



BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

August 2023

A message from National President Rebecca (Becky) Stafford

First, let me say THANK YOU for electing me your next National President. I am honored and humbled that you have placed me in this office. My door is always open, and I am happy to answer any questions you have. We are putting together great teams of Sisters who will also be available to help, and we welcome your ideas. Together, we can make this organization very successful and grow into what our founding Sisters had envisioned.

So, a little about me..... I have been a member of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. since 2014, and have been on the National Executive Board since 2018. I am very passionate about our military kiddos (yes, I call them kiddos), our Veterans, and our Gold Star Mothers and Families.

Some of you met my husband, Jeff, at the Convention Banquet. We have been married nearly 32 years and have 4 children: Shauna, Kristen, Jacob, and Justin. The good Lord has blessed us with 9 grandbabies and number 10 is arriving in January 2024. We are very excited to see our family growing.

I still work full-time at the University of Missouri-Columbia in the Department of Pathology & Anatomical Sciences where I am the Project Coordinator for the department. I have loved my tenure with the University, but I am also looking forward to retirement within the next 18 months (sooner if we can all convince Jeff) My 95 year young Dad moved in with us last October and what a joy he is to have. He is very independent and even still likes to cook as well as play his guitar and sing.

Although it sounds like my plate is full, I am most definitely up for the challenge. I am looking forward to getting to know more of you and tackling the year ahead.

Again, thank you for the love and support I have received.

Yours in Service,
Becky
Rebecca Stafford
National President



**Contact Information for
National Executive Board**

President: Rebecca Stafford - MO
president@bluestarmothers.us

1st VP: Karen Stillwell - OH
1vp@bluestarmothers.us

2nd VP: Karla Keller - MN
2vp@bluestarmothers.us

3rd VP: Jacqueline Ransom - MI
3vp@bluestarmothers.us

4th VP: Brenda Ternullo - CA
4vp@bluestarmothers.us

Recording Secretary: Amy Jo Hutchinson - OH
recsec@bluestarmothers.us

Financial Secretary: Sonya Kay - IL
finsec@bluestarmothers.us

Treasurer: Alethea Tennill - MO
treas@bluestarmothers.us

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National Executive Board 2023-2024

L to R: Brenda Ternullo-4th VP, Jacqueline Ransom-3rd VP, Karla Keller-2nd VP, Karen Stillwell-1st VP, Rebecca Stafford-National President, Amy Jo Hutchinson-Recording Secretary, Sonya Kay-Financial Secretary And Alethea Tennill Treasurer



Past National Presidents

**L to R:
Pat Soler,
Carla Brodacki,
National President Rebecca Stafford,
Stacy Anders, Anne Parker,
Jean Burlingame,
Karen Stevens and
Judy Dorsey**

Beautiful Blue Star Sisters



2022-2023 National Executive Board



Meet your 1st VP Karen Stillwell-OH

My name is Karen Stillwell. I am your newly elected 1st Vice President. My main duties this year will be handling membership and assisting the President. I have served as the 2nd VP the last two years during which my main duties were creating and producing a monthly newsletter and a yearly BSM Yearbook. I have served on the National Executive Board for the last five years. Three years as the Department of Ohio President, one extra year due to Covid, and the last two as the 2nd VP. I am proud and honored to be serving again this year on the NEB and for this wonderful organization. I look forward to continuing my support of our mission and supporting all of you. I am a retired RN, working in the Neuro field early on. After marrying my husband of almost 43 years, I began a career that combined my nursing skills and helping others with the challenges of working and running a small medical business. I retired a few years ago after 36 years of service in the health and wellness field. My husband and I share two wonderful children and three beautiful and amazing grandchildren. Our son, Lt Col. Ryan Stillwell has given me the honor and opportunity to be a Blue Star Mother and to work with all of you in this wonderful organization. Like many of you I have served at many levels of the Chapter and the Department Board positions. I quickly became involved in the sisterhood, helping our Military families, supporting the Gold Star families and fulfilling my passion to help the deployed and our Veterans. Please feel free to reach out if I can help you in any way. Your NEB continues to support an open-door policy, welcoming your input, your questions and your willingness to learn and develop our organization into an even better support mechanism for all. I look forward to continuing to work with each and every one of you!

Karen Stillwell
National 1st Vice President
1vp@bluestarmothers.us
614-893-1180



Meet your 2nd VP Karla Keller-MN

I am Karla Keller from MN11, I have been a proud Blue Star Mother since 2006 and joined Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. in 2009 during my son's first deployment.

I will soon be ending my term as President of the Department of MN which I have enjoyed for the last two years. I have held every office in our chapter and several in the Department. I want to thank my MN sisters for all their support and advice!

