

Department of Minnesota
Report - National Convention 2011

It is my honor to report that it has been a great year for the Department of Minnesota. We have a strong Department Executive Board who come together and work as a team on behalf of and for the betterment of all 13 Chapters in our State.

With a recent large deployment of our National Guards, there's a need for the Blue Star Mothers, and moms are finding us! A few months ago, myself and our 1stVP DuAnne Mednick had the privilege of installing our newest Chapter, the Chapter 16 Pine City Blue Star Mothers. Any day now, we look forward to also installing our Chapter 18 Soaring Eagles Blue Star Mothers.

Our Minnesota Blue Star Sisters are keeping busy in their Chapters by promoting the organization at parades, Family Preparedness Academies, and they continue their fundraising efforts which assists in the mailing of care packages.

Last September we held our Department Convention in Duluth MN in northern Minnesota on the shores of Lake Superior. We were honored that our National President Wendy Hoffman was able to attend and participate and for the mom's to have the opportunity to talk with her. Our Spring Meeting was held in Sauk Centre MN where we had sessions on finances, membership, deployment preparedness for mothers, and Blue to Gold presentations.

Along with the Department of Minnesota making a donation to Homes for Our Troops, three Chapters held fundraisers and made very generous contributions. Also, two Blue Star Mothers and myself had the privilege of attending a Pella Pro Expo at the University of MN promoting Homes for Our Troops. It was even more of honor that our Minnesota Hero Marcus Kuboy joined us as a recipient of a home by HFOT.

Since August 2010, the Blue Star Mothers of Minnesota have give fourteen Blue to Gold Presentations. Our 3rd VP has worked closely with Survivors Outreach Services and in their last newsletter submitted a letter to the Gold Star Mothers. From that letter, we have heard from two MN Gold Star Mothers who have not received their Gold Star Banner, and in the coming months we will honor their children's ultimate sacrifice by presenting them with a Blue to Gold presentation.

As my second year as Department President comes to an end, I wish to thank the National Board for their love, guidance, and encouragement. While I will be addressing the Minnesota mom's at our upcoming Department Convention, to those present today - my sincerest and most heartfelt thanks for the opportunity, but more than that for your hard work and dedication - and to your children who have given us all the honor of being Blue Star Mothers.

Thank you.

Pattie Kelley, President
Department of Minnesota

→ This past year, all of our members shared the grief with MN Ch. 5 in Sauk Centre in the loss of our Blue Star Sister Mary Wender.