



**Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.  
2023 Convention  
Draft Minutes  
August 1, 2023**

- I. Call to order  
National President, Stacy Anders called to order the 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. at 8:36AM CST
- II. Opening Ceremony  
  
Bible was opened by Chaplain Carla Brodacki
- III. Welcome to Convention
- IV. National President, Stacy Anders introduced the National Officers:  
1VP- Rebecca Stafford  
2VP- Karen Stillwell  
3VP- Cheree Barrett  
4VP- Brenda Ternullo  
Recording Secretary- Marisol Gonzalez  
Financial Secretary- Sonya Kay  
Treasurer- Alethea Tennill
- V. Past National Presidents in attendance were introduced:  
Pat Soler, Karen Stevens, Jean Burlingame, Judy Dorsey, Carla Brodacki, Anne Parker
- VI. National President introduced and recognized special guest Gold Star Mother Patty Elliott
- VII. Committee Chairs were introduced
- VIII. Appointments for convention  
Judge: Deborah Waltz  
  
Tellers: Diane Retting  
Sue Otto  
Stacy Breithaupt  
Connie Moler

Timekeepers: Lisa Bailey  
Heather Herlong  
Lorraine Camire

Spotters: Sue Rolling  
Brenda Bingham  
Cara Johnson

Appointees were accepted by convention body

- IX. Naming of the minutes approval committee

Minutes approval committee: Christine McCracken  
Amy Hutchison

Appointees were accepted by convention body

- X. An explanation of voting paddle was explained by National President
- XI. National President introduced Department Presidents:  
Jackie Ransom-MI, Karla Keller-MN, Lynn Freeman-OH
- XII. Credential report was presented by 1VP, Rebecca Stafford. There are 200 delegates and 20 alternates
- XIII. Convention Co-Chairs report, updates were presented by Amy O'Campo
- XIV. National President, Stacy Anders presented the 2023 Convention and Election rules

**MOTION:** A motion was made to approve the Convention Rules as presented  
2<sup>nd</sup>  
Discussion occurred  
Call for vote:  
1 opposed, 0 abstentions  
**PASSED**

**MOTION:** A motion was made to approve the Election Rules with correction to item number three; allowing via voice if only one candidate  
2<sup>nd</sup>  
Call for vote:  
1 opposed, 0 abstentions  
**PASSED**

- XV. The 2022 Convention minutes were posted on National Website for review

**MOTION:** A motion was made to approve the 2022 minutes as posted on our website  
2<sup>nd</sup>

Discussion occurred: Charilyn Damigo stated that under bylaw update and presentation regarding *Article IV Eligibility* minutes state there was a call for vote, no recollection of a vote. Statement was made that it was addressed in the previous year.

Regarding the by-laws audit, minutes state that there was an attachment regarding acknowledgement of discrepancies.

**MOTION TABLED**

Excel spreadsheet to be resent by Charilyn Damigo to current Recording Secretary to be attached to 2022 Convention minutes for approval.

XVI. Finance Chair Julie Straw announced to the convention body that forms for nominations of 501 c(3) for the convention body approved donation need to be filled out and turned in before Finance Chair presentation to confirm eligibility. If unable to complete form and would like to nominate from the floor, two minutes will be provided to speak and organization will need to be verified prior to voting.

XVII. An explanation of paying respect to Bible and Flags was given by National President

Bible was closed by Chaplain Carla Brodacki

**BREAK** 9:22AM to 9:55AM

Instructions were given to meet outside for the Memorial Service and BSMA convention photo.

9:55AM -10:25AM Memorial Service was conducted

**LUNCH** 12:35PM – box lunch provided and change into patriotic attire

1:35PM Convention was reconvened, and Bible was opened, and charter was draped in memory of our Blue Daisies by Chaplain Carla Brodacki

XVIII. Chaplain Carla Brodacki read the names of Blue Daisies

Video of Tonya Moore singing the National Anthem was played and TN coins from the Moore family were passed out to convention body in memory of her

XIX. The 2022 Convention minutes were reintroduced, and discussion occurred. Charilyn Damigo (By-Law Chair for 2022 convention) presented the chart and discussed that the changes that had been made based on the audit are not reflected in our governing documents; specifically, item about being able to vote by voice if there is a single candidate for office.

Chart was not included in the minutes and will now be attached and posted.

Friendly Amendment was made to original motion to include attachments to the 2022 Convention minutes was accepted

**MOTION:** to accept the 2022 Convention minutes with attachments and to remove the sentence that there was a vote

Call for vote:

0 opposed, 9 abstentions

**PASSED**

- XX. Recognition of Gold Star Mothers  
Recognition of Veteran Mothers  
Recognition of First Time Attendees-80 in attendance

- XXI. Finance Chair: Julie Straw

**BREAK** 2:17PM (due to microphone issues)

Chaplain Carla Brodacki closed the Bible

2:33PM Chaplain opened the Bible

(cont.) Financial Officers, Finance Committee Report with Presentation of Audit Report, Proposed Budget, and Proposed Changes to Financial Policies

**MOTION** from committee to approve proposed financial policies effective immediately  
2<sup>nd</sup> not required

Call for vote

2 opposed, 0 abstentions

**PASSED**

**MOTION** from committee to approve proposed budget as presented

Call for vote

3 opposed, 0 abstentions

**PASSED**

Nominations for donation to 501 c (3)

Adaptive Sports Connection (ADS)

Believet-Canine Service Partners

Blue Star Ranch

Brothers of Valhalla Military and Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club

Central Valley Veterans in Clovis, CA

Eagles OPS Foundation

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

Homes for the Brave

National Veteran Memorial & Museum

The James R. Barrett Foundation

Iraq and Afghanistan War Memorial, Inc.  
ORVA-Project 4 Hope  
Woody Williams Foundation Memorial Monument- Fort Wayne, IN  
Central Midlands Transitional Retreat- Lexington, SC

Ballots passed out to convention body and returned.

