

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.
National Executive Board
Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
Meeting Date: October 17, 2011

Call to Order:

The October 17, 2011 regular board meeting of the BSMA was held by electronic means (Go to Meeting) telephone and computer. The meeting convened at 8:38pm (EDT), President Robin McCarthy presiding and Charilyn Damigo, Recording Secretary. A quorum was present.

Attendees:

Members in attendance:

President Robin Barnes-McCarthy
1st Vice President Janet Broussard
3rd Vice President Teresa Bullock
4th Vice President Rose Ann Elliott
Recording Secretary Charilyn Damigo
Financial Secretary Anne Parker
Treasurer Julie Roberts

Dept of OH Pres Pat Pell
Dept of OK Pres Cathy O'Shields
Dept of MI Pres Kristine Wirgau
Dept of MN Pres
PNP Susan Naill
PNP Wendy Hoffman
Chaplain Gloria Cervantes
Grievance Committee Chair – Carla Brodaki
Parade Representative – Cyndi Ventura

Absent: none

Excused:

2nd Vice President Rev. Lin McGee
PNP Karen Stevens (joined meeting at 10:46 pm)
PNP Joyce Fulford (Not notified of meeting)

Roll Call of Officers -- (Recording Secretary)
Prayer -- (Gloria Cervantes)
Pledge of Allegiance -- (Cathy O'Shields)
Blue Star Mothers Preamble -- (Pat Pell)

Business

Approval of Minutes

- MOTION: Recommendation that the Corrected Minutes from the 9/8/2011 meeting be accepted as corrected and posted to the website. Motion is seconded and passes on vote.
- MOTION: Recommendation that the Minutes from the 9/27/2011 meeting be accepted as corrected and posted to the website. Motion is seconded and passes on vote.

Officer and Committee Reports

No official reports were given. A welcome was extended to new NEB members listed below, who gave informal updates.

Fourth VP Rose Ann Elliott

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- She has 1465 emails to work through. She is working with Pattie Kelley to transition and get caught up. Robin may be able to get together with her personally to help with questions.

Department of Michigan Kristine Wirgau

- Although she is still unpacking from department convention, she is very excited. She was the financial secretary for 2 years for Dept of MI (2008-2009) and helped to revive the department. The MI Dept. Convention was held in Kalamazoo, MI. Fun night theme was "Tailgate Party" with a sports theme. There were speakers from VA, as well as a speaker from an organization that supports canines in service. The new DEB is made up from all different chapters. NP Robin McCarthy was in attendance and noted that the memorial service was one of the most moving ceremonies she has attended.

Department of Oklahoma President Cathy O'Shields

- Cathy was one of the founding members of the Department of OK in 2003, chapter president for several years. Her daughter is a veteran. The OK Dept. Convention was held in Stillwater, OK. Large attendance (60 members/guests/associates). Fun night on Friday night. Excellent speakers, including Matt Stiner who spoke about veterans courts in OK which are now also spreading throughout the US. NP Robin McCarthy in attendance. Many new moms were part of the department convention. One of the chapters donated 40 cases of Snickers!

Service Flags

- Regarding the \$25 chapter donation that was voted on at National Convention, Dave Smith would prefer to be listed as a preferred vendor rather than accept \$25 per chapter. Clarification was made that the \$25/chapter donation fund was for the NEB (not donated to Service Flags) to provide an emergency fund in the event that Service Flags can no longer provide Gold Star Flags without cost. It was suggested that this be suspended until it can be brought back up again at National Convention. However, it was determined that this cannot be changed by the NEB, but it may be suggested next year that this be only a one-time donation by chapters.
- Service Flags will be offering special prices during November to help their sales.

11-11-11 Washington, D.C.

- Kerri Kearce has been re-appointed as the DC representative for BSMA. She will make all arrangements for the BSMA representatives who will be participating in the Washington, D.C. Veterans Day events.
 - Flags, poles, toppers, holsters are being shipped to her home
 - She is coordinating transportation with Treasurer Julie Roberts
- Attendees at Arlington
 - Janet Broussard, 1VP
 - Linda Bayer, Patriotic Instructor
 - Maura McGowan Yanosick, Historian
 - Gloria Cervantes, Chaplain
 - Susan Naill, PNP
- Details

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- Conference Call, 11-7-11 (for Attendees and NP)
- Hotel Accommodations for attendees and for Kerri Kearce
- Breakfast at White House (Response sent)
- Gloria and Susan will provide their own transportation and room costs.

11-11-11 NYC Parade

- The BSMA Parade Chair has been changed to Cyndi Ventura (NY 6). She has communicated with NYC Parade Chairman Patrick Gualtieri in person. There was discussion regarding the decision to change the committee chair. It is agreed that all decisions regarding the parade needed to be cleared through the NEB/Committee. There has been much confusion regarding the information presented at the National Convention and the current information being given. Going forward, Robin will work with both Patsy Varnell & Cyndi Ventura.
- Cyndi Ventura reports that the hotel has been reserved for NEB & Quarter-Century moms. Remainder will be able to stay (two to a room) at the Naval base on Staten Island. NY6 will be marching in the parade (not as a part of the float or the reviewing stand).
- **MOTION**
Motion was made that unless we receive a written MOU from the parade chairman by Wednesday 10/19/2011, 5:00 pm EDT, for our national president to execute to be presented to the NEB for consideration, BSMA will cancel their participation in the 11/11/11 NYC parade. Motion is seconded and passes on vote.
- Cyndi will contact Patrick Gualtieri regarding the MOU tomorrow.
- **Action Item:** When we have received/approved the MOU Robin will send an email to all chapter members explaining our current position in regard to the members who may still be interested in attending the parade. It will be clarified that all members will need to pay their own flight expenses and purchase the uniform jacket/hat/gloves. It will be on a first-come, first-serve basis with a quick deadline. Attendees must respond by Monday, Oct. 24 with information about jacket size. Pre-payment must be made to Financial Secretary Anne Parker.
- Uniform of the Day (Service Flags can ship to NY 6 if ordered by October 25)
Service Flags has jackets available for approximately \$50 if we waive the commission.
- **MOTION**
Motion made to waiving of 25% Royalty Fee to Service Flags on BSMA logo for the fleece jackets for the 11/11/11 NYC parade attendees only. Motion is seconded and passes on vote.

Committees

- Discipline Committee is comprised of Dottie Sills (PDP MN), Sue Stowe (MN7), Charilyn Damigo (NEB representative)
- Procedure is to keep the discipline on lowest level. Complaints should be resolved at the chapter level when possible. No discipline issues to report at this time. Chapters within a department will have all issues approached through the department rather than to Dottie.
- Appeals/Grievances should be approved by the NEB to proceed to Grievance Committee (Chair Carla Brodaki). During the second meeting of the month (if the NEB continues to meet twice a month) there will be an executive session in which to discuss specific issues.

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New Business – Executive Session

The NEB convened in Executive Session at 10:30 pm for the remainder of the meeting to discuss items of a confidential nature.

Announcements

Next meeting – 10/25/2011, 8:30pm (EDT)

Adjournment

The president adjourned the meeting on 10/18/2011 at 12:58am (EDT).