



MEETING MINUTES
BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.
SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

Call to order: Meeting was called to order by National President Rebecca Stafford at 07:32 P.M. CST.

Opening:

PNP/Chaplain Stacy Anders opened with prayer. Our Pledge of Allegiance was led by PNP/VAVS REP Anne Parker. Recording Secretary Amy Hutchinson conducted roll call.

The following were present:

- National President-Rebecca Stafford
- 1VP- Karen Stillwell
- 2VP-Karla Keller
- 3VP-Jacqueline Ransom
- 4VP-Brenda Ternullo
- Recording Secretary-Amy Jo Hutchinson
- Financial Secretary-Sonya Kay (Entered at 9:33 p.m. CST)
- Treasurer-Alethea Tennill
- PNP/Chaplain-Stacy Anders
- PNP – Carla Brodacki
- PNP/VAVS REP – Anne Parker
- Dept. MI President – Jacqueline Ransom
- Dept. Ohio President – Dianna Lynn Feldman
- Dept. MN President-Karla Keller
- Parliamentarian – Patti Elliott

- Finance Chair – Julie Straw

Minutes Approval:

Minutes from NEB meeting 8-8-2023 were sent to the NEB prior to this meeting from the National Secretary.

MOTION to approve Minutes from 08-8-2023 as submitted.

Seconded

There was discussion regarding corrections in grammar.

A friendly amendment was made to accept as written with grammatical errors corrected. Amendment was accepted.

Call for a vote.

no opposed, no abstentions.

PASSED

Finance Committee Report – Julie Straw - Finance Chair

1. The FC meeting was held on Sunday, September 10th to discuss financial matters. Chaired by Sonya Kay National Financial Secretary:

A. **MOTION** to approve July 2023 financials as presented and set aside pending audit. No second needed, coming from the Committee.

Call for the vote.

No opposed, no abstentions

MOTION PASSED

B. **MOTION** to approve August 2023 financials as presented and set aside pending audit. No second needed, coming from the Committee.

Call for the vote.

No opposed, no abstentions

MOTION PASSED

2. Convention update:

a. Preliminary numbers are in - final will be available soon.

b. A “bar charge” for the ShipThrifty event will be disputed since it was not requested.

c. The Convention body approved financial policies and Budget have been submitted to the webmaster for posting on the website.

3. Maguire/Maguire, Inc. vs CFC Committee member and CFC Chair Christine McCracken will check in to our options.

4. 2023 Compliance:

- A. The annual report has been re-worked.
- B. Chapters have begun filing.
- C. PNP Anne will assist NFS & NFA with review of financial information.
- D. State Compliance will be emphasized.

5. IRS/EIN filing difficulties: - If a chapter does not file their 990 for 3 years, the chapter will be revoked by the IRS and merely putting them on our annual IRS list does not remedy the situation. 4VP is following up with affected chapters.

6. NT and NFS Reports:

A. Received \$418.74 from OK16 - closed chapter.

B. Online Store:

- 1) Logo vests - costs have increased. Still have twenty-five in stock.
- 2) Logo jackets - the cost has not increased. Motion coming from committee to place a minimum order of thirty-six logo jackets with the size allotment to be determined by NT.
- 3) Enola castings that produce our BSM pin gave us a quote of \$3.75 for a 3.5" Christmas ornament (same design).
- 4) **MOTION** came from FC to purchase one hundred logo ornaments. No second needed coming from the Committee.

Call for the vote.

No opposed, no abstentions

MOTION PASSED

C. "Due to" checks will be sent as soon as the NEB approves the financials.

7. Chapter Grant Applications –

A. A newsletter written by Diana Vance will be submitted.

B. **MOTION** coming from committee to apportion the grant applications as follows: seven grants held for new chapters and twenty-one grants held for existing chapter applications. No second needed as it is coming from the Committee.

Call for the vote.

No opposed, no abstentions

MOTION PASSED

C. **MOTION** coming from committee to allow the FC to have the right to review the distribution of grants during the fourth quarter for re-allocation. No second needed as it is coming from the Committee.

Call for the vote.

No opposed, no abstentions

MOTION PASSED

8. Next FC monthly meeting of this fiscal year is Sunday, October 8th, 2023.

Finance Chair Julie Straw left the meeting at 8:57 p.m. CST.

Officer Reports in addition to individually submitted reports to the NEB.

4th VP Brenda Ternullo Reminded that there is a Zoom Compliance Training Sunday September 17, 2023, at 12:00 p.m. PST. Treasurer Alethea will co- host this Zoom.

