



Minutes
2011 National Convention

BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC
69TH ANNUAL CONVENTION
AUGUST 10TH – 13TH 2011
Washington D.C.

Opening day of the 69th Annual Convention held in Washington D.C.

Convention Day 1
Wednesday, August 10, 2011

8:00 a.m. Opening Ceremonies:

Officers proceeded into the Room followed by the Posting of the Colors, Draping of the Charter and Opening of the Bible. Chaplain Lin McGee led the opening prayer.

Patriotic Instructor: Rev. Lin McGee led in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America.

Historian: Rose Ann Elliott led in the Blue Star Mothers Preamble.

President Wendy Hoffman called the 69th Annual Convention of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. to order on August 10, 2011 in Washington, D.C. and welcomed the delegates, attendees, and guests.

Credentials Committee Report – Julie Roberts

171 Members checked in and in attendance
23 Associates & guests registered online
187 Total Registered
164 Total Voting Delegates

MOTION: To adopt the Credentials Committee Report
Report Adopted

Program Committee Report – Lori Danby

There will be one (1) change. The Memorial Service will be moved forward ½ hour.

MOTION: To adopt the Program Committee Report

Second is not needed

Friendly Amendment: **Department reports will be moved to prior to lunch and we will still go to lunch on time.**

Motion passes on vote

Convention Rules

MOTION: To adopt the 2011 Convention Rules

Convention Rules adopted

One opposed

Election Rules

MOTION: To adopt the 2011 Election Rules

Election Rules adopted

One opposed



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Barbara Pittman from the Washington D.C Mayor's office welcomed us to Washington D. C. and explained that a Representative from the Mayor is on the way.

Membership Oath – Led by the National Chaplain

Matt Carey, director of Washington D.C. Office of Veterans Affairs welcomed us on behalf of the Mayor. He spoke about their advocacy to service members and their families and their aggressive move to try and eliminate homelessness of veterans in D.C. Veterans or spouses of a deceased veteran are now entitled to purchase a veteran license plate. The proceeds will go toward supporting veterans. He then thanked all Blue Star Mothers for their support and their children for their service. Wendy Hoffman then presented him with an official BSM coin.

Wendy Hoffman reported that the BSM resolution which was passed at the last convention is in the bin to go onto the House floor. Julie Roberts, Resolution Chair, described the details of the Resolution and read it to the convention body.

Introduction of the current National Executive Board and those in appointed positions:

1st Vice President Julie Roberts
2nd Vice President Joretta Weaver
3rd Vice President Judy Dorsey
4th Vice President Lori Danby
Recording Sec Kathryn Hood
Financial Sec Anne Parker
Treasurer Robin Countryman-Valk
President Dept. of MN Pattie Kelley
President Dept. of OK Cindy Hood
President Dept. of Ohio Pat Pell
Past National President Susan Naill
Past National President Karen Stevens
National President Wendy Hoffman

Wendy introduced and thanked:

Patriotic Instructor Pro Tem Linda Bayer
VAWS Representative Patsy Varnell
Historian Pro Tem Rose Ann Elliott

Chairmen of Committees:

Bylaw & Resolution Julie Roberts
Legislative Marian Moran
Sergeant-at-arms Judye Sinclair-Leczal
Executive Director Committee Lori Danby

Convention Appointments

Wendy Hoffman named the following appointed convention positions:

Tellers: Carol Farmer, Rita Gibson & Linda Kouche
Judge: Pat Pell
Time Keepers: Susan Stowe & Cathy O'Shields
Spotters: Christine Boyd, Duanne Mednick & Teresa Bullock



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Without objection these are the Tellers, Judge and Time Keepers of the 2011 convention.

Appointment of Minutes Approval Committee:

Cindy Hood
Rose Ann Elliott
Lori Danby

2010 Convention Minutes Approval – Pattie Kelley

The 2010 Minutes Approval Committee wished to report that the minutes posted on the BSMA, Inc. website are the minutes approved by the committee.