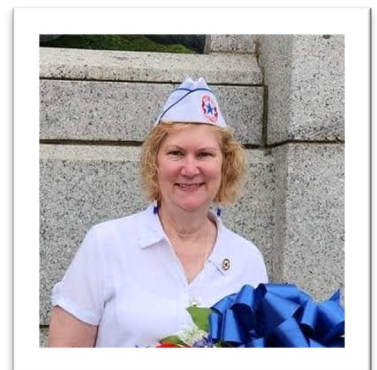
I have 3 children, my oldest son is my Army Combat Veteran, a daughter (and son in love) who have blessed me with two adorable grandchildren, a boy almost 2 and a girl 6 months old who have me totally wrapped around their fingers. My youngest is another son (who finally married his girlfriend of 12 years.) They all live within 15 miles of me and I know I am blessed to have them close by.

I am honored to be your 2nd VP. I will be publishing the monthly newsletter and am looking forward to seeing what all your chapters and departments are doing this year! I will also be putting together a committee for the yearbook soon and we hope to publish a wonderful yearbook of memories for this year!

Please send me your articles and attach your photos of all the wonderful things you do at 2VP@bluestarmothers.us and if you want photos in the yearbook send them to me at yearbook@bluestarmothers.us.

I can't wait to hear from you!

Karla



Meet your 3rd VP Jacqueline Ransom-MI

As 3rd VP I am honored and humbled to be entrusted with the sacred job of taking care that our Military Service members who have made the most ultimate, caring sacrifice are forever remembered and that we show their families our utmost gratitude.

My name is Jacqueline Ransom and I am currently the Dept Michigan President and a member of MI194. I have been a Blue Star Mothers member since 2014, although my son, Christopher enlisted in the Marine Corp 17 years before I knew about Blue Star Moms. He is now retired and lives in Michigan (Yay!) running his business; Semper Fi Guns and Ammo. His business partner is a Marine and they employ 2 other Marines. My wonderful daughter in law emigrated from Italy and became an American citizen in Okinawa. We tease her about that only occasionally...and we enjoy her cooking skills! They have 4 beautiful children. My husband and I have been married 50 years this December and have 4 other children, all girls. We think they are the reason Christopher joined the Marines, anything to get away from all the skirts and hair spray! They are all married and between them have 5 more beautiful children.

I retired 4 years ago from working in the corporate office of a large mid-western super-store chain and yes, I am busier now than ever. In my spare time, I love my gardens, quilting, reading, restoring our 165 year old home and spoiling my grandbabies.

Blessings to you all and looking forward to a great year of service to our Military and Veterans.



Meet your 4th VP Brenda Ternullo-CA

It has been my honor to serve on the National Executive Board again. I was National Big Dipper Treasurer for two years, National Treasurer for two years, National Financial Secretary for two years, National Webmaster for two years, National Recording Secretary for six months, 4VP (protem) for six months then elected 4VP for two terms.

I am married and have three children, a daughter and two sons, and one granddaughter.

I am the Chapter President of San Mateo County Blue Star Moms, CA15. I am also very involved with the Veteran community in my area.

I am a PROUD Marine Veteran mom.

Brenda Ternullo

4VP, 2022-2024



Meet your Recording Secretary Amy Jo Hutchinson-OH

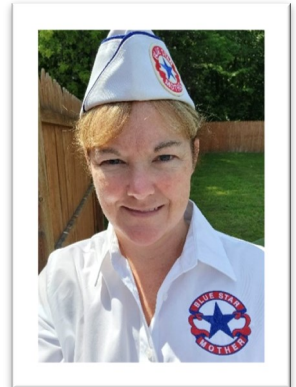
My name is Amy Jo Hutchinson. I have been a Blue Star Mother since 2012 when I joined my chapter OHIO 57, located in Geneva, Ohio. I have held many positions in my chapter including Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, 1VP, and most recently Chapter President. Our chapter is unique as it is the oldest chapter in the state of Ohio. I have found documents that show my husband's Grandmother having been active in this very same chapter.

I have served on the Department of Ohio Board as Treasurer for 3 years and currently the Financial Secretary for the past 2 years.

My husband Richard and I just recently celebrated 30 years of marriage. We have three grown children. Our son who is the oldest is currently serving in the United States Air Force and blessed us this year with our first grandbaby. We are an Air Force family. Our son is third generation Air Force as my husband served, his father retired from the Air Force, and now our son is serving.

I am honored to be your National Recording Secretary, and I am happy to help if you have a question or concern. I feel our organization works best with open communication and I will strive to maintain those communication lines at all levels of our organization, Chapter, Department, and National.

Your sister in service,
Amy Jo Hutchinson



Meet your Financial Secretary Sonya Kay-IL

Hello Sisters! I am grateful to you for selecting me to serve another year as your National Financial Secretary, thank you for your support and confidence! I will be taking care of all funds coming in to the organization – memberships, donations, online store, registrations, and so on – as well as fulfilling many other responsibilities. If you have any questions please feel free to reach out, I am always available to help!

