



MEETING MINUTES

BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

March 12, 2024

Call to order: Our National Executive Board Meeting was called to order by National President Rebecca Stafford at 07:35 P.M. CST.

Opening:

PNP/ VAVS Rep Anne Parker opened with prayer. 1 VP Karen Stillwell led us in The Pledge of Allegiance. 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 (Excused)
- PNP/Chaplain-Stacy Anders
- PNP-Carla Brodacki
- PNP/VAVS REP-Anne Parker
- Dept. MI President-Trudy Wysocki
- Dept. Ohio President-Dianna Lynn Feldman
- Dept. MN President-Jen Pecarina
- Parliamentarian-Patti Elliott
- Finance Chair-Julie Straw

Finance Committee Report to NEB March 10, 2024- Presented by Julie Straw - Finance Chair

- 1) The February financial statements were presented and have been forwarded to the NEB for you to look over. If there are no questions concerning these statements, this is a motion coming from Committee to present the February 2024 financial statements as an accurate representation of the operations of this organization pending audit.

MOTION to approve February 2024 financials as presented and set aside pending audit. No second needed coming from committee.

CALL for a vote.

No opposition, no abstentions.

MOTION PASSED

- 2) We discussed the progress of the Fiscal Year Audit 8/31/2023 Audit and Tax Return. We will confirm that PNP Stacy has submitted the signed Engagement and Management letters to the CPA so that he may publish the final audit. We have not had communication from the CPA as to timing of his office finishing the tax return. NP and NT will work together to get these forms signed and sent to the CPA.

- 3) We discussed the progress of Convention planning - Four Bonfire campaigns have been launched and generated @ \$3,500 to date. NP can provide you with other updates on the Convention planning progress.

- 4) Compliance: 11 chapters/auxiliaries have not submitted anything yet; 173 have completed the financial review portion; 10 are in the follow-up process. Currently twenty-three Due to Chapter checks from 1st quarter are being held and so far, at least 9 from 2nd quarter, for lack of compliance.

- 4) VAVS List & check amounts: Currently, there are 103 unrepresented VA facilities. The VAVS fund would provide for @ \$54.75/facility without the National match. The Budget is sitting at \$3,000 for the National match, which would provide for another \$29.15/facility (\$83.90 total). After a review of the financial health of the organization, it is recommended that the NEB consider approving a \$100 per facility distribution.

MOTION coming from committee for the NEB to authorize a \$100 per facility VAVS donation. Motion coming from Committee a second is not needed.

Call for the vote.

No Opposition, no abstentions

Motion PASSED

- 6) Financial Officers update:

A) NT was excused and not present at this meeting.

B) NFS reported that the Flourish savings account was successfully set up and funded with the approved \$150,000.

- 7) Chapter Grants: No new applications were received this month.

- 8) Proposed Budget & Financial Policies: These are to be discussed at April's meeting. Any suggestions and all input are to be emailed to FC by the end of March.

- 9) New Business:

A) NP & 1VP have been invited to attend the National Gold Star Mothers Convention in Colorado Springs, CO. Their expenses for hotel and registration will be covered by GSM but will need to provide airfare and shuttle. This event fits within the Special Events category of our annual budget.

MOTION coming from committee for the NEB to approve the NP and 1VP attendance at the National Gold Star Mother Convention at a cost not to exceed \$1,800. Coming from Committee a second is not needed.

CALL for the vote.

No Opposition, One Abstention

MOTION PASSED

B) FC discussed the role of National in the oversight of the financial matters of its auxiliaries.

There was discussion regarding Charters for our Auxiliaries. 4VP stated that she did not have copies of the charters. 1VP noted she has Big Dipper book that may contain charter. Ohio Big Dipper, Michigan Big Dipper, and the Gavel Club copies of the Charters need to be sent to 4VP. PNP Carla noted that chartering started many years ago and she remembers Big Dipper being chartered.

C) The FC is requesting guidance from the NEB regarding how to manage potential charity ratings and questions.

