



BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

October 2023

A message from our National President

The NEB keeps moving right along and September was another busy month. It is very exciting to see everyone working, and all of the wonderful ideas coming from our membership. I ended the month with two great trips. I had the privilege of attending the National Gold Star Mothers Weekend in DC, along with our DC Representative Teresa Sumners. Thank you, Gold Star Mothers, for including us in your very special weekend. It was an honor to be present and support each of you. Thank you to Teresa for navigating us through the weekend. She is such a blessing to our organization, and a HUGE help when we travel to DC. I definitely could not have made it without her!

My second trip was to Minnesota for their Department Convention. It is always great to spend time with our Sisters and I love attending the Department Conventions because I'm not in charge and have more downtime to spend with each of you. What a great weekend! We started with a fun outing on Friday then they quickly got down to business. Congratulations to their new Board ~ we wish you a very successful year and we look forward to working with you.

I am very much looking forward to the upcoming Department of Michigan and Department of Ohio Conventions.

Thank you to those who submitted information for the 2024 National Convention. The Committee is now chatting with hotels to find us a great location at the best possible cost. I will keep you posted as updates become available.

As always, my door is open to anyone who has questions. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me or any of our National Officers as we are here to serve everyone.

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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Gold Star Mothers Weekend



Below is General Tilly at Arlington.

Above is Harry Miller, WWII Korean and Vietnam Veteran. He joined the military when he was 15 years old.



National Gold Star President Pam
National Blue Star President Rebecca



Department of Minnesota Convention





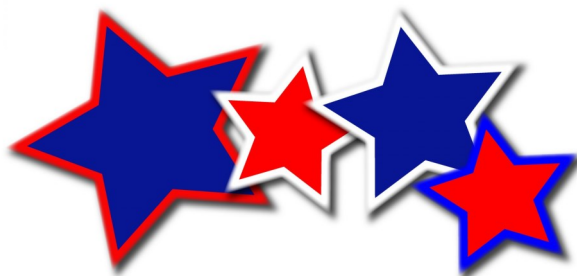
Standing Rules

There's been lots of talk about Standing Rules for Chapters.....

If your chapter decides to develop Standing Rules remember:

1. They **cannot** conflict with our Governing Documents
2. They need to be sent to the National President each year for National Executive Board approval
3. Standing Rules are not required
4. Standing Rules are suggested if you have special events that you want to outline specifics but they must follow our Governing Documents
5. They can include:
 - a) Your chapter meeting time, date and location
 - b) Ongoing special events
 - c) When Chapter Executive Board meets
 - d) What your chapter appointed committees are
 - e) How your chapter chooses delegates for convention

The list is endless but again you must follow Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc Governing Documents. You must review and submit **annually** for NEB approval.



SCAM ALERT!

Scammers are at it again in multiple ways!!

This is a reminder that we will NEVER ask you to send gift cards! Block whoever asks you to and, if you can, report it!

Also, if you receive a text message, phone call or voicemail asking you to call back and you don't recognize the number DO NOT CALL BACK unless you are sure the person calling or texting is someone you know and recognize the number. National board members have previously posted their phone numbers and if you have any question about it send an email to the individual at the official bluestarmothers.us address to ask them if they left a message for you. Many of us don't ever answer calls that we don't recognize or have in our contacts.

Scammers are getting quite creative, cloning personal accounts, phone numbers, emails, instant messaging and Facebook pages.

PLEASE confirm before you open anything from any form of communication you are not familiar with.

That being said, Rebecca does have a new Facebook page that she had to set up and has been written about in a previous newsletter.



1st VP Message

Hello Everyone,

It is hard to believe it is mid October. The last couple of months have just flown by. As many of you know, I have been processing dues renewals, new memberships, transfers and new Chapter Rosters. A huge thank you to all who have been prompt at getting this information to me. We appreciate you!

A few reminders /requests I would like to pass on to everyone:

*If you are **already a member**, hit the renew button, please do not join as a new member.

*If you are sending in **dues reports**, be sure the memberships are listed correctly, such as the correct spelling of the first and last name and that they are in the correct category which includes new memberships, renewals and associates. Also, remember to attach the application for a new member making sure it is legible.

*Encourage **new members to join online**, it is easier for everyone, If not, please be sure their applications are **complete (email, phone number and address) and definitely legible before sending on.**

*Be sure to **contact your new members** within 10 days of receiving their information.

***Officer rosters**– please do not file your roster until your officers have renewed.

* **Please respond to a request** for more information so these members can be processed as soon as possible, it is important to check your emails frequently when you are representing your Chapter members.

Don't hesitate to email if you have any questions to 1vp@bluestarmothers.us. **I am happy to help!**

Karen Stillwell

National 1VP

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

614-893-1180



Sample Letters

from a caring Chapter to their members

Hi Name,

Welcome to our chapter. We are having our monthly meeting date, time and location. I realize it's short notice so maybe we will miss you this month, but if you're able to make it, give me a call and I will provide specific directions to the exact location. We meet on the fourth Tuesday at 4pm. Our next meeting will be Oct. 24.

In the meantime, take a look at our Facebook page to get an idea of what we do to support our military, veterans and each other!

List your Facebook Page and or your Website for them to check out your events.



Members,

Just a quick note to let you know that your Blue Star Mothers membership has expired. Even if you are not an active member or live close enough to attend our meetings and events, you can still support our mission by retaining your membership. You can also support us from a distance by following us on Facebook and sharing our fundraising posts with your friends and other military groups.

All Renewals and New Members receive thank you emails from the 1st VP but a special note from the Chapter provides a extra layer of support!

