



Big Dipper Auxiliary Newsletter



NOVEMBER 2023

**BIG DIPPER NEWS FOR NOVEMBER 2023 FROM THE PRESIDENT'S
MESSY DESK**

IT'S JUST PAST TURKEY TIME!

By the time you get to read this, the turkey will be just an extra pound or two on the scale along with the pumpkin pie, the cranberry relish and stuffing, mashed potatoes and gravy, fresh baked rolls with sweet butter and last but not least, a couple of Tums to settle the tummy that ate waaaay to much!

As I am sure you have all seen by now, we have a time and a location for convention '24. We are going to Oklahoma City on July 29 - Aug 2 2024. Now the Big Dipper has work to do! Planning time will go into full swing and we could use your help. Putting on Fun Night is not without expense. Donations are always helpful to offset what we have to spend to make this evening the highlight of convention week, sorry Madam President, our party comes first!

We also have our silent auction which helps fund our Fun Night for next year but not this year, that was last year. As chapters, please give this some consideration as we hope that each and every one of you will attend our Fun Night with a silent auction item, a possible donation to Fun Night, or a donation to our main purpose, which of course is the Josephine Calenda Educational Award.

With having dates now available, we hope to have the new application online sometime in January. We will let you when that is available.

As the busy holiday season quickly approaches, let me take just a quick moment to wish you all a blessed Thanksgiving with your family and friends, and for those of us who have a family member away from us this year, we pray that they will return home soon to once again overindulge in the day's bountiful feast.

The final totals of JCEA funds dispersed from this last fiscal year was \$17,371.00. This includes National funds and those from Michigan and Ohio Departments. Let's keep this going, but we do need to raise funds during convention Fun Night to make this happen. We'll see you all in Oklahoma City!

**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

Treasurer: Diana Vance
treas.bd@bluestarmothers.us

Michigan Dept. President:

Jennifer Brouwer

President.bdmi@bluestarmothers.us

Ohio Dept. President: Lynn Feldman

President.bdoh@bluestarmothers.us

Chaplain

Carla Brodacki

Newsletter:
newsletter.bd@bluestarmothers.us

Editor: Jennie McFarling



Membership

Happy Thanksgiving!

To my sisters who attended the Department of Michigan convention THANK YOU!

Our memberships are steadily increasing. To all our Chapters/Departments, please encourage your members or new prospective to join Big Dipper.

Information can be found on the Blue Star Mothers of American, website. And our membership form is also attached with this newsletter. Please know that I'm available if you have any questions or concerns.

I would like to thank all of you, who have renewed your Big Dipper membership for 2023-2024, and those who attended the Michigan Department convention, THANK YOU! For your membership. **OUR MEMBERSHIP IS NOW AT 169.**

With our membership funds, it allowed us to have Fun-Night at convention where we raise money for the Josephine Calenda Educational Assistance (JCEA) project.

THIS IS THE ONLY PURPOSE for Big Dipper. Without your membership and participation, we could not follow our mission statement.

For those who are interested in becoming a member the form can be located on the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. website:

Link: [Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc](#)

Select: Big Dipper / Membership Form / Membership Dues

Online payment with PayPal or by check (mailing information listed on the membership form).

The membership form can also be found in this newsletter.

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

Respectfully,

Yours in Service

Connie M. Shuck (Moler)

Email: 1vp.bd@bluestarmothers.us

Cell: 408-807-8564





The Impact of the 2023 JCEA Awards

Each year, National Big Dipper, Ohio Big Dipper and Michigan Big Dipper present the Josephine Calenda Educational Assistance awards.

In 2023, under the leadership of National Big Dipper President Doreen Berggren, Ohio Big Dipper President Suzanne Hughes-Lapp and Michigan Big Dipper President Pat Lomonaco, a total of 29 awards were made.

Names of recipients cannot be released without their permission. Some choose to release their information; others don't. As military moms, we are aware that there are many reasons why a recipient would not wish his/her information published. Those recipients who have given us permission to share their names and/or their images were featured in last month's newsletter.

