



BSMA 2022 Convention

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

1. Call to order.

National President, Stacy Anders, called to order the 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc at 8:30am.

II. Opening Ceremony

Chaplain Carla Brodacki opened the Bible.

III. Welcome to Convention

IV. National President Stacy Anders recognized:

Introduced the Past National Presidents in attendance: Jean Burlingame, Karen Stevens, Judy Dorsey, Anne Parker, and Carla Brodacki. In addition, Madam President did recognize the Past National Presidents not in attendance. A gift of the Red Ruby was presented to the Past National Presidents in attendance.

President Stacy Anders also introduced:

Department Presidents  
First Time Convention Attendees  
Veterans in attendance  
Gold Star Mothers in attendance  
Committee Chairs

V. Naming of Judges, Timekeepers and Spotters

Appointments for Convention

Judge: Deb Waltz

Tellers: Moira Fisher  
Berva Treat  
Connie Moler  
Susanne Otto

Timekeepers: Coni Brooks  
Alethea Tennill  
Kim Muller

Spotters: Kathleen Staats  
Sabina Fetter

Appointees were accepted by Convention Body

- VI. Naming of the minute's approval committees  
Tabled presentation of the committee for consideration by the Convention body.
- VII. Credential report was provided by 1VP Rebecca Stafford.  
119 delegates, 9 alternates, 3 attendees for a total of 131 present.
- VIII. Accept the Minutes from 2021 – 2022 Convention  
Changes made: Teller Chris Carballo, Spotter unknown name,  
Minute Approval Committee: Diane Retting
- Motion: To accept the minutes with changes  
2<sup>nd</sup>  
Discussion  
Call for Vote:  
Vote Passes, 0 abstentions, 0 opposed
- IX. An explanation of voting paddle, honoring the Bible and American Flag as you pass in front of them was presented by National President Stacy Anders.
- X. Motion: To suspend reading aloud the Election Rules and read to yourself.  
2<sup>nd</sup>  
Discussion  
Call for vote:  
Vote passes, 0 abstention 0 opposed
- XI. National President presented 2022 Convention and Election Rules  
Convention Rules are submitted as an attachment.  
Motion: To approve the convention rules  
2<sup>nd</sup>  
Call for Vote:  
Vote Passes: 0 Abstention 0 Opposed
- XI. Announcement by Convention Chair: no changes to agenda, grab and go breakfast from 6am - 8am. Ambassadors are available to answer questions regarding vicinity. Information regarding the dinner cruise this evening. Ship Thrifty Happy Hour Thursday and will walk to restaurant. A final count needed.
- Motion: Agenda comes from committee and does not need a 2<sup>nd</sup>.  
Call for Vote:  
Discussion  
Motion Passes, 0 abstention, 0 opposed

XII. Julie Straw: Convention body to receive information on donations for 501 (c)(3) to review with vote this afternoon.

Nominees:

23 Veteran

Gary Sinise Foundation: RISE Program\*

Gary Sinise Foundation

James R. Barrett Foundation for PTSD Awareness & Education

New Directions for Veterans

Operation Interdependence

Quilts of Valor

Team River Runner

Team Rubicon

The Wingman Foundation

Charlie Fire, Inc. – rescinded

Lucky Fin Project – removed – not a veteran organization.

Announcement from Financial Secretary on checks to be picked up.

Chaplain Carla Brodacki closed the Bible.

Break – 9:45am – 10:00am

Chaplain Carla Brodacki opened the Bible.

XII. Memorial Service

Chaplain Carla Brodacki closed the Bible.

Break 11:05am 11:25am – change into patriotic attire.

Chaplain Carla Brodacki opened the Bible.

National President Stacy Anders made announcement:

No one is authorized to video tape meeting and/or post on Facebook.

Chaplain Carla Brodacki closed the Bible.

Break: Lunch 12:15pm – 1:30pm

Chaplain Carla Brodacki opened the Bible.

