



**Minutes  
Regular Board Meeting**

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MINUTES of Blue Star Mothers of America  
National Executive Board  
Meeting Date: September 27, 2011

**Call to Order:**

The September 27, 2011 regular board meeting of the BSMA was held by electronic means (Go to Meeting) telephone and computer. The meeting convened at 8:38pm EST, President Robin McCarthy presiding and Charilyn Damigo, Recording Secretary. (Anne Parker assumed the role of Recording Secretary pro-tem at 10:19pm) A quorum was present.

**Attendees:**

**Members in attendance:** President Robin Barnes-McCarthy, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Janet Broussard, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President Rev. Lin McGee, 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President Teresa Bullock, , Recording Secretary Charilyn Damigo, Financial Secretary Anne Parker, Treasurer Julie Roberts, Dept of OK Cindy Hood, Pres. Dept of OH Pat Pell, PNP Susan Naill, PNP Wendy Hoffman, Chaplain Gloria Cervantes, NYC Veterans Day Parade Chair Patsy Varnell

**Absent:** Dept of MN Carol Gates

**Excused:** PNP Joyce Fulford (not contacted regarding this meeting)  
4<sup>th</sup> Vice President/Pres. Dept. of MN Pattie Kelley  
PNP Karen Stevens

Roll Call of Officers -- (Recording Secretary)  
Prayer -- (Gloria Cervantes)  
Pledge of Allegiance -- (Anne Parker)  
Blue Star Mothers Preamble -- (Rev. Lin McGee)

**Business**

**Approval of Minutes**

MOTION: To approve the NEB meeting minutes of 9/8/11 as amended.  
Motion is seconded and passes on vote.

MOTION: To approve the Post-Convention minutes prepared by Kathryn Hood.  
Motion is seconded and passes on vote.

MOTION: Approve change to the minutes of 8/23/11 regarding the finance committee (removal of Peg McClanahan's name from the finance committee.)  
Motion is seconded and passes on vote.

Convention Minutes are completed and will be approved at the next convention.



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## **Officer and Committee Reports**

### **Financial Report**

- MOTION: Recommendation that the financial reports be accepted and posted to the website. Motion is seconded and passes on vote.
- Candy Bar sales – 100/500 candy bars have been sold. Some will be sent to department conventions.
- MOTION: Leftover candy bars will be taken to NYC parade to be sold at the booth we will have. Motion is seconded and passes on vote.
- Anne Parker reported that yearbook sales are not brisk. Wendy suggested that an email be sent to the membership stating that yearbooks are available in the store.
- Anne asked for NEB clarification on retaining of Joe Castellanos, CPA, for four years as the auditor as approved by the Pre-convention NEB and ratified by Post-convention NEB. A discussion ensued and it was agreed that Robin should ratify this decision by signing the appropriate document Anne will furnish her.

### **First VP**

- Janet Broussard reports that nearly all memberships have been updated. Officer rosters still need to be input. New applicants have been emailed.
- Janet questioned members with the January 15 expiry date. Wendy stated that the January 15 expiry date for members needs to be changed and Robin will handle with the Webmaster.

### **Second VP**

- *Gazette* (August convention newsletter); Lin reported she got it done on time; however, when it was posted to the website, it was "late." She is still getting questions from members about the newsletter not being emailed as many cannot access it on the website. There was a question about the picture quality and the fact that Wendy's article said there would be information elsewhere in the newsletter about the Secretary of Veterans Affairs. Lin asked whether she could forward this to the membership. She said there is a bit of misinformation and she would like to correct this. Robin said she would get the Secretary of Veterans Affairs' speech posted on the website. Lin would like to have mentioned that the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month is the deadline for submission and that her preference is still to do a monthly newsletter rather than quarterly. Lin has concerns about how to do the *Gazette*; she believes these things can be rectified. Robin stated the theme for September would be Gold Star mothers. Lin asked if she could do writing and have Robin approve content. Lin stated she has had little response to members on Gold Star mothers. Lin inquired who edited the last *Gazette*. Robin asked Lin for themes for the twelve editions and to furnish her with these themes. Robin responded that Robin's daughter, a yearbook editor, helped Robin to make changes to the *Gazette*. Next time it will be in a Word version (not a Mac version). Lin questioned color changes for printing of the *Gazette* by members. It was agreed that once the August Newsletter was corrected and out



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to the membership that Lin would complete a September Newsletter and submit it to Robin for approval, to then be posted on the website and sent out to the membership.

- Yearbook Committee will include five people. Requested information from Robin as to theme, format, etc. she is interested in. Robin asked Wendy for clarification on the amount spent on yearbook last year of (\$5,000 with 100 color pages being approved). Wendy stated it was in the minutes but she believed this figure was correct. Robin will share her ideas with Lin so the committee can begin working on the yearbook. Two cases of yearbooks were sent to Robin. An email should be sent to the membership as yearbook sales have not been brisk. There are 178 yearbooks left.

