



**MID-YEAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.**  
**Friday, February 25, 2022**

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by National President Stacy Anders at 10:15am EST

**Opening:**

- ❖ PNP Anne Parker opened with prayer
- ❖ Pledge of Allegiance was led by Patriotic Instructor
- ❖ The following were present:

National President – Stacy Anders  
1VP – Rebecca Stafford  
2VP – Karen Stillwell  
3VP – Cheree Barrett  
4VP – Paula Lombardo  
Recording Secretary – Brenda Ternullo  
Financial Secretary – Lucie Cutts  
Treasurer – Diana Evans Vance  
PNP – Anne Parker  
Parliamentarian – Nancy Jorden  
Dept. OH – Cheri Spurlock  
Dept. MI – Jackie Ransom  
Dept. MN – Karla Keller  
Patriotic Instructor – Marisol Gonzalez  
Grievance Chair – Peg McCarthy  
Financial Aide – Sonya Stowers  
PNP/Chaplain – Carla Brodacki joined the meeting after lunch via phone

Meeting minutes we emailed prior to the Mid-Year meeting by Recording Secretary.

**MOTION:** To accept minutes with corrections

Seconded,

**PASSED** on Vote with 1 abstention

A confidentiality agreement was passed out to all attending Mid-Year for signatures. It was suggested that the Chapters have all officers sign a confidentiality agreement as well.

Discussion Occurred. The suggestion will be sent to Lawyer Mary Ellen for



approval.

**MOTION:** Remove the words *“I understand that any breach of the above will result in disciplinary action and/or may expose me to a suit for damages in a court of law”*  
Subject to legal approval.

Seconded

**PASSED**, with no abstentions

**MOTION:** Add in By-Laws “Elected Officers at any level of the Organization will be required to sign and return to Recording Secretary within 30 days of receipt.

Seconded

**PASSED**, with no abstentions

More discussion regarding who needs to sign. It was determined that all officers, elected or appointed. This information should also be added to the Leadership Handbook.

**MOTION:** To add verbiage to By Laws, Article IV, section 1 *“~~All Chapter, Department, and Regional Officers~~ Officers, elected and appointed, at every level must sign the Affiliation Agreement, binding their Chapter, Department, and Region to the Terms of the Agreement. A signed copy of the Affiliation Agreement must be submitted annually to the ~~NEB~~ Recording Secretary.*

Seconded

**PASSED** with no abstentions

Discussion occurred regarding adding notes to members’ personal profiles on the website noting discipline measures and when the discipline expires, etc.

No objections- a call to vote was made.

**PASSED** on vote with no abstentions.

Discussion occurred regarding membership transfers. Before approving the transfer, 1VP should ask if member is in good standing. This should also be addressed on the Convention Delegate form.

Discussion occurred regarding the verbiage in By-Laws, Article III, section 5: *“Dues not paid by September 1 will place the Member in a lapsed status. Dues must be paid by January 15 for the lapsed Member to be eligible to attend the National Convention. Lapsed Members, who do not pay dues by January 15, will have their Membership in the Corporation canceled. A member can be reinstated only when all dues are paid.”*  
Change to: *“Dues not paid by September 1 will place the Member in a lapsed status. Dues must be paid by January 15 for the lapsed Member to be eligible to attend the National Convention as a delegate. Lapsed Members, who do not pay dues by*



*January 15, will have their Membership in the Corporation canceled. A member can be reinstated only when all dues are paid.*

Lunch break from 12:20pm to 1:40pm

PNP Carla Brodacki joined the meeting via zoom call.

2VP discussed consistency within Departments. Each Department should have grievance committees & Standing Rules. Department grievance committees would request another Department to review the grievance, not work on their own state's. A Standing Rules template should be created.

Discussion occurred. A committee will be formed and will have until April 1 to create the requested template for approval.

Discussion occurred regarding Pen Pals

Discussion occurred regarding National Convention and the nomination form used. Are the officer job descriptions detailed enough? Shouldn't the nominated person sign that they agree to the nomination? Nomination Chair will send out qualifications needed in order for someone to be nominated.