Clock is Ticking for Compliance



Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc has set a deadline for all compliance to be completed by **December 1st** of each fiscal year. The IRS has a deadline of January 15th to file the 990 (most chapters qualify to file the 990N postcard). Please note that the IRS shuts down between mid-December to mid-January and your chapter will not be able to file the 990npostcard online.

Reports include Officer Roster, with correct attachments (Affiliation Agreement signed by each officer, Bank Signer Verification letter – signed by Chapter president); Annual Report (attachments include the bank verification form, all bank statements-all accounts & pages-that includes the date of 08/31, a balance sheet and a profit & loss report as of 08/31); EIN report; Chapter/Department information for the Website; VAVS payment.

If you have any questions or need any help with compliance, please contact me at 4vp@bluestarmothers.us

There is also a video of how to file compliance on the website under the Training Videos tab.

Brenda Ternullo, 4VP

- Please do not wait until December 1st to try to get compliance completed.
- If your chapter is unable to complete all required forms to be submitted, PLEASE EMAIL 4vp@bluestarmothers.us right away and explain.
- Remember that the Chapter Officers must be unique individuals (no one person can hold two offices).
- Once the forms are submitted, they are subject to review and could be rejected for one reason or another. If this happens, the form must be re-submitted with the correct information.



From the desk of



Anne Parker, VAVS Representative

Ladies I know it is only October and here I am talking about the holidays but.... It is planning time.

If you haven't had your October chapter meeting please put this on your agenda and if your next meeting is in November then you need to move a little quicker.

If you have a VAVS Representative in your chapter, please call your VA right away and find out their WISH list for our veterans for the holidays. Don't assume what they may need because they may have a storage area filled with that item. **ASK.**

So perhaps your chapter does NOT have a VAVS Rep please know that you are needed too. Maybe even more so since your local VA is missing the warm touch of our chapters and moms.

If you do not know which VA facility is closest to you please email me and I will let you know. Email – vavs.deputy@bluestarmothers.us

No matter how big or small your donation may be at the holidays it will mean the world to a veteran who may be alone and not feeling any holiday spirit.

Another way to spread cheer is to bring holiday cards to your November meeting and sign them to bring to your local VAVS office.

Please speak with your chapter members. You do not need to be an official VAVS Representative or Deputy to spread kindness, joy and love this holiday season.

Can't wait to see the photos of what your chapter did for the holidays.

Blessings to all from your VAVS Team

Anne Parker, Doreen Berggren & Carol Sanchez



Department of Minnesota

The Department of Minnesota held its Fall Convention on Friday/Saturday, September 29-30. Twenty-three members and associates hopped aboard the Anastasia for a two-hour luncheon cruise down the St. Croix River on Friday morning. There was torrential downpour up until it was time to set sail, then it was a crisp fall morning. The scenery was beautiful as the leaves were beginning to change colors. Many members took advantage of the bursts of sunshine to step outside the cabin to take in the fresh air and fall leaves. A build-your-own sandwich bar was for lunch. Friday evening consisted of about 30 members having dinner at Pub 42, near the convention site, with DEB meeting for those involved and free time for the rest. Saturday was a great convention meeting. MN 7 hosted this convention, thank you! The location was perfect and we were served a delicious sandwich and salad lunch. A new board was elected. The new executive board for the Department of Minnesota is President – Jen Pecarina, 1VP – Pam McCabe, 2VP – Tish Carlson, 3VP – Mary Johnson, Recording Secretary – Jeanne Ullmer, Financial Secretary – Pam Dickson and Treasurer – Terri Hawkinson with Past Department President Karla Keller appointed as Chaplain. National President Rebecca Stafford installed the officers. Also in attendance for the weekend festivities was National Treasurer Alethea Tennill and National Financial Secretary Sonya Kay. The Department of MN was honored to have these ladies present at our convention. We look forward to a prosperous year.



The four National Officers in attendance: Sonya Kay, Karla Keller, Rebecca Stafford, Alethea Tennill



Past Department President Karla Keller pinning the President Pin on newly elected Department President Jen Pecarina



Past Department President Pin presented to Karla Keller



Jen's husband Alan and their son Staff Sgt Benjamin Pecarina, USAF

FUNDRAISING



It's gotta be talked about!

Mentor Tips for Fundraising

There are several ways that the mentor program helps to make our organization grow. One way is to gather ideas from the chapters that they mentor. Every time the mentors check in with their chapters, they hope the chapter will share ideas. The chapters should report back about what they have done and what was successful or wasn't successful. As the committee gets those reports from the mentors, we are keeping a log of some of the great ideas shared via the mentors.

I would like to list a few of the fundraising ideas I have read about in the mentor reports. I am sure there are many that we haven't heard about. In the future, make sure to share those fundraising ideas with your mentor, so we can share with other chapters that may be struggling to come up with successful ways to fundraiser.

- *Purse Auction (online)
- *Restaurant Fundraiser (Texas Roadhouse, Pizza Ranch etc)
- *Comedy/Dinner Show
- *Cloud 9 Bedsheets
- *Working at sporting events (concessions etc), working registration at a convention, serving at American Legion Dinner – all ending in a donation to the chapter
- *Craft fair
- *Online parties (Pampered Chef, Tupperware, MaryKay etc)
- *Night at the races
- *Pickleball Tournament
- *Corn Hole (bean bag) Tournament
- *5K Veterans Day Run
- *Motorcycle or bicycle charity ride
- *Grocery Bagging at a local grocery store



Use of Blue Star Mothers of America Logo

Per our Governing Documents
Code of Conduct

ARTICLE XIV. CORPORATE LOGO

Section 1. It is the responsibility of the NEB to assure that the logo is being used in a manner that safeguards the integrity of the Corporation.

