



BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

September 2023

A message from our National President

This past week, our Nation observed the 22nd Anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attack. This attack killed nearly 3,000 and injured more than 6,000 men, women, and children. As the years have passed, we have lost more lives due to the aftermath of that attack. Our Nation will never forget. As Blue Star Mothers, many of our children chose to serve and protect our country because of this, and they continue to stand for our country. Thank you for raising Heroes!

Our first month has flown by but lots of work on behalf of the organization has begun. With this being a Governing Documents year, we have put together an excellent team to tackle this huge endeavor. They have developed a great timeline and have already started reviewing every line to not only ensure they get all those housekeeping punctuation and grammatical errors cleaned up, but also present the organization with a great set of governing documents that are easy to understand, transparent, and fair to every member. Your input is very important as well, so if you have not looked at our Governing Documents, please do so. They are located on the website, under the Red tab on the right-hand side of the page. The Committee will be reaching out to you around March for feedback and thoughts but please be patient and allow them time to work.

We are also developing a new Leadership Handbook that will provide more of a detailed "how to" for each of the Chapter Officers to help them get through some of the hiccups they are experiencing. If you have specific questions, please email those to me at president@bluestarmothers.us.

You should have received notification of what to do if you receive an email asking to purchase gift cards for our organization. This is SPAM! We would never ask you to make such a purchase. Please report it as spam and delete it. Lastly, if any of you have reached out to me through Facebook or Messenger, I have been put in timeout so I cannot respond. Apparently, I was "liking too fast". Yes, that is a thing. While my husband drove us home from Nashville, I was in the passenger seat liking and loving all of your posts. We made it as far as St. Louis before Facebook shut me down. If anyone is a Facebook guru and knows how to get me back up and running, please let me know.

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

Yours in Service,
Becky
Rebecca Stafford



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
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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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Dear Members,

I hope everyone is doing well. I want to thank all of you who have renewed for the fiscal year 2023-2023 and I want to welcome all the new members to our wonderful organization. It is so exciting to have you on board to help us move forward with our mission.

For those who are still waiting to renew, please complete as soon as possible. We are now in a grace period until September 30, 2023. Effective October 1st your membership will be lapsed. To those Chapters holding renewals or new memberships, please submit those upon receipt. It is our fiduciary responsibility not to hold on to our members dues but to get them processed immediately.

To all our Chapters/Departments, please pass on to your members and our new prospective members the easiest way to renew/join is on online through the website at <https://bluestarmothers.org>. This is the most efficient and by far the quickest process to get our members on board and actively working alongside us. If they must renew with a check, then process through your Chapter dues renewals as soon as possible. The least preferred method is for them to send their check to our Financial Secretary. This is by far the slowest and least efficient way to process these.

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

I want to thank you for your kindness and grace while I transition into this position. It has been wonderful hearing from many of you. I really look forward to our continued work together, following our mission of supporting our Military, our Veterans, and our Gold Star Families.

Love and Blessings!

Respectfully Yours In Service,

Karen Stillwell

National 1st Vice President

1vp@bluestarmothers.us

614-893-1180

National Newsletter Q&A's



1. Can I submit a pdf version for a page in the newsletter? **Yes, but keep in mind I cannot edit it if there are spelling errors. You can send your articles and photos in multiple ways. If I cannot add it to the newsletter, I will notify you.**
2. What is the deadline to submit an article to the newsletter? **The deadline to submit each month is the 15th of that month. If after the 15th your article goes into the next month's newsletter.**
3. How many photos can be included? **Chapters can send as many photos as they want but your chapter will only have one page per newsletter. So, think about the size of the photos that will fit on one page.**
4. Who writes the articles for each chapter? **Whoever submits your chapter article and photos should include the description of what the chapter is doing, who is in the photos if you wish, almost anything can be included!**
5. Who do I contact if I have questions or want to submit an article? **Contact 2VP at 2VP@bluestarmothers.us.**
6. Is it too late to order a yearbook? **NO! You can order last year's yearbook, 2022-2023, and you can purchase previous years that are still available too!**

Contact me if you have any questions!
Karla Keller
National 2nd Vice President
2vp@bluestarmothers.us
651-470-8996

Cover of the
2022-2023
Yearbook



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PURCHASE THE BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA YEARBOOK!

Customize Your 2 Free Pages

Add photos from your computer, Facebook, Instagram, Google Drive & more.

Answer fun Memory Questions to help remember the year.