**BREAK** 430PM-435PM

Chaplain Carla Brodacki closed the Bible

XXII. Ship Thrifty Presentation

Meeting adjourned at 5:25PM

Draft



**Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.  
2023 Convention  
Draft Minutes  
August 2, 2023**

- I. National President, Stacy Anders, called to order day two (2) of the 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Blue Star Mothers of America, inc. at 8:35AM

Chaplain Carla Brodacki opened the Bible

- II. Credential Report was presented by 1VP, Rebecca Stafford. There are 201 delegates and 20 alternates present for a total of 221 members

- III. Convention Chair Report- Updates given by Amy O'Campo

- IV. 1VP Training

- V. 2VP Training

- VI. Recording Secretary Training

- VII. National President announced 501 c (3) donation awardees:

- 1. James Barrett Foundation
- 2. Eagle Ops
- 3. Blue Star Ranch

**BREAK 1025AM-1035AM**

- XXIII. VAVS Convention Project and VA Presentation

**LUNCH 12:00PM-1:20PM**

Chaplain opened the Bible

Convention Chair gave updates and reminders

- XXIV. 3VP Training

- XXV. 4VP Training

XXVI. Financial Secretary/Treasurer Training

XXVII. Chapter Reports

XXVIII. Gold Star Mother Patti Elliott

**BREAK 3:15PM-3:40PM**

Chaplain closed the Bible

XXIX. Presentation by Joyce Fabian

XXX. Smoky Mountain Service Dogs Presentation

XXXI. Big Dipper Fun Night

Chaplain Carla Brodacki closed the bible.

Meeting Adjourned



**Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.  
2023 Convention  
Draft Minutes  
August 3, 2023**

- I. National President, Stacy Anders, called to order day three (3) of the 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. at 8:30AM

Chaplain Carla Brodacki opened the Bible

- II. Credential Report was presented by 1VP, Rebecca Stafford  
199 delegates and 20 alternates

- III. Convention Chair Report was presented by Amy O' Campo

- IV. Big Dipper Auxiliary Meeting and Elections

Announcement by National President that Big Dipper Installation will be held after the close of business.

**LUNCH 1:15Pm-2:15PM**

PNP Judy Dorsey opened the Bible

- V. VAVS Presentation by Anne Parker

- VI. Mentoring Presentation by Denise Guerra

- VII. National President's Remarks

- VIII. Chapter Reports

**BREAK 3:40PM-3:55PM**

- IX. Tim Maggart Concert

Adjournment  
Dinner on own



**Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.  
2023 Convention  
Draft Minutes  
August 4, 2023**

- I. National President, Stacy Anders, called to order day four (4) of the 80<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. at 8:00AM

Chaplain Carla Brodacki opened the Bible

- II. Credential Report was presented by 1VP, Rebecca Stafford  
197 delegates and 20 alternates
- III. Review of Tellers and Judges
- IV. Explanation of ballots and voting rules

Non delegates moved to the back of convention hall and a head count was taken of delegates present for election for a total of 190 voting members, a majority of 96 votes is needed to be elected.

While ballots are being counted, Chapter reports will be read.

The floor was turned over to Carol Sanchez, Election Chair

- V. **Election of Officers**

**National President**

Rebecca Stafford-MO5\*

Charilyn Damigo-CA39

**1<sup>st</sup> Vice President**

Karen Stillwell-OH9\*

**2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President**

Karla Keller-MN11\*

**3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President**

Jackie Ransom-MI194  
Brenda Bingham-OK11  
Lucie Cutts-MN7  
Sylvia Gaxiola-CA52

**Revote for 3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President**

Jackie Ransom-MI194\*  
Sylvia Gaxiola-CA52

Chaplain closed the Bible

**BREAK** 9:30AM-9:45AM

Convention was reconvened and Bible was opened by Chaplain Carla Brodacki

A headcount was taken of delegates present for election; a total of 189 were present, a majority of 95 votes needed to be elected.

**4<sup>th</sup> Vice President**

Brenda Ternullo-CA15\*  
Charilyn Damigo-CA39

**Recording Secretary**

Jan Rusk-CA27  
Cheree Barrett-TX13  
Amy Jo Hutchinson-OH57\*  
Doreen Berggren-CA9

**Revote for Recording Secretary**

Jan Rusk-CA27  
Amy Jo Hutchinson-OH57\*

**Financial Secretary**

Sonya Kay-IL6\*

**Treasurer**

Althea Tennill-MO5\*  
Carrie Stout-MI19

No new Business

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

Chaplain Carla Brodacki closed the Bible

80<sup>th</sup> Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. Convention was adjourned

Installation of the 2023-2024 National Officers

Installation of the 2023-2024 National Big Dipper Auxiliary Officers

Draft

## Sacramento Blue Star Moms (CA7)

### Presidents Report – Nashville Convention (July 31 – August 4)

3 Bunco Fundraisers (Valentines / Halloween / Red White Blue)

Texas Roadhouse Drive-Thru Fundraiser

5<sup>th</sup> Tuesday Fun Nights – Bingo, Ice Cream, Back Yard BBQ, Eating Out (support local businesses)

Travis AFB Christmas Cookies / Hot Cocoa / Cards for Service Members who cannot go home