Announcement: PNP Jean Burlingame shared how Blue Star Mothers were instrumental in originating the mission to establish the suicide hotline number 988.

XIII. Motion: To allow Recording Secretary to record sessions for minute purposes  
2<sup>nd</sup>

Discussion  
Call for vote:  
Motion Passes 0 abstention, 0 opposed.

XIV. Financial Chair Julie Straw presents financial report  
Financial report is attached.

XV. Voting for donation awardee for 501(c) (3)  
Awardee: Gary Sinise Foundation

XVI. Naming of the Minutes Committee (tabled during morning session)  
Christine McCracken  
Jen Pecarina  
Diane Rettig

MOTION: To Accept Minutes Committee

2<sup>nd</sup>

Discussion

Motion Passes. 0 Abstention 0 Opposed

Chapter Reports

Chaplain Closed the Bible

Committee Chair announced the address for Dinner Cruise this evening.

Meeting Adjourned: 4:30pm



BSMA 2022 CONVENTION  
JULY 27, 2022

- I. National President, Stacy Anders, called to order day two (2) of the 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Blue Star Mothers of America at 8:30am  
  
Chaplain Carla Brodacki opened the Bible.
- II. President Stacy Anders called on the first-time attendees to come up front and presented a lapel pin.
- III. 1VP Rebecca Stafford presented Credential Report 124 delegates, 12 attendees, 2 alternates with a total of 138.
- IV. 1 VP Training
- V. 2 VP Training
- VI. VAVS Convention Project – Anne Parker  
Packing of the bags for Long Beach VA  
Presentation of bags and remarks by Long Beach VA Chief Andrea Lennon
- VII. Chapter Reports  
  
Chaplain Carla Brodacki closed the Bible.  
  
Lunch 12pm – 1PM  
  
Chaplain Carla Brodacki opened the Bible.
- VIII. Recording Secretary Training
- IX. Financial Secretary / Treasurer Training  
  
Chaplain Carla Brodacki closed the Bible.  
  
Break 2:45pm – 3:00pm  
  
Chaplain Carla Brodacki opened the Bible.
- X. 3VP Training

- XI. 4<sup>th</sup> VP Training
- XII. VAVS Training –
- XIII. Chaplain Carla Brodacki closed the Bible.

Dinner on Own

APPROVED



BSMA 2022 CONVENTION  
JULY 28, 2022

- I. National President, Stacy Anders, called to order day three (3) of the 79<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

Chaplain Carla Brodacki opened the Bible.

- II. Credential Report by 1VP Rebecca Stafford. 123 delegates, 12 alternates, 3 attendees with a total of 138

Chaplain Carla Brodacki closed the Bible.

- III. Announcement by President Stacy Anders. The official convention photo will be taken inside the hotel lobby.

- IV. National Big Dipper Auxiliary Meeting, Election

96 voting members

Election:

President

Doreen Berggren CA9 \*

Charla Fletcher TX6

1VP

Amy O'Campo CA26 \*

Ann Cordero, TX6

Treasurer

Diana Vance OH 9 \*

Financial Secretary

Gen Schindler CA 10 \*

Recording Secretary

Shannon Kennedy CA9 \*

Lunch and change into Patriotic Attire

President Stacy Anders called the meeting to order.

Chaplain Carla Brodacki opened the Bible.

Announcement: Change of agenda. National Big Dipper Installation will be held after the close of business.

Motion to Accept the changes.

