



# Big Dipper Auxiliary Newsletter



## October 2023

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

**Happy Fall to everyone! Here in the Midwest, the chill is already in the air and the leaves are starting to show their beautiful and vibrant colors once again, the fields are turning brown and orange with all of the pumpkins showing their heads as their green leaves slowly wither away. Soon our little ones will turn into who knows what their imagination will be for Halloween. Wow, the year will then really fly by and before we know it, it's drinking champagne and ringing in a brand new year!**

**The Big Dipper is almost no different, we are already starting to think about FUN NIGHT 2024 and we don't even have a location as of this edition. That's not going to slow us down. We won't reveal anything until National gives us the OK, but we think this year will be one for the books!**

**If you haven't joined Big Dipper before, now is a good time to do so. The dues are only \$10.00 per year and if you live in Michigan or Ohio, \$5.00 will stay with your Department Big Dipper and the other \$5.00 comes to National.**

**This year we had the great honor to award \$11,381.00 to 19 deserving recipients of the Josephine Calenda Educational Assistance (JCEA) awards. As of this writing, 8 of our recipients have given their permission to us to publish their name along with their picture which you will see in this issue of our newsletter. We will not publish any information about them without written permission from each recipient. Some have yet to return their forms and others have said no, they do not want their information made public and that is respected.**

**If you have ideas and or suggestions for FUN NIGHT or are seeking answers, please feel free to contact any of us on the board, our email addresses are on the front page as well as the web site. We would also like to congratulate the new Michigan Big Dipper board as they were elected and installed this past weekend in Grand Rapids Mi. Their new President is Jennifer Brouwer, 1st VP, Claudette Lunney, Recording Secretary, Shellie Wilson, Financial Secretary, Elizabeth Bohannon, and Treasurer, Brandi Olsson. We hope you all have a wonderful year.**

**We will let you know next month who the new Ohio board is their convention is right around the corner!**

**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](mailto:president.bd@bluestarmothers.us)

**Vice President: Connie Moler Shuck**  
[1vp.bd@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:1vp.bd@bluestarmothers.us)

**Recording Secretary: Coni Brooks**  
[recsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:recsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us)

**Financial Secretary: Gen Schindler**  
[finsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:finsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us)

**Treasurer: Diana Vance**  
[treas.bd@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:treas.bd@bluestarmothers.us)

#### **Michigan Dept. President:**

**Jennifer Brouwer**

[President.bdmi@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:President.bdmi@bluestarmothers.us)

#### **Ohio Dept. President:**

[President.bdoh@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:President.bdoh@bluestarmothers.us)

#### **Chaplain**

**Carla Brodacki**

#### **Newsletter:**

[newsletter.bd@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:newsletter.bd@bluestarmothers.us)

**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) providing educational assistance, 2) sponsoring a “Fun Night” at conventions and 3) honoring outstanding members of the Blue Star Mothers based on their chapters fundraising for Big Dipper. 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

I love this time of the year; leaves are changing colors, and cooler temperatures. And just think; the holidays are just around the corner.

I would like to thank all of you, who have renewed your Big Dipper membership for 2023-2024, and those who attended the Ohio department convention, THANK YOU! For your membership. **As of our October board meeting, our membership is now at 152.** Thank you all for joining.

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, Inc. website. The membership form can also be found in this newsletter.

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)**

**Big Dipper 1st Vice President**



I am Gen (Genevieve) Schindler, National Big Dipper Auxiliary Financial Secretary. I was elected to this position in August of 2022 and in August of 2023. I also served as BSMA, Inc. National Financial Secretary from August 2019 to August 2021.

I joined Blue Star Mothers in February 2010, to support my son who joined the Navy in October 2009.