Packing Parties 3x per year = 1200+ CARE Packages

Partnered with Centerpoint Church in packing their own boxes

Partnered with Cosumnes River Elementary School in parking their own boxes

Supported and Attended American Legion Armed Forces Gala

Supported and Attended the Tuskegee Airmen Crab Feed

Support multiple Soroptimist organizations events

Planning our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Gala in 2025

Supported and Attended the "Freedom Isn't Free" Car Show

Supported CA101 and Attended the Gold Star Family Weekend in San Francisco

Help supply furniture and groceries to VFW/American Legion homeless veterans projects

Supported DEA and Attended Maltz Challenge in honoring local Gold Star families

Provide military children with Back-to-School supplies in August and Christmas gifts/stockings in December. Partnership with Dollar Tree and 4Imprint

Gold Star Mother's Day (last Sunday in September) Event w Granite Bay Rotary

Parades – 4<sup>th</sup> of July (Roseville) and Veteran's Day (Elk Grove)

Worked / Fundraised at RiverCats Concessions for the 4<sup>th</sup> year

Partnered with Roseville Moose Lodge to raise monies for wreaths at Roseville Cemetary

42 members  
5 Associates

We participated in the Memorial Day ceremony

We had the honor of sponsoring & paying for 8 Veterans who went on the Honor Flight.

We sent out 100 total care packages in October & March with ~~care~~ donations from our local Girl Scouts

We walked in 3 parades, passed out valentines for Veterans

Put together 16 Easter baskets for Veterans in need, our annual craft fair raised over \$2000 for Honor Flight

We passed out 30 mugs & 30 coins to Veterans at our annual POW Wow

Sadly we lost one of ~~our~~ our sounding members in December, Susan <sup>OSGOOD</sup> Will

be forever in our hearts & deeply missed

Supported Gold Star Family Dinner  
Berra Treat

CP 22

Soaring Eagle Blue Star moms

PRESIDENT'S REPORT AUGUST 1, 2023

BLUE STAR MOTHERS H.O.M.E. CA30

Last September we held our first Gold Star Family Day Sunset Ceremony at the Gold Star Memorial Monument our town installed last June. This past year there have been at least 10 Gold Star deaths in our part of Southern California that include training accidents, vehicle accidents, illness, homicide, suicide. Our 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual ceremony is planned for Sept. 24.

Of the 13 troops killed on August 26, 2021 in Afghanistan, the following 3 were from our area.

In October we attended the dedication of the Lance Corporal Dylan Merola Memorial Overpass.

In February we attended the renaming of the post office to the Lance Corporal Kareem Nikoui Memorial Post Office.

In April we donated to the Corporal Hunter Lopez Memorial Foundation.

In the Fall of 2022, we held our 6<sup>th</sup> annual Amber Waves of Grain Festival. This year we raised \$50,000 for 35 local Veterans Service Organizations. Over the past 6 years we have raised a total of \$200,000.

At Riverside National Cemetery we placed flags on Veterans Day and Memorial Day and placed wreaths at Christmastime with Wreaths Across America.

In the Spring, we hosted our 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Gold and Blue Star Mother's Luncheon. Eighteen Gold and 35 Blue Star Mothers attended. We have sent hundreds of care packages and on June 30<sup>th</sup> we held a picnic for approximately 125 veterans including 8 WWII veterans.

Some of the organizations we partner with include Veterans Honoring Veterans, the American Legion, Women's Improvement Club, Corona and Riverside Chamber Foundations, the George Ingalls Veteran's Committee, Corona Elks Lodge and Vet Connect at the Library.

Since February we have welcomed 6 new members for a total of 51 members and 3 associates.

We continue to be blessed with sincere and generous support from the cities of Corona and Norco, California.

Moira Fisher, President CA30

August 1, 2023

CA39 Chapter Report 2022-23  
Charilyn Damigo,  
Past President, Financial Secretary

Membership is holding steady with about 8-9 active members, but 3 active members moved to other states and we have worked to connect them to new chapters. One of our moms is seriously considering starting a chapter in her new area.

Christmas is our biggest Care Package event. Approximately 150 packages including Christmas stockings and decorations were sent both overseas and stateside for anyone who would not be home for Christmas.

We participate in the Stanislaus County StandDown for Veterans. Everyone knows us as the "Moms with the Girl Scout Cookies."

The best events we participated in this year were the "Love Oakdale" and "Love Turlock" events in our county. We were approached by the city coordinator who linked us to a local bank. Their branch collected donations and their employees organized and packed 60 care packages, and we also received a \$500 donation to help with postage.

We were able to make a Donation to a local 501c3 (American Veterans First) to assist homeless veterans who are being re-homed and provide cleaning supply kits for several veterans.

We received our first chapter grant of \$2500 for our new "VetWish" project to support approximately 40 veterans at the Livermore CLC.

It's been a great year!

Charilyn Damigo  
Sent from my iPhone

Hi Marisol and Amy - is it too late to include our chapter report in the convention minutes? Apologies for being tardy in sending. We thought they had already been sent!