2<sup>nd</sup>

Call for Vote

Discussion

Motion passes. 0 abstention. 0 opposed

V. Speaker – Operation Surf

VI. Bylaw Update - Chair Charilyn Damigo  
Documents attached from presentation.

#### ARTICLE IV ELIGIBILITY

**Motion:** Any individual is eligible for membership in the corporation if –

1. “She is a mother, meaning a woman who filled the role of birth mother (adoptive mother, stepmother, foster-or legal guardian) of

A. a son or daughter serving in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States; or

B. a son or daughter who has served in the Armed Forces of the United States,

or

**C. a son or daughter who has been honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States; and**

**2. She is a citizen or legal resident alien (a permanent resident is someone who has been granted authorization the United States on a permanent basis) living in the United States or Citizen living outside the United States**

2<sup>nd</sup>

Discussion

Call for Vote

Decision: OR letter C.2.

No Opposed No Abstentions

#### **Motion: By Law Audit**

**A) The Convention Body acknowledges the discrepancies noted in the 2021 Bylaws Audit, and hereby votes to accept outlined.**

or

**B) The Convention Body acknowledges the discrepancies noted in the 2021 Bylaws Audit votes to retain the Bylaws document accepted at the 2021 Convention.**

2<sup>nd</sup>

Discussion

Call for Vote.

Decision: A)

Chaplain Carla Brodacki closed the Bible.

Break - 3:25pm – 3:40pm

Chaplain Carla Brodacki opened the Bible.

- V. Mentor Program Presentation – Denise Guerra  
Presentation attached.
  
- VII. Chaplain Carla Brodacki closed the Bible.  
  
Announcement: Ship Thrifty 5:30 pm
  
- VIII. National Big Dipper Installation was held.

APPROVED



BSMA 2022 Convention  
July 29, 2022

- I. National President, Stacy Anders, called to order day four (4) of the 79<sup>th</sup>. Annual Convention of the Blue Star Mothers of America at 8:00 am

Chaplain Carla Brodacki opened the Bible.

- II. Credential Report by 1VP Rebecca Stafford  
123 delegates, 11 alternates, 3 attendees with a total of 137

- III. Chapter Reports

Chaplain Carla Brodacki closed the Bible.

Break 8:53 am – 9:03am

- IV. Review of Tellers, Judges and Explanation of Ballots
- V. Explanation of Voting Rules
- VI. Election of Officers

National President – Stacy Anders CA26\*

1VP – Rebecca Stafford MO5\*

2VP – Karen Stillwell OH9\*

3VP – Cheree Barrett TX13\*

Sylvia Gaxiola CA51

4VP - Brenda Ternullo CA15\*

Recording Secretary – Doreen Berggren CA9 – withdrew

Marisol Gonzalez CA10\*

Jan Rusk CA27

Financial Secretary – Sonya Kay IL6\*

Treasurer – Alethea Tennill Mo5\*

- VII. Chapter Reports given between election.

VIII. Remarks by Convention Chair – Amy O’Campo

Remarks for the Good of the Order and closing remarks by National President Stacy Anders.

Chaplain Carla Brodacki closed us in prayer.

79<sup>th</sup> Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. Convention adjourned at 10:34am

Installation of the 2022 – 2023 Officers

Respectfully Submitted,  
Doreen Berggren  
Recording Secretary Pro-tem

APPROVED



# BSMA Bylaws Committee



**PRESENTED BY CHARILYN DAMIGO, CA39  
BYLAWS CHAIR 2021-22**



# Overview



- Introduction
- Addressing Current Concerns
- Next Steps



# Introduction



- Background
- Challenges
- Suggestions
- Questions
- Next Steps





# Addressing Current Concerns



- **Title 36 Membership**
  - Current Membership Wording
  - Suggested Resolution to Congress
- **Bylaws**
  - Audit Concerns
  - Housekeeping Needs





# Title 36 Membership



## Title 36

Our Constitution is based solely on U.S. Code Title 36 as passed by Congress. We may not make any changes to this law, without a vote from Congress. In addition, our Constitution cannot be in conflict with the Title 36 legal provisions. We have identified an error in our published Constitution that is in conflict with Title 36, which has been corrected. This correction does not require a vote of the Convention Body.