**MOTION:** Change the wording on the elections in the By Laws, Article IX, section 9 *“Section 9. At the opening Board meeting, the NP and NEB shall appoint a Judge and three (3) Tellers for the Convention elections. The Judge should be a Past President, if possible. The Tellers should be chosen from different states.”*

To: *“Section 9. At the opening Board meeting, the NP and NEB shall appoint a Judge and three (3) **or more** Tellers for the Convention elections. The Judge should be a Past President, if possible. The Tellers should be chosen from different states.”*  
Seconded

**PASSED** with no abstentions

Break from 2:30pm – 3:00pm

PNP Carla Brodacki was not able to get back on zoom call.



Discussion occurred regarding Standing Rules and that they should be sent to the Standing Rules committee for review.

Discussion occurred regarding the shipping of BSMA property while at convention.  
**MOTION:** Purchase sturdy heavy-duty bins not to exceed \$150 for this purpose.  
Seconded

**PASSED** with no abstentions

Discussion occurred regarding past National Officers still in possession of paperwork that was scheduled for scanning/shredding. A letter is to be drafted requesting these former National Officers deliver paperwork to current National Officer. Reference By Laws Article VII, section 10: "**Section 10.** *Immediately upon an officer's retiring from office or removal from office for any reason, all papers, books, keys, flags, Charters, or any other item which is the property of the Corporation shall be turned over to the successor, along with an inventory to be signed by the outgoing and incoming Officers. National Officers must return laptops, printers, etc. cited in the equipment contract they signed when they took office and took possession of said equipment. The equipment contract will be kept by the NRS as a permanent record.*"

**MOTION:** NT to get quotes on scanning & shipping documents from previous National Officers to the Current Officers.

Asked if there were any objections, hearing none, motion passed.

Discussion occurred regarding taking BSMA property to officers' place of business. It is suggested that this verbiage be added to the Financial Policy. National Finance Chair will be notified.

Discussion occurred regarding the present situation of having only one active PNP and how that is detrimental to the organization. Requested to change By Laws to Pro-Tem a PNP when this happens. A letter will be sent to lawyer for best verbiage to use.

PNP Anne Parker led us in closing prayer  
End of Day 1 at 4:59pm EST



**MID-YEAR MEETING MINUTES  
BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.  
Saturday, February 26, 2022**

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by National President Stacy Anders at 9:15am EST

**Opening:**

❖ PNP Anne Parker opened with prayer

**Roll Call:**

National President – Stacy Anders  
1VP – Rebecca Stafford  
2VP – Karen Stillwell  
3VP – Cheree Barrett  
4VP – Paula Lombardo  
Recording Secretary – Brenda Ternullo  
Financial Secretary – Lucie Cutts  
Treasurer – Diana Evans Vance  
PNP – Anne Parker  
Parliamentarian – Nancy Jorden  
Dept. OH – Cheri Spurlock  
Dept. MI – Jackie Ransom  
Dept. MN – Karla Keller  
Grievance Chair – Peg McCarthy  
Financial Aide – Sonya Stowers

Discussion occurred regarding N1VP and N4VP computers not having Microsoft Office installed.

**MOTION:** To purchase Microsoft Office for the computers for the N1VP and N4VP.

Seconded

**PASSED** with no abstentions



Discussion occurred regarding the wording in the Constitution: *“An individual is eligible for membership in the corporation if –*

*(1) “She is a mother, meaning a woman who filled the role of birthmother (adoptive mother, Step-mother, Foster-mother, Grandmother, or Legal Guardian) of a person who*

*(A) is currently serving in any branch of the Armed Forces of the United States; or*

*(B) has served and been honorably discharged from the Armed Forces of the United States; and*

*(2) She is 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.”*

Proposed a change to have the word AN replaced with ANY because of a legal necessity.

Research will be done

Discussion occurred regarding the conflict resolution committee and how it should be a 3-person team and a template be created. All members on this committee must sign the Affiliation Agreement and sent to the National Recording Secretary for filing.

The Mid-Year attendees broke out into groups to work on respective forms/templates.

Break for lunch 12:00 until 1:10

Discussion occurred regarding the need for changes to the Constitution and the By Laws. Webmaster should move the US Code and Affiliation Agreement to the Governing Documents page on the website.

Recommended to send all Governing Document proposals to lawyer for review and to discuss discrepancies and inconsistencies.

**MOTION:** Documents worked on at Mid-Year be sent to our lawyer for review then discuss discrepancies and inconsistencies.

Asked if any objections, seeing none, motion carries.

Discussion occurred regarding adding appointed positions to Leadership Handbook with job descriptions.