CA101 Chapter report:

- o 51 members + 4 associates
- o Sent 50-75 care packages per month & held drop zones to collect donations
- o Partnered w/ Marines Memorial hotel to host a Gold star event for nearly 80 California families
- o Volunteered at Veterans Stand Down events in Northern Calif
- o Walk of Honor to benefit Vietnam Veterans of Diablo Valley
- o Provided scholarships, breakfasts and trunk-or-treat for veteran students & their families
- o Partnered with the Town of Danville to host the swearing in ceremony for 21 graduating seniors and presented them w/ chords to honor their military service commitment
- o Our chapter was featured in a local news segment - interview w/ CA101 Founder & President to highlight our history and mission
- o Partnered with *Hope for Hospice* to make no-sew blankets for veterans in hospice care
- o Community garage sale benefitting BSM
- o Comedy Night to benefit BSM
- o Marched in the Danville, CA July 4th parade
- o Participated in "shred event" hosted by local realtor to benefit BSM
- o Fundraised for Veterans 2.2 for 22 challenge
- o Volunteer @ Livermore VA Hospital weekly coffee
- o Operation Santa Claus to provide Veteran families with a Christmas celebration
- o Wreaths across America at two cemeteries
- o Participate in monthly meetings & fundraising activities for the Veterans Memorial Building in Danville, CA
- o Support activities over Veterans Day weekend at the Veterans Memorial Building

Thank you,

Jeanne Barker  
CA101 First VP

## CO 8 Chapter Report 2023

We focused a lot on recruitment this year. We received a \$2500 grant to put on a BBQ for HS graduates and their families.

We had 28 graduates from 10 different HS's. We were able to present Honor chords at 4 of those HS's as part of their HS senior awards.

We support Mothers and families as 61 recruits shipped out to Boot camp.

We provide a little Mom bag with BSM National and Chapter info. We give them bootcamp rules, chapstick, stressball, pen, paper, choc hugs and kisses. We send the recruits off with water and granola bar and WSBSM website info so we can send out packages.

We helped with VA baby shower, we welcomed home 13 at the airport with our PGR and DAR.

Small town living allows for me to have a commercial about BSM 2 Xs a day

Thank you  
Cheryl Masters

## CHAPTER FI 10

### OCALA BLUE STAR MOTHERS

Our chapter continues to sustain membership and added several members this year. Our community newspapers have given us free advertising and our participation at community events has given us access to military moms that would have never known about us. We continue to make crafts and participate in local craft shows; however, the economic state of our country has seen our craft sales diminish and we are exploring new ways to raise funds for our mission. We are considering a 5K fun run and a craft workshop in the future.

We continue to distribute Vietnam Veteran Commemorative pins and pins to surviving spouses of Vietnam veterans. This project will continue through November 11, 2025. To date we have distributed 850 Vietnam Veteran pins and 100 surviving spouse pins.

We also continue to distribute Gold Star ornaments to any Gold Star Family we come in contact with.

Two of our members continue to volunteer and contribute at Operation Shoebox where thousands of boxes for the deployed are packed; their hours this year total approximately 800. A member also has volunteered 30 hours at Veterans Helping Veterans in their food distribution center.

We hope to be able soon to honor returning National Guard members from Ocala who have been deployed worldwide with a dinner from Mission Barbeque.

We got a chapter grant to help paint the barn at Soldiers Freedom Outdoors, and we have a member and an associate who have volunteered 250 hours at this facility which provides outdoor experiences for veterans and active duty personnel. These volunteers were assisted by their son, Josh, retired Navy, and many local friends in helping to make events at this facility a reality.

We have a Representative and a Deputy at the Gainesville VA and we contribute financially to the hospital, Fisher House and the Vet Center. We sent over 500 Christmas cards to the VA and shared our extra cards donated by our community with other chapters. We also supplied our VA with birthday cards which were donated so community living residents could send these cards to their family members.

We have distributed over 1000 thank you for our service to veterans and service members. Our members carry these in their purses and distribute to anyone we see with a shirt or a cap showing that they are a veteran or active duty. These cards are always appreciated by those to whom we present them.

## MN 1 Chapter Report 2023

Since September 2022 we have grown from 6 10 12 members with 2 associates.

We donated money to a local Boy Scout working on his Eagle Scout project of sending 500 care packages to our military.

We supplied lunches and volunteered at the annual U.S. Military Historical Collection display during the week of Veteran's Day.

We have participated in parades this summer and did a Brat Stand at our local grocery store and passed out prayer soldiers to anyone that wanted one.

We presented 14 Honor Cords to H.S. graduates who joined the military.

We were featured in 2 local newspapers for our Chapter's 20th Anniversary celebration.

We send care packages monthly.

We donate to and support Eagle's Healing Nest on a regular basis.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Reitsma, President MN1

# Long Island Blue Star Moms NY6 2022-23

- 9/6/22 Meeting with B. Randolph Air National Guard \_ MacArthur Airport
- 9/18/22 Blue Gold Tea w Patchogue VFW Ladies Auxiliary
- 9/25/22 Gold Star Family Ceremony — Bartlett Pond Park
- 10/1/22 Rotary Apple Festival — Park Ave. Elem. — Amityville
- 10/10/22 Transition Meeting
- 10/22/22 Town of Islip Apple Festival
- 11/10/22 Ronkonkoma Middle School — Presentation at Veterans Day Assembly  
Idle Hour Assembly Presentation
- 11/11/22 NYC Veterans Day Parade
- 11/12/22 Veterans Gratitude Yoga Project
- 11/16/22 Calverton National Cemetery — Worker Appreciation Breakfast
- 11/22/22 Storage organization
- 12/7/22 Dropping of the Roses at Republic Airport (Pearl Harbor Day)
- 12/21/22 Holiday Pot Luck Gathering (collection of Gift card for Air National Guard -MacArthur)
- 1/9/23 Diner Meet up social
- 3/30/23 Packing for the troops
- 4/23/23 Go Team Eva (support)
- 5/27/23 Flag placement at Calverton
- 5/29/23 Calverton National Cemetery Memorial Day Ceremony
- 6/24/23 Michael Murphy Run Around the Lake
- 7/14/23 Long Island Ducks Baseball- on the field for opening ceremony
- 7/15/23 USA Patriots Softball team opening parade and ceremony



# Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

Organized 1942 - Congressionally Chartered 1960

Website: [www.biuestarmothers.org](http://www.biuestarmothers.org)

Four Corners of New Mexico Chapter One

P O Box 917

Flora Vista, NM 87417

We meet twice a month, one a membership business/sharing meeting and the other a social. We have increased our membership this year. We provide a monthly newsletter, have an active FaceBook page and regularly email all members with updates. aemJerS\_;

Our Gold Star Monument, with the Woody Williams Foundation, was dedicated on Gold Star Weekend in September. We are currently working on Phase II to include names of all fallen.