The 2 Custom Pages are FREE and are printed ONLY in your book. Want more pages? Each additional 2 pages is just \$0.99.

To Purchase & Customize Your Yearbook
Must be a parent or student 13 years or older.

1 Go to: www.treering.com/validate

2 Enter your school's passcode:
101416260317183

Regular price: **\$23.46**



Yes, We're OPEN

The online store is open again!

Since convention, items have been restocked and more are coming in soon!

Sign into the Bluestarmothers.org website and click on the Quick Links for the Online Store. You may be asked to log in again to shop.

Patches, pins, clothing, accessories and more!

Happy Shopping!

Quick Links

[Big Dipper](#)

[Blue To Gold](#)

[New Membership Joining & Existing Membership Renewals](#)

[Chapter and Department Resources](#)

[Training Videos](#)

[Compliance Guide](#)

[Fallen Warriors](#)

[FAQ](#)

[Financial](#)

[For Sale](#)

[Governing Documents](#)

[Locate a Chapter](#)

[Officers](#)

[Online Store](#)

[PTS & TBI](#)



BSM Cell Phone Card Holder - \$5.00



Dad Polo Shirt Father's Day Special \$20





Sunday, September 24th, 2023

REMEMBER & HONOR

GOLD STAR MOTHERS & FAMILIES



The United States began observing Gold Star Mothers Day on the last Sunday of September since 1936.

On Gold Star Mother's Day, we come together to honor those who have lost a son or daughter serving in the U.S. Military.

Gold Star Mother's Day is observed in the United States on the last Sunday of September each year. In 2023, it falls on September 24th. This day is dedicated to honoring and remembering those mothers who have lost a son or daughter while serving in the United States Armed Forces. Although it is not a statutory holiday, the President of the United States calls on all Americans to display the nation's flag and hold appropriate meetings to publicly express their love, sorrow, and reverence towards Gold Star Mothers and their families. Government buildings are also required to display the flag. American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. is an organization of mothers whose sons or daughters served and died while serving their nation in times of war or conflict. It organizes major events that take place on or around Gold Star Mother's Day each year.



From the desk of

Anne Parker, VAVS Representative

Volunteering can provide a healthy boost to your self-confidence, self-esteem, and life satisfaction. You are doing good for others and the community, which provides a natural sense of accomplishment. Your role as a volunteer can also give you a sense of pride and identity.

Volunteering is a vital part of community building. It brings together people who are committed to achieving a shared outcome of making their community a better place for all. Engaging volunteers is an effective way of building a connected community, with members who share similar values and goals.

Helping others improves social interaction, distracts people from their own problems, and improves self-esteem and competence. Physical Well-Being - helping others leads to increased social integration which allows people to lead more active lifestyles.

Our VA facilities are a perfect place to put your volunteerism to work. Our veterans are open to conversations, working with others on craft projects, interacting and just enjoying time. As much as they get from time with our volunteers you also get so much as we talked about. Become a Blue Star Mothers volunteer soon. Contact vavs@bluestarmothers.us. On the national website under VAVS there is a pamphlet and a video. We look forward to having you **JOIN** us soon!

BECOME A VOLUNTEER - MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Department of Michigan



Chapter MI188 hosted a beautiful Parade and Memorial on 9-11-2023 in Lakeview, Michigan. It was cold and rainy out, but the Parade and Memorial were still very moving and reverential.

I was very honored to be invited to participate in this wonderful tribute to the day we will Never Forget. Names of Fallen Police, Firefighters and Military Heroes of Michigan from the past year were read and a bell was rung for each name read at the Memorial Service after the Parade.



Department of Minnesota



Military Appreciation Day at the Minnesota State Fair. The largest 12 day State Fair in the Nation and what a great day it was!

Everything is on a stick here, including our "Heroes on a Stick!" Look close and you will see some. We had a float this year, thanks to our Pine City chapter.

31 total MN Blue Star, Gold Star members, kids and grandkids were along for the walk/ride around the fair grounds. This has been an annual event for over 10 years.

Blue Star Mothers also had an information table to help spread the word about Blue Star Mothers of America. Many military organizations are represented and great connections are made!

We have participated in Stand Downs for many years and the Dept of MN supplies reading glasses that are handed out to the Veterans who attend.

We are looking forward to another successful year!



MACV Summer Salute (Stand Down)





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)).