There were no corrections or changes.

MOTION: To approve the 2010 Convention Minutes

2010 Minutes are approved.

Finance Report – Anne Parker

Anne Parker gave the Audit Report from CPA Joe Castellano

MOTION: To adopt the Audit Report

Audit Report is adopted

Finance Committee Report – Cindy Hood

Cindy Hood presented the proposed budget, financial policies, and described the changes.

MOTION: To adopt 2011-2012 Financial Policies.

There were questions from the Floor regarding 2 signatures on each check. These questions were answered by the National President Wendy Hoffman, Committee Chair Cindy Hood and Financial Secretary Anne Parker.

Friendly Amendment: **Expenditures requiring NEB pre-approval once it is necessary and budgeted for.**

Accepted

Request for clarification

Call the Vote

2011-2012 Financial Policies adopted

Recess 9:47 a.m. EST

Chaplain Closes Bible

9:47 a.m. Chaplain closed the Bible for a 15 minute break

10:15 a.m. EST Chaplain opened the Bible

Big Dipper Report

Laura DeRoo gave a report on what the Big Dipper is, what they do and gave encouragement to become involved.

VAVS Report

Patsy Varnell explained what VAVS volunteers do and gave some examples. She also told how one can



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become a VAVS Representative by going through one's Chapter President and then completing an application on the National Website.

Department Reports

Dept. of MI - Jeanise Steenland reported on behalf of Carol Gates

Dept. of MN - Pattie Kelley

Dept. of OK - Cindy Hood

Dept. of OH – Pat Pell

Chapter Reports:

Anne Parker - SC7

Hildred Ridenour - NM2

Anna Venages, President - CA4

Pat Wilson Perkins - CT4

Margaret Butcher - KS4

Ramona Marquez - SC3

Dr. Sarah Young - CA 21

Belinda Jolly - MN7

Mary Green - OK4

Wendy named those who are involved in the Memorial Service at Arlington and outlined the remainder of the day.

She drew several tickets for door prizes.

Chaplain closed Bible

Adjourned – 11:56 a.m. EST

Convention Day 2

Thursday, August 11, 2011

Education Day

8:05 a.m. EST

Credentials Committee Report – Julie Roberts

181 Members checked in and in attendance

23 Associates & guests registered online

187 Total Registered

164 Total Voting Delegates

MOTION: To adopt the Credential Committee Report

Adopted

Wendy made announcements regarding lunch and speakers. She gave instructions as to what to take to the Capitol and the White House tours.



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Program Committee Report – Lori Danby

There are no changes

MOTION: To adopt the Program Committee Report

The day was spent touring one or more of the following as requested by each Convention attendee:
the Capitol, the White House, and the Pentagon.

The Convention body returned from the tours to a box lunch and reconvened to hear the following speakers:

Megan Egerton Graham
Deployment and Redeployment Tips

Matt Stiner – Director of Development and Outreach for Justice for Vets
The National Clearinghouse for Veterans Treatment Courts

Charilyn Damigo
A Mother's Story

Pam Hayes
True Face of TBI

Recess

Claire Trivedi
Laughter Yoga

Erin Rooney / Danika Rainer
Real Warriors Campaign

Janet Broussard
Associates Auxiliary

**Convention Day 3
Friday, August 12, 2011
Governing Documents**

Called to order 8:15 a.m.
Bible Opened

Credentials Committee Report – Julie Roberts

181 Members checked in and in attendance
24 Associates & guests registered online
187 Total Registered



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161 Total Voting Delegates

MOTION: To adopt the Credential Committee Report

Adopted

Program Committee Report – Lori Danby

There are no changes

MOTION: To adopt the Program Committee Report

Wendy Hoffman Introduced the Parliamentarian Joan Corbisiero and BSMA Counsel C. Dean McGrath, Jr.

Chapter Reports:

East End Mass.

