



**NATIONAL
BIG DIPPER
AUXILIARY
NEWSLETTER**



March 2026

Message from the President

Dear Sisters,

As we move into March, we would like to thank everyone for your continued dedication and support. Your time, energy, and commitment help keep our organization strong and moving forward. We appreciate all that each of you does to support our mission and one another.

Wishing everyone a wonderful and productive March.

Respectfully,

Connie M. Shuck

National Big Dipper President





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Financial Officer Update

We have made some recent changes to our Board. As a result, financial and banking updates are currently in progress. Thank you for your patience and understanding as we work through these transitions.

Pro-Tem Appointments:

Financial Secretary Pro-Tem:

Lorraine Camire

Treasurer Pro-Tem: Jan Rusk



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I would like to extend a warm welcome to Lorraine Camire as she joins the National Big Dipper Board.

Lorraine served as Financial Secretary for Chapter CA30 for nine years and previously as Recording Secretary for one year, providing her with extensive hands-on experience in chapter financial reporting, compliance, and recordkeeping. During her tenure as Financial Secretary, she worked closely with the Treasurer to implement the chapter's first budget and helped establish a financial committee to strengthen oversight and financial planning

She currently serves on the National Financial Committee, and as a National Compliance Reviewer. She reviews chapter financial submissions to ensure accuracy and adherence to organizational policies. Lorraine also serves as a Chapter Mentor (three years) and has been a Blue to Gold Assistant for three years, supporting leadership transitions and promoting sound financial practices across chapters

In addition to her BSM roles, Lorraine managed the books for her husband's business. She is self-taught in both QuickBooks Enterprise and QuickBooks Online. This experience strengthens her practical accounting skills.

Her "Why":

Lorraine grew up as a Navy brat; her father served over 21 years in the United States Navy. At the time, she viewed military life simply as a job filled with constant moves, new schools, and new towns.



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It wasn't until her eldest son left for boot camp in February 2012 that she truly understood the depth of sacrifice military families make. Suddenly, the service was personal – it was her own child – and she experienced the pride, fear, and uncertainty that so many military parents know.

Like many military moms, she found herself in unfamiliar territory, filled with pride but also moments of loneliness. A friend from church introduced her to Blue Star Mothers, where she found understanding, support, and a community that truly “gets it.”

She joined that same year, and it quickly became family. Her son is now a Navy Veteran, and she remains actively involved. The mission continues to resonate deeply with her: supporting troops, honoring veterans, serving Gold Star families, and uplifting one another.

Supporting Gold Star families is especially meaningful to her she is also a Gold Star Daughter, having lost her father to a service-related illness connected to his deployment during the Vietnam War.

That loss deepened her understanding of service and sacrifice across generations and strengthened her commitment to honoring those who serve and the families who carry their legacy.

Blue Star Mothers supported Lorraine during a pivotal time in her life, and she remains committed to paying forward the support she once received, ensuring that no military family walks alone.

Please join me in welcoming Lorraine to the Big Dipper Board!



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I would like to formally welcome Jan Rusk to the National Big Dipper Board.

Jan brings a wealth of knowledge and experience that will be a tremendous asset as we continue to strengthen our organization and further our mission. I look forward to the Board working alongside her.

Please join me in welcoming Jan Rusk.

Jan's professional and financial experience:

- Completed all undergraduate Accounting and Business coursework for her degree at CSU Sacramento
- Knowledgeable in Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP)
- Proficient in Microsoft Office
- Working knowledge of QuickBooks, supported by a strong network of QuickBooks professionals.
- Served as Bookkeeper for The Sacramento Ballet, a 501(c)(3), for five years, including supervision of ticketing and Ticketmaster operations.
- Successfully passed all external audits (Downey Brand) with a "going concern" rating.
- Served as Treasurer for CA7 (QuickBooks) and as Financial Secretary Pro-tem for CA2.
- Very familiar with the governing documents and financial practices of the BSM organization.
- Three-term Past President of CA27 with extensive reporting and compliance experience.
- Over 20 years of membership in Blue Star Mothers of America, bringing deep organizational knowledge and awareness.
- BSM Mentor for 10 Chapters.

We are excited to have Jan join the National Big Dipper Board and look forward to the expertise and leadership she will share with us.