Volunteer for Alabama Veterans' Casino and Gala Night to benefit Dovetail Landing

Met with Kelli Arthur, Community Engagement & Partnership Coordinator, with U.S. Dept of Veterans Affairs to discuss ways that we can work together with the VA toward preventing suicide and promote connectedness 24/7 Support for Veterans and their loved ones
Dial 988 then Press 1



Volunteered at Alabama Veteran's Family Day and Resource Fair

Helped feed over 1000 Veterans and their family members



Great night at Mexican dinner for our September monthly meeting. Discussed lots of ideas of how to help our local military and fun events to participate in



2023-2024 Officers
Pres: Michele Hamner
VP: Carolyn Click
Sec: Cindy Lenart
Tres: April Goforth
Fin Sec: Eugenia Woodruff (not pictured)





SACRAMENTO BLUE STAR MOMS CA7

Supporting local National Guard Unit at their family BBQ with Back to School supplies from Dollar Tree.
(L-R) Carol Williams, Debbie Balich and Loraine Browning.



23-24 SBSM Board (L-R)
Loraine Browning, Monique Castellano, Margo McKay, Debbie Konvalin, Mandy Johnson, Juli Traylor, and Karla Sedgwick



Happy to receive thank you for the CARE Packages cards from Estonia



Honored to receive a donation and hotel hygiene items collected from their recent tour from a local Motorcycle Club.



SBSM President, Debbie Konvalin, attended the LCPL Dylan Merola Memorial Highway Overcrossing.



SBSM Blue to Gold VP, Margo McKay, attended the opening of Nicole Gee Drive.

Blue Star Mothers HOME CA30

Chapter 30 attended its 9th Convention. Those attending this year are L-R 1st VP Sylvia Eigenmann, Past Chapter President Veronica Wheeler, President Moira Fisher, Financial Secretary Lorraine Camire, Noelle Harmer and 3rd Vice President Michelle Connelly. We enjoyed meeting new moms, gathering with the other California moms, seeing some of the Nashville sights and congratulating the new National Board at the Banquet.





Blue Star Moms of California - East Bay Chapter 101: AUGUST 2023 EVENTS

August 20 - Community Fun Day sponsored by Alamo Women's Club. Our Chapter set up a table and shared flyers for our drop zone and upcoming fundraiser events. It was a great opportunity to share our missions alongside other local non-profits.



August 21 - Gianni's Italian Restaurant "Tips for Change" Fundraiser Event for the Veterans Memorial Building. Gianni's regularly holds a "Tips for Change" event where volunteers from local nonprofit organizations suit up as servers and join the Gianni's team for the evening. All tips and 10% of the sales from the night go directly towards the designated local charitable institution, which was the Veterans Memorial Building for the August 21st event. The Veterans Memorial Building in Danville, CA holds a special place in our hearts as our Chapter holds its monthly meetings there as well as numerous events that support the Blue Star Mom mission. It was exhausting but the Blue Star Moms did an awesome job as servers that night and Gianni's owner said that it was their best ever!





Western Slope Blue Star Mothers - CO8



Summer Chapter Happenings



As summer draws to a close, we, as a chapter, have been reflecting on what a busy season we had connecting with fellow Moms, doing continued outreach in our community and meeting new recruits heading off to boot camp!



We kicked off summer by honoring our local graduates who had made the decision to enlist in the Armed Forces. We hosted the graduates and their families with a small ceremony and family picnic. It was incredible to see the community support for these kids. This was our 2nd Annual Family Picnic, and look forward to growing this program!



Our Chapter participated in our local 4th of July Parade! Each Mom has their "Kid on a Stick" (their official boot camp photo) and we proudly display them on our float.



We hosted a very successful donation drive at a local Walmart. We requested donations for our local VA Babyshower and asked for items for new recruits to be used in our new pilot program we are initiating for new recruits as they finish their training and head to their permanent stations, we will send care packages with necessary items for getting settled.



LOUISIANA GEAUX SEVEN CHAPTER

AUGUST 2023

On August 12th our Blue Star Mothers along with several volunteers packaged 85 Care Packages to ship to our heroes! to ship to our heroes!



August 23rd our Chapter donated diapers and baby wipes to the VA for their Annual Baby Shower! Ann Berkins delivered them for us!



August 23rd Councilman Aaron Moak presented our Chapter with a Certificate of Recognition from the Baton Rouge City Council. Trudy Dupuy, Sandy Stockwell and Billie Gipson were honored to receive the certificate on behalf of our Chapter.