New Mexico 1

Kentucky 5

Nevada 3

Keynote Speaker – Secretary Eric Shinseki

Veterans Affairs

Debra Amdur

VA Caregiver Program

John Campbell

National Resource Directory

Recess 10:36 a.m. EST

Bible Closed

Bible Opened

10:59 a.m. EST

Wendy Hoffman introduced Andrew Leahy and Jeff Small from Congressman Tippan's Office. We were updated on our charter expansion. Bill HR 2815. There are currently 24 co-sponsors – 75 to 100 are needed and then it will be forwarded to the Senate.

Speaker:

Laura Balun

VAVS Program

Wendy Hoffman announced National Recording Secretary Kathryn Hood, had to return home due to work commitments and Pattie Kelley would act as Recording Secretary Pro Tem for the remainder of the Convention.

Resolutions Committee Report

Julie Roberts reported there was nothing to add.



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Exec Director Committee Report

Lori Danby

Bylaw Committee Report

Julie Roberts

Recessed for Lunch at 11:45 a.m. EST

Bible Closed

Reconvened at 1:39 p.m. EST

Bible Opened

CONSTITUTION

Article IX GRIEVANCE AND DISCIPLINARY BOARD

Withdrawn per BSMA Attorney recommendation

BYLAWS

ARTICLE II - AMENDMENT OF THESE BYLAWS

Section 2 - Alternative 1 - Passed on vote

ARTICLE III - MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Section 1

Alternative 1- Defeated on vote

Section 2

Alternative 1 - Defeated on vote

Section 4

Alternative 2

Friendly Amendment – **Remove words “flagrant insubordination:.”**

Accepted and passed as amended

Section 5

Alternative 1

Friendly Amendment – **Leave the wording that all memberships expire on August 31st of the current year.**

Accepted and passed as amended

ARTICLE IV – ORGANIZATION DIVISIONS

Section 1

Alternative 1 - Defeated on vote

ARTICLE V - CHARTERS

Section 2



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Alternative 1 – Passed on vote

Section 5

Alternative 1 –Passed on vote

ARTICLE VI – EXECUTIVE BOARDS

Section 2

Alternative 1 – Defeated on vote

New Section 7

Alternative 1 - Defeated on vote

ARTICLE VII – CONVENTIONS

Section 5

Alternative 1 - Defeated on vote

ARTICLE VIII – FINANCIAL MATTERS

Section 2

Alternative 1 - Defeated on vote

ARTICLE IX – ELECTIONS

Section 4

Alternative 1 – Passed on vote

Section 5

Alternative 1 – Passed on vote

Section 7

Alternative 1 - Passed on vote

Section 9

Alternative 1 – Defeated on vote

Bylaws Adopted

CODE OF CONDUCT

ARTICLE 1 – ORGANIZATION AND MEMBER RIGHTS

Section 3.h

Alternative 1 - Defeated on vote

ARTICLE II – RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF MEMBERSHIP

Section 4

Alternative 1 – Passed on vote.

Section 6

Alternative 1 – Passed on vote



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ARTICLE IV – APPLICATION PROCESS FOR MEMBERSHIP

Section 1

Alternative 1 – Passed on vote

ARTICLE VI – CHARTERING A CHAPTER

New Section 1

Alternative 1 – Defeated on vote

Section 2

Alternative 1 – Passed on vote

Section 3

Alternative 1- Defeated on vote

Alternative 2 - Defeated on vote

ARTICLE VII – MEETINGS

Section 4

Alternative 1 - Defeated on vote

ARTICLE VIII – CHARTERING A DEPARTMENT

Section 1

Alternative 1 – Passed on vote

ARTICLE IX – DEPARTMENT CONVENTIONS

Section 4

Alternative 1 – Passed on vote

Section 6

Alternative 1 - Passed on vote

ARTICLE X

Section 2

Alternative 1 - Defeated on vote

ARTICLE XV – DISCIPLINARY PROCEDURE

Section 1.A.1

Alternative 1 - Defeated on vote

Section 1.A.3.a

Alternative 1 - Defeated on vote

Section 1.A.5b

Alternative 1 – Passed on vote

Section 1.B.2

Alternative 1 – Passed on vote



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Section 1.B.2.