I have been a member of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. since late summer of 2016, when my son earned his EGA and became a Marine. He continues to serve, he and I both celebrating 7 years of service to our respective organizations. My husband, Curt, and I have been married 36 years this month. In addition to our son, we have two wonderful daughters. We are blessed that all 3 of our kids have found their soul mates and are so happy that our son and his wife welcomed our first grandchild this year!

I am fortunate to be retired, but I think I work more now than when I was in the workforce! Outside of serving as your NFS and Chapter President of IL6, I am heavily involved with my local humane society. I serve on the Board of Directors and volunteer in shelter in many capacities as well as fostering cats and kittens for them. We have adopted three kitties from them. I team up with one of them, my certified therapy cat Sputnik, to spread happiness to others by taking her to visit assisted living centers, nursing homes, schools, and more. She thrives on all the attention and we both love to see the smiles when she strolls into a room!



Meet your Treasurer Alethea Tennill-MO

I am Alethea, I've been married (29 years) to my husband Ronnie. We have 4 children, 3 sons and 1 daughter. We have 7 grandchildren and 1 great grandchild. I have 3 heroes - 2 veterans that were in the Army and 1 active duty in the Navy.

I joined Blue Star Mothers, chapter MO5 in 2017. I have been treasurer for MO5 for 3 years and I am currently serving as President.

I am excited to continue to serve as Treasurer for this organization. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me if you have any questions or issues at Treas@Bluestarmothers.us. I am looking forward to more sisterhood and getting better acquainted with all of you.



Meet your PNP Stacy Anders - CA

Thank you for being a part of convention. I had a wonderful time. Thank you to Amy, Jennie, and Sylvia, who was not on the committee, but stepped up when we lost one of our members.

I am the outgoing National President and I am looking forward to working with the new board.

I also am looking forward to working with chapters and members across the country.

I have 5 children and 2 stars that served in the US Army, both are veterans. My granddaughter fills my heart with her love and stubbornness she gets from her grandpa.

Stacy



Meet your PNP Carla Brodacki - MI

My journey began on September 14, 2001 when my son, a high school senior, decided to join the US Air Force after seeing the towers fall in New York; watching our country being attacked and then mourning the loss of our fellow citizens on September 11, 2001. Bradley Michael Cogan became the bravest person I knew in my life, my son.

I joined Blue Star Mothers in 2004 after an Air Force Captain called me to make sure I was focused on something positive. I think it was out of fear I might rent a Humvee, or camel and make my way fully loaded to rescue my boy, of course this information came from my son, who also told the Captain that I was a better shot than he. LOL

I have served in many offices since that day, from Chapter President to Department Recording Secretary to Finance officers on all levels. I have served as Department President as well. All these offices have allowed me to focus on positive programs while meeting many wonderful sisters throughout the years.

I served as the National President from 2019 to 2021, it was an honor, then became the National Chaplain from 2021 to 2023 which was an amazing appointment. I will celebrate 20 years in 2024 and hope I can still be useful for years to come. I will continue to serve on the National Executive board as a Past National President for a few more years.

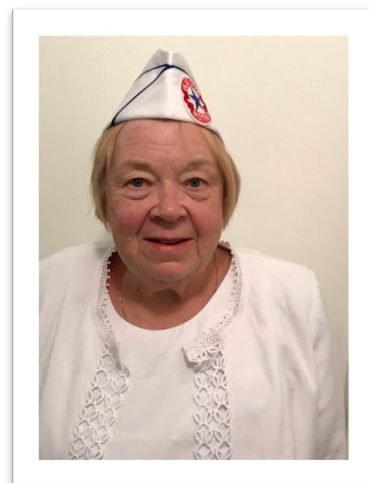
If you need to talk or need anything, just reach out at pnpcarla@bluestarmothers.us
Have Courage and be kind to one another.

