



MEETING MINUTES
BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.
OCTOBER 10, 2023

Call to order: Meeting was called to order by National President Rebecca Stafford at 07:34 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
- 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-Jen Pecarina
- Parliamentarian-Patti Elliott
- Finance Chair-Julie Straw

Minutes Approval:

Minutes from NEB meeting 9-12-2023 were sent to the NEB prior to this meeting from the National Secretary.

MOTION to approve Minutes from 09-12-2023 as submitted.

Seconded

There was discussion regarding one correction in grammar.

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

Call for a vote.

no opposed, one abstention

PASSED

Finance Committee Report -Julie Straw – Finance Chair

1. FC meeting held on Sunday, October 10th to discuss financial matters: Financials were sent to the board for review, opened the floor for discussion.

4th VP questioned if the Father’s Day Bundle should be on there as it is not on the website. NT stated that someone ordered it in September, so it was then taken off.

MOTION to approve Sept. financials as presented and set aside pending the audit. No second needed coming from committee.

CALL for a vote.

No opposed, no abstentions

MOTION PASSED

2. Convention update:

A. ShipThrifty “bar charge” is still being disputed.

B. NT will be a part of the 2024 Convention Committee

3. Maguire/Maguire, Inc. vs CFC

Committee member and CFC Chair Christine McCracken reported on the parameters and costs for this platform. M/M takes 15% of donations for their services. Application fees vary by State (\$0 to \$200).

A. MOTION to recommend NEB for BSMA to work with Maguire/Maguire, Inc. to determine the best states in which to start fundraising campaigns for 2023-2024. No second needed, coming from the committee. The floor was open for questions, seeing none it was time for a vote.

CALL for a vote.

No opposed, no abstentions

MOTION PASSED

B. Motion to discontinue the CFC process for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. No second needed, coming from the committee. The floor was open for questions, seeing there were none.

CALL for a vote.

No opposed, no abstentions

MOTION PASSED

4. 2023 Compliance:

A. NFS and NFS Assistant have devised a plan to share the financial review load.

B. FC requests that the 4VP places a reminder in the newsletter each month urging chapters to complete compliance asap.

5. IRS/EIN filing difficulties:

A. TN5 still in limbo – PNP/ VAVS Rep reported that she has contacted the chapter and they filed as they had planned and the IRS will assign an agent within 30 days.

B. Requesting the 4VP to emphasize new chartering chapters. that their EIN application and first 990N MUST state a fiscal year end of 8/31 (not a calendar year.)

Discussion regarding how we instruct the chapters if we can mockup an EIN to show them how to do it correctly. 4th VP stated she could produce this. NP also agreed this would be a wonderful way to help new chapters.

6. NT and NFS Reports:

A. NFS is consulting our governing documents concerning time frame for closed chapter funds.

B. Spreading the word that JROTC is not part of our BSMA mission.
-continually getting chapter questions about funding/supporting JROTC programs/projects.

C. Online Store:

1) Logo vests - still investigating, increased cost seems prohibitive-researching options.

2) Hangers - need to be restocked. \$3.25 each (qty 100 min). Add '1 \$0.45 for a magnet backing instead of a pin.

Motion coming from committee to place a minimum order of one hundred hangers (50 pinback, fifty magnetic back). No second needed, coming from the committee. The floor was open for questions, seeing there were none.

CALL for a vote

No opposed, no abstentions

MOTION PASSED

3) Brochures - currently available on the website. NT is researching costs for a local/nationwide printer option with cost comparison to current printer.

4) Metallic patches - 6" (cost \$7.07 ea. plus S/H & \$40 Set up fee; sell for \$10); 3" (cost \$2.21 ea. plus S/H & \$40 Set up fee; sell for \$5). FC is postponing re-ordering these at the present time.

D. NEB, PNPs & DC Rep official name tags -

Motion coming from committee to purchase official name tags for the Elected members of the NEB, PNPs (currently serving on the NEB) & DC Rep. No second needed, coming from the committee. The floor was open for questions, seeing there were none.

CALL for a vote.

No opposed, no abstentions

MOTION PASSED

E. NP & DC Rep business cards –

MOTION coming from committee to purchase official BSMA business cards for the NP & DC Rep. No second needed, coming from the committee. The floor was open for questions, seeing there were none.

CALL for a vote.

No opposed, no abstentions

MOTION PASSED

7. Chapter Grant Applications –

A. Newsletter written by Diana Vance will be submitted.

B. A brief description summarizing the highlights of the Chapter Grant program has been posted on the website to accompany the Grant application.

Motion coming from committee to approve the applications. from existing chapters TN4 and CO8 grants. No second needed, coming from the committee. The floor was open for questions, seeing there were none.

CALL for a vote.

No opposed, no abstentions

MOTION PASSED

8. Next FC monthly meeting of this fiscal year will be on Sunday, November 12th, 2023.

Opened floor to any questions for Finance Chair.