Friendly Amendment – Remove Flagrant Insubordination

Alternative 1 – Passed on vote

Section 1.B.2.a.iii

Alternative 1 – Passed on vote

Section 1.B.2.a.iv

Alternative 1 – Passed on vote

Section 1.B.2.k

Alternative 1 - Defeated on vote

Section 1.B.2.l

Alternative 1 – Passed on vote

Section 1.B.2.m.iii

Alternative 1. – Passed on vote

ARTICLE XVII – CHAPLAIN FUND

Section 2

Alternative 1 – Passed on vote

ARTICLE XX – AMENDMENTS

Section 3

Alternative 1 – Passed on vote

Code of Conduct - Adopted

AFFILIATION AGREEMENT

1. Definitions

1.3

Alternative 1 - Passed on vote

5. Agreements by Chapter

5.2

Alternative 1 – Passed on vote

5.5

Alternative 1 – Passed on vote

5.7

Alternative 1 - Defeated on vote



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5.9

Alternative 1 - Defeated on vote

9. Suspension and Revocation of Charter; Disbandment

9.6

Alternative 1 - Defeated on vote

Affiliation Agreement – Adopted as Amended

LEADERSHIP HANDBOOK FOR NATIONAL, DEPARTMENTS, AND CHAPTERS

Section 1.a

Alternative 1 – Passed on vote

THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT (NP)

Qualifications:

1.

Alternative 1 – Passed on vote

ARTICLE IV – CHAPTER OFFICER DUTIES:

Section 1.b

Alternative 1 – Passed on vote

Leadership Handbook for National, Departments, and Chapters Adopted,

BLUE STAR MOTHERS PREAMBLE (CREED)

Alternative 1 - Defeated on vote

Rituals adopted as a whole without changes.

Recessed 5:32 p.m. EST

Bible Closed

Convention Day 4

Saturday, August 13, 2011

8:25 a.m. EST

Elections

Credential Committee Report- Julie Roberts

181 Members checked in and in attendance

27 Associates and guests registered on line

188 Total Registered



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160 Total Voting Delegates

MOTION: To adopt the Credential Committee Report

Adopted

Program Committee- Lori Danby

There are no changes to the program

MOTION: To adopt the Program Committee Report

Adopted

NEB Roll Call: Pattie Kelley

All Present with the exception of PNPs Joyce Fulford and Joyce Sanford

Nominations were opened for the office of President

Julie Roberts, Judy Dorsey, Robin Barnes McCarthy

Vote by ballot – 145 voting delegates

Ballots were distributed and collected by the Tellers.

Julie Roberts – 42 votes

Judy Dorsey - 43 votes

Robin Barnes McCarthy – 60 votes

Second Vote taken for Judy Dorsey & Robin Barnes McCarthy

Judy Dorsey – 66 votes

Robin Barnes McCarthy – 73

Blanks - 4

Illegal ballots - 2

Robin Barnes McCarthy was elected President

Recess – 9:40 a.m. EST

Reconvened – 10:03 a.m. EST

144 Voting Delegates

Nominations were opened for the office of 1st Vice President

Janet Broussard

Vote by ballot – 144 voting delegates

Ballots were distributed and collected by the Tellers.

Janet Broussard - 140

Blank votes – 4

Janet Broussard was elected Vice President

Nominations were opened for the office of 2nd Vice President

Robin Countryman-Valk – Declined

Joretta Pickard – Declined

Cindy Hood – Declined

Maura McGowan – Declined

Lin McGee - Accepted

Vote by ballot – 144 voting delegates

Ballots were distributed and collected by the Tellers.