Recording Secretary Amy Hutchinson noted working on News release regarding new BSMA President and board.

Dept of Michigan President Jacqueline Ransom reminded regarding their Department Convention, room rates go up September 26, 2023.

Dept of Ohio President Diana Lynn Feldman reminded regarding their Department Convention, in need of itinerary from NEB attendees.

Dept of Minnesota President Karla Keller reminder of their Department Convention also in need of itinerary from NEB attendees.

PNP/Chaplain Stacy Anders question regarding convention minutes draft. She will follow up with the previous National Recording Secretary to see when they will be available to the NEB and the Minutes Committee from Convention. Gold Star cards have been mailed. We have three hundred extra cards on hand.

MOTION to purchase an additional one hundred envelopes to use for the extra cards.

MOTION SECONDED

Call for the vote.

No Opposed, No Abstentions

MOTION PASSED

OLD BUSINESS

Midyear meeting update, no update available, still working on house to rent. Dates are confirmed February 23 -25, 2024.

Governing documents review send concerns or suggestions to the by-laws review committee.

Leadership Handbook all board members are working to edit this handbook for ease of use. The Newsletter will reflect that we are working on this for the membership.

NEW BUSINESS

PNP/VAVS REP Anne Parker regarding IHG points for hotel stay from her convention. The points are in the name of the Convention Chair. Trying to see if we can transfer to the current National President. Anne will continue to monitor this, and revisit at the next meeting.

Blue Star Dads Auxiliary closed 2007/ 2008 there was a chapter inquiring. 1st VP Karen Stillwell will gather additional information for this chapter.

National Newsletter information due by September 14th to 2nd VP Karla Keller.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

NP took the NEB into Closed Executive Session at 8:27 p.m. CST and out at 9:35 CST.

Additional business for the good of the organization

Having no additional business, the meeting was adjourned with closing prayer led by our National Chaplain/ PNP Stacy Anders at 9:42 CST.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Jo Hutchinson
National Recording Secretary

APPROVED

National President Report

September 2023

- Attended Gold Star Mother Weekend in DC
- Attended the Department of MN Convention
- Conducted President business
 - Set up meetings
 - Reviewed documents
 - Prepared for upcoming engagements
 - Met with Governing Documents Chair
 - Met with the Financial Chair
 - Met with the Mentor Chair
 - Met with Convention Chair
- Attended Financial Committee meeting
- Attending National Big Dipper meeting
- Attended all NEB meetings

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca

Rebecca Stafford
National President
573-220-0807



National 1st Vice President September Report 2023

-Attended all NEB Calls

-Attended Mentor Meeting

-Communicated through emails and phone calls with multiple members and those with Chapter questions

-Processed Renewals and New Memberships

-Continue transitioning and learning the 1stVP duties as well as navigating the back side of the website

-Assisted the National President when needed

-Provided support and information to all Chapters sending basic questions to the National 1stVP

-Working with the Webmaster, Fin Sec and Treasurer to process dues renewal questions and new members

-Assisted in some Chapter issues and questions about elections and closings

-Assisted Chapters with navigating the website, their profile, dues, renewals and new memberships

-Approved Officer Rosters for 2023-2024

Respectfully Yours in Service,

Karen Stillwell

National 1st VP 2023-2024

1vp@bluestarmothers.us

[614-893-1180](tel:614-893-1180)



National 2nd Vice President

September Report

- Attended NEB Zoom meeting
- Reviewed emails for September Newsletter
- Designed and edited pages for the September Newsletter
- Finalized September Newsletter
- Emailed National President and webmaster for approval and distribution of September Newsletter
- Responded to texts, emails and phone calls

Respectfully submitted by
Karla Keller
2nd VP



National 3VP Report

September 1 – September 30, 2023

- Attended NEB meeting
- Researched 20 Military deaths
- Reported 18 deaths
- Researched 1 POW body returned, added to list
- Sent list and pictures of Military deaths to Chaplain and 2VP
- Worked with another NEB member and a chapter having issues
- Answered phone calls, emails and text messages

September 2023

4VP Monthly Report

In the month of September:

I attended all NEB meetings

Compliance has started and several chapters are nearly complete, every day I go over emails

Compliance training was on Sept 17, posted to website

I have several chapters lined up for Quickbooks training

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Ternullo
N4VP, 2022-2023

National Financial Secretary Report – September 2023

Attended NEB meeting(s)

Attended all Finance Committee Meetings

Emails, texts, calls - answered, responded, and filed as needed

Attended Department of Minnesota Convention

National Financial Assistant

She has worked on building spreadsheets with info needed to enter deposits into QB for September and has started October.

