

Welcome to San Francisco!!



Convention Chatter #3– June 2014

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. 2014 National Convention, San Francisco, CA July 29-August 2, 2014

We are excited and proud to host our 72nd annual convention in the beautiful city of San Francisco for a 2nd year! Please plan to come and be a part of this exciting week of planning and fun with Blue Star Mom sisters. This year's convention will again be held at the beautiful and historic Marine's Memorial Club in Downtown San Francisco <http://www.marineclub.com/>

It's hard to believe that we are only a little under 2 months from convention 2014! Many of you attended convention last year and experienced the excitement and fun that we had while taking care of our business. We are planning another exciting, fun filled week so we hope you will make plans now to attend. This chatter is rather long so please read through all of it, it is important and we need to take care of some housekeeping business. Of course, at any time if you have any questions you can contact Tami Jenkins, Convention Chair at jenks219@hotmail.com or 925-784-5014.

Room Reservations

Rooms were released for reservations on Monday, March 17th. If you have not yet made your reservations, you need to do that as soon as possible. Please check Chatter #1 for all the details of reserving a room. Be sure to call the hotel and include the names of all who will be staying in the room.

I have included hotel options below for those of you who have not yet made your reservations. Please note the agenda for convention that is attached to this Chatter.....we have a full day planned for Saturday, so please make your flight and room reservations for late Saturday or early Sunday morning so you can enjoy all the benefits of convention. **The hotel is holding open Saturday night for those of you who need to change your reservation. They will be releasing these soon so please call them as soon as possible.**

Hotel Options

Hotel Monaco – a little different than what you might be used to but if you are up for an adventure, this will be fun! <http://www.monaco-sf.com/>
Beresford Hotel (right next door to Marines Memorial Club) this hotel is cozy, but old. It is the closest to MMC and it is very affordable.
Beresford Arms Hotel – an old but very nice hotel about 3 blocks from MMC.
<http://www.beresford.com/>
JW Marriott, San Francisco - <http://www.marriott.com/>
San Francisco Marriott - <http://www.marriott.com>

Transportation to the Hotel

(Also see attachment flyer from hotel)

There are several ways to get to the hotel from the San Francisco Airport. We suggest that you do NOT rent a car, it really won't be necessary and parking at the hotel is expensive (\$42.00 a day). Here are some options:

1. **BART** (Bay Area Rapid Transit) – This will be the cheapest way but the nearest drop to the hotel is about 5 blocks. If you have trouble walking or a lot of luggage you will not want this option
2. **Taxi** – This is very expensive (about \$45 one way)
Shuttle van or bus is probably the most economical and best way. You can book online and prepay (suggested) for each of the following companies: Go Lorries – 415.334.9000 or www.gosfovan.com;
SF City Shuttle – 415-215-2500 or www.sanfranciscocityshuttle.com;
Airport Express – 415.775.5121 or www.airportexpresssf.com

Chapter Reports

We are attempting this year to allow ample time for chapter reports for all who want to submit them. This was addressed in the Call to Convention but I wanted to elaborate on it just a little. When preparing your report please include no more than 3 projects/accomplishments for the year. We would like to hear things that are unique that your chapter does, not including care packages, we all do that at some level. You will have 3 minutes to share your report NO EXCEPTIONS!

How You Can Help

Convention is a huge undertaking but it is totally worth it and it truly is just around the corner! We want to have another successful convention, but we need your help. Below are some suggestions on how you can help us:

- ♥ Last year we had some wonderful **table centerpieces** that we auctioned off at the banquet. Oh my goodness, we had such a great time auctioning these off! We would love to have some beautiful centerpieces again this year. It is always fun to have stuff from each of the cities represented at convention. If you can provide a centerpiece, please let Tami know.

- ♥ We need to **have silent auction items** to showcase at our banquet. This auction helps us raise funds for the convention so we would love to see lots of items. In years past we have had some wonderful baskets, handmade items, etc. We do have some wonderfully talented Blue Star Sisters; many of you gifted with special skills, such as beading, woodworking, jewelry making, quilting, etc. Please consider sending us an item for the Silent Auction even if you cannot attend. Items should be sent to Tami Jenkins, 11300 Dublin Canyon Rd, Pleasanton, CA 94588. Please let her know when you send something so she can be sure to watch for it.
- ♥ **A Chapter Fundraiser** to help with the cost of convention would be gratefully accepted. There are many simple fundraisers that can be done with little effort. Please consider doing something to help out.
- ♥ If you can't help in any other way, **a simple monetary donation** to convention would be graciously accepted. All donations received will be earmarked and used strictly for our convention. You must note on your check that it is for convention.

Monetary donations (with your Chapter name/number clearly indicated) can be mailed to: Kathryn Venable, National Financial Secretary; P.O. Box 2518, Pocatello, Idaho, 83206-2518

- ♥ **We need help with donations for the hospitality room. We know you like having the snacks available and the goal is to help defer cost to you by trying to have lunch type items available on the days we don't have lunch provided. If your chapter can help either with funds or with "stuff" please let Tami know as soon as possible. If your chapter would like to sponsor a day of hospitality that would be awesome!! We will only have 3 days of hospitality and two of those days we would like to have lunch provided. If your chapter would like to sponsor a day, you would need to provide the manpower for that day. There will be more on this later but hopefully this will get the wheels rolling and the gears turning ☺**

New For This Year's Convention

There are going to be some changes this year that you should be aware of. Please read these carefully so that you can come to convention prepared. These changes include the following:

1. In an effort to save some time and some money, goodie bags will not be available at convention so please bring your own tote bag with you.
2. Again, to save money, we will not be providing copies of all of the Governing Documents so be sure to bring your draft copies once the proposed changes are released to everyone
3. Each convention attendee will receive a **RED FRIDAY** T-shirt. Make sure you indicate the size you want on the Convention registration form.
4. Special convention pins will be available for sale at convention

Big Dipper FunD Night

The Big Dipper fun night will be on Wednesday night, July 30th. The theme is "Red Carpet". More details will follow for this event but be warned.....it promises to be a LOT of fun! This event supports

the Josephine Calenda Educational Assistance Fund. It is a good cause so please be thinking about attending this event and helping them meet their financial goals to provide educational assistance to those who need help.