Yes votes – 126



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Blank votes- 18
Lin McGee was elected 2nd Vice President

Nominations were opened for the office of 3rd Vice President

Gloria Cervantes - Accepted
Pattie Kelley- Accepted
Teresa Bullock – Accepted
Vote by ballot – 144 voting delegates
Gloria Cervantes – 30 votes
Pattie Kelley- 36 votes
Teresa Bullock – 77 votes
Blank votes - 1
Teresa Bullock was elected 3rd Vice President

Nominations were opened for the office of 4th Vice President

Judye Sinclair-Leczal – accepted
Lori Danby – declined
Pattie Kelley – accepted
Vote by ballot – 144 voting delegates
Judye Sinclair-Leczal – 59 votes
Pattie Kelley – 83 votes
Blank votes - 1
Pattie Kelley – was elected 4th Vice President

Recess – 11:40 a.m. EST
Reconvened – 11:53 a.m. EST
141 Voting Delegates

Nominations were opened for the office of Recording Secretary

Charilyn Damigo – accepted
Vote by ballot – 141 voting delegates
Yes votes 137
Blank votes – 3
Illegal Ballot - 1
Charilyn Damigo was elected **Recording Secretary**

Nominations were opened for the office of Treasurer

Debbie Smyser – accepted
Judy Dorsey – declined
Angie Nelson – declined
Julie Roberts – accepted
Vote by ballot – 142 voting delegates
Debbie Smyser – 58 votes
Julie Roberts – 83 votes



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Illegal Ballot - 1

Julie Roberts was elected Treasurer

Nominations were opened for the office of Financial Secretary

Anne Parker – accepted

Vote by ballot – 142 voting delegates

Yes votes - 136

Blank ballots - 6

Anne Parker was elected Financial Secretary

President Wendy Hoffman thanked the judges and tellers and congratulated the newly elected officers.

Robin McCarthy – National President – OH

Janet Broussard – National 1st VP – LA

Lin McGee – National 2nd VP – CT

Teresa Bullock – National 3rd VP – CA

Pattie Kelley – National 4th VP – MN

Charilyn Damigo – National Recording Secretary – CA

Julie Roberts – National Treasurer – NM

Anne Parker – National Finance Secretary - SC

Recess – 1:12 p.m. EST

Reconvened – 2:25 p.m. EST

Homes for our Troops

A brief video was shown and Wendy explained that additional information would be at the program that evening.

Chapter Profile & Compliance Reporting: Wendy Hoffman

Wendy Hoffman demonstrated compliance reporting online.

MOTION: To accept the new online program Chapter Profile & Compliance Reporting

Seconded and passed on vote.

Big Dipper – Raised \$1,441

United Veterans War Council

Patrick Gautier from United Veterans War Council/New York City Parade, presented BSMA a flag which was flown over Ground Zero on behalf of Blue Star Mothers and Gold Star Mothers.

MOTION: to support activities of the NYC Veteran's Day Parade on Nov 11, 2011

Motion is seconded and passes on vote.

Justice for Vets

MOTION: To support Justice for Vets

Motion is seconded and passes on vote.



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Combined Federal Campaign – No. 34583: NP Hoffman referred to the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) No. 34583 and stated that an application must be submitted on a yearly basis.

B2G – Service Flags

MOTION: Each chapter to donate \$50 in fund to National for Service Flags

Motion is seconded

Friendly Amendment - **Down to \$25 minimum annually**

Accepted

Friendly Amendment - **that a restricted fund be established in the BSMA Acct and that each Chapter donate a minimum of \$25 annually to this account.**

Accepted

Motion passes on vote.

Executive Director – Lori Danby

Lori Danby reported on the BSMA Executive Director position

MOTION: That BSMA hire an Executive Director

Motion was defeated on vote.

MOTION: Refer the hiring of an Executive Director to a newly established Committee by the newly elected National Executive Board to be appointed by the National President with approval by the NEB. Further, the Committee be a minimum of three who will continue the investigation of the need for an Executive Director, develop and plan and seek monies necessary, and report back to the NEB within a 90 day period.

Seconded and passed on vote.

The Chaplain closed the Bible and the Body recessed for 10 minutes to prepare for the installation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathryn Hood

2010-2011 National Recording Secretary