Section 2. The following is the procedure to request use of the Corporation's logo:

- a) The Chapter or Department President should submit, in writing, a request to the NP specifying in detail how the logo will be used, what it will be used for and if this is an on-going Chapter/Department project (example: Fundraising items, banner, sign, rally, etc.);
- b) Permission must be received from the NP before the logo is placed on any Article;
- c) In fundraising, if any item is sold that has the logo on it, a financial report with twenty-five percent (25%) of the total profit must be forwarded to the NFS to be placed in the General Fund;
- d) Use of the logo on the following items do not need the NEB's approval:
 - i) Chapter/Department forms; BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC CODE OF CONDUCT BSMoA, Inc. Code of Conduct Effective August 2021 CONFIDENTIAL 12
 - ii) Letterhead, notices, brochures, note cards, donation receipts;
 - iii) Certificates of Appreciation;
 - iv) Business cards; and
 - v) Memorial Books.
- e) Convention Logo – If the NP designates a convention logo, that logo can be used by the Chapters and Departments for fundraising purposes of attending that Convention without paying the 25% surcharge for logo use. Chapters and Departments shall be encouraged to use the logo on merchandise that can be sold to raise funds for their respective delegates to attend the Convention.

Section 3. If items with the logo are sold directly through the National Office of the Corporation to Chapters, Departments, and/or Members, these items may not be altered. However, items that do not contain the logo that are sold to Chapters and Departments to be used for fundraising projects may be altered and any profit kept by the Chapter or Department.

***Permission to use instructions are found on the website under the Blue tabs on top
Go to "Files" then "BSMA Files" there you will find a link to "Logo Permission Instructions"

Grants

2023-2024 CHAPTER GRANTS FAQS FOR NEW & EXISTING CHAPTERS

New Chapters may apply for chapter grants to help offset their *start-up* expenses such as licensing, state filing fees, P.O. Box, check printing, etc. Existing Chapters may apply for assistance with a particular program or event expense that the chapter is planning (grants will not be awarded for activities in the past).



How Much? \$250

How Often? There is a limit of one grant per chapter per fiscal year, and a chapter may only receive a grant once every two years. If your chapter received a grant in 2022-2023, please do not apply this year.

How Many Grants Are Available? Our 2023-2024 national budget (approved by the Convention Body at the 2023 National Convention) includes \$7,000 for the Chapter Grant Program. That means there are 28 grants available this year. Qualifying grants are awarded on a first come, first serve basis and will be available until all of the budgeted grant funds are exhausted for the fiscal year. *So...make your plans early and submit your grant application pdq!*

Are There Any Other Requirements?

- ◆ Grant awards will be made only to chapters “in good standing.” This means that the chapter has successfully completed its Compliance. Additionally, the chapter may not be under suspension.
- ◆ Recipients of grants must submit a report and photos, if applicable, as documentation of completion of the activity/event/project described in the grant application.
- ◆ **NOTE:** If your chapter was a recipient of an existing chapter grant in fiscal year 2022-2023 and has yet to submit its documentation of the event/program described in your application, please submit it now.

How Does My Chapter Apply? Complete and submit the grant application form available in this newsletter or download an electronic copy from the national website. Log in to your account. Click on FILES (button in the blue horizontal ribbon). On the next page, click on BSMA FILES. This will take you to the BSMA Files and Documents 2023-2024 page. There you will find CHAPTER GRANT APPLICATION, which is located in the third column on the page and click on it. This will take you to the Grant Application form.

Where to Submit the Completed Grant Application? Submit the completed application to Julie Straw, National Finance Committee Chair at FinanceChair@bluestarmothers.us

Questions? Contact Julie Straw at FinanceChair@bluestarmothers.us



APPLICATION FOR BSMA CHAPTER GRANT PROGRAM

Chapter Name, State and Number _____

Chapter Address _____

Chapter President _____

Chapter President Phone Number _____

Chapter President Email _____

Check One: New Chapter Existing Chapter

REASON FOR GRANT – Please be specific – i.e. chapter start-up, coats for veterans.

This application is to be submitted to the Chairman of the Finance Committee for approval.

FinanceChair@BlueStarMothers.us

Upon approval, a check will be forwarded to the address listed above. Other than chapter start-up grant, please furnish a picture to the Finance Chairman at FinanceChair@BlueStarMothers.us upon completion of your grant project.

For Finance Committee Use Only:

Approval Date: _____

Date Check Sent: _____

Date Pictures Received: _____



Greater Birmingham, Alabama AL4

BSM AL4 Chapter holds our monthly meetings on the 3rd Saturday of the month at locally owned restaurants

We have a Facebook page (facebook.com/bsmal4) and Instagram ([bsm_al4](https://instagram.com/bsm_al4)).



Participated in local fall festival in Hoover, AL



One of our active duty sons made the delivery for us of donated toiletry kits to Three Hots and a Cot, a local facility for homeless veterans.