\*Please note that eligibility is not limited to mothers of those who are honorably discharged. The corrected copy is as follows for your records:

### ARTICLE IV ELIGIBILITY

Any individual is eligible for membership in the corporation if –

1. “She is a mother, meaning a woman who filled the role of birth mother (adoptive mother, step-mother, foster-mother, grandmother, or legal guardian) of
  - A. a son or daughter serving in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States; or
  - B. a son or daughter who has served in the Armed Forces of the United States,

## OR

- C. a son or daughter who has been honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States; and
2. She is a citizen or legal resident alien (a permanent resident is someone who has been granted authorization to live and work in the United States on a permanent basis) living in the United States or Citizen living outside the United States.

\* The Sections that pertain directly to our organization are United States Code Title 36, sections #30501-30514. (The link is here if you would like to access it.  
<https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?path=/prelim@title36/subtitle2/partB/chapter305&edition=prelim> )



# Resolution to Congress



- **Background:**

Our current eligibility, as set by Congress, does not include mothers of members of the Space Force, which was formed after our most recent Title 36 update. According to Congressman Josh Harder's office, in order to change this, we must pass a resolution at our next Convention requesting this revision. It is my opinion, as Bylaws Committee Chair, that we write a broader description to avoid needing to change the wording if there are future changes in Armed Forces designations.



# Resolution to Congress



- Current Wording:

## §30501. Definition

For purposes of this chapter, "Armed Forces" includes the United States Army, United States Navy, United States Marines, United States Air Force, United States Coast Guard, National Guard, United States Army Reserves, United States Navy Reserves, United States Marine Reserves, United States Air Force Reserves, United States Coast Guard Reserves, United States Naval Militia, merchant marines, and armed home guards who have served on active duty.



# Resolution to Congress



- Proposed Wording:
- §30501. Definition  
For purposes of this chapter, "Armed Forces" includes the branches of military service included in United States Code Title 10, section 101; Title 12; and armed home guards with active service.



# Bylaws



- **Bylaws Audit**

The audit of our past Governing Documents as compared to their respective Convention Minutes has revealed a few minor discrepancies in our current version of our Bylaws. Because of the directive of the 2021 Convention Body, this issue has been reviewed in depth, beginning with the document produced after the major revision of our Governing Documents that began in 2007 under the direction of Attorney Don Alexander and his staff. A file is attached that outlines the discrepancies. Since it is difficult to tell how each discrepancy occurred (an oversight in the Convention Minutes vs. an oversight in the documents), and none of the differences seriously affect the running of our organization, as Bylaws Chair I propose either of these two scenarios to resolve the findings of the audit:

- - A) The Convention Body acknowledges the discrepancies noted in the 2021 Bylaws Audit, and hereby votes to accept the changes as outlined.
  - or
  - B) The Convention Body acknowledges the discrepancies noted in the 2021 Bylaws Audit, but votes to retain the current wording of the Bylaws document accepted at the 2021 Convention.



# Recommendation



- A) The Convention Body acknowledges the discrepancies noted in the 2021-22 Bylaws Audit, and hereby votes to accept the changes as outlined.

or

- B) The Convention Body acknowledges the discrepancies noted in the 2021-22 Bylaws Audit, but votes to retain the current wording of the Bylaws document accepted at the 2021 Convention.



# Next Steps



- Suggested Review of current governance documents and procedures.
  - Conduct an inventory of governance documentation
  - Compare our documents with other national organizations to determine best practices for like service organizations (not corporate)
  - Understand minimum compliance regulations for federal code and DC, but also in light of effective management with a changing, volunteer staff
  - Review overall congruity between the documents
  - Identify additional documents that may be necessary (example, clear grievance policy)
  - Prepare a set of recommendations based on the review
  - Prepare amendments for the 2024 Convention.