NFS noted she received a call from NBDIFS regarding a check that was mailed, but not received. She has started the process for stop payment with NT and will reissue the check.

4th VP researched while on this call and she does send a mockup to all new chapters chartering when it comes to EIN. She will send this to NP.

Officer Reports in addition individually submitted reports to the NEB.

1st VP Karen Stillwell: Nothing additional to report.

2nd VP Karla Keller: Nothing additional to report.

3rd VP Jacqueline Ransom: Nothing additional to report.

4th VP Brenda Ternullo: Nothing additional to report.

Financial Secretary Sonya Kay: Nothing additional to report.
Recording Secretary Amy Jo Hutchinson: Nothing additional to report
Dept. of Michigan Jacqueline Ransom: Ready for their Convention
Dept. of Ohio Diana Lynn Feldman: Ready for their Convention
Dept. of Minnesota Jen Pecarina: Welcome to the NEB
Chaplain/ PNP Stacy Anders: Still getting cards returned.
PNP Carla Brodacki: Nothing additional to report.
PNP/ VAVS REP Anne Parker: Since her report she has removed one REP, replaced her with a Deputy and she has a new Minnesota Rep.

OLD BUSINESS

Midyear meeting update: NP and 1st VP are working on menu and food. Checking to be sure of food allergies or restrictions. Waiting for all Department conventions to complete due to elections. The rental house is confirmed. 1st VP noted there are restaurants local as well.

Governing documents update - the committee has been working hard to get them ready and plan to have a draft to the NEB by January. The goal is to have a good draft for the body for additional suggestions/comments by March, seeking input early from the membership, so we can have a good proposal by convention 2024.

Leadership Handbook all board members are working to edit this handbook for ease of use. Possibly changing the name to Leadership Handbook for Chapters as we want to have that ready for Midyear Meeting. NP asking that all board members send her the documents we are updating to her by January so she can compile them into one document. So, we can review before Midyear. The plan is to roll out after Midyear. Keep it simple, but detailed.

IHG Reward Program – PNP/ VAVS REP Anne Parker points issued by hotel must be in individual name, not group. She recommends we transfer the points to NP so they may be of use.

MOTION was made to transfer into NP name for use.

Floor open for discussion. PNP friendly amendment that the motion states that the points are to be used for BSMA business. The friendly amendment was accepted. A second was made.

PNP/ Chaplain had question if we know how many points and if they could be transferred to NEXT NP if they are not used up by current NP. It was stated by 1st VP that at last NEB meeting the points equaled \$400 which would be used quickly within this presidency no need to have them transferred again.

CALL for vote

No opposed, no abstentions

MOTION PASSED

NEW BUSINESS

PNP/VAVS REP Anne Parker: Regarding MOU- Memorandum of Understanding between Gold Star Mothers of America and The American Legion Auxiliary entered a Memorandum of Understanding for purposes of mutual promotion of our non-profits. There is no cost for BSMA to also join in this and publicize that partnership. Seeking permission to pursue this. The MOU would be presented to the board for review before it is approved and signed.

Motion was made that we begin negotiations with American Legion Auxiliary for the intent of providing MOU between the two organizations. Motion was seconded. The floor was opened for questions, seeing none.

CALL for vote

No opposed, no abstentions

MOTION PASSED

National Big Dipper Facebook Page: National Big Dipper President asking for permission to start a new a face book page to promote fundraisers and information. PNP Carla Brodacki stated that they do not need permission as we have an Affiliation Agreement with them. They can utilize Facebook.

National Past President and Past Department President Pins: PNP pins we have four pins left. Departments have the PDP pins. Michigan misplaced theirs. Minnesota gave one pin to Michigan. Asking if Ohio can also give one pin. When new pins are purchased, Michigan will purchase two additional pins to return to the other Departments.

The jeweler went out of business. We are searching for a new company. Reaching out to Enola Castings to see if they can use our plates. We will get bids from other places to pursue the best price.

25 Year Pins: In our governing documents it states that we would present these pins after 25 consecutive years, but to the NP knowledge we do not have these pins. She is searching to see who can make them and will get prices before we decide to order.

Convention Fundraiser Ideas: We have an angel wings fundraiser that we may use through Bonfire. We are looking for a RED Friday shirt we can offer through Bonfire also. Another idea is making a National Cookbook or a series of cookbooks. A book for Appetizers, one for Entrees, Vegetables, and Breads, and a third cookbook for Desserts. Selling for \$10 each or all three for \$25. Possibly form a committee and work together. Any additional fundraiser ideas please let NP know.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION

NP took the NEB into Closed Executive Session at 8:38 P.m. CST and out at 9:42 P.M. CST.

Additional Business for the Good of the Organization.

PNP/VAVS REP Anne Parker noted that she had been in touch with the person who held the IHG points and was alerted that there is a fee to transfer the points. There are 60,000 points and \$5 per point to transfer.

1st VP withdraws her motion to transfer those points.

