

DEPARTMENT OF OHIO **NATIONAL CONVENTION REPORT**

The Department of Ohio held their elections at the 2010 Department of Ohio Convention and the officers elected will serve from October 3, 2010 to October 2, 2011. They are:

Pat Pell – President; Kris Dervin – 1st Vice President; Trina Dunlap – 2nd Vice President
Rose Ann Elliott - Recording Secretary; Patti Stokes - Financial Secretary; Donna Schaffer - Treasurer

Four items were immediately addressed by the DEB within 30 days of elections:

- 1) **Loading the DEB financials to quick books** to allow greater accessibility to the other DEB officers, who are spread over the entire state. This has been completed.
- 2) **Designated a DEB officer to help chapters meet compliance issues.** Kris Dervin, 1st VP asked if she could help the chapters and this was accepted. This “resource” person works one-on-one with the chapter officers to facilitate compliance.
- 3) **A fundraiser was designated for the DEB** which involved design and sale of a necklace depicting the service flag in red/white and blue enamel and set in sterling silver. This fundraiser is being used to help offset costs of the convention. This necklace is available for sale on the NEB web site and at the convention.
- 4) **We have increased communication with the chapter presidents** via a schedule of conference calls (every other month or 6 per year). This schedule was communicated to all the chapters and past Department presidents.

The North/South Conference, held in April 2011, was very well attended (54 participants). Next year, a larger venue will be needed. It will be again in Columbus, as this city is more centrally located for all the current 18 chapters in Ohio. This conference was primarily geared towards updating the chapters on the BSM website and submission of reports to the DEB and NEB. **A map of Ohio, showing the locations of all the Ohio chapters, along with a notebook outlining the website presentations and compliance instructions were given to the participants to use for their chapter. This was viewed as a very useful learning tool.**

The Big Dipper of Ohio has a fundraiser in place to help increase the amount of donations for educational assistance. The fundraiser involves the selling of “BSM Strong/Rosie the Riveter” necklaces/keychain priced at \$10 each. The applications for educational assistance scholarships are currently being reviewed and will be announced in the next 60 days.

The Department of Ohio organized, along with 4 other chapters, the welcome home parade and donated home renovations (valued at \$15,000) for a severely wounded warrior from Ashland, Ohio. Also, a follow-up “meet and greet” with 14 Blue Star Mothers, at the home of this wounded warrior, was held the following week to show our on-going support.

The Department of Ohio was asked to immediately intervene in a public relations situation, which arose when a group of mothers from Chillicothe, Ohio attempted to hold a golf outing fundraiser and identified themselves as a Blue Star Mothers chapter. A letter was sent from National informing them that they could not continue to use the Blue Star Mothers logo or present their group as a BSM Chapter, unless they went through the chartering process. This group of mothers withdrew from the fundraiser (also declined to be a part of the BSM organization) and the DEB stepped in and represented the Blue Star Mothers at the fundraiser. \$1,800 was raised (after expenses).

Page -2-

Per a vote by the DEB and chapter presidents, \$900 was designated for the “now being built” Fisher House in Cleveland, Ohio and \$900 to the USO for mailing Christmas packages this November. The supporters of the event were very grateful for our intervention and what could have been a very embarrassing situation for the Blue Star Mothers and the supporters of this event, instead had a very positive outcome! We have verified that this group of mothers are no longer “posing” as a BSM chapter and have since changed their name to “Mothers of the Troops”. It should be noted that due to quick action, their president’s name was immediately taken off the joint bank account, set up for this event, thus, no funds were allocated to this group.

The Department of Ohio has submitted a proposal for a rather large grant (\$10,000) from a company called CareSource. We should hear if we were selected in the next 15 days. If selected, this grant would be distributed to the Ohio chapters and used for troop needs.

As president of the Department of Ohio, I was asked to conduct an emergency meeting with a chapter that was experiencing troubles with negative/viral emails between its members and the sudden mass resignation of the chapter board. After sending letters to each member and speaking with this chapter in person (a recording secretary from another chapter documented the meeting and elections), new elections were held and the remaining members have worked hard to keep this chapter going.

There have been 2 new chapters chartered in Ohio over the last 8 months and we have inquiries for 2 more.

The Department of Ohio Convention is scheduled for September 30 – to October 2, 2011 at the Hilton Hotel in Columbus Ohio. In compliance with the 60 day notification, the convention call information will be sent out by July 30, 2011.

We continue to be very busy with questions from chapters concerning ongoing compliance requirements; answer questions concerning issues that come up within the chapters; provide support to our chapters when needed and to answer inquiries from the public. It is the goal of this board to provide timely and accurate information to all our chapters and to the public.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Pell, President
Department of Ohio