



MEETING MINUTES
BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.
APRIL 11, 2023

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by National President Stacy Anders at 5:45PM PT

Opening:

PNP/Chaplain Carla Brodacki opened in prayer
Pledge of Allegiance was led by PNP Anne Parker
Recording Secretary Marisol Gonzalez conducted roll call

The following were present:

National President-Stacy Anders
1VP-Rebecca Stafford
2VP-Karen Stillwell
3VP-Cheree Barrett
4VP-Brenda Ternullo
Recording Secretary-Marisol Gonzalez
Financial Secretary-Sonya Kay
Treasurer-Alethea Tennill
Dept. of Ohio-Lynn Feldman
Dept. of Michigan-Jackie Ransom(excused)
Dept. of Minnesota-Karla Keller
PNP/Chaplain-Carla Brodacki
PNP/VAVS-Anne Parker

Minutes Approval:

Minutes from February 15, 2023 and March 14, 2023 were emailed to the NEB prior to this meeting from the National Recording Secretary.

MOTION to approve meeting minutes from February 15, 2023 as submitted.
Seconded
Call for vote
No opposed, one abstention
PASSED

MOTION to approve meeting minutes from March 14, 2023 as submitted.

Seconded

Call for vote

No opposed, no abstentions

PASSED

Finance Committee Report:

Report from committee meeting held on April 2, 2023 chaired by Julie Straw.

- March financials were not presented as bank statements were not available for reconciliation.
- Audit/990 progress on extension and in progress
- CFC application for 2022-2023 has been submitted
- Banner to be used in Washington DC Memorial Day Parade and future events: FC approved not to exceed \$150(within normal operating budget line items for advertising and /or events-did not need NEB approval.
- Wreath for Memorial Day approved; not to exceed \$450

- Chapter Grant Applications:

Approved grant for AR2(existing) chapter

19 existing chapter grants awarded-2 remaining for 2022-2023

3 new chapter grants awarded-4 remaining available for 2022-2023

- Proposed FYE 2024 Budget

Emailed to NEB during meeting

Presented to the NEB by Julie Straw

Discussion occurred

MOTION to postpone the approval of budget for further review until next NEB meeting in May

Seconded

Call for vote

No opposed, no abstentions

PASSED

- Proposed FYE 2024 Financial policies

Emailed to NEB during meeting

Presented to the NEB by Julie Straw

MOTION to postpone the approval of financial policies for further review until next NEB meeting in May

Seconded

Call for vote

**No opposed, no abstentions
PASSED**

Julie Straw left the meeting at 7:17 PM PT
Next monthly meeting of the FC will be held on May 7, 2023.

Online Store: NP request that nothing be ordered without her approval first
Treasurer added that coins were ordered.

Officer Reports:

Reports were emailed to NEB prior to meeting
1VP asked for Memorial Day Zoom that was saved on the Cloud
4VP received documents back from attorney needs assistance with retyping. 4VP to forward to 1VP for assistance. Gave an update on IL7 and name of chapter discussion (connection issues)
left meeting at 7:25 and reentered 7:27PM. 4VP to get back to chapter regarding their name choice.

Old Business:

- Standing rules template-4VP to confirm if with the documents reviewed and returned by attorney
- Officers photos for yearbook-must be in uniform
- Officer breakout session-officers need to put together a 30 minutes presentation

New Business:

- Call to Convention-currently being worked on, hoping to go out by May 1st. Registration for convention this year is \$165.00. Big Dipper registration is \$35.00
- Officer Reports- write officer report and get it to the convention chair no later than June 15th
- President invited to do podcast; to do on April 14th will be a Mother's Day special
- NP asked 1VP to do live video on how to renew membership for website
- Big Dipper would like to incorporate a 2VP to their upcoming board
- Discussion regarding registration fees being covered by the NEB; 1VP to email finance chair to bring to the committee

Closed Executive Session:

NP took the NEB into CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION at 7:45PM PT and out at 8:25PM PT.

3VP gave update on Gold Star banner with blue trim. NP asked 3VP to write article for newsletter about flag and where to order. 3VP to connect with 2VP to work on information to be sent out.

Having no additional business, the meeting was adjourned with a closing prayer led by Chaplain/PNP Carla Brodacki.

Respectfully submitted,
Marisol Gonzalez
National Recording Secretary

APPROVED

APPROVED



**National 2nd Vice President
April Report 2023**

- Attended all NEB Calls – Regular and Special**

- Attended the National BD Meeting**

- Received and sorted through email submissions for the April Newsletter**

- Communicated through emails and phone calls with multiple Chapters with questions**

- Converted pictures and files to fit properly into Publisher**

- Edited, resized, redesigned and organized Newsletter Submissions**

- Designed and created pages for the April Newsletter**

National Financial Secretary Report – April 2023

Attended all NEB meetings

Attended all Finance Committee Meetings

Emails - answered and filed as needed

Texts and Calls - responded as needed

National Financial Assistant

She has worked on building spreadsheets with info needed to enter deposits into QB, she has completed these through May 4. She is pulling invoices/creating the spreadsheet each week.

Financials:

Completed entering April deposits in QB for Checking, Savings, and PayPal.

