

## The “Big Dipper” Organization

Adopted November 7, 1951 at Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

The name derived from the Big Dipper constellation.

The Emblem is a flat bottom dipper with a long handle, used on all stationary and worn as a guard pin, attached to the pin of the parent organization.

Objects of this organization are to provide funds for educational assistance awards annually and to sponsor a “Fun Night” at the conventions.

## Big Dipper Ritual and Opening Ceremonies

**President:** Blue Star Mothers of the Big Dipper, we have met to transact such business as may come before us.

**President:** The officers and members will sing the National Anthem.

**President:** Chaplain, please lead us in the opening prayer.

**Chaplain:** Dear God, Father of all mankind, we pray thee to guide our work in this meeting. We pray for all those who serve or have served this country, and may guide the destinies of our nation to the peace that shall know no end. Grant that we may always be loyal and true to thee and our fellow man. This we ask in Thy Name, Amen.

**President:** Patriotic Instructor, please lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Patriotic Instructor:** I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible with liberty and justice for all.

**President:** Historian, please lead us in the Preamble of the Big Dipper.

**Historian:** "For God, our country and sons and daughters, we pledge ourselves to assist in furthering the objects and purposes of our parent organization, "Blue Star Mothers of American, Inc.," to preserve harmony, good will, cooperation and closer fellowship among its members, we so unite to establish a permanent "Fun" organization".

**President:** The object of this organization shall be to honor through membership, those members of the Blue Star Mothers of America Inc., who have chosen to help provide educational assistance. May our proceeding be harmonious, constructive, and beneficial to all. I now declare this meeting open for the transaction of business.

*In Memory*

*of*

*Josephine*

*Calenda*

## The “Big Dipper” Organization

Adopted at Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
November 7, 1951  
As suggested by Ivah Z. Jones

Amended at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania  
November 4, 1959  
Marie Lynch, Big Dipper President  
Erma Hoffman, Parliamentarian

Amended at Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan  
October 7, 1980  
Frances Hanley, Chairman  
Lucille Knoll, National Recording Sect.  
Imogene Miller, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Dept. of California

Amended at Orlando, Florida  
August 8, 2004  
Elaine Mather, Big Dipper President  
Joyce Fulford, Past National President  
Big Dipper Parliamentarian:  
Mary Susie Huffer, National 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Amended at Albuquerque, New Mexico  
August 3, 2007  
Linda Humphrey, Big Dipper National President  
Joyce Fulford, Past National President  
Department of Michigan  
Sue Grawey, past Department President  
Department of Michigan  
Betty Stonner, National 1<sup>st</sup> V.P.

## Order of Business

1. Roll Call of Officers
2. Introduction of guests
3. Reading of minutes
4. Financial Secretary/Treasurer’s Report
5. Educational Assistance Committee Report
6. Application for membership
7. Initiation of new members
8. Reading of communications
9. Reading and allowing of bills
10. Unfinished business
11. New Business
12. Remarks for good of the order
13. Election and Installation of new officers
14. Closing Ceremonies

**President:** Officers and members, it is hoped that this meeting has been pleasant and informative to all, please rise and assist in the closing.

**President:** Chaplain, Please say the closing prayer.

**Chaplain:** “Dear God, as we separate, guide us in all we do. We pray for our sons and daughters and all Blue Star Families that we may keep alight the flame of freedom and work untiringly for the spirit of democracy, this we ask. Amen”

**President:** Officers, please retire the flag and banner. I now declare this meeting closed.

## Big Dipper Obligation

**Chaplain:** You will raise your right hand and repeat after me.

“In the presence of the Eternal God, surrounded by these members of the “Big Dipper”, I promise to support the Constitution of the United States, and do my utmost to protect its flag and institutions; to be loyal to the principles of patriotism and assist in establishing an educational assistance fund for children or grandchildren of veterans or Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., who may need aid or encouragement; I promise to obey the constitution and By-laws of the “Big Dipper”, and obey all orders that may emanate from properly constituted authority. I also promise to regularly attend, and actively support, the Blue Star Mothers Chapter of which I am a member. This obligation I promise to fulfill, so help me God.

**Chaplain:** Let us pray,

“Dear God, we ask your Blessing upon these new “Big Dipper” members. Heed our prayer and sustain them in the obligations they have taken. May these members create a greater understanding of friendship, comradeship, and loyalty, and may they be spared many years for a useful life. Endow them with the spirit of love that they may comfort and help those in need and one another. We ask this in Thy Name. Amen,”

**President:** Congratulations and welcome to the Big Dipper.

11. Sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters of Blue Star Mothers of American, Veterans and active duty personnel as well as Blue Star Mothers of American, Inc., members are eligible to apply for educational financial assistance.
12. Assistance can be received up to four times. Twice on the National level and twice on Department level.
13. Funds from this Big Dipper organization shall be from dues and donations. Other projects must have the written permission of the Big Dipper President and National President of the parent organization.
14. A donation to be collected for the Josephine Calenda Fund at the Department and National conventions to be used for educational assistance.