Carla Brodacki



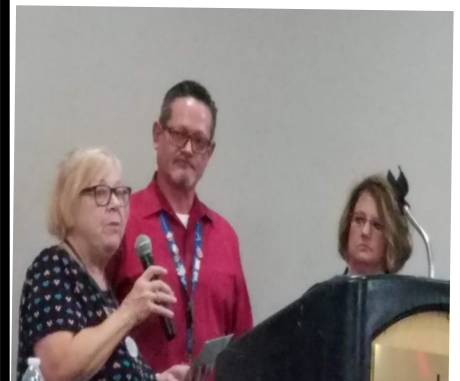
Meet your PNP Anne Parker - FL

Anne Parker is a two star Blue Star Mother by virtue of her daughter, Lt. Colonel Leigh Lechanski, a physical therapist in the Army, and Lt. Colonel William Swafford, an intel officer in the Army assigned to the Acting Chief of Staff of the Army. I joined BSMA in 2007 right after her daughter went active duty. I initially joined the Charleston, SC chapter and then went on to charter a chapter in Little River, SC. I served as president of that chapter from 2007 until 2016 when I moved to Florida. In 2017 I helped to start a chapter in Ocala, FL, and am the current president of that chapter. I was elected to the office of National Financial Secretary for two years, National Treasurer for two years, National 1st Vice President for one term, and National President for one term.. I have served as the National VAVS Representative for eight years and as the Deputy VAVS Representative for two years. I am a retired medical office manager and also did medical transcription and Quickbooks training as additional sources of income. I am married to Gordon, an Air Force Veteran, and together we are active in the American Legion. I am a Past Department President of the Department of South Carolina American Legion Auxiliary and served as Unit 186 President for four years in addition to serving as National Executive Committee Person and Southern Division National Security Chairman, Southern Division Education Chairman, a member of the National Poppy Committee and Western Division National Security Chairman. I am currently serving on the American Legion Auxiliary Foundation Board since 2020 and am currently the Board Secretary. I also sit on the Board of the Ocala Rotary and serve as Secretary. Additionally, I serve on the Board of Interfaith Emergency Services in Ocala. a food and emergency shelter provider, as well as the North Strand Housing Shelter Board where I serve as Secretary-Treasurer. My non-military son, Mike Swafford, is an Edward Jones Financial Adviser in Little Rock. I have eight grandchildren ranging in age from 1 to 19 years and a ninth grandchild is on the way. My greatest joy is serving others and spending time with my grandchildren. Gordon and I travel many miles with our 17 foot camping trailer and love to cruise, having visited all 50 states and 51 foreign countries including many countries when Gordon and I lived in Germany where he worked as an aircraft mechanic. I have a stepdaughter, Sarah, who lives in Maryland.



Convention Project for the Nashville VA

On Wednesday, August 2, the Blue Star Mother sisters at our national convention came together to pack over 500 bags of sweatpants and thank you for your service cards for the veterans served by the Nashville VA. Many chapters brought their donations to convention and many, many others shipped them via Amazon and Walmart. Many members brought canvas bags to convention and others brought blank note cards and stickers. The members at convention were asked to complete at least two of these cards thanking veterans for their service and signing their name or their chapter name. The stickers were affixed to the envelopes with the hope of bringing a small to the veterans' faces receiving the cards. In addition, chapters donated big boxes of socks and underwear. Each person at convention that day could pack at least two bags and the smiles on the members' faces as this event took place told the story. Many thanks to VAVS Deputy Doreen Berggren and Carol Sanchez for their hard work in carrying out this project and for the many others who sorted these sweatpants into sizes so that the VA could use them immediately without the need to sort. Thomas Gallagher, the Chef from the VA in Nashville and an Air Force veteran, came to convention and accepted these items. He told us that the sweatpants would be used particularly for mental health patients at the VA so that they could dress in street clothes and not the green hospital issued clothing. It took two vehicles to transport all of these donated items to the VA, and I am so grateful to all who participated in this project. The takeaway is the donated note cards, the donated bags, and items that we all take for granted like sweatpants and underwear can make a huge difference in the lives of our veterans. Additionally, a chapter does not need to be in the town where the VA facility is located to donate; Amazon and Walmart will ship direct. Always make sure that the facility has the need for the item you are going to ship before you ship it.



VAVS News

Starting September 1 I will be requiring that all VAVS Representatives submit monthly reports. If we do not receive a report for three months, I will be advising the Representative that unless I begin to receive monthly reports in the next three months, the Representative will be terminated from their position at that facility. Holding that position and not sending in reports indicated that there is no activity. All representatives must attend quarterly meetings or send their Deputy to cover all meetings. If a representative is holding that position and not submitting reports, not going to meetings, and not keeping their chapter(s) involved in what the VA needs, they are keeping that facility from getting an annual donation from the VAVS fund to which the chapters contribute. These funds go to chapters with no representation and it is vital to know that our Representatives and Deputies are actively working in the facility. I realize COVID restrictions may still be in place but as I stated at convention, Amazon and Walmart and front door deliveries will solve that problem. If there are any questions, please contact me at vavs@bluestarmothers.us.