Celebrated our 2nd anniversary of our chapter charter at The Club overlooking our beautiful city



2023-2024 Officers





August 2023

Aug 4th-6th
Volunteering in
Hospitality Suite
at Women's Army
Corps Veteran's
Association
National
Convention

Aug 12th
Monthly Veteran
Pot Luck & Bingo

Aug 16th
Monthly Meeting
& Officer
Elections

Aug 26th
Veteran's 100th
Birthday &
Military Mom
Lunch



WACVA-AWU
76TH Annual Convention
AUGUST 4TH to 6TH 2023
WILD HORSE PASS HOTEL AND CASINO
CHANDLER, ARIZONA



Care packages
sent this month

»» SACRAMENTO BLUE STAR MOMS - CA7 ««



14TH ANNUAL TRIBUTE TO FALLEN SOLDIERS MEMORIAL TORCH MOTORCYCLE RIDE

Gold Star Parents Patty Schumacher, Rinda Pope, Lisa Johnson, and Bernie Hilaman attend the Fallen Soldiers Tribute with SBSM Margo McKay, Vivienne Yamamoto, and Loraine Browning.



September 2023



Gold Star Parents Deborah and Steve Sax with other family members.

»» GOLD STAR FAMILY DAY - SEPTEMBER 24, 2023 ««



Congressman Kiley, GSM Karen Meredith, Supervisor Suzanne Jones



SBSM Vivienne Yamamoto and Blue to Gold VP Margo McKay



Gold Star Mother Alexandrina Braica



Gold Star Parents Patty and Tom Schumacher



Gold Star Family Mr. and Mrs. Nirmal Singh, Manpreet and Jasleen Kaur

GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY FOR THE WALK OF HONOR



Rosanne Anderson and Debbie Konvalin

»» IN MEMORY OF ROSANNE ANDERSON ««

It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of our dear friend and BSM Associate, Rosanne Anderson, on September 7th after a valiant fight against cancer. She was a long-standing member of the Citrus Heights Soroptomists and a huge supporter of the Sacramento Blue Star Moms. Rosanne rarely missed a packing party and always donated beautiful raffle prize baskets for our Bunco and fundraising events. She will be greatly missed by so many.



Kimberly Steinman-Elmquist, Rosanne Anderson and Heidi Bacon



SEPTEMBER 2023 CA 10 EVENTS

The CA 10 Chapter has been busy this past month. We had a very successful golf tournament which brought in donations to help fund our annual Remember the Troops package drive.

We recently installed our 2023-2024 Board Members and had the honor of serving dinner to members of the American Legion Post 147. We are once again heading into a busy season of supporting our troops, veterans, and the community!



UPCOMING CA 10 EVENTS

10/16/23

Central Valley Honor Flight departure

10/18/23

Central Valley Honor Flight arrival

10/19/23

Panera Sierra Vista fundraiser

10/21/23

Meat Mania Fundraiser

Spooktacular at CVMD

10/26/23

Monthly Meeting

10/28/23-10/29/23

Sam's Club RTT Donation Drive

10/29/23

Social Dinner at Cool Hand Luke's



SOARING EAGLE BLUE STAR MOMS

CA 22

OCTOBER, 2023 QUARTER 1

Meet the 2023/2024 Officers



Melanie Sanchez swearing in the new office. From left to right: Melanie Sanchez, Berva Treat (President) Ann Easley (1st Vice President), Tricia Deutsch (2nd Vice President), Joanne Darlington (Financial Secretary), and Cari Neely (Treasurer)



Ann Easley and Tricia Deutsch swearing in Becky Neely for Recording Secretary. Left to right: Becky Neely, Tricia Deutsch, and Ann Easley



Upcoming Events:

- 10/17 - Blue Star Meeting
- 10/24 - Bingo Veterans Hall
- 11/6 - Care Package Party
- 11/11 - Veterans Day Parade
- 12/1 - Craft Fair
- 12/2 - Craft Fair
- 12/2 - Christmas Light Parade





LAKE ARROWHEAD,
CALIFORNIA CHAPTER 25



Rim Blue Star Moms set up a booth at the Crestline Corks and Hops monthly event. Donations were collected towards our Hometown Hero Banner Program. We also marched in the Mountain Top Parade in Running Springs. Kids rode in an antique car!





Western Slope Blue Star Mothers - CO8



September Chapter Happenings



Our Chapter had the opportunity to help honor 112 local Vietnam Vets with a pin and give them a proper welcome home and thank them for their service. It was rewarding to be part of this ceremony.



Our community hosted an air show featuring the Blue Angels! We had the opportunity to meet the pilots. Our chapter also had a booth at the airshow where we had spectators fill out cards that we will include with our care packages!

FL11

On Sunday, September 17, 2023, the Treasure Coast Blue Star Mothers FL-11 hosted an event honoring Gold Star Mothers and Families at Morningside Church in Port St. Lucie. In attendance were many Treasure Coast community Gold Star family members and representatives of the Reverence Riders, Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 566, and Marine Corps League. The afternoon started with bagpipes ushering in the solemnity of the event. Speakers included a Gold Star Mother and a Gold Star wife. The event coincided with the national day commemorating our Gold Star Families.

Photo credits to Sevin Photography



HONOR FLIGHT WELCOME HOME!

BSMA FL-11 President, Carrie Beck accompanied a local veteran on an Honor Flight September 16, 2023.



Linda and Karen work with our local veterans retirement homes. Fall is a great time to connect and let our veterans know they are not forgotten.



FL 12

Gulf Coast BSM Florida 12 has had a busy few months going into Fall. In July we held a Quarter Auction fundraiser that was REALLY successful, and a fun night for everyone! Thanks to all the vendors, donors, and people who came out to support our chapter!



In August, we collected boxes of supplies for military care packages, school supplies for a local Veteran teacher, and donated gift cards to a local military family who lost everything in the fires on Maui. The heart of these chapter members is a big one!



New officers were elected for the new fiscal year, and we're looking forward to another busy year with these ladies at the helm. President - Kimberly Hatchel; VP - Robin Bennett; Recording Secretary - Jan Nordquist; Treasurer - Alyce Reck; Financial Secretary - Tammi Young.