She has trained to and is reviewing Annual Report Chapter Submissions and following up with Chapters for Compliance.

Financials:

Completed entering September deposits in QB for all 3 accounts, reconciled, reports created and sent to FC.

Continued to work with NT to reconcile BSMA accounts

Due to Chapter/Department Checks

Worked with NT to prepare checks to be sent, signed all checks, checks mailed from MN on 9-30-23.

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 and 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.

Compliance

Trained to complete annual report reviews, started reviewing and working with Chapters to complete/correct.

Rolling to Remember

Built a master spreadsheet to track all aspects of this event, working with the committee to begin processes.

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



NATIONAL TREASURER REPORT

September 2023

Attended all NEB Meetings

Attended Finance Committee Meeting

Attended Compliance Zoom with 4VP

Attended Minnesota Dept Convention (at my expense)

Due to Chapter/Department Checks completed

Completed/mailed all checks to Financial Secretary

Made and received telephone calls, texts, and emails

Made house/flight arrangements for Mid-Year

Renewed MemberClicks

Ordered Wreath for Veterans Day in DC

Posted and matched expenses in QuickBooks

Reordered/Received red logo jackets, White Logo Shirts, Garrison Hats

Filled and mailed Online Store Orders

Responded to chapters with questions

Yours in Service,

Alethea Tennill

National Treasurer



National Chaplain

September 2023

- Attended NEB meeting.
- Still working on the master spreadsheet for GSM.
- Ordered second order of envelopes from Larry Jones.
- Never received the second order of cards and envelopes.
- Worked with Rebecca on Bonfire.
- Answered phone calls, emails, and text messages.
- Had 83 mailed back with wrong address.
- Resent out 30 with new address.
- Worked with Patty Elliott from GSM
- Received 6 thank you cards from GSM.
- I will be starting a book with thank you cards in it.
- Working with the other PNP's on chapters that are closing or need extra help.

PNP Stacy Anders

National Chaplain



Department of Michigan

September 1 - 30, 2023 Report

Department of Michigan:

- Created agenda for DEB meeting
- DEB meeting
- Reviewed minutes from DEB meeting
- Reviewed Dept Financials
- Submitted article for Dept MI newsletter
- Reviewed and approved Dept MI newsletter
- Attended NEB meeting
- Worked with another NEB member and a chapter having issues
- Worked on plans for Dept Convention
- Discussed chapters having issues with Dept 1VP
- Attended 9-11 Parade Ch188
- Attended MI197 meeting
- Worked with Dept FinSec sorting and preparing financial documents for scanning
- Answered phone calls, emails and texts

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

Department of Ohio
September 2023 Report

1. Chaired September Department of Ohio monthly Zoom DEB meeting
2. Attended Department of Ohio Big Dipper September Zoom meeting.
3. Attended monthly NEB zoom call
4. Collaboration meeting with Department of Michigan and Department of Minnesota Presidents. Discussed transition document.
5. Attended Military Appreciate Night at a Central Ohio high school with OH9 President, manned information table that included information about BSMA/Dept of Ohio/OH9.
6. Reviewed and submitted Q3 Department newsletter
7. Continued to work with the Dept Ohio Big Dipper President with Euchre Tournament Joint fundraiser
 - Internet search and created a mailing list of American Legions/AMVETS/ and VFW's in the Central Ohio area; developed a letter of interdiction and explanation of Ohio BSM and Ohio Big Dipper. Mailed the letter/introduction with flyer for Euchre Tournament
 - Attended Euchre tournament, represented Dept of Ohio
8. Began developing idea for a Bonfire Tee Shirt as a fundraiser for the Department
9. Department of Ohio State Convention 2023
 - Confirmed caterer
 - Continued conversations with hotel events coordinator
10. Various emails and calls with Ohio Chapter Presidents, Department Officers, and general public.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Feldman, President

Department of Ohio



Department of Minnesota
September 2023 Report



Department of Minnesota Report

- Attended NEB meeting
- Held zoom meeting with Dept. of MI President hoping to seat a board for a chapter that is struggling
- Submitted article for Dept. newsletter
- Reviewed and approved Dept. newsletter
- Began work on Dept. compliance
- Finalized Dept. Convention details
- Presided over Dept. convention
- Responded to texts, emails and phone calls

Respectfully,
Karla Keller
Department of Minnesota President
BSMoA