The week of August 14th "The Purple Hearts Convention was held in Baton Rouge, LA. Several of our members attended to help. Pictured above are Sandy Stockwell and Trudy Dupuy.

North Metro Chapter MN7



Our 1st meal preparation at the Minneapolis Fisher House.

Donations to CDCE for the Women Veterans Appreciation



Chapter members at the Minnesota State Fair Information Table (including MN Chapter 11)



2023-2024 Chapter Board
 President Jennifer Swedberg
 1st VP Teresa Hawkinson
 2nd VP Pam McCabe
 3rd VP Lucie Cutts
 Recording Secretary Brenda Kroulik
 Financial Secretary Tracey DeMorett
 Treasurer Jeanne Ullmer



National Convention – Nashville

St Paul Blue Star Mothers, MN11

The St Paul Blue Star Mothers held their elections and installation of new officers on September 5th. The new Chapter Executive Board is President Kathy Tschida, 1VP Debbie Zenner, 2nd VP Benita Welch, Recording Secretary Karla Keller, Treasurer Lynn Johnson and Financial Secretary Marilyn Stomberg. They were installed by Past Department President Denise Guerra. The MN11 chapter members and families participated in the Minnesota State Fair Military Appreciation Day and the parade. Some of the members will be getting together to shop for items to be donated to the Women Veterans Appreciation Event on September 26th at the Minneapolis VA Hospital.



Left to Right:

Benita 2VP

Debbie 1VP

Kathy President

Karla Recording Secretary

Lynn Treasurer

Marilyn Financial Secretary



PINE CITY MN CHAPTER 16

BLUE STAR MOMS

August 29th we brought our float down to the Minnesota State Fair for Military Appreciation Day. Such a wonderful time celebrating and honoring our Military and Veterans with other Blue Star Moms from the State.



Special Guest along for the ride!

Josh Duhamel



Four Corners Blue Star Mothers

NM 1

Welcoming the Warriors to Farmington to participate in the 11th annual Four Corners Warrior Extreme Adventure! The Warriors threw out the first pitch at tonight's Connie Mack World Series game.



Many stopped by our booth at the San Juan County Fair!



This year's Honor Run was held in Shiprock, NM. The Four Corners Blue Star Mothers were there in support and participated in the ceremony.



The Blue Star Mothers Ohio Chapter — True Blue #15 of Lima, Ohio, supported the veterans during the Allen County Fair Veteran's Appreciation Day held on Friday, August 25. The Chapter passed out over 225 bottles of ice cold water in less than 2 hours!

True Blue, OH #15 has a variety of parades and festivals lined up to attend in the near future.



Chapter President, Karen High, takes a moment to pose with the Allen County Fair mascot, **Moorice**, during the Veteran's Appreciation Day held on Friday, August 25.



(from left): Kay Sellers (Historian); Betty Wharton (Treasurer); Vicki Peter-Wills (Financial Secretary); Karen High (President); Mary Evans (Patriotic Instructor); Theresa Daniel (Inside Guard) and Debby Wadham (Secretary)

OH 57

Veterans Grill n Chill
Appreciation Picnic. Gathered in
the photo are members from
OH 57 Chapter. We had Veterans
and their guest for a meal and
an afternoon of fellowship.





**Southwestern
Pennsylvania**
Chapter PA16

- Celebrating 44 Members and 9 Associate Members
- Visited with Claysville American Legion Riders and received their donation toward our mission to serve area Veterans and enlisted personnel
- Volunteered: Veterans Appreciation Picnic
- Sold raffle tickets and coffee at a Washington Wild Things baseball game for our friends at Restore 22
- Provided snacks in the Student Veterans Lounge at Community College of Beaver County
- Hosted Air Force veteran and reservist at August meeting. Swore in (2) new members.
- Participated in half-time presentation at local football game accepting donation for care packages
- Volunteered onsite, donated (2) raffle baskets and sponsored a hole at golf outing benefitting Restore 22 Coffee Shop



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

Blue Star Moms - Houston Chapter TX2 COMING IN HOT

It continues to remain hot in Texas! Blue Star Moms, Houston Chapter have been busy and not letting the heat hold us back! We are on FIRE with our mission! The heat is only helping us keep to the mission!