FL 15

On Gold Star Mothers day, Sunday September 24, 2023, First Coast Blue Star Mothers Florida chapter 15 supported by Auxiliary Unit 283, Women Army Corp, Navy Wives, and the Survivor Outreach Service Officers held a Gold Star Mothers and family brunch at the VyStar Veterans Memorial Arena.

Months of planning went into a wonderful event to Honor the Mothers and families of fallen Service members. There were over 120 in attendance and the Gold Star Mothers attending, were presented with a beautiful wrist corsage before being seated at tables reserved for them. The beautiful corsages were, created and made by our chapter member Julie Hampton, who is also a Gold Star Wife.

News crews from Channel 4 News for Jax, and First Coast News were at the event to cover the story. They interviewed President Junnie Watson and 1st Vice President Suella Reynolds before the event started. The news crews had really no idea what the event was about and when we were explaining it to them they were very interested in why we were doing this. We explained the mission of Blue Star Mothers and why we support our Gold Star Sisters. 1st Vice President Suella Reynolds was interviewed because she is a Gold Star Mother and a Gold Star Wife, but on that Sunday, she was the Blue Star Mother in charge of the program. The news crews had the story up on their websites less than 2 hours after the event ended and both had coverage of the brunch on the evening news as well as the Monday morning news.

During the brunch, dignitaries from the City of Jacksonville, and the Aide from Congressman Aaron Bean's office spoke. Congressman Bean sent a copy of the speech he gave in the house about Gold Star Mothers to be read and a copy given out to each Gold Star Mother in attendance. At the event, 23 Gold Star Mothers received a Gold Star Banner that they had not gotten in the past. President Junnie Watson and Auxiliary unit 283 President Kam Sons did the presentation.

There are so many people to thank for helping make this event as wonderful as it was. We had a wonderful JROTC Color Guard from a local High School, the POW/MIA flag was draped by Auxiliary Junior member Mea Kay, the reason for the flag was read by the 5th District President Julie Kay. The announcer, Rich Possert who is a VFW/DAV member is a veteran and as each Child's name was called and their Mother came to the front of the room, he gave them a hand salute. This was very moving and as you can imagine, there were quite a few tears shed. Everyone in attendance got a new perspective on Blue Star Mothers and Gold Star Mothers. Everyone wants to start working on next year's honoring of our Gold Star Mothers and families.

LOUISIANA GEAUX SEVEN CHAPTER

SEPTEMBER 2023

September 8th Blue Star Mothers Trudy Dupuy and Sandy Stockwell attended the 6th Annual Suicide Prevention Summit hosted by our local American Legion.



September 14th Blue Star Mothers Trudy Dupuy, Renee Lendo and Sandy Sockwell attended the VFW's POW/MIA Annual Ceremony.



September 23rd Louisiana Blue Star Mothers Chapters 1, Chapter 6 and Chapter 7 helped host the "Gold Star Mothers and Families Recognition Ceremony" along with members of the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs. The ceremony was held at Louisiana Veterans Memorial Park.

WELL DONE!

Hello Blue Star Mothers President,

This email is one of thank you and appreciation to the Blue Star Mothers Chapter 178 located in Bad Axe, MI.

I called upon this Chapter to help me assist a Veteran in need following the death of his spouse and needing help organizing/cleaning/donating clothes.

I was most thankful for these ladies whom also assisted me when I was a case manager in the Homeless Dept at the VA.

I just LOVE that I can call on them when I really need Veteran help in our small rural county and get results!

These women are so motivated and show compassion in areas that are so needed, as in my referral.

Please recognize this Chapter or give me a form to complete to feature them in something like a newsletter or an award in Michigan....



They really deserve the BEST

THANKS!!

Jill.

The preceding was an email Becky received thanking MI178 for the great volunteer work they did.

Per MI178, 1VP Nicole "It was an emotional day for Joe. He was very appreciative but it brought up so many memories of his wife as we went through her belongings. We tried our best to give him the support and respect he needed during this difficult day. He is such a kind man and we were so happy to be able to help him out "

What a wonderful thing you all did to help this Veteran at such a difficult time. There are so many ways to help our Veterans. Congratulations on a job well done ladies!

MI 191



Ashley Furniture 6th Annual Veterans Event

September 24th

Left to right: Becki Vander Molen, Lisa Haik, Jennifer Dietrich

Gold Star Mothers Event "Paint & Sip" October 6th



MN11 St Paul Blue Star Mothers

The St Paul Blue Star Mothers have had a busy September. Four of our members shopped for items for the Minneapolis VA Women's Veteran Appreciation Event. Marilyn, Kathy, Benita and Debbie bought items for themed baskets that were given to the Women Veterans. A few days later Benita and Debbie attended a ground breaking event at Camp Ripley for the Military and Veterans Museum.

Five of our members attended the Department of MN Preconvention Lunch Cruise on the beautiful St Croix River in Stillwater, MN. The rain didn't stop us from getting there and the sun come out as the boat was pulling away from the dock! We later meet more of the department sisters for a dinner at Pub 42 before the DEB meeting. We had six of our MN11 members attend the Department Fall Convention.



The sign above was on display at Camp Ripley. Below is the Groundbreaking ceremony for the new museum at Camp Ripley. Two chapter members were present and were mentioned during the ceremony.