## BYLAWS AUDIT 2021-2022

### DISCREPANCIES NOTED:

<u>Note #</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Current Wording</u>	<u>Corrected Wording</u>	<u>Explanation</u>	<u>Year to be Changed:</u>
1	Bylaws Article I	NAME AND GOVERNING AUTHORITY	GOVERNANCE	Changed to follow with Note 2	2009
2	Bylaws Article I, Section 1	This Corporation shall be known as the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., (the "Corporation").	<del>This Corporation shall be known as the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., (the "Corporation").</del>	Deleted by 2009 National Convention Body; carried forward every year since.	2009
3	Bylaws Article II, Section 1	These Bylaws may be amended every two years at the annual National Convention by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the eligible voting Delegates present and voting.	These Bylaws may be amended every two years at the <del>annual</del> National Convention by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the eligible voting Delegates present and voting.	The word "annual" was deleted; carried forward every year since.	?
4	Bylaws Article III (Title)	MEMBERS AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	MEMBERS <del>AND ASSOCIATE MEMBERS</del>	Change occurred in 2013, but no proposed amendment and/or adoption found in the 2013 minutes.	2013
5	Bylaws Article III, Section 1	A Member is considered to be in good standing whose <del>dues</del> have been paid	A Member is considered to be in good standing whose <del>fees</del> have been paid	Stated incorrectly in the 2009 published Bylaws as "dues"; nothing in minutes to support this change.	2009
6	Bylaws Article III, Section 4	Grounds for termination include, but shall not be limited to:	The following shall be, but is not limited to, reason for termination of a member:	This wording was changed in the published 2014 Bylaws; No proposed amendment and/or adoption found in the 2014 Minutes.	2014
7	Bylaws Article IV	The Corporation may be composed of <del>members-in</del> Chapters, Departments, and Regions...	The Corporation may be composed of Chapters, Departments, and Regions...	Change occurred in 2013, but no proposed amendment and/or adoption found in the 2013 minutes.	2013

**BYLAWS AUDIT 2021-2022**

8	Bylaws Article IV, Section 2	<p>Auxiliaries shall be subgroups working beside the parent organization with Bylaws that must not conflict with the Constitution, Bylaws, Code of Conduct, Corporation's Governing Documents and other procedures of the parent organization. Auxiliaries may form into Chapters, collect dues, and elect officers. Auxiliaries may hold a meeting, with the approval of the NEB, in conjunction with the annual National Convention. Annual reports to be included in the proceedings must be submitted at the annual National Convention.</p>	<p>Auxiliaries shall be subgroups working beside the parent organization with Bylaws that must not conflict with the Constitution, Bylaws, Code of Conduct, <del>Corporation's Governing Documents</del> and other procedures of the parent organization. Auxiliaries may form into Chapters, collect dues, and elect officers. Auxiliaries may hold a meeting, with the approval of the NEB, in conjunction with the annual National Convention. Annual reports to be included in the proceedings must be submitted at the annual National Convention.</p>	No proposed amendment and/or adoption found in the 2013 Minutes; still incorrect in the published 2021 Bylaws. ~pm	2013
9	Bylaws Article VII, Section 2	<p>At least sixty (60) days before the National Convention, a Call for Convention shall be ordered by the NP to be forwarded to all Departments and Chapters. Members with access to e-mail may elect to receive said notification electronically or through the U.S. Postal Service.</p>	<p>At least sixty (60) days before the National Convention, a Call for Convention shall be ordered by the NP to be forwarded to all Departments and Chapters. <del>Members with access to e-mail may elect to receive said notification electronically or through the U.S. Postal Service.</del></p>	This section in the published 2021 Bylaws still has wording not mentioned in 2008 National Convention Minutes ~pm	2008