We can share the following though –

National 2023 JCEA recipients included 11 children or grandchildren of Blue Star Mothers, 4 children or grandchildren of Veterans, 3 Blue Star Mothers, and 1 child of both a Blue Star Mother and a Veteran.

Ohio 2023 JCEA recipients included 1 Blue Star Mother, 1 child of a Blue Star Mother, 1 spouse of an Active Duty member, 3 children of Veterans, and 3 grandchildren of Veterans.

Michigan 2023 JCEA recipient was a child of a Veteran and a Blue Star Mother.

That's a total of 29 awards!

Respectfully submitted by
National Big Dipper Treasurer Diana Evans Vance



Hello Moms,

I am your newsletter editor. I really hope you enjoy reading your monthly Big Dipper Newsletter. It is my honor to work on it with President Pat every month to keep you informed about Big Dipper.

I joined BSMA in 2009, right after my son commissioned into the Army. He is currently a LTCol, stationed at Fort Knox, KY. He is married with 2 beautiful children. I have a daughter who lives in the State of Washington and she and her husband have 1 son. I live with my sole mate now, going on 10 years. I am passionate about doing crafts and have been my entire life.

I have enjoyed doing newsletter for years. I did them locally for the boys in Boy Scouts, the adults in Boy Scouts and the local Job's Daughter Bethel which my daughter belonged to. Before that, I did a newsletter for years for my local chapter of Sports Car Club of America...oh yea, and I was also the National 2nd Vice President for the years of 2014-2015 where I did the National BSMA newsletter and was in charge of the annual Yearbook. I am the one that found Tree Ring for this BSMA, saving our organization hundreds of dollars every year.

If you or your chapter are actively doing anything to raise funds for Big Dipper, please send me pictures and a little bit about what you all did so you can be recognized. My email for this information is:

newsletter.bd@bluestarmothers.us. The deadline for sending in information is the 15th of each month.

Again, it was my honor to be chosen by President Pat to be your editor for this publication this year.

Yours in Service,

Jennie McFarling, CA9

Proud Army Mom, Navy Daughter, Air Force granddaughter, USMC niece, and USCG daughter in law



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 Earrings and Necklace Heart Set



Item #8 Earring
Item #9 Necklace



Item #11 Patriotic Cross Pin
Item #12 Patriotic Cross Necklace



Item #10 Star Earring and Necklace set



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. The lining varies



Item #18 Flag Knit Hat, cozy and warm



NATIONAL BIG DIPPER AUXILIARY STORE ORDER FORM 2023-2024

--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	\$8	
	#3 Heart Stud Earrings	\$12	
	#4 Heart Necklace	\$8	
	#5 Heart Stud Earrings & Necklace Bundle	\$18	
	#6 Big Dipper Lapel Pin	\$12	
	#7 Proud Veteran Pin	\$8	
	#8 Star Stud Earring	\$12	
	#9 Star Necklace	\$8	
	#10 Star Stud Earrings & Necklace Bundle	\$18	
	#11 Patriotic Cross Pin	\$7	
	#12 Patriotic Necklace	\$8	
	#13 Flip Flop Necklace (Silver Tone)	\$10	
	#14 Flip Flop Earrings (Gold Tone)	\$12	
	#15 Wooden Sunflower Earrings	\$10	
	#16 Bow Stud Earring	\$10	
	#17 Blue Star Hat Bag	\$10	
	#18 Flag Knit Hat	\$14	
	Shipping for Jewelry Items (see below)		
	Shipping for Hat Bag(s) & Knit Hat(s) (see below)		
	TOTAL DUE		

Shipping & Handling for Jewelry Items:

- Shipping & Handling for 4 items or less as \$5
- Shipping & Handling for 5-8 items is \$6
- Shipping & Handling for 9-12 items is \$8

Shipping & Handling for Hat Bags and Knit Hats: \$6 each; \$9 for 2 items; \$12 for 3 items

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~~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!

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.

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 sharing 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,,

2022-2023 National Big Dipper Auxiliary Financial Secretary