#### Third VP

- Teresa Bullock reported 31 fallen heroes with 15 banners having been ordered thus far. She attended a ceremony in CA with 18 Gold Star Mothers in attendance. There was a five year old there singing the National Anthem. It was very emotional and the singer hugged each Gold Star Mother in attendance. She was asked if there were pictures. Teresa can send the ones on her camera to Rev. Lin. Teresa says she can submit an article for the *Gazette* within the next two days.
- Gloria Cervantes reported 854 Gold Star Mother cards were sent out. Cards were personalized with the mother's name and the fallen's name through a card service. Wendy questioned what happened with Gold Star Mothers that we did not have the child's name, and Gloria said they were taken off the list (total 130 not sent, some due to being undeliverable). Susan questioned if addresses were secure and Gloria confirmed they were. Cindy mentioned local chapters may have better information on Gold Star Mothers. Gloria will ask chapters for information and work on "cleaning up" list for next year. She is working currently with requests for Gold Star banners. Lin stated 854 seems like a low number. Gloria stated she started with 1031 and after some double checking, the number actually sent was 854. The site Gloria used rejected undeliverable addresses. Lin questioned the cost (\$1828 to send 854 cards) and stated last year she only spent approximately \$600. Lin asked about the use of the logo and the company making a profit on this without BSMA receiving a portion of the profits. Robin stated that the company is not making a profit; it is merely using the logo in the same way in which it would be used to print letterhead, etc..

#### Fourth VP

- Robin has received and accepted a resignation letter from Pattie Kelly due to her son's medical issues. Robin stated she offered Patti the option of stepping away from the position (taking a leave of absence) and Patti stated that it was early enough in the year that she feels a replacement officer could be appointed to fulfill the obligations.
- Robin would like to appoint a Pro Tem person to serve until the October 28 meeting and recommends Rose Ann Elliott (OH10) although she has not specifically talked to Rose Ann



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about this position. Wendy stated that due to the amount of training required, she would prefer to leave the position unfilled until the next meeting until a person is appointed.

- MOTION: Robin should appoint Rose Ann Elliott as Pro Tem until October 28. Friendly amendment: add "pending her agreement to accept the position" was denied. Motion is seconded and passes on vote.
- Gloria, our chaplain, offered prayer for Patti and her family.

**Department of Michigan**

- Robin will be driving to the Department Convention (10/15/2011)

**Department of Minnesota**

- Robin will not be able to attend Department Convention as the date conflict with the Dept. of Michigan Convention (10/15/2011).

**Department of Ohio**

- Pat Pell reports that the Department convention is coming up. (9/30 – 10/2)
- Three chapters closing in OH, OH12, OH5 and OH36. They are having difficulty getting financial officers, a real problem.
- Grant for Care Source – Department of Ohio is a finalist. Least amount to be received \$2500. Pat is going to recommend use of some of these funds for the Blue to Gold program with Service Flags.
- Wendy questioned whether OH36 would fit under "grandfathering" and Robin and Pat said they did not wish to be considered in this regard.

**Department of Oklahoma**

- Cindy Hood reported great speakers are lined up for convention (9/30 – 10/2). Fifty-seven delegates are registered. There will be an instructional time.
- OK lost its 13<sup>th</sup> National Guardsman yesterday.
- Gold Star luncheon on Saturday was fabulous; seventy-five were in attendance. A psychologist advised Department that what they were doing for Gold Star Mothers is very healing. OK will fundraise next year to do more.
- Janet questioned whether Cindy would like to have membership cards overnighted to her for distribution at their convention.

**Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Run (9/25/2011)**

- NP Robin Barnes-McCarthy and Treasurer Julie Roberts represented BSMA for this event.
- Big success. Met several contacts including a mother from Oahu interested in starting HI chapter.
- Approximately 30K runners
- Medal of Honor recipient Dakota Meyer present as well as 2000 cadets from West Point.
- There are plans to hold additional shadow runs next year around September 8.



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**NYC Veterans Day Parade**

- A written report was sent to the NEB with recommendations from Patsy Varnell.
- Written MOU is still not available due to illness on the part of the parade commissioner.
- Discussion regarding "Uniform of the Day" for the parade. Recommendation is for a BSMA cape to be worn (checking on price/availability) with blue for members and white for NEB representatives.
- Maximum number of moms to participate in float and reviewing stand is 40.
- Approximately 8-11 NEB members plan to attend. NEB members will pay their own expenses beyond the grant allowance by the parade committee. The parade committee will cover the cost for two of our board members to attend the Marine Corps Ball in NYC.
- Patsy will send out more information to the NEB when she receives it.

**Veterans Day – Washington, DC**

- Who will be attending the events we are committed to in Arlington/DC this year for Veterans Day? We need to complete the paperwork for the person going before the next meeting on October 13th or it will be too late and our organization will not be able to be represented. Our wreath for the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier needs to be ordered from Palace Florist. There was discussion about sending a check to WIMS (Women in Military Service) instead of placing a wreath. We presented a check last year and it was appreciated. This is the only national memorial that isn't funded.
- Motion made to donate \$150 to WIMS. A friendly amendment was accepted to increase the amount to \$300. Motion passes on vote.

**New Business**

**VAVS**

MOTION: Patsy Varnell (past/acting VAVS Representative) should be allowed to send out the National Certification letters for VA volunteers in a timely manner.

Motion is seconded and passes on vote.

More information about the VAVS situation will be addressed at the next meeting due to lack of time at this meeting.

**Announcements**

Next meetings – 10/13/2011, 8:30 pm EST

10/25/2011, 8:30 pm EST



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**Adjournment**

The president adjourned the meeting at 11:15pm EST.