3. Dues must be submitted using the official forms. These are to be supplied by the Big Dipper Financial Secretary.
4. Big Dipper membership cards must be signed by the National Big Dipper President and the National Big Dipper Financial Secretary/Treasurer.
5. Elections and installations of new Big Dipper officers shall be held at the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. conventions. The voting membership of the convention shall be all the registered Big Dipper members in attendance at the convention.
6. Executive Board of the Big Dipper shall consist of the elected officers, Parliamentarian and Past Big Dipper Presidents.
7. Elected Officers of the organization shall be the President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary/Treasurer, and Sgt. At Arms.
8. The President shall appoint a Chaplain, Historian, Patriotic Instructor, Parliamentarian, and the three (3) members of the Educational Assistance Committee.
9. Newly elected Department Big Dipper officer list must be sent to the Big Dipper National Financial Secretary, with a copy to be sent to the Big Dipper National President within 30 days of the Department Convention.
10. Educational Assistance Applications must be sent to Department Big Dipper President or National Big Dipper President within 30 days prior to their Conventions.

## Installation for Big Dipper Officers

**Installing Officer:** Sgt. At Arms, please present the newly elected officers for installation.

**Installing Chaplain:** You will raise your right hand and repeat after me.

“In the presence of God, I do solemnly promise, that I will to the best of my ability, perform the duties of the office to which I have been elected, I will conform to and abide by the constitution and the by-laws of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., and of the “Big Dipper” organization. I promise to be kind and considerate to my associate “Big Dipper” members in word and deed. These obligations I do promise faithfully to keep. So help me God.”

**Installing Officer:** You have been chosen to fill the offices of the Big Dipper, Department of \_\_\_\_\_, or National. You should familiarize yourself with the duties of your office. The success of this organization rest upon you. Your loyalty and service are necessary for the continued membership of the Big Dipper.

**Installing Officer:** “Madam Vice President, your office is important to the organization, and you should fill it with dignity and trust. You will preside in the absence of the President and should be prepared to assume those duties when called upon, and perform other duties if requires.”

**Installing Officer:** “Madam Secretary, you will write the minutes of all meetings and all the communications ordered by the Big Dipper President.”

**Installing Officer:** “Madam Financial Secretary/Treasurer, you will deposit all monies received and pay all bills when authorized by the Big Dipper President, giving a receipt for all transactions. You will have charge of all supplies and dispense the same.

**Installing Officer:** “Madam Sgt. At Arms, it shall be your duty to properly prepare the room for meetings, to assist in installations of members and assist the president when needed.

**Installing Officer:** “Madam Chaplain, you are the spiritual leader of the organization. You will attend the alter during the meetings. It is expected that the dignity you give this office will inspire members to follow your example.”

**Installing Officer:** “Madam Patriotic Instructor, you will display the flag of our country. You will post the flag and retire it at each meeting and lead in the Pledge of Allegiance.”

**Installing Officer:** “Madam Historian, you will record the activities of the Big Dipper during your term of office. You will lead the preamble.”

**Installing Officer:** “Madam Parliamentarian, it shall be your duty to act as advisor to the President; you may give opinion according to Robert’s Rules of Order, but the final decision is up to the President.”

**Installing Officer:** “Madam President, great trust has been placed in you by the members in electing you to their highest office. Carry in mind the obligation that you have made. The leadership you give to this office will determine the success of this organization in the coming year. It shall be your duty to compile a list of officers and chairman. This list is to be sent to the National President of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., to be sent to all chapters with her first letter.

### **Chaplain: “Prayer for Big dipper Officers”**

“God, who controls the lives and destinies of thy people, we ask Thee to bless these, new officers in the obligations they have to assume. Give them wisdom to perform their duties, courage to overcome all obstacles, love to exemplify the beauty of our service, and honor them that they may be a blessing to mankind, our sons and daughters and to Thee. We ask this in Thy name, Amen.”

**Installing Officer:** “By the authority vested in me as the Installing Officer. I now declare these new officers of the Big Dipper (National) (Department) \_\_\_\_\_ duly elected and Installed.

### **Standing Rules**

These rules shall govern the Big Dipper in all cases in which they apply and are consistent with the Constitution and the by-laws of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., and Robert’s Rules of Order.

**Rules may be changed only at the National Convention by a majority vote.**

1. Any member of the parent organization, Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., in good standing, may apply to be a member of the Big Dipper.
2. Annual membership fees shall be \$5.00. This amount is to be sent to the Department Big Dipper Financial Secretary with name and address of member. \$2.50 shall be retained in Department and \$2.50 shall be sent to the Big Dipper National Financial Secretary. Chapters with no Big Dipper Departments shall send the \$5 to the National Big Dipper Financial Secretary.

# *Big Dipper*



*Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.  
Auxiliary*

***Educational Assistance  
Fun Group***