We continue to remain active in our community to make ourselves known by attending community functions; ie: Info booths at the Memorial Day Riverfest, County Fair etc.

We worked with the JROTC in all local High Schools recognizing Enlisted Seniors.

We continue to send care packages every other month.

We organize the Wreaths Across America program and solicit donations for wreaths, which have increased every year. A ceremony is held and the wreaths laid.

We participated in our local Homeless Veterans Stand Down.

We reconnected with the local National Guard and were able to provide a Christmas Party for them. This will be an annual event.

We support our local Vet Center, Recruiters, San Juan College Veterans Center and our local liaison for NM Department of Veterans Services.

We hosted the NM State BSM meeting while celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

We take a active part in a local Annual Extreme Wounded Warriors Adventure, assisting with fundraising to get the WW here and providing activities for them.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karen Stevens, Chapter President

BSMoA National Convention July 31, 2023-August 4-2023

Nashville, Tennessee

## Rio Grande Valley, NM2

Albuquerque, NM

From: Mary Jefferis, President

Reported by: Marlaime Gaylor, 1<sup>st</sup>VP

Rio Grande Valley is in Albuquerque, NM is in a unique location and we are centered in the valley at the crossroads of 1-25 and 1-40. Our location serves many rewarding options and opportunities to serve many active duty military members, Kirtland Air Force Base is to the south of the city and it is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest AFB in the continental United States, the Raymond G. Murphy VA with ALOlicensed beds and Fisher House on the campus of the VA Hospital, Santa Fe to the North, The National Cemetery, Fort

Bayard to the SW, State Veterans Hospital and little further down the road the State nursing home for

Veterans in Truth or Consequences. We spread our wings and cover a lot of territory being in the valley.

Our highlight this year for fundraising was we hosted in April a Cajun Comedy dinner Show with Chef Landry and did it all in four months. We have never done anything like this and we took a chance said many prayers, set a goal and hard work paid off. Very hard work. We learned a lot, we came very close to our goal. The fundraiser allows us to give even more too active duty, veterans, and other veteran's organizations. Will we do it again? YES!

We packed 900 boxes this year and our last packing was June 18, 2023.

So far this year we have welcomed 11 new Blue Star Mothers and we have one new Marine Mom waiting to be installed in August bringing our membership total to \_\_\_\_\_ q-l\_\_\_\_\_.

68 BSm's and 23 Associates.

As with all chapters we attended as many Veteran events as we could, welcomed a new Wing commander to Kirtland Air Force Base, and will be helping with a golf tournament in August. They chose us to be recipients of the raffle from a radio spot of a fundraiser we hosted when they heard we supported the military and veterans.

### NV #3 - Truckee Meadows

- Celebrated 15 years in June
- Every month we have a Blue Star Mother that attends the Unaccompanied Serviceperson funeral at the Northern Nevada Veterans Cemetery
- Every time an honor flight goes out - we have a mom at the airport at 4 a.m. sending them off with snacks, gum and nightlights and handmade card
- Then when honor flight returns each time, the chapter is there to welcome them home.
- Reno was the sight of Navy Week September 26-October 2nd, 2022. Moms participated in a variety of community events and met the Surgeon General of the US Navy
- We had a float in the Veteran's Day Parade
- We donated to and attended the ribbon cutting fo the Nevada Veteran's Memorial
- We participated in the Stand-down
- Every other month we cook and serve meals to veterans and their families at the Veteran's Guest House
- We participated in Wreaths Across America and donated money to purchase wreaths.
- We mailed 207 care packages in November 2022
- For the Army/Air Guard we filled over 1000 plastic eggs for their children and then we hosted the Easter party afterwards
- Military on the Mountain - disabled veterans from all over the US come to enjoy winter sports - we decorated their banquet hall and event center
- On Armed Forces Day we served Root Beer Floats to the Army Guard
- On Military Appreciation Day in May we served Root Beer Floats to Army Guard in Reno and Carson City, Air Guard in Reno
- Bunco/Spaghetti Feed - we made over \$10,000 and we served over 200 dinners
- Active Duty Community Banners in Downtown Sparks Nevada - joint project with our sister chapter NV5 - replacing old banners and putting up new ones.

## **OH1 Spirit of Freedom Troy OH**

Spirit of Freedom OH 1 serves the military and veterans of Miami and Shelby counties in OH. We have 9 members, 2 Blue Star Dads and 4 Associate Members. We may be small but we feel we make an impact in our area. This past fiscal year, we concentrated on just a few special projects.

We had a Troop Support project in November to collect items for our Holiday Mailings. Stuff the Truck collected items along with donations from Paragon Medical and Meijer Distribution Center. We packed and shipped 100 packages. Oversize items were donated to Miami County Veterans Pantry. Along with those items, we sent a monetary donation to them to stock their shelves and support a veteran in need of specific items.

Our chapter president's daughter hand knitted 30 hats and we donated them to the Dayton VA Medical Center.

We made a monetary donation to the Dayton VA Center to support their patient general needs. We also made a donation to Operation Veteran & Caregiver Support to restock their veteran food pantry.

