



**Minutes
Regular Board Meeting**

MINUTES of Blue Star Mothers of America
National Executive Board
Meeting Date: September 8, 2011
Corrected Minutes approved 10/17/2011

Call to Order:

The September 8, 2011 regular board meeting of the BSMA was held by electronic means (Go to Meeting) telephone and computer. The meeting convened at 8:35pm EST, 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, 2nd Vice President Rev. Lin McGee, 3rd Vice President Teresa Bullock, 4th Vice President/Pres. Dept. of MN Pattie Kelley, Recording Secretary Charilyn Damigo, Financial Secretary Anne Parker, Treasurer Julie Roberts, Dept of OK Cindy Hood, Pres. Dept of OH Pat Pell, Pres. Dept. of MI Carol Gates, PNP Karen Stevens, PNP Susan Naill, PNP Wendy Hoffman, Chaplain Gloria Cervantes (prayer and question about NYC parade)

Absent: None

Excused: PNP Joyce Fulford (not contacted regarding this meeting)

Roll Call of Officers -- (Recording Secretary)

Prayer -- (Gloria Cervantes)

Pledge of Allegiance -- (Pattie Kelley)

Blue Star Mothers Preamble -- (Cindy Hood)

Business

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: To approved the NEB meeting minutes of 8/23/11 as amended.

Motion is seconded and passes on vote.

The post-convention minutes are completed and have been posted for review. Kathryn Hood will have the convention minutes ready for the Review Committee soon.

Committee Appointments

Discipline Committee (To address current issues unable to be resolved at the chapter level)

- o Dorothy Sills, chair
- o Charilyn Damigo, NEB representative

- By-Laws Committee



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- Kathryn Venable, chair

Officer and Committee Reports

Financial Report

--Report from PNP Karen Stevens, Finance Chair

BSMA currently uses printed checks (not handwritten, paper checks). Paper checks still on hand were transferred to Julie Roberts, kept under lock & key. Her home office was broken into and an attempt was made to use one of our old checks. The bank caught the attempt and did not honor the check presented. The police were called in on the matter and BSMA has not been harmed. The finance committee addressed the issue promptly & professionally. All additional paper checks will be shredded.

First VP

- Working on membership issues, a lot of negative comments about the process, chapters having difficulties, membership cards received yesterday & will be working on getting those out

Second VP

- Traveling for 3 weeks & worked on newsletter while she was gone. Still has not received all bios/pictures requested. Working on formatting changes with Robin & Joretta Weaver.

Third VP

- Nothing new to report.

Fourth VP

- Acting on new files soon

Department of Michigan

- Nothing new to report.

Department of Minnesota

- Wrapping up preparation for department convention, Also participated in a Military Appreciation Day at their State Fair last week.

Department of Ohio

- Nothing new to report.

Department of Oklahoma

- Gold Star Luncheon for state of Oklahoma 9/24/11 (255 invitations have been issued)
- Dept Convention 9/30/11
- Dept President Cindy Hood has also been in discussion with representatives from Arkansas to help re-establish Arkansas chapters



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Website

- Chapter presidents previously had access to expiry dates and there were numerous errors. Anne Parker stated that this is a nightmare for the 1st VP to deal with. Currently expiry dates have been changed to January 15 and need to be changed back to August 31 and changed back to "lapsed" per our bylaws.

- Janet has been fielding numerous complaints/questions regarding membership dues from members whose chapters have not yet submitted checks, etc. This process has been changed to accept electronic checks which will hopefully streamline the process.

Action Item: Robin will send an email to explain to all members that the expiry dates will be changed back to the corrected dates.

- PNP Wendy Hoffman purchased the domain name for BlueStarMothers.com when it became available two years ago. It is currently set to point to our current BSMA website. Robin would like a web committee to look into purchasing this and other similar domain names. BlueStarMothers.net is currently owned by OH2.

Memberclicks will renew the domain name prior to its expiration on 9/13/2011. The current address & contact information data for the domain (must be a private person and is by tradition the current NP) will be updated at that time. No payment needed – this is part of the package with Memberclicks.

Memberclicks is encouraging us upgrade our current package to Level 6 to accommodate more members. Additional cost is approximately \$50/mo. This level would support up to 20, 000 members, as well as increase the number of forms, emails, etc. that we are allowed to use..

MOTION: To upgrade the Memberclicks package agreement to the higher level, effective immediately.

Motion is seconded and passes on vote.

Tunnels to Towers Run (9/25/2011)

Treasurer Julie Roberts has been representing BSMA for this event. There are approximately 55 chapters (1000 runners) involved in this activity, including representatives in Honolulu, even though we do not have a chapter in Hawaii. Because Julie is on the event committee, her hotel, dinner, & ferry expenses are being paid by the committee. If a second person attends the event there would be an additional expense of \$200 plus travel expenses.

MOTION: BSMA to pay airfare (approx. \$350 RT) for Julie Roberts to attend the event in NYC on 9/25/11. Friendly amendment made that expenses for NP Robin McCarthy also be paid and included. Motion is seconded and passes on vote.



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Governing Documents

One more set of changes was received today. The changes will be made by Julie Roberts and the governing documents will be available on the website this weekend.

Legislation

House Bill HR 2815--Definition of "BSM" before Congress

Action Item: NP Robin McCarthy will appeal to all members to ask their representatives to support this bill.

Civilian Svc Recognition Act, HR S1444 or (House) HR2061

- Robin is currently writing a letter to Joe Lieberman, Committee Chair to show opposition from BSMA regarding this proposal. She will ask the PNPs and then the NEB to read the letter before it is officially submitted.

Department Conventions

- Delegate clarification – The number of Delegates eligible to vote per chapter will be dependent on the members who have renewed. (Chapter President plus 1 delegate per 10 members)

-"How to Make a Law" booklets leftover from Convention (Donated by our representatives) to be distributed at the Department convention.

Suspension

An apology and request for reinstatement from a suspended member has been made to the current NEB. After discussion the NEB determined that the terms of the suspension have not yet been met.

NYC Veterans Day Parade

-Recent severe storms have delayed responses from parade organizer Pat Gualtieri. His office is currently working on the MOU; the draft should be completed by the end of this week.

-Service Flags has sent a sample of the vest with the Service Banner logo. One concern is regarding using the service banner logo, which cannot be worn by mothers of veterans. Recommendation is to use the BSMA logo instead.

NM5

– A letter needs to be sent to all former officers.

New Business – NEB emails

MOTION: For the purposes of officer transition and according to document retention policy, all elected officers and officers with mailboxes on the national server at bluestarmothers.org use the corporate email address for all organizational email exclusively.

Motion defeated.



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Announcements

Next meeting – 9/27/2011, 8:30 pm EST

Adjournment

The president adjourned the meeting at 11:00pm EST.