Chapter Members attending Department Convention: Laura, Debbie, Kathy, Benita, Karla and Denise



MN13 WRIGHT COUNTY AREA



MN 13 is beginning its annual holiday project with the hand decorating of Christmas stockings that will later be filled with goodies to be sent



On August 31 MN 13 had an information booth at the concert in the park hosted by the local Beyond the Yellow Ribbon group.

BTYR event photo: Helen Helgeson, Jen Pecarina, Kerri McDonald, Dannell Hartung

We held our elections in September and were officially installed on October 9 by Jeanne Ullmer, Dept of MN Recording Secretary/Past Department /President, National Webmaster.

We look forward to a prosperous year.

Chapter members present at installation: front row L to R: Jennifer Larson, Laurie Mandery, Helen Helgeson. Back row: Jen Pecarina, Amy Kellerhuis, Pam Dickson, Lori Stifter, Cecilia Wolford, Tanya Marr, Kerri McDonald and (guest) Jeanne Ullmer.



Officer photo: l to r: Tanya Marr,-Chaplain, Kerri McDonald-Recording Secretary, Helen Helgeson- Financial Secretary, Jen Pecarina-President, Lori Stifter-1VP and Amy Kellerhuis-Treasurer



We had 4 members who attended Dept Convention: National President Rebecca Stafford, Helen Helgeson, Jen Pecarina, Amy Kellerhuis, and Pam Dickson.

BLUE STAR MOM'S PINE CITY, MN CHAPTER 16



Several of our Blue Star Mom Members attended the Minnesota Fall Convention this year. Our Chapter President, Tish Carlson was elected to 2nd VP for the state of Minnesota. Congratulations Tish, we are all so proud of you and your many accomplishments dedicated to our Military and your community.

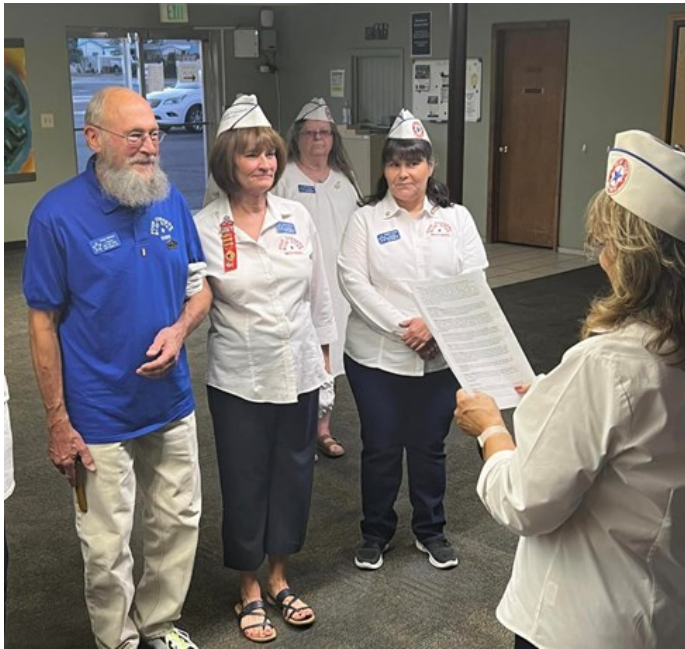
Our group also had our meeting in September, with our annual fun group photo hosted at Jackie McKellar's home. We did our annual elections and completed our compliance paperwork.



We continue to collect plastic for our recycling project and to date have had 12 recycled benches made and given to several organizations that support us.

Four Corners Blue Star Mothers NM 1

Congratulations to our newly elected officers for 2023-2024!



Congratulations!



Gold ★ Star Families Day 2023 Recognition Ceremony



*In Tribute to All Who Sacrificed a Loved One for Our Freedom
Join Us to Light Luminaries at Dusk in Honor of Our Fallen Heroes*

Saturday, September 23rd, 7:00 p.m.
All Veterans Memorial Park, Berg Park, Farmington, NM

Special Recognition of Gold Star Mothers, Fathers, Spouses, and Family Members

Sponsored by Four Corners Blue Star Mothers





Rio Grande Valley Blue Star Mothers **NM2**

 **EXECUTIVE BOARD ELECTIONS** 
AUGUST 19, 2023



Left to Right, 1st VP, Marlaine Gaylor, 2nd VP, Rosemary Freelin, 3rd VP Heather Whiting, 4th VP Lisa Childress, Recording Secretary, Anita Hill, Treasure, Lora Church, Financial Secretary Ruth Harris & President, Frances Walker.

AUGUST 11, 2023

**RAY'S FLOORING CUSTOMER APPRECIATING DAY WITH RAFFLE
BENEFITING RIO GRANDE VALLEY NM2 \$5,850.00**



**NM STATE FAIR, SEPTEMBER 12, 2023
MILITARY APPRECIATION DAY!**



True Blue OH15

Congratulations to Blue Star Mothers Ohio Chapter — True Blue #15 of Lima, Ohio! They were recently named the winners of the \$3,500.00 Community Grant Fund from Sam's Club Facility #6375.

Matt High, Sam's Club #6375 representative, presents True Blue #15 the check to Chapter President Karen High, Chaplain Joan Davis, Treasurer Betty Wharton and Chapter Historian Kay Sellers.

This Community Grant money will go a long way to helping True Blue #15 better serve the veterans in our area.



Blue Star Mothers Ohio Chapter — True Blue #15 of Lima, Ohio swore in their new Officers for the 2023-24 year during their September meeting.

Kay Sellers, past President and current Historian swore in (from left), Karen High, the Chapter new Vice President, Betty Wharton, Treasurer, Debby Wadham, Secretary, Gretchen Schmitz, the Chapter's new President and Joan Davis, Chaplain.