Yours in service, Anne Parker, National VAVS Representative

Blue Daisies 2022-2023





*National Convention
July 31 - August 4, 2023*

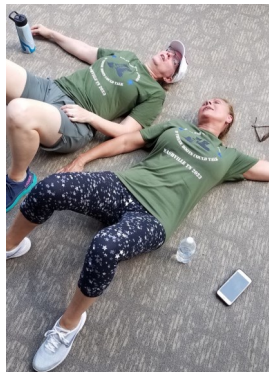
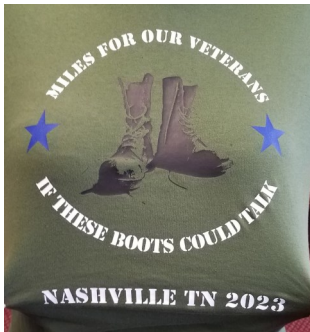




President's Project



Facilitating a Better Life Through
Canine Companionship and Service



Tim Maggart

We were honored to have our friend and songwriter Tim Maggart with us for a private concert. He truly loves Blue Star Mothers! Tim took time to take photos with everyone who wanted one. He performed "A Piece of Home" for us then asked to have the video played so he could join us as we held hands together singing along with him. It was such a special moment for all who attended.



Rolling to Remember



Our friend from Rolling to Remember, Stephen Anderjack Jr. presented a wonderful video of the Memorial Day Ride. It was a great compilation of the weekend events with Dave Page Group and AMVETS. One of the things "Steve" has been doing since then is fundraising for the Blue Star Mothers! All the folks involved in the weekend were so wonderful and Steve took it upon himself to help us out. He presented a generous donation to us and only hopes it will benefit the organization. The National Executive Board considered many options and decided the donation would be best utilized as helping to defer the cost of a meal at next years convention. Steve also noted he plans to continue to help the Blue Star Mothers. We all appreciate his mission to help us all!





National Big Dipper Board 2023-2024

L-R:

Berva Treat-Patriotic Instructor, Diana Vance-Treasurer, Connie Moler-1VP, Pat Lomonaco-President, Coni Brooks-Rec Sec, Sylvia Gaxiola-Historian, Gen Schindler- Financial Secretary

First of all I would like to thank everyone for electing me as the President of the National Big Dipper. This is a very humbling honor which I will serve with pride. I'm an Army Mom, a Navy wife, a Navy daughter, and an Army/Navy granddaughter. I get very confused as to who to root for during the Army/Navy football game! My son Corey left home on Memorial Day, 2012, for Lansing, Mi. where he then headed south to then, Ft. Benning Ga. for Basic training. The next 8 years he traveled around the United States, came close to deploying three different times, his gear even made it to South Africa once, but every time, even as close as 24 hours, his orders were canceled. During those 8 years the Army beat his body up enough that they finally gave him a full medical retirement. One evening while going out to dinner with a friend, a lady in Applebee's came up to me before I could even sit down, accosted could almost be more like it, I laugh now as she is still our adorable Chaplin, and started talking to me about Blue Star Mothers. I knew about them, my mom was one, my brother was Air Force during Vietnam, I had already hung my banner in the window on that Memorial Day a few years earlier. She told me about an upcoming chapter meeting and that I would be more than welcome to join in. Needless to say, I did go to the meeting and I was hooked. I found my niche, where I belonged. Ottawa North Kent MI 194 was what I needed, the sisters I never had. It wasn't long before I was doing care packages, fund raisers, and even help planning our mid year Sisters in Action program, all in my first year. That was back in 2016. In 2017, I won our chapter's Shining Star Award and then our Department's Shining Star Award as well. I didn't even know about either one of them until I returned home as my husband and I along with 7 other friends were on a 2 week Alaskan retirement cruise, all of us retiring in the same year. 2019 brought the beginning of my work with the Big Dipper as I was elected as the 1st VP for the Dept of MI. As Covid hit in 2020, I remained as 1st VP until 2021 when I became the Michigan Big Dipper President where I am currently until the appointed ProTem President is announced. I look forward to working with many of you and meeting many new faces. If you have any ideas and or suggestions for the Big Dipper, please send them to me, I look forward to seeing what you would like to see us do. Don't forget that you too can qualify for an award from us if you are going back to school. We will have updated information out sometime early next year, possibly late this year, just stayed tuned and informed.



Department of Michigan

Save the Date! Friday October 13 – Sunday October 15

Department Michigan Convention = Fun with your Blue Star Sisters

Holiday Inn Grand Rapids, MI 310 Pearl St NW

Here is the link to the hotel - Code BSM Blue Star Mothers of Michigan

Room rates are \$129 per night + taxes.