Motion to withdraw the motion from earlier was seconded.

Call for the Vote.

No opposed, No Abstentions

MOTION PASSED

PNP/ Chaplain Stacy Anders closed our meeting in prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Jo Hutchinson, National Recording Secretary

National President Report

October 2023

- Attended the Department of MI Convention
- Attended the Department of OH 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
- Attended all NEB meetings

Respectfully submitted,

Rebecca

Rebecca Stafford
National President
573-220-0807



National 1st Vice President October 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 and Affiliation Agreements for 2023-2024
- Worked with the National President on Mid-Year plans
- Guest Speaker via Zoom for Dept. of New Jersey DAR
- Assisted at the Department of Ohio Convention and made a presentation on membership
- Conducted VIP Tours at the Central Ohio Stand Down spreading the word of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.

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

October Report

- Attended NEB Zoom meeting
- Reviewed emails for October Newsletter and verified received with each email
- Reviewed list from 3VP of September fallen Heroes
- Designed and edited pages for the October Newsletter
- Finalized October Newsletter
- Emailed National President and webmaster for approval and distribution of Newsletter
- Responded to texts, emails and phone calls

Respectfully submitted by
Karla Keller
2nd VP



National 3VP Report

October 1 – October 31, 2023

- Attended NEB meeting
- Researched 31 Military deaths
- Reported 20 Active Duty deaths
- Added 11 Veterans to the Veteran list
- Added 2 Blue Daisies to the list
- Sent list and pictures of Active Duty deaths to Chaplain and 2VP
- Researched old records and created a B to G list for NY8
- Along with President Rebecca, attended Zoom meeting with TAPS
- Answered phone calls, emails and text messages

October 4vp report

As of 11/3/23 there are 10 chapters that have completed compliance

79 chapters haven't started compliance yet.

1 Department hasn't started yet

None of the Big Dipper Auxiliaries have filed anything yet.

I will be sending out compliance reminders next week to the chapters/auxiliaries

I have sent out 5 New Chartering packets

Sadly, we are experiencing closures as well. Five chapters have informed me that they have voted to close: TX11, OH7, OK16, NJ1, MO7

National Financial Secretary Report – October 2023

Attended NEB meeting(s)

Attended all Finance Committee Meetings

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

Attended Department of Michigan Convention

National Financial Assistant

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

She is reviewing Annual Report Financial Documents and following up with Chapters for Compliance - 16 reviews complete and approved, 4 in follow up process, 7 getting started as of 11-6-23.

Compliance Financial Document Reviews

13 reviews complete and approved, 5 in follow up process, 1 getting started as of 11-6-23

Total for both NFS and NFA - 29 reviews complete and approved, 9 in process, 8 getting started. 46 total have been submitted out of 194, leaving 148 not submitted.

Financials:

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

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. So far none have been returned in the mail.

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

Memberships

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

Chapters

Worked with Chapters on various financial related questions.

Rolling to Remember

Followed up with all invitees to determine their escort needs, communicated those to our Amvets liaison.

Submitted by Sonya Kay, National Financial Secretary - November 6, 2023



NATIONAL TREASURER REPORT

October 2023

Attended all NEB Meetings

Attended Finance Committee Meeting

Attended Michigan and Ohio Dept Convention (at my expense)

Completed/mailed all checks to Financial Secretary

Made and received telephone calls, texts, and emails

Posted and matched expenses in QuickBooks

Filled and mailed Online Store Orders

Responded to chapters with questions

Yours in Service,

Alethea Tennill

National Treasurer



Department of Michigan Presidents Report
October 15 – October 31, 2023

- Installed New Chapter/Members/Board (MI201).
- Met with (MI199) as they are talking about closing the chapter.
- Post Convention DEB Meeting.
- Closed out Grievance.
- Working on Conflict Resolution Team appointments.
- Working on Grievance Resolution Team appointments.
- Working on Mentor Chair and (2) Mentor appointments.
- Continue to Mentor my (5) chapters, until appointments have been secured.
- Answered phone calls, emails, and text messages regarding Department business.

Department of Ohio

October 2023 Report

1. Department of Ohio 2023 Convention
 - Completed arrangements/plans for the convention
 - Tour of the National Veterans Memorial and Museum with convention attendees
 - Chaired DEB meeting/Pre-Convention meeting the first night of the Convention
 - Facilitated the Department of Ohio Convention
 - Chaired the post-convention meeting with outgoing and incoming officers
2. Zoom call with 2022-23 Chaplain and Financial Secretary – 2023/2024 budget
3. Attended monthly NEB zoom call
4. Continued conversations with former OH7 officer to complete compliance/chapter closing procedures
5. Helped facilitate membership transfers from OH7 to OH26
6. Launched the Departments Bonfire Tee Shirt
7. Various emails and calls with Ohio Chapter Presidents, Department Officers, and the general public.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynn Feldman, President
Department of Ohio