diana Evans Vance  
2022-2023 NBDA Treasurer

## MICHIGAN BIG DIPPER PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2023

The Michigan Big Dipper has been one of the greatest experiences I have had the pleasure of being a part of. I have talked to many veterans and active duty military over the last two years as President and to see their eyes open when you tell them that you want to give them free money just for going to school and furthering their education or to help them to further their children's or grandchildren's education is a picture forever engrained in my mind.

My local chapter recently prepared and served lunch for the Coast Guard in Grand Haven Mi. While they were all eating, I had a captive audience and talked to them about JCEA and faces lit up. Many of them wanted a copy of the application. Needless to say, they got them. I stopped by the Navy recruiter office on another errand and mentioned it to them as well; same response, they now have it in their hands as well as all of the other branches in a row. I thank Diana Vance Evans for the wonderful idea on that. The Michigan board is doing the same across the state. We carry the applications in our cars now, so if we come across someone who might be interested, "Here 'ya go." We hand them an application.

This past weekend I had the honor and privilege to volunteer with the group called Irreverent Warriors and talked to them about JCEA and handed out applications as well. Their coordinator will also be putting the information in their newsletter.

We are currently planning our Fun Night for 2023. This year, we are going to play the game of CLUE. It's going to be a game like no other, of that you can be sure. This time there won't be any tea cups or rats involved, but the military might just come to mind! It is FUN NIGHT after all.

It's all about getting the word out there that the Big Dipper wants to help. It's about having fun so the Big Dipper can help. It's about camaraderie and sisterhood to join together to help the Big Dipper help. It's about our kids. It's about everyone's future.

Respectfully,

Pat Lomonaco

## Big Dipper Auxiliary of Ohio

The Big Dipper Auxiliary of Ohio is having a busy year of rebuilding and strategizing. Along with a top-notch executive board, we are proud to say that of the 16 chapters in Ohio, we have four Big Dipper liaisons from 4 different chapters who are helping to promote Big Dipper programs and purpose to their respective membership. We are very pleased that these Big Dipper Sisters have stepped up to be 'cheerleaders' for the auxiliary to increase chapter engagement. BDOH is very fortunate to have a Department of Ohio Executive board that is very supportive of our efforts and who is bringing Big Dipper along for various fund raisers and marketing efforts. Also, special thanks to the National Big Dipper team for providing the leadership and support that we need to be successful.

### Fundraising

Currently BDOH has a state-wide fundraiser ongoing throughout the end of our fiscal year. We are working with **Got Sneakers**, an organization that recycles old sneakers upon receipt and pays per pair of shoes depending on condition, brand, etc. Our 16 Ohio chapters are busy collecting old shoes from their membership making this an easy fundraiser with the benefit of clean closets to our Blue Star Sisters!

A brown bag raffle at our Department of Ohio North/South conference was a big hit with conference attendees and brought in a nice haul for BDOH Operating Expenses.

The BDOH executive team is in talks with the Department of Ohio Executive team about hosting a Euchre tournament as a joint fundraiser throughout multiple locations in Ohio. This could be very lucrative, fun for participants and a very positive community outreach.

BDOH encourages our chapters to devote a fundraiser or any portion of a fundraiser to the Big Dipper effort. Generous chapter donations have been received and are very much appreciated.

### JCEA Marketing

The JCEA applications for Big Dipper Ohio and National Big Dipper were distributed to all attendees of the North/South conference. These applications were distributed along with an introduction letter, the scoring rubric, and a list of Ohio chapter president contacts to help complete the application from possible JCEA candidates. We encourage each chapter to make marketing contacts or refer back to the BDOH board to send application materials.

Several outreach efforts have been made to county VSOs and various veteran's organizations throughout the state. Mailings and drop offs are a consistent part of our weekly efforts. The National Big Dipper marketing team is bringing us along as we return the favor in terms of getting the word out.

We represented the auxiliary and distributed applications at a monthly Veterans breakfast in Muskingum County that was very well received. From that we garnered an invitation to return for a Veteran Appreciation weekend in July which includes a luncheon with the DAR, Veteran's breakfast, silent auction, afternoon entertainment and wrapping up with a golf outing. Opportunities are boundless for Blue Star Mothers of America and the Big Dipper Auxiliary, and we are attempting to tap into as many as possible here in Ohio.

## Fun Night

BDOH is excited about Fun Night at our annual Department of Ohio Fall Convention being held Oct 27, 28, 29 in Grove City, Ohio. Our plans are to stay with the theme of the National Fun Night of **Boots, Stars and Guitars** which will be a joyful night of music, games, and fellowship for our Big Dipper members. Planning will become more specific later in the summer as we welcome ideas from BDOH board members, chapter liaisons and anyone else with a desire for fun!

In Summary, BDOH has made giving educational assistance funds a major focus of the group this year as we have funds to give and a strong desire to give back to our Veteran community. We began to receive applications as of late May in hopes of many more by our deadline date.

Thanks to all for making this year a meaningful learning experience as we strive to revitalize the organization into success.

Yours in Service,

President: Suzanne Hughes-Lapp

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President: Marybeth Cartmille

Recording Secretary: Kim Stock-Foster

Financial Secretary: Lorelei Schluter

Treasurer: Kathy Tracy