Southwestern Pennsylvania

Chapter PA16

- Held officer elections and filled appointed positions for 2023-2024 program year
- Collected donations for Day of Hope and Smiles benefitting unhoused Veterans
- Attended Legacies Alive Gold Star Football Game
- Hosted table at Suicide Prevention Awareness Resource Fair at Army Reserve Center
- Participated in POW-MIA Vigil at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Hall
- Witnessed a Marine's promotion ceremony
- Cheered for Chapter Member who participated in Air Force Half Marathon
- Promoted patriotism with information table at local hardware store. Received \$280 donations, a box full of items for care package items and over 200 Christmas cards for our Troops.
- Attended Suicide Remembrance Vigil
- Participated in Honor Flight Pittsburgh: Volunteered in advanced with prep, assisted with 3:00 a.m. registration, volunteered as Guardians on the trip, and helped set up for Welcome Home event
- Associate Member participated in Honor Flight Pittsburgh
- Donated snack bags for each Veteran and Guardian on Honor Flight Pittsburgh
- Attended Honor Flight Pittsburgh Welcome Home event



TN 3 Music City Blue Star Moms



We are pleased to have welcomed nine new members in the last seven months. We are growing strong!

We have been very busy with our fundraising efforts in support of our annual Operation Christmas Cheer. This is our holiday initiative to send Christmas stockings stuffed with goodies to hundreds of deployed troops.



We attended VetFest on October 7th

VetFest is a community celebration of military family service. It is sponsored by VetLink, a non-profit organization, based in Middle Tennessee. We made lots of new friends and good connections with groups that we can help and that can help us.



At our October meeting we welcomed Jessica Hamel, a financial wellbeing coach from Operation Hope which is a non-profit organization that offers free financial programs and services to active-duty military members and veterans. They offer group workshops and one-on-one coaching free of charge.

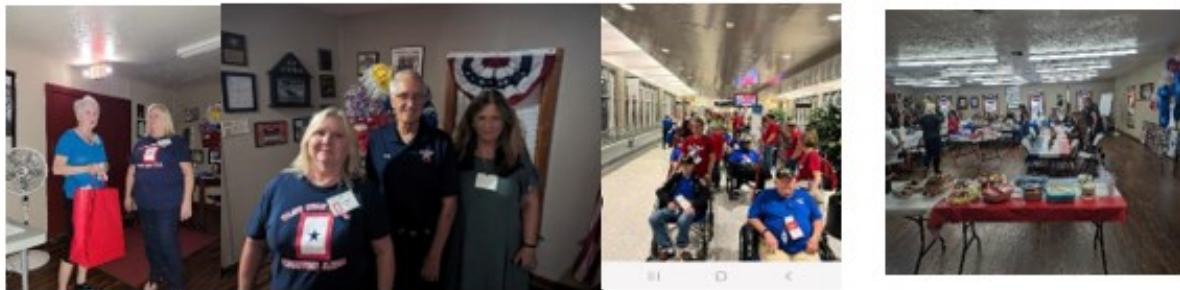


Sadly, LCPL Joseph D. Whaley from Columbia, TN was killed in a training mission at Camp Pendleton on August 17. Our Chapter President, Paula Thompson presented Mrs. Whaley with a Gold Star Banner at his funeral service. Prior to the funeral several of our members joined The Flagman's Mission "Hero down, flags up" by placing 600 flags along the funeral procession route.

TX 2

The Houston Chapter of Blue Star Mothers of America Fall Weather has Finally Settled into Texas

The Houston Chapter of Blue Star Mothers met on September 26 and we celebrated our 19th birthday with food and fellowship. Special guests included Jerry Pinto, Honor Flight Houston. Also, Fireman, Jim Moss, who supports us by donating an operational antique fire truck for us to ride on during parades. We honored De Medford as Blue Star Mother of the Year for her tireless work to ensure service women's needs are met with the care packages sent out. We also celebrated Laura Kelchner with the Spirit Award for her amazing energy and diligence in managing the care boxes and donations.



This is a reminder of why we do the work that we do:



Sadly, we were notified on Monday, October 9th that Susan Ware, our Financial Secretary and long time Blue Star Mother member and her husband, Earl, passed away from a terrible car accident. Please keep her family in your prayers and thoughts.





Blue Star Mothers-Lone Star Chapter, TX6-DFW

Please follow us...

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

Instagram: *bluestarmotherstx6*

Gold Star Brunch
September 16, 2023



Recent Chapter Events:

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

Upcoming Chapter Events:

- 10/26 – Monthly Chapter Meeting
- 11/04 – Flag distribution for Veterans Day
- 11/11 – Veterans Day & Events
- 11/18 – Flag Pick Up from Veterans Day
- 12/09 – Chapter Christmas Party
- 12/16 – Wreaths Across America

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





SPRING CREEK AREA BLUE STAR MOTHERS

TX18

2023-2024
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Sunday, September 24th, we had the pleasure of honoring and recognizing Gold Star Mothers and Families during a beautiful sunrise service on Gold Star Mother and Family Day. The beautiful backdrop provided by Lake Conroe's landscape and natural surroundings made the morning that much more special.