We participated in 2 major fundraisers at the Troy Strawberry Festival and the Miami County Fair.

In the spring just prior to high school graduation, we delivered 34 Honor Cords to 7 schools.

We participated in the Memorial Day Tribute Project with the purchase of 50 roses that were placed on final resting places of Veterans at the Dayton National Cemetery and other local cemeteries in the Dayton and Middletown area.

Our members attended the Department of Ohio Convention and the Ohio North South Conference. We have 3 members of our chapter who are members of Big Dipper.

Vicki Daniel is our VAVS representative and this past year she worked 909 Volunteer Hours at the Dayton VA Medical Center and through her involvement in the Final Salute Society, attending military burials of veterans with no family to represent them.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anita G. Wagner  
Financial Secretary  
Spirit of Freedom OH1

## Stars and Strips OH 2

Greetings from Stars and Strips – Ohio 2

I'm Brenda Russell the Chapter President.

We continue to meet monthly at Stark County Veteran Service Commission.

We attended several Memorial events over the Memorial weekend ending the weekend by walking in the Massillon Memorial Day Parade.

We held two Dairy Queen Fundraiser this year, one in Feb and July. We made over 1,000.00 in Feb and we are waiting on the final numbers for July. Not bad for 3 hours of meeting and greeting people at the Dairy Queen.

We have attended several Quilts of Valor presentations. Our member Sue Simmons volunteers with Quilts of Valor, so we are often able to attend and assist her in the presenting of the quilts.

We continue to support SAM Center (Serving Area Military) as they continue the twice a month drive through food bank and the lodging kits that are distributed to homeless veterans that are moving into housing and their Christmas Toy Drive.

We also support Whispering Grace Horses-Freedom Farm with donations so they can continue their Horse Therapy for veterans.

We participated in the Save 22 Hike by having 4 moms walk the hike and other moms there to cheer everyone on.

We were able to participate at two Veteran Resource fairs this year by having informational tables. We request participants to sign cards that we will be send to our military.

We are looking forward to a great upcoming year.

Brenda Russell, Chapter President

Two years ago, I reported that OH-9 was persevering, refocusing and reimagining in the wake of the Pandemic. This year found us doing the same in the Wake of a tightening economy. This past year has seen financial donations drop, while item donations increase. Smaller community events are up, while big street festivals are down. We lost a member or two due to re-location and another became a Blue Daisy, but we have gained members at the same time. A change in leadership at our local VAMC has posed challenges, but we are now back inside the facility with hostess tables and other VAVS activities, including decorating a Christmas tree in their lobby. The key word has been PERSEVERENCE, and the key phrase has been "Just because we did something one way in the past, doesn't mean we have to or can continue doing it that way."

The fiscal year saw the packing of 875 care packages for the deployed and assembling of 45 morale boxes for Ohio National Guard members stationed along the Texas-Mexican border. We participated in 7 car/bike shows, 5 community events, an Honor Flight welcome home, a welcome home for Vietnam veterans at the National Veterans Memorial & Museum, and 1 parade. We spoke at 4 school & community events and partnered with the VA, American Legion, Team R-W\*B, Adaptive Sports, and Central Ohio Stand Down multiple times. We generated over 1,800 handmade Valentines for area veterans, supported our local MASH Pantry for veterans, attended the quarterly RISFAC meetings, and attended several memorials and funerals.. We awarded Honor Cords &/or American Flag Pins in 13 different high schools, attended the Department of Ohio's annual state convention as well as its North South Conference. .

Individual members served on state and national BSMA boards and on the state and national Big Dipper boards, in the MA's Compassionate Care Corps, and as volunteers for a number of VSOs. We also attended a variety of "military" events occurring throughout the year from The GI Comedy Tour, Operation HEAL \*arious, Scrap Heap (a one-man performance about a Special Operations soldier returning to civilian life), and more. We even had four members travel to Washington DC over Memorial

- Day weekend for Rolling to Remember. With all that, we were able to have three member events: Membership Appreciation Day, a holiday party at a local restaurant and a yoga class hosted by the National Veterans Memorial & Museum.

The landscape to do our work continues to shift, but the one thing that doesn't is our moms' commitment to the Mission of supporting our children, our military, our veterans and each other. Nothing can defeat a determined and organized group of military moms.

Respectfully submitted,

Diana Evans Vance, President  
Military Buckeye Moms, dba Buckeye Military Moms Blue  
Star Mothers of America, Inc. — Chapter 01+9

August 3, 2023

## **BSM OH-15**

This was read by Amy Hutchinson on Thursday afternoon due to my hip being out of place and in a lot of discomfort. Any questions, please let me know.

True Blue Ohio 15

I've been a BSM for 2 years due to my son who's a dog handler in the Army stationed at Ft. Campbell.

This year we have focused on increasing our number of members and becoming more visible to the community.

We have been successful with both goals:

Increasing number of members

we have had 3 new members join.

With becoming more visible,

\*we sent letters/fliers to the local HS counselors in Allen, Auglaize, & Putnam counties to give to their Seniors who have joined the military.

\*put our meeting info in the local newspaper and the Local TV community page.

\*we have participated in 2 parades and have two more scheduled for this fall.

\*we've had representatives attend the N/S in April, here, and are planning for the one in October.

\*laid a wreath at VFW Memorial Day weekend.

\*laid wreath for Veterans Day at the American Legion

\*handed out 150 labeled waters, bags of chips and pencils to Veterans at the Allen County Fair on Veterans Day at the fair.

\*Donation of man and women's socks to Soldiers Angels for their "Socks for Soldiers" program

\*250 Christmas cards to the VA and 400 to the local veteran food pantry of Allen County

\*Gift cards at Christmas time to the active duty service members.