**MOTION:** To add appointed positions to Leadership Handbook with job



descriptions.

Asked if any objections, seeing none, motion carries.

Discussion occurred regarding templates for Grievance committee.

**MOTION:** To accept the document worked on for the Grievance Committee to use while reviewing a grievance.

Asked if any objections, seeing none, motion carries.

Break from 1:24pm to 2:30

Attendees worked on creating a Template for written warnings.

**MOTION:** NP should inform the 1VP of any written warnings and notes are to be added to members' personal profile and status changed to "pending".

Asked if any objections, seeing none, motion carries.

Discussion on the templates and revisions of documents.

Break 4:00pm for dinner, reconvened at 4:55pm

Discussion on the verbal warning checklist document

**MOTION:** Accept the Checklist Document for verbal warnings

Asked if any objections, seeing none, motion carries.

Discussion occurred regarding the trip to Washington DC for Memorial Day

PNP Anne Parker led us in prayer

End of Day 2 meeting, 9:10pm EST



**MID-YEAR MEETING MINUTES**  
**BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.**  
**Sunday, February 27, 2022**

**Call to Order:** Meeting was called to order by National President Stacy Anders at 9:02am EST

**Opening:**

- ❖ PNP Anne Parker opened with prayer

**Roll Call:**

National President – Stacy Anders  
1VP – Rebecca Stafford  
2VP – Karen Stillwell  
3VP – Cheree Barrett  
4VP – Paula Lombardo  
Recording Secretary – Brenda Ternullo  
Financial Secretary – Lucie Cutts  
Treasurer – Diana Evans Vance  
PNP – Anne Parker  
Parliamentarian – Nancy Jorden  
Dept. OH – Cheri Spurlock  
Dept. MI – Jackie Ransom  
Dept. MN – Karla Keller  
Grievance Chair – Peg McCarthy  
Financial Aide – Sonya Stowers

Discussion occurred regarding the audit by CPA

**MOTION:** To accept the audit and to have NP sign the engagement letter

Seconded

**PASSED** with no abstentions

Grievance Committee Chair and the grievance committee members are not divulged to be common knowledge. Discussion occurred.

The whistleblower policy is meant to be used only for legal or unlawful activity.



Steps on how a grievance is presented to the NEB was discussed. A checklist for the GCC will be created. Suggested that we change the name to Grievance Advisory Committee and to create a grievance procedure policy. Discussion and review of form occurred.

Break from 11:15 to 11:30 am, EST

More discussion occurred regarding the grievance committee checklist and forms. Discussion occurred regarding appeals, NEB decisions, terminations, & how suspensions & appeals only at Department & Chapter levels.

**MOTION:** To accept the checklist and forms presented.  
Asked if any objections, seeing none, motion carries.

Break for lunch at 1:07pm EST until 2:15pm EST

**MOTION:** To accept the job description of the National Grievance Committee reviews.

Discussion occurred

Asked if any objections, seeing none, motion carries.

It was determined that Departments should be in line with National regarding conflict resolution and grievance committees.

**MOTION:** After legal review & acceptance of Conflict Resolution and Grievance Committee documents, the Departments must establish each of these committees and bring to the National Executive Board any extenuating circumstances.

Seconded

**PASSED** with no abstentions

Discussion occurred regarding compliance and the chapters that are still not compliant.

**MOTION:** To notify the chapters that are seriously behind in filing compliance and the 990's with a given date to comply and be subjected to suspension if failed.

Seconded

**PASSED** with one abstention

Discussion occurred regarding the chapters using organization emails (@bluestarmothers.us).



Discussion occurred regarding the website and where documents should be moved to.

**MOTION:** To add verbiage to paper membership application to include the dates for sent to 1VP, scanned, deposited funds, entered into accounting software  
Seconded

**PASSED** with no abstentions

Discussion occurred regarding chartering procedures posted on the website. Corrections were edited to by current.

Break for dinner 6:55pm and reconvened at 7:45pm

**MOTION:** To accept the editing of the chartering procedures presented and post new ones to the website.

Asked if any objections, seeing none, motion carries.

Discussion occurred regarding the committees for Standing Rules, Finance Policy, By Laws and the Compliance Guidelines. Officers are to get SOP transition documents to N1VP.

Meeting adjourned 8:09pm EST

PNP Anne Parker led us in a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Ternullo  
National Recording Secretary