National Convention Nashville, TN



Left to Right - Debbie Wilson, Recording Secretary; Margie Taylor, 1st Vice President; Cara Johnson, President; Jolayne Miller, Financial Secretary; Misty Thomson, Treasurer





FREDERICKSBURG CHAPTER VA4

VA 4

In order to promote the October Care Packing event, share the background of Blue Star Mothers of America and VA4 as well as our projects, Mary Kulesa and Faye Mohler appeared as featured guests on the Thunder 104.5 Got Your Six with DJ Zach Fox. The VA4 members have been diligently gathering and organizing the kind donations from our community like Santa's Elves. Rebecca Childress entered a bra in the Chancellor Lions Club's "Celebrate the Cause" contest on behalf of our chapter in observance of October's Breast Cancer Awareness Month. It was a pleasure for our members Faye Mohler, Bill Holt, Nancy King, Mary Lou Bowers, and Keith Bowers to support the Leashes of Valor's outdoor program, the Valor Cup, which offers golfing opportunities to veterans. Highly trained service dogs are provided to veterans with the event's revenues.

A delicious Fish and Chips supper at Park Lane was held to honor the VA4's September Birthdays.



Got Your Six



Happy Birthday



Valor Cup

BLUE STAR MOTHERS SE WI 2



OCTOBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

**Veteran's Day
Parade**
November 4th

Cooking Class
November 13th

**VOW 2nd Annual
Winter Banquet**
December 2nd

**GLASS Fusion
Fundraiser**
November 8th

On the last Sunday in September, our chapter held our 2nd annual Gold Star Luminary Ceremony to honor all Gold Star Families. Pictured below are photos of the carefully crafted display, thoughtful speakers and guests.

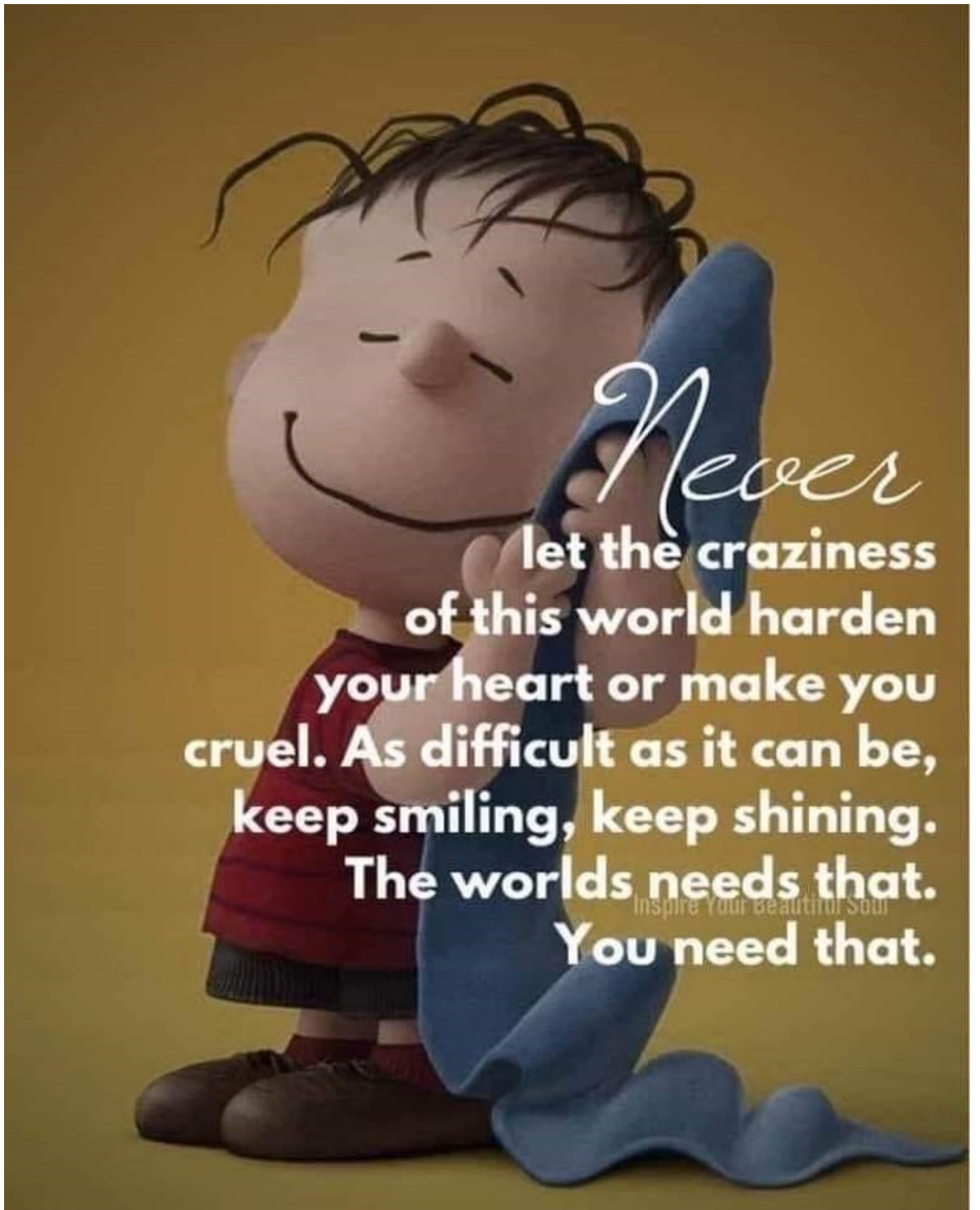


In early October we volunteered with Boundless Adventures for their 3rd Annual Military & Veterans Family Day and Night event.



Pictured below are photos from the most recent Racine County Veterans Treatment Court Graduation Ceremony & from our Board & Brush Fall 2023 Fundraiser!





Never
**let the craziness
of this world harden
your heart or make you
cruel. As difficult as it can be,
keep smiling, keep shining.
The worlds needs that.
You need that.**

Inspire Your Beautiful Soul