Continued to work with NT to reconcile BSMA accounts

Reconciled March 2023, generated 13 reports, sent those to the Finance Committee for review

Reconciled April 2023, generated 13 reports, sent those to the FC for review

Started entering May deposits into QB.

Convention

Updated spreadsheet for all convention income outside of registration to track that as it comes in, shared this spreadsheet with our President and our Convention Chair.

Due to Chapter/Department Checks

Worked with the Treasurer and VAVS team to locate correct addresses for all due to chapter checks and VAVS checks that have been returned as undeliverable.

Incoming Mail:

Retrieved all incoming mail from PO Box. Opened and sorted mail into appropriate batches. Processed all mail.

Added mail to spreadsheets (mail received with funds, mail received without funds, member renewals, Convention)

Contacted appropriate NEB member/committee chair with scan of mail relevant to their needs or mail needed items to them

Deposited all funds received

Entered deposits into QB

Mailed anything received for Chapters on to their address on record.

Memberships

Working with 1VP to research all emails received from members with questions.

Chapters

Worked with Chapters on various financial related questions.

Prepared a Care Package FAQ Newsletter page for submission to the May newsletter.

Submitted by Sonya Kay, National Financial Secretary - May 7, 2023

April 2023

4VP Monthly Report

In the month of April:

I attended all NEB meetings

I attended all Finance Committee meetings

Answered emails regarding where chapters are located and/or starting a new chapter

Sent emails to troubled chapters trying to stop them from folding, coming up with ideas on how to keep them going

Visited CA5 with Recording Secretary Marisol Gonzales and am going to give financial training to their officers as well as the board members will be given basic governing documents training with PNP Anne Parker.

As of today May 7, 2023 there are 2 chapters still not complete with compliance as they are having problems getting the 990 filed.

AL4

PA204

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Ternullo

N4VP, 2022-2023



Department of Michigan

April 1 – April 30, 2023 Report

Department of Michigan:

- Created agenda for DEB meeting
- DEB meeting
- Reviewed minutes from DEB meeting
- Attended and spoke at Sisters in Action
- Attended Dept Big Dipper meeting
- Reviewed Dept Financials
- Submitted article for Dept MI newsletter
- Reviewed and approved Dept MI newsletter
- Presented Patriotic quilts to Veterans at an American Legion meeting
- Presented a retiring Coast Guard with a Patriotic quilt
- Attended Dept Presidents collaboration Google meeting
- Answered phone calls, emails and texts

Respectfully submitted
Jacqueline Ransom
Department of Michigan, President
Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.



Department of Minnesota

April 2023 Report



Department of Minnesota Report

- Attended NEB Zoom meeting
- Attended Chapter meeting
- Attended Mentor Committee Zoom meeting
- Attended Department Presidents Google meeting
- Reviewed Department Financials
- Responded to texts, emails and phone calls
- Finalized plans for Department Spring Meeting
- Held Department Spring Meeting

Respectfully,
Karla Keller
Department of Minnesota President
BSMoA

Department of Ohio

April 2023 Report

1. Monthly Department Executive Board meeting
2. Monthly National Executive Board meeting
3. Attended Department Collaboration Zoom meeting
4. Attended Department of Michigan Sisters in Action Spring conference
5. Department of Ohio North South Spring Conference
 - Completed plans for the conference
 - a. Copied remaining necessary documents
 - b. Emails/phone calls with host chapter and Department officers regarding final arrangements
 - c. Other necessary arrangements
 - Held the conference
6. Worked on requested BSMA info for USO representative
7. Various emails, calls with Ohio Chapter Presidents and Department Officers, and general public.

Respectfully Submitted

Lynn Feldman, President

Department of Ohio

NATIONAL VAVS REPRESENTATIVE
ANNE PARKER
MAY 2023

Doreen and I attended the VAVS National Advisory Council meeting in Denver April 26-28. We had many conversations with VAVS (Community Development and Civic Engagement) chiefs from all over the country. We received a lot of information from officials from the DC Central Office. These talks covered whole health (alternative medicine) and Compassionate Contact Corps. There was also a representative from the Undersecretary of Veterans Health Administration (a physician) as well as a panel discussion with several hospital administrators. We also attended workshops dealing with suicide prevention, onboarding of new volunteers, caregiving, and the best session of all was with volunteers and VA staff that was basically a question and answer session.

Carol is working with the facilities to get the annual joint reviews done. We learned at this conference that our representatives must ask the chiefs in many locations to do this AJR, not just wait for that to happen, and we will pass this information along to our representatives.

After much discussion with my deputies, we would like to announce during our remarks at national convention that we have been very lenient during COVID about representatives not submitting monthly reports but starting with the beginning of the new fiscal year we will begin to notify representatives who do not file a monthly report that if they go more than three months without a report, we will be removing them from the facility. It does not make sense to have representatives on the ground that do not volunteer, donate or report. I would like the NEB's approval in this regard.

Blue Star Mothers are continuing to get recognition at the national level; we are represented in 54 facilities on our paperwork and only 34 in the VA systems. We must maintain representation at 25 facilities to keep our position on the National Advisory Council.

Systemwide we are doing good work but we need to make sure that we do not have representatives serving in name only.