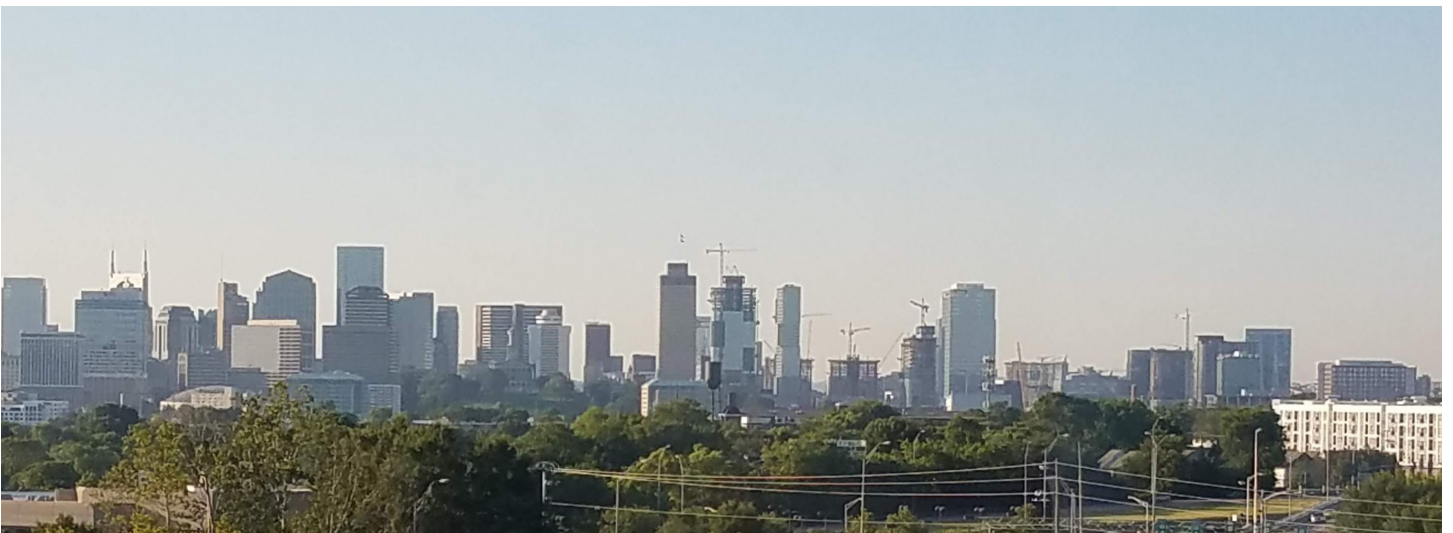


**Department Presidents having fun at the
Big Dipper Fun Night!**

Dept. of Michigan-Jacqueline Ransom

Dept. of Ohio-Lynn Feldman

Dept. of Minnesota-Karla Keller



Beautiful Nashville Skyline

Department of Ohio



The Department of Ohio membership and friends made a good showing at the 2023 BSMA National Convention in Nashville. Much necessary business was successfully completed. Most enjoyable was the time spent with our BSMA Sisters from many States. The bonding and camaraderie was amazing. Many friendships began which will last as we continue to join together in our Mission to serve.

The final evening, a banquet to celebrate our Sisterhood .



We assembled to remember our Veterans, Active Duty, and Sister Blue Star Mothers who passed from our sight this year, but never from our hearts.



National Big Dipper Fun Night "Boots, Stars and Guitars".



Deb Waltz with newly elected National President Rebecca Stafford and 1VP, our own Karen Stillwell.



The Department of Ohio's Executive Board; we strive to instill confidence in our membership



Department of Minnesota



13 members from the Department of Minnesota attended National Convention. Unfortunately one of our members was struck with food poisoning when she arrived but she was able to join the group on Friday. We enjoyed typical touring of the city and had a great time relaxing at the pool several times. Many new friends were made! As you can see we really kicked up our boots at the Big Dipper Fun Night!



Recruitment Tips from Your Mentor Chair

One of the goals of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. Mentor Program is to share tips and suggestions with chapters to help them grow. When mentors get information and feedback from their chapters about what is working and what is not working for their chapter, the mentor passes that information on to the mentor committee in the form of a report.

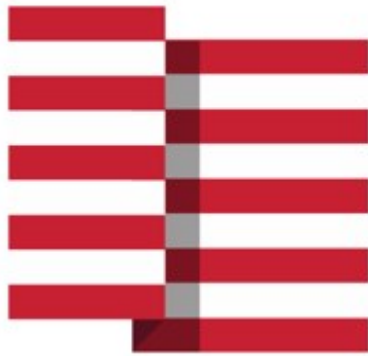
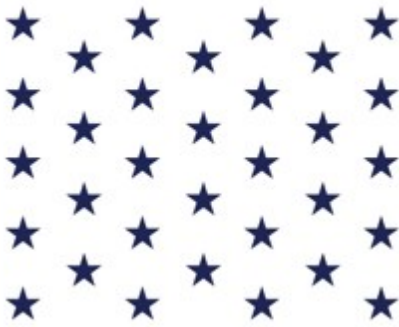
I want to share some of the ideas and tips that we have learned from these reports that may help your chapter to recruit more members.