## BYLAWS AUDIT 2021-2022

10	Bylaws Article VII, Section 7	Each Chapter is entitled to one (1) Delegate for every ten (10) Members in good standing or fraction thereof. All Delegates must be Members in good standing. All Chapter Presidents are entitled to vote at National/Department Conventions and are NOT counted in Chapter delegate numbers.	Each Chapter is entitled to one (1) Delegate for every ten (10) Members in good standing or fraction thereof. All Delegates must be Members in good standing. All Chapter Presidents are entitled to vote at National/Department Conventions and are NOT counted in Chapter delegate numbers. <b>The Chapter President vote is NOT transferable to any other Chapter member.</b>	Wording was changed in 2013. No proposed amendments and/or adoptions found in the 2013 Minutes ~pm	2013
11	Bylaws Article IX, Section 3	Applicable to in-person conventions: The NFS and the N1stVP shall verify the identity of each voting delegate. During elections, non-voting Members and all other non-voting attendees shall move to an area of the Convention hall designated by the NP. The NP shall call for the doors of the Convention hall to be secured by the Sergeant-At-Arms. No individual will be permitted to enter or leave the convention hall during elections.	Applicable to in-person conventions: The NFS and the N1stVP shall verify <del>the identity of each</del> voting delegate. During elections, non-voting Members and <del>all other non-voting attendees</del> shall move <del>to an area of the Convention hall designated by the NP to the rear or side, as designated by the President of the Convention hall.</del> The NP shall call for the doors of the Convention hall to be secured by the Sergeant-At-Arms. <del>No individual will be permitted to enter or leave the convention hall during elections.</del> <b>No Member shall enter or leave during elections.</b>	Changed in 2010 bylaws, no vote recorded. ~pm	2010
12	Bylaws Article IX, Section 8	Election of officers shall be by ballot.	Election of officers shall be by ballot, <b>except when there is but one nominee, in which case, election shall be <i>via voce</i>, a majority of votes cast be+D636ing required to elect.</b>	Changed in 2010 bylaws, no vote recorded. ~pm	2010

## BYLAWS AUDIT 2021-2022

13	Bylaws Article X Section 2(b)	The VPs shall be nominated from Department or Chapter officers; and	The VPs shall be nominated from <u>past or present</u> Department or Chapter officers; and	Missing Words - when deleted? ~pm	?
14	Bylaws Article XI & XII	Both Articles missing	See attached: 2009 proposed Bylaws changes 2009 National Convention minutes 2009 Bylaws - pgs. 7-40	Incorrectly moved from Bylaws to Leadership Handbook (which is not a governing document) in 2010	2010

### HOUSEKEEPING ITEMS

Note #	Location	Current Wording	Corrected Wording	Explanation	
15	Bylaws Article V, Section 1	Upon approval, the NP and the National Membership Chair shall issue a charter.	Upon approval, the NP and the <del>National Membership Chair</del> <u>National 4th VP</u> shall issue a charter.	No such position exists as National Membership Chair	Find year 4th VP was established and work forward
16	Bylaws Article VI, Section 7	Chapters shall maintain the same five officers as were required for their original charter (President, 1VP, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary and Treasurer). If one of these five officers should resign during the fiscal year, that officer shall be replaced in order for the chapter to be in compliance with our Governing Documents.	Move back to Section 6	This paragraph was part of Section 6 until 2021.	2021
17	Bylaws Article IV, Section 3	Associates - The purpose shall be to assist the Chapters in the mission of the parent organization.	<del>Associates—The purpose shall be to assist the Chapters in the mission of the parent organization.</del>	Associates are members, not a separate Auxiliary. (An Auxiliary has officers, separate meetings, minutes, etc. An example of an Auxiliary is the Big Dipper.	?
18	Bylaws Article VII Section 11	The installation of officers shall be performed before the Convention closes.	<u>Article IX must be congruent with Article VII. Article VII wording will stand.</u>	Conflicts with Article IX, Section 10	?
19	Footer	"Confidential" is included in the footer of each page.	<del>"Confidential"</del>	The notation should have been removed prior to publishing	2021

Corrected. Request to include "and daughters" at each mention of "sons" - Housekeeping per Parliamentarian.