We were fortunate to have some board members remain on our board and some general members step up and become new board members for the next year. Our board is full! Dianne Rivas continues to lead us as BSM Houston Chapter President. Please help us in welcoming new board members and applauding continuing board members. Our new board is comprised of the following people:

Position	Board Member
President	Dianne Rivas
First Vice-President	Monica Garcia-Guinessey
Second Vice-President	Jennifer Sheridan
Third Vice-President	Laura Kelchner
Recording Secretary	Michelle Potter
Financial Secretary	Susan Ware
Treasurer	Rachel Morales
Parliamentarian	Joyce Hess
Corresponding Secretary	Ronda SanFilipo
Sergeant-At-Arms	Vickie Schultz
Patriotic Instructor	Robin Armijo



Front L-R: Monica G, Dianne R, Jennifer K
 Back L-R: Ronda S, Vickie S, Robin A,
 Michelle P, Susan W, Joyce H, Rachel M
BSM Houston Area Chapter
2023-2024 Board Members

On August 22, 2023, we had a packing party after our regularly scheduled meeting. It's always a great time helping each other and helping our dear enlisted service women and men have a little bit of comfort from home.



VA4



Get to know the VA4 Chapter Executive Board. The officers are Teresa Sumners, President; Mary Kulesa, First Vice President; Faye Mohler, Second Vice President; Barb DiMiceli, Recording Secretary; Catherine Elson, Financial Secretary; and Kate Patterson, Treasurer. We are fortunate to have these great women guiding our Chapter.

The Blue Star Mothers of Fredericksburg profited from the Dine Out for Charity event held in July at Sedona Taphouse. Owner Lorena Ahmadi gave us a kind gift for our Veterans Fund. We are grateful for their ongoing assistance. The Mission BBQ, Fredericksburg's 9/11 Recognition Ceremony, was attended by chapter members. The Chapter outing was a lot of fun, and we enjoyed rooting for our Fredericksburg Nationals. We say "Happy Birthday" to a couple of our members who are Air Force Moms and veterans in their honor.





WI Blue Star Moms Chapter 1



Busy Few months!

Veteran's Village Picnic. Our Own Angela throwing bags with Veterans! Iola Car Show Fundraiser, Craft show Fundraiser, and Green Bay Packer Party and treats for Veteran's Village! Small but mighty we are!



BLUE STAR MOTHERS SE WI 2



SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Upcoming Events

**Gold Star Luminary
Ceremony**
September 24th
6pm

Board & Brush
October 9th
6-8pm

**Veteran's Day
Parade**

Cooking Class
November 13th

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

As our we head into fall, we reflect on some of the events we participated in this past summer, from volunteering to celebrating, we are reminded of our Mission Statement of supporting each other and our children, while promoting patriotism.



Late summer Car Wash & Brat Fry supporting our group & the Indian Trail HS Military Academy in Kenosha, WI.



After being in our new meeting location for a year, our chapter would like to highlight & say THANK YOU to Candace, with the American Legion Harvey Funk Post 494 in Caledonia WI, for all she does in welcoming our group.



5k Brewers Run Fundraiser for Fisher House WI & Thanking our Troops at the 2023 EAA Air Show!

Badminton Fest 2023 Veterans Food Drive & Memorial Day closing ceremony at the War Memorial Center.





Fall is in the
Air...

PUMPKIN

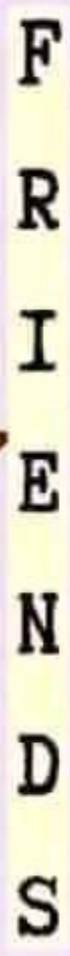
Scarecrows CARVING

Apples FOOTBALL Games

Pumpkin Pie **Cider**

Hoodies Harvest

BOOTS SMORES Apple



Fight for you.

Respect you.





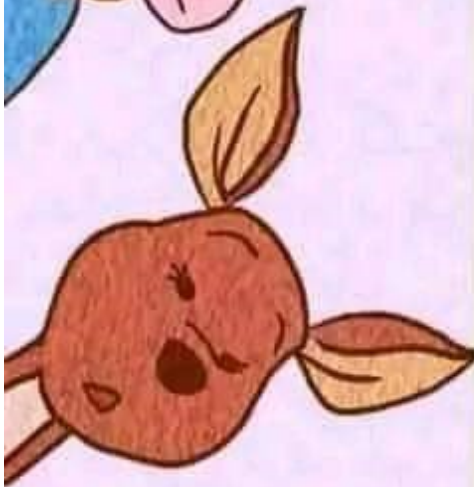






Include you.

Encourage you.

Need you.

Deserve you.

Stand by you.



Words to heal the soul