*plan a meet and greet *host a picnic for families that have a son or daughter entering the military after graduation from high school *challenge members to bring a new military mom to at least one meeting a year *bring cookies to the local recruiting office and share brochures about BSMA with them *set goals to increase membership (for example: 5 new members before your 5th anniversary) *have a social media presence *order business cards and make sure every member has some to hand out when they meet military parents (have chapter email address on the card, not a person's name) *try to connect with local media people and contact them when events are being held *remember that it takes 10 asks to get 1 yes (don't get discouraged) *check out local sports teams to see when or if they have Military Appreciation nights (set up an information table) *when having an information table at an event, stand in front of the table - don't sit behind the table *schedule speaking events at local VSOs such as American Legions and VFWs to let them all know about your chapter and it's mission *Welcome new members by reaching out to them as soon as they join (if they join online, your membership person gets notice of them joining). Offer to meet them before the meeting so they aren't having to walk into the meeting alone (this can be very intimidating for many)

I will try to share more tips to help your chapter in future newsletters. If you don't know who your mentor is, please email me and I can get you the name and contact information of your mentor. If you are a chapter board member, please share the contact information of your mentor with all members.

Please email me, Denise Guerra, at mentor.chair@bluestarmothers.us





CA 7 SACRAMENTO BLUE STAR MOMS AUGUST 2023

PARTICIPATED IN THE NATIONAL BSMA VIRTUAL FUNDRAISER, "IF THESE BOOTS COULD TALK" DURING ROSEVILLE'S 4TH OF JULY PARADE.



ASSISTED LOCAL GOLD STAR SISTER AND HER SCHOOL SEND CARE PACKAGES.



WORKING THE RIVER CATS CONCESSION STAND FOR THE 6TH YEAR.



R/W/B BUNCO FUNDRAISER - JUNE



250 BACK-TO-SCHOOL BAGS WITH SUPPLIES DONATED THROUGH DOLLAR TREE AND OPERATION HOME FRONT



**ROSEVILLE
4TH OF
JULY
PARADE**



**DONATION
DRIVE AT
THE JULY 4
CLASSIC CAR
SHOW**



JULY CARE PACKAGE PACKING EVENT

CENTRAL VALLEY BLUE STAR MOMS CA10

This month we wanted to feature the amazing time we had at the National Convention. We all learned a lot, made great memories with our sister from all over the nation. One of the highlights for us was seeing so many of our "bling" shirts all over Nashville. So we've included a few shoutouts to our sisters in our amazing shirts!





VOLUME 1: SUMMER 2023



LAKE ARROWHEAD,
CALIFORNIA CHAPTER 25



Rim Blue Star Moms hung Gold Star Banners for those military members who were killed In action. We repaired and replaced 3 gold star banners on our mountain. Attendees included Mike Roberson (left) whose son Jeffrey was killed In Afghanistan in 2006 and Patti Mitchell (right) whose son Donald was killed In a blackhawk helicopter accident In 1990.



On July 1st, Our Rim Blue Star Moms marched In the annual Jam Days Parade and set up our booth In Crestline. We also participated In the Community Picnic on July 3rd.



CA 53 Wolf Creek Blue Star Mothers

Wolf Creek Blue Star Mothers have been busy!

At the end of July, we participated in the 3rd Annual Miles for Our Veterans – If These Boots Could Talk Virtua 5K for the President’s Project.

We signed up one new member and hope to sign up a few more this month.

On August 12th we held our first fundraiser, a silent auction, at a local rib cook-off event. We received several donations from our community and raised money to begin purchasing service banners to be hung along the major roadways in our valley. A great day was had by all!



Fort Wayne Area Blue Star Mothers – Chapter IN8

Your Blue Star sisters in Fort Wayne have been busy this summer. We packed and shipped 25 “Summer Fun” care packages to deployed military – beach balls, patriotic fun and, of course, lots of treats and protein! We had two members attend National Convention in Nashville. They had a blast, learned a lot and will be sharing something new each month this fall at our meetings. At our August 8th meeting we celebrated our chapters 15th Anniversary with patriotic cake and treats, giving away a concealed carry purse, elected and installed new officers for 2023-24 year. Each officer received a Blue Star Mothers pin and a HerSHEy’s bar with encouraging words! We will have a booth at the Army National Guard Base in Fort Wayne for their Family Day on September 10th , and we’re continuing to work on our annual golf outing that will take place on September 16th. We had 18 members last year and as of August 8th we have 2 new members joining our little group.





St. Paul Blue Star Mothers MN11

Four members of the St Paul Chapter of Blue Star Mothers attended the national convention in Nashville this year. We are all excited and proud of our very own Karla Keller for being elected on to the national board as 2nd VP!!



PINE CITY MN CHAPTER 16 BLUE STAR MOMS

July and August have been very busy for our group. In July we participated in the Hinckley MN Parade and alongside the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon group of Pine City serving food for their annual motorcycle ride fundraiser.