D) FC discussed how prospective financial officers could potentially be vetted regarding qualifications as outlined in our governing documents. A Zoom Call for interested members who may want to become National Financial Secretary or National Treasurer will be conducted by the FC, NFS, and NT on Saturday, May 4, 2024, at 8 A.M. PST/11 A.M. EST. NS will set this up and FC will be sending out the Zoom invitations.

Next FC monthly meeting will be on Sunday, April 7, 2024.

NP took the NEB into CES at 8:02 P.M. CST.

NP took the NEB out of CES at 9:49 P.M. CST.

Minutes Approval:

Minutes from NEB Mid -Year meetings February 23 - 25, 2024 were sent to the NEB prior to this meeting from the National Secretary. The floor was open for discussion or corrections. Noted one correction. A motion was called to accept the minutes with correction.

MOTION to approve Minutes from Mid-Year Meetings February 23 - 25, 2024 with corrections.

Seconded

Call for a vote.

No opposition, no abstentions

PASSED

OLD BUSINESS

Midyear meeting recap: Thank you to 1VP for all her planning and coordination. NP appreciates all the work on the By Laws and Governing documents. We came together as a NEB and worked efficiently with our By Laws Chair to update our By Laws and Governing Documents.

Leadership Handbook all board members are working to edit this handbook for ease of use. NP asking that all board members send what they have to her so she can start compiling what we have.

Memorandum of Understanding-PNP/VAVS Anne Parker stated that The American Legion Auxiliary is working on this we should have it in a month or so. The MOU will be presented to the board for review before it is approved.

National Past President and Past Department President Pins: Nothing new to report, but NP and NT are looking at other pins. NP will update soon.

25 Year Pins: Nothing to update regarding this currently. NT will also work on this along with the NP on a design. The company that makes our Blue Star Mother Pin is interested in making the National Past President and Past Department President pins as well as the 25-year pin. We are just working to get them the designs and graphics needed.

Convention and Convention Fundraiser Ideas: WE have raised \$3500 through Bonfire and have some comments regarding the wings on the Veteran Mother shirt. The design did not come out as bright as expected. WE are halting the shirt with the wings on the back of the shirt. We will still offer the Veteran Mom shirt with wings on the front of the shirt. We removed some of the darker shirts and added some brighter colors, so hopefully they sell better. We still have RED shirts for sale. And recently released the Be Kind, Have Patience, and Give Grace. All the money raised will go back into the convention.

NEW BUSINESS

Reminder: The National Newsletter is going out on March 15, 2024. NP noted the new section regarding the listing of our fallen Veteran heroes.

Additional Business for the Good of the Organization. Seeing none, NP asked to close the meeting.

PNP Carla Brodacki closed our meeting in prayer at 11:02 P.M. CST.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Jo Hutchinson, National Recording Secretary



National 1st Vice President March Report 2024

-Attended all NEB Calls

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

-Processed Renewals, New Memberships and Transfers

-Assisted the National President when needed

-Provided support and information to all Chapters sending basic questions to the National 1stVP and forwarding to other officers if it was appropriate

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

-Working with the 4thVP on compliance issues regarding rosters and affiliation agreements

-Assisted in some Chapter issues and questions about elections, protem positions and closings

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

-Approved Officer Rosters and Affiliation Agreements for 2023-2024

-Assisting new Chapters with profiles and website information

-Working with Chapters on correcting officer rosters, affiliation agreements and basic questions for compliance

-Continued to review revised Governing Documents for 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

March 2024 Report

- Attended NEB Zoom meeting
- Attended Memorial Day Zoom meeting
- Reviewed emails for March Newsletter and verified receipt of each email
- Reviewed list from 3VP of February Fallen Heroes
- Designed and edited pages for the March Newsletter
- Finalized March Newsletter
- Emailed National President and webmaster for approval and distribution of Newsletter
- Worked on design for National Convention t-shirt
- Worked on yearbook pages, began sorting folders for yearbook pictures
- Worked with yearbook team editing photos
- Attended Dept. of MN DEB meeting