News from Big Dipper

Convention is fast approaching and we have lots to share with you! Last month we announced that we are now accepting Educational Assistance applications. Applications were sent to all chapter presidents, if your president has not received the application, they can be downloaded from the Big Dipper page on the BSMA website. You can also request an application from Big Dipper President, Linda Bayer at bdpres@gmail.com. Those eligible are: A child(ren), and grandchild(ren) of a veteran or BSMA member; a veteran; an active duty personnel; or a BSMA member. All applications are due 30 days prior to convention and must be received by the National Big Dipper President, no less than 30 days prior to convention. Forms can be submitted to: Linda Bayer, President Big Dipper Auxiliary, 2250 Monroe St. #255, Santa Clara, CA 95050. Convention this year is being held July 29 thru August 2, 2014 and Education Assistance applications are **due no later than June 29, 2014.**

FUND Night this year will be on Wednesday, July 30th at the Marines' Memorial Club in the Crystal Ballroom. You can now order your tickets and pick them up at convention at the registration table. You don't want to miss any of the FUN we have planned for you! We have a fun "Keepsake" Pendant for you to commemorate this year's convention. We hope you will enjoy it and want to purchase one even if you can't make it to convention and show your support!

We are still selling coffee via The Giving Coffee Bean and we have had many of our mom's say that this makes for great gifts while supporting our mission! Thank you for your continued support of the Big Dipper Auxiliary. Let's continue to work together to make a difference in the educational future of many deserving recipients.

See you there!

Linda Bayer
President Big Dipper Auxiliary
Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

Agenda for convention

(Subject to Change)

Welcome Day Tuesday, July 29, 2014

2:00-4:00	Board Meeting (timing tentative based on NEB arrival times)
5:00-6:00	Registration; or throughout Reception
6:00-8:30	President's Reception
	Vendor Room open (noon)

BSMA Business Day Wednesday, July 30, 2014

7:00-8:30	Breakfast
7:00-7:45	Registration
8:00-8:30	Music & Social in Convention Room
8:30	Opening Ceremonies
8:45	Welcome to Convention
9:00	Introduction of Officers
9:05	Naming of Judges, Timekeepers and Spotters
9:10	Naming of Minutes Approval Committee
9:15	Explanation of voting cards
9:20	Credentials Committee Report
9:30	Convention Chair Report/Agenda
9:40	Convention Rules
9:50	Approval of Convention 2013 Minutes
10:00	Break and Rehearsal for Memorial
10:30	Memorial / National Convention picture
12:00	Lunch w/speaker – Col. William Peacock, Ret.
1:30	President's Report
1:45	Audit & Financials
2:15	Finance Committee: Financial Policy & Budget Approval
7:00-10:00	Big Dipper Fun(d) Night

Education Day Thursday, July 31, 2014

7:00-8:30	Breakfast
8:00-8:30	Music and Social in Convention Room
8:30	Credentials Committee Report
8:35	Convention Chair Report/Agenda
8:40	Financials, Compliance & 990's update
10:00	Break
10:30	Website Introduction and Training for Chapter Officers
12:00	Lunch – Hospitality Room
1:00	Website and Compliance
1:45	Strategic Planning overview
2:15	VAVS/Veterans' causes
2:45	Break
3:15	Big Dipper
3:30	Tim Maggart

Education/Governing Documents Day Friday, August 1, 2014

7:00-8:30	Breakfast
8:00-8:30	Music and Social in Convention Room
8:30	Credentials Committee Report
8:35	Convention Chair Report/Agenda

8:40	Speaker - Bert Upson, 911 Survivor
10:00	Break
10:15	Breakout sessions/transition responsibilities
12:00	Lunch – Hospitality Room/on your own
1:00	Governing Documents Amendments
3:30	Chapter Reports (time permitting)
4:00	Big Dipper Meeting; election of Officers
5:00 – 6:30	Silent Auction preview and bidding
6:30-11:00	Banquet, dancing and Silent Auction

Election Day Saturday, August 1, 2014

7:00-8:30	Breakfast
8:00-8:30	Music and Social in Convention Room
8:30	Credentials Committee Report
8:35	Convention Chair Agenda Report
8:40	Review of Tellers
8:45	Review of Judges
8:50	Explanation of Ballots
9:00	Election of Officers
11:30	Lunch provided
12:30	Election of Officers
	Chapter reports during ballot counting
3:00	New Business
3:15	End of Convention
3:20	Installation Rehearsal
3:30	Installation of Officers

Post Convention Sunday, August 3, 2014

9:00 AM	Officer Transition meeting
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Ok, I guess that's it for now! We are so excited to have you all in Beautiful San Francisco again this year, we hope you are excited too! **Stay tuned for the next Chatter we will be adding information as we go.** Remember, if you have any questions or concerns please contact Tami Jenkins, jenks219@hotmail.com or 925-784-5014. TTFN!!