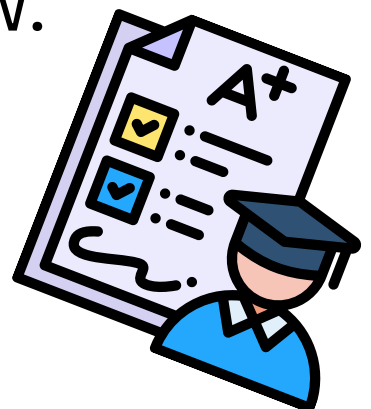


Josephine Calenda Educational Assistance JCEA

Applications for the Josephine Calenda Educational Assistance (JCEA) are now available on our website. Please help spread the word and encourage eligible applicants to apply. If you have any questions regarding the application process, feel free to reach out.

For more information and to fill out the application please click the link below.

[JCEA Application](#)



Big Dipper Auxiliary



Be sure to check out our available items, including pins, earrings, and other merchandise. Photo gallery on the next page.

Order online by clicking the link below.

[Get Your Bling Here](#)

NATIONAL BIG DIPPER AUXILIARY STORE GALLERY



#1. Big Dipper Guard Pin \$12.00



#2. Big Dipper Lapel Pin \$12.00



#3. Eagle Pin \$10.00



#4. Flag Stud Earrings \$5.00



#5. Flag Necklace \$10.00



#6. Proud Veteran Pin \$8.00



#7. God Bless America Necklace \$10.00



#8. Twist Earrings \$10.00



#9. Cross Pin \$8.00



#10. Cross Necklace \$10.00



#11. Charm Bracelet \$10.00



#12. Red, White & Blue Star Necklace \$10.00



#13. Folded Flag Pin \$5.00



#14 Flip Flop Earrings \$12.00 (gold tone)



#15. Blue Star Hat Bag \$10.00 (Hat & Gloves available at the National BSM Online Store)

National Big Dipper Auxiliary Store

Order Form 2025-2026

Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

# Ordered	Items	Price	Total
	#1 Big Dipper Guard Pin	\$12.00	
	#2. Big Dipper Lapel Pin	\$1200	
	#3. Eagle Pin	\$10.00	
	#4. Flag Stud Earrings	\$5.00	
	#5. Flag Necklace	\$10.00	
	#6. Proud Veteran Pin	\$8.00	
	#7. God Bless America Necklace	\$10.00	
	#8. Twist Earrings	\$10.00	
	#9. Cross Pin	\$8.00	
	#10. Cross Necklace	\$10.00	
	#11. Charm Bracelet	\$10.00	
	#12. Red, White & Blue Star Necklace	\$10.00	
	#13. Folded Plan Pin	\$5.00	
	#14. Flip Flop Earrings (gold tone)	\$12.00	
	#15. Blue Star Hat Bag (Hat & Gloves available from National BSM Online Store)	\$10.00	
	#16. Big Dipper Challenge Coin		
	#17. JCEA Patch	\$10.00	
	#18. Poppy Pin	\$5.00	
	#19. Flag Ribbom	\$5.00	
	#20. Sparkly Flag Pin	\$10.00	
	#21. Bling Evening Clutch	\$5.00	
	#22. Bling Flag Barette	\$25.00	
	#23. Vintage Kimono	\$15.00	
		\$15.00	

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National Big Dipper Auxiliary Store
Order Form 2025-2026

	#24. Flag Kimono	\$15.00	
	#25. Stars & Stripes Kimono	\$15.00	
	#26. Flag Earrings	\$10.00	
	Shipping for Jewelry Items		
	Shipping for Hat Bag(s)		
	TOTAL DUE		

Shipping & Handling for Jewelry Items: 4 items or less \$5: 5-8 items \$6: 9-12 items \$8
Shipping & Handling for Hat Bags: \$6 each; \$9 for 2 items; \$12 for 3 items

Make Checks Payable to “National Big Dipper Auxiliary”

Send orders to:
BSMA National Big Dipper Auxiliary
Attn: Lorraine Camire
420 N. McKinley St, Ste 111-B35
Corona, CA 92879-8099



Big Dipper Membership

Thank you for your continued support.
If you haven't renewed yet, please take a
moment to update your membership this month.
Your involvement helps us carry out
our mission.



Fundraiser: Bonfire

Our Bonfire Fundraiser is officially underway! Your participation and support are vital to its success. Every contribution helps us continue serving our mission and supporting our programs. As part of the Big Dipper celebration, this fundraiser also commemorates our 75th Anniversary, a meaningful milestone made possible by the continued support of our members.



[Click here to view other shirts offered & pricing](#)

UP COMING EVENTS

Plans are underway for our upcoming activities, including preparations for Big Dipper Fun Night at the 2026 National Blue Star Mothers Convention.

This year's theme, *Welcome to the Danger Zone- Top Gun*, is shaping up to be a fun and exciting event. More details will be shared soon regarding tickets, decorations, and volunteer opportunities.



Contact the Big Dipper Board

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