In August we participated in the Braham Pie Days and The Pine City MN Parade. Supporting and celebrating our Troops and Veterans.





Southwestern Pennsylvania Chapter PA16



- Gathered donations, packed and shipped care packages.

Happy to receive this pic from a couple of our recipients.

- Volunteered at Drone Golf Ball Drop benefitting our friends at PA VetPets and hosted information table.



- Honored to attend Korean War Recognition Day event



- Out and About: National Convention - Nashville, TN

It's a great time to be a Blue Star Mother!

Houston Chapter TX-2

Seventy six trombones led the big parade in ' The Music Man ' but TX-2 Blue Star Moms led the big parade serving as Grand Marshal's in Kingwood on the Forth of July



Many thanks to 100.3 KILT- FM
The Bull radio channel for
collecting 59,000 signed cards
that we sent to our heroes.

WE HAD LOTS OF VALUABLE HELP AT OUR
QUARTERLY PACKING PARTY



Blue Star Mothers-Lone Star Chapter, TX6-DFW

Please follow us...

Facebook: *Blue Star Mothers-Lone Star Chapter 6- DFW,Tx*

Instagram: *bluestarmothers@tx6*



101 Food and toiletry bags packed for Richardson Veterans in Need. Thank you to all our generous donors of items and time.



Fellow Blue Star Mothers proudly volunteering at the USO to support Service Members in the DFW area.



July Care Package Mailing

Recent Chapter Events:

- 07/01 – Flag distribution for Independence Day
- 07/04 – Happy Independence Day
- 07/08 – Flag pick up from Independence Day
- 07/13 – Richardson Chamber of Commerce Non-Profit Fair
- 07/27 – Monthly Chapter Meeting
- 07/29 – Veterans in Need packing and delivery
- 08/07-08/18 – B1 Bank Donation Drive

Upcoming Chapter Events:

- 08/24 – Monthly Chapter Meeting
- 09/02 – Flag distribution for Labor Day and Patriot Day
- 09/08 – DFW Clean up
- 09/11 – Patriot Day
- 09/17 – Flag Pick Up from Labor day and Patriot Day
- 09/16 – Gold Star Brunch
- 09/28 – Monthly Chapter Meeting



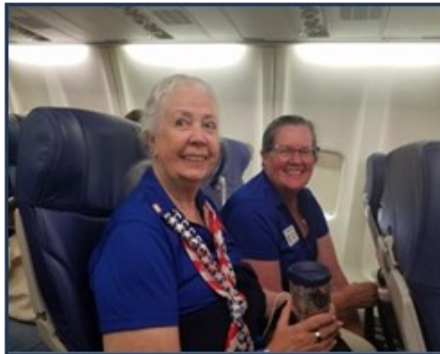
Blue Star Mothers – TX6 & B1 Bank partner for a donation drive Aug. 7th – 18th

Be sure to check our **AMAZON GIFT LIST** for our most needed items





Teresa Sumners, Debby Krieter, Faye Mohler, and Catherine Elson, the VA4 Delegates, flew to Nashville, TN for the BSMA National Convention. Air Force veteran and new member Catherine placed the Air Force cap to the branch table. Tim Maggart, a veteran and songwriter, gave us a spectacular performance. AMAZING! Sweatpants, socks, and cards were put into more than 500 hundred bags for the neighborhood veterans' home. Congratulations to the Tennessee Chapters for all of their hard work and for letting us experience Nashville. Thank you very much! To Amy O'Campo, Jenny McFarling, the convention chairs, and the Big Dipper Auxiliary for putting in many hours to make it special. We would like to congratulate the newly elected NEB.



BLUE STAR MOTHERS SE WI 2



AUGUST 2023 NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

Kenosha Brat Fry

Aug 19th

10am-3:30pm

Elkhorn Brat Fry

September 4th

Gold Star Luminary Ceremony

September 24th

6pm

Cooking Class

November 13th

In July we celebrated at our annual Family Picnic (pictured below). A memorable evening of sisterhood, celebration and fun was had by all. A special part of the night included guest speaker, Mike Wilke, who is the Milwaukee Local Coordinator of Irreverent Warriors.

Irreverent Warriors is a Nonprofit, 501(c)(3) organization whose mission is to bring veterans together using humor and camaraderie to improve mental health and prevent suicide. They strive to have creative events and strong veteran-based support networks to become the catalyst for improving veteran outlook.



Pictured below are members of our group during the July Brat Fry fundraiser in Kenosha, WI.

WI Chapters 1 & 2 on Day 4, Voting Day, at the 2023 National Convention in Nashville, TN!

August volunteer event at Irreverent Warriors annual Silkies Hike that took place in Milwaukee, WI.



Sisters are for sharing
laughter and wiping tears.