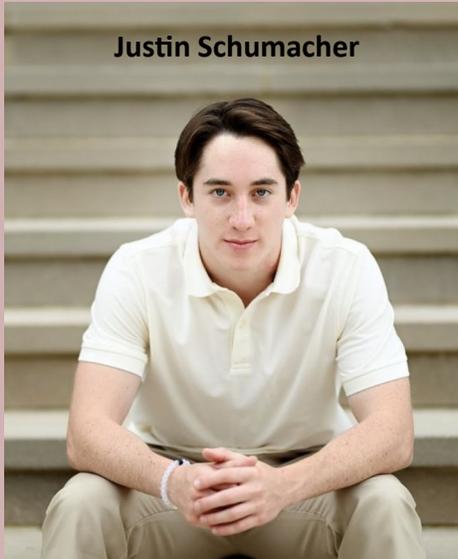
He is still serving and will complete year 14 in October. He married in January 2021. I also have a daughter and son-in-law, who have blessed me with six grandchildren.

I am a member of Central Valley Blue Star Moms, Chapter CA10. I am currently a Financial Officer for this chapter. I am retired living in the central part of California, near Fresno, in a small town called Coarsegold. I have been here since 1992. I was an Accountant/Bookkeeper before retiring, and have a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration, Accounting.



**Pictures of our JCEA recipients from the fiscal year 2022-2023**

**Your participation in our fundraising really does make a difference in lives.**



**Justin Schumacher**



**CS1 (SW-AW) Corey E. Bernstein**



**Patricia Cirard, BSM OH 59**



**1LT Liam O'Hara**



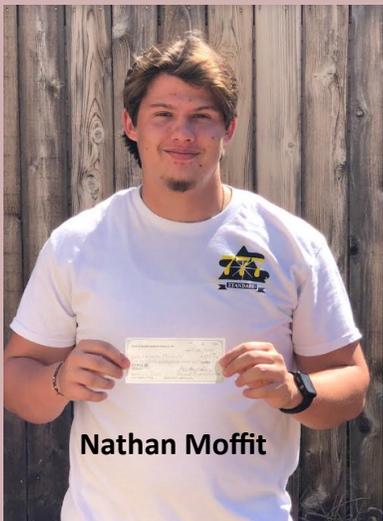
**Garrett Norwine**



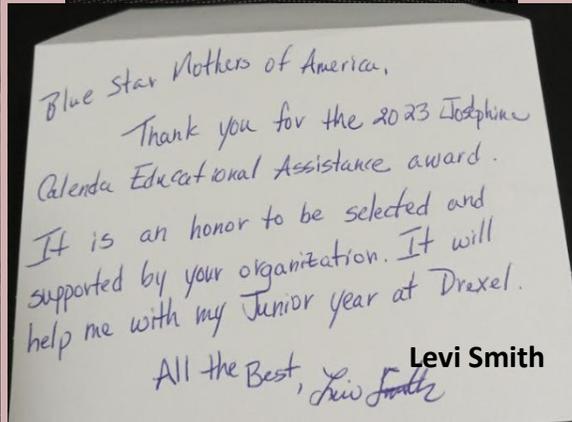
**Molly Frey**



**Alexandra Fisher**



**Nathan Moffit**



**Levi Smith**

**ALL images were submitted by and with the authorization of award recipients**

## 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 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	
	<b>Shipping for Jewelry Items (see below)</b>		
	<b>Shipping for Hat Bag(s) &amp; Knit Hat(s) (see below)</b>		
	<b>TOTAL DUE</b>		

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-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!**



**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 mid November.** 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

is a



**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.



## MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION ANNOUNCEMENT!!

If you joined Big Dipper after  
June 1st 2023, including at  
convention...

***THERE IS NO NEED TO JOIN  
NOW!***

Your membership is good  
through August 31, 2024

**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](mailto:finsec.bd@bluestarmothers.us)

**FOR BIG DIPPER USE ONLY BELOW THIS LINE**

Processed: \_\_\_\_\_

Deposited: \_\_\_\_\_

## Chapter Donation information

Every year, 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.

*Be brave  
enough  
to be  
yourself*

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](mailto: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