\*Donation to Patriot House & Rescue Home; many of who are veterans.

\*monetary donation to the local veteran food pantry.

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*Gretchen Schmitz*

## Chapter OH26 – 2023 Activity Report for BSMA National Executive Board

Our Chapter was chartered in 2005.

As a Chapter, we have donated to many local causes and participated in numerous events in Cleveland and surrounding suburbs.

- Donated money and participated in Wreaths Across America

- Donated money and have bought numerous items to our on-going project Valor Home, which helps veterans transition into permanent housing.

- Held our annual Christmas party, and the “white elephant” gift exchange is always fun. We also have a Summer picnic each year.

- Donated money to a Chaplain assigned to an Army Base in Alaska to purchase items for an “outreach cart”. This is a way of reaching out to members of the army base who

do not have family support. We wanted to help the Chaplain reach out to the soldiers, as there has been multiple suicides at that base.

- Donated money to the Greater Cleveland Stand Down, which helps homeless vets and others who are experiencing dire living conditions. They receive multiple

clothing items and services during this event.

- Provided flower arrangements for multiple funerals of soldiers who passed.

- Donated money to the American Legion Post 421 to support them since they support us with free meeting, event and box packing space.

- Sent boxes to a recently deployed Marine unit.

- Purchased 300 books for children per the request of the USO at Cleveland Hopkins Airport. These books will have children understand more about deployment of one of their loved ones.

- Participated in Memorial Day parade and presented a wreath.

Respectfully submitted,

Peg Hart, President

OH26

# Presidents Report - OH 57

## 2023

- Attended renaming of local freeway WWII memorial highway.
- Cleveland VA hospital:
  - Sweat suits collections
  - provided lunch for the domicile
- drive thru baby shower with sister chapter OH26/OH2 for pregnant Veterans.
- Support our VFW at events car show/ dinners.
- Pasta dinner fundraiser-October biggest fundraiser of the year over 110 raffle baskets.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Rite of passage with the Veterans Service Commission of Ashtabula County. We honor all seniors from our county who have committed to the Military. Gave them honor cords-in return all Veterans in attendance render their first salute.
- ' Feed our Vets- Foods pantry for Veterans donation of \$250.
- ' August, we have a picnic for our local Veterans called "Veterans Grill and Chill" Brings together 60 local Veterans, have Veterans Service Commission there to offer benefits.
- Memorial Day- Amy attended Rolling to Remember in DC with Gold Star Mothers and other Blue Star sisters. We also participated in the Geneva and Perry Memorial Day parades.
- ' We participated in the Wreaths across America for the last 6 years.
- ' Mailed out 250 care packages- We send as we get addresses.
- ' November we will celebrate 80 years- the oldest chapter in the state of Ohio.

Respectfully Submitted, Amy Hutchinson — OH57 President

## Report to the Blue Star Mothers of America Annual Convention 2023 Gavel Club

The Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. Gavel Club was started many years ago and its membership is limited to Past National Presidents. Its purpose is the promotion of educational and social activities.

Early on, it was decided that for social activities, the Gavel Club would bring small items wrapped in brown paper and sell them as "parcel post". Everyone enjoyed the tradition of buying something sight unseen from the Past National Presidents, knowing profits would go to a good cause. Then, around 2004, the tradition suddenly stopped.

In late 2014, Past National Presidents Jean Burlingame, Karen Stevens, Robin McCarthy and Pat Soler thought it would be fun to bring the Gavel Club back to the National Convention. We opened a bank account and each of us donated an amount so we could keep the account open without having to use any of the funds we raised for our cause.

This way 100% of what was raised at every convention would go to the charity chosen for that year. After a few years, it was decided that items would be made available at the Silent Auction to help raise more funds. And this year, we added a T-shirt drive that generated more than \$ 1,000 in funds for our charity.

We are very proud of our efforts and the charities that have been supported. We thank you the membership for your support of our efforts.

CONVENTION YEAR	CHARITY	AMOUNT DONATED
2015	Honor Flight, New Mexico	\$ 271.00
2016	WIMSA (Women in Military Service For America, Foundation)	\$ 510.50
2017	Scents for Soldiers	\$ 292.45
2018	Folds of Honor	\$ 707.54
2019	PAWS OF WAR	\$ 973.07
2020	No Convention	\$ 0.00
2021	Most PNPs did not attend due to COVID	\$ 0.00
2022	Gary Sinise Foundation	\$ 1,292.00
2023	Soldiers' Angels	TBD

2022 - 2023	OFFICERS	MEMBERS
President	Pat Soler	Margaret Bedard
Vice President	Robin McCarthy	Karen Stevens
Secretary	Jean Burlingame	Judy Dorsey
Financial Secretary	Anne Parker	Cyndi Ventura
Treasurer	Carla Brodacki	

# Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. 2023-2024 Budget

	2023-2024 Budget
<b>Income</b>	
25% LOGO USE Donation	\$ 100.00
<b>Convention 2023/2024</b>	
Convention Registration	\$ 44,400.00
Convention Sponsor/Fundraiser	\$ 4,000.00
Fundraiser	\$ 5,000.00
Silent Auction	\$ 6,000.00
Vendor Tables	\$ 600.00
	<b>\$ 60,000.00</b>
<b>DONATIONS/SPONSORSHIPS</b>	
CFC Donations	\$ 750.00
General donations	\$ 1,500.00
Parke Memorial Scholarship Income	\$ 2,000.00
President Project	\$ -
VAVS Fund - Restricted Funds	\$ 7,000.00
<b>Total DONATIONS/SPONSORSHIPS</b>	<b>\$ 11,250.00</b>
<b>FUNDRAISER</b>	
ONLINE STORE	\$ 15,000.00
Yearbooks	
<b>Total ONLINE STORE</b>	<b>\$ 15,000.00</b>
<b>Total FUNDRAISER</b>	
<b>Funds from closed chapters</b>	<b>\$ 100.00</b>
<b>Membership</b>	
Chapter Membership Dues	\$ 55,000.00
Charter Fee	\$ 150.00
<b>Total Membership</b>	<b>\$ 55,150.00</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 141,600.00</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	
<b>Expenses</b>	
Advertising/Public Relations	\$ 2,500.00
Awards	
Chapter Grants	\$ 7,000.00
<b>Total Awards</b>	<b>\$ 7,000.00</b>

Bank Charges	\$ 500.00
Checks	\$ 200.00
<b>Total Bank Charges</b>	<b>\$ 700.00</b>
<b>Commissions &amp; Fees</b>	
CFC Application Fee	\$ 1,500.00
<b>Total Commissions &amp; Fees</b>	<b>\$ 1,500.00</b>
Conference Call	\$ 300.00
<b>Conventions</b>	
2024 Convention Expenses	\$ 33,000.00
<b>Total Conventions</b>	<b>\$ 33,000.00</b>
National DC REP	\$ 300.00
<b>Donations</b>	
WIMSA	\$ 1,000.00
Parke Memorial Scholarship	\$ 2,000.00
VAVS Fund-Restricted Funds EXPENSE	\$ 7,000.00
VAVS Matching Funds	\$ 3,000.00
<b>Total Donations</b>	<b>\$ 13,000.00</b>
Dues & Subscriptions	\$ 2,000.00
<b>Fundraising</b>	
National Fundraising	\$ -
<b>On Line Store Expenses</b>	
Inventory Purchases	\$ 7,000.00
Online Store Postage/Shipping	\$ 3,000.00
<b>Total On Line Store Expenses</b>	
<b>Total Fundraising</b>	<b>\$ 10,000.00</b>
Insurance	\$ 3,500.00
<b>Legal &amp; Professional Fees</b>	
CPA	\$ 10,000.00
Legal Fees	\$ 1,500.00
Parliamentarian	\$ 2,500.00
<b>Total Legal &amp; Professional Fees</b>	<b>\$ 14,000.00</b>
<b>Management Expenses</b>	
Ambassador Fund	\$ 6,000.00
<b>Total Management Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 6,000.00</b>
Merchant card processing	\$ 6,000.00
<b>Office Expenses</b>	
<b>Management</b>	
General Office Supplies	\$ 200.00
<b>Total Management</b>	<b>\$ 200.00</b>
<b>Program</b>	
PO Box	\$ 300.00
<b>Total Program</b>	<b>\$ 300.00</b>
Office/General Administrative Expenses	\$ -
<b>Total Office Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 500.00</b>

Past National President Pin	\$ 50.00
<b>Program Expenses</b>	
Flowers & Wreaths	\$ 750.00
<b>National Appointed Offices</b>	
National By-Laws Chair	\$ 600.00
National Chaplain	
Gold Star Mother Mailing	
Total National Chaplain	\$ 3,200.00
National Convention Chair	\$ -
National Finance Committe Chair	\$ 50.00
National Historian	\$ 250.00
National Patriotic Instructor	\$ 250.00
National VAVS Rep	
VAVS Conference	\$ 4,500.00
VAVS gifts & postage	\$ 500.00
Total National VAVS Rep	\$ 5,000.00
Veterans Day National Committee Pins	\$ -
<b>Total National Appointed Offices</b>	<b>\$ 9,350.00</b>
<b>National Officers</b>	
National President	\$ 1,000.00
National First VP	\$ 250.00
National Second VP	\$ 250.00
National Third VP	\$ 250.00
National Fourth VP	\$ 250.00
National Recording secretary	\$ 300.00
National Financial Secretary	\$ 250.00
National Treasurer	
General Office Expenses	\$ 500.00
Postage	\$ 750.00
Total National Treasurer	\$ 1,250.00
<b>Total National Officers</b>	<b>\$ 3,800.00</b>
<b>Total Program Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 13,900.00</b>
<b>Officer Equipment, software</b>	<b>\$ 4,000.00</b>
Quick Books on line	\$ 2,400.00
Repairs and Maintenance	\$ 200.00
Shipping Expenses	\$ 2,500.00
Taxes & Licenses	\$ -
Travel & Lodging	

Mid-Year Executive Board Meeting	\$ 7,000.00
Gold Star Mothers Day (Pres)	\$ 1,000.00
Veterans Day (Pres, Hist, Patr & DC Rep)	\$ 3,500.00
Dept Conventions (Pres x 3 conv's)	\$ 2,000.00
Memorial Day (Pres, Hist, Patr & DC Rep)	\$ 3,500.00
National Convention	\$ 15,000.00
Special Events	\$ 3,000.00
<b>Total Travel</b>	<b>\$ 35,000.00</b>
Veterans Day Committee Dues	\$ 200.00
Website and Database	\$ -
Website Hosting/ Webmaster	\$ 12,000.00
<b>Total Website and Database</b>	<b>\$ 12,000.00</b>
Yearbooks	
Archival	\$ 100.00
<b>Total Yearbooks</b>	
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 170,650.00</b>
<b>Net Operating Income</b>	<b>\$ 141,600.00</b>
<b>Net Income/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$ (29,050.00)</b>

**NOTES:**

Regrouping of expenses to match events rather than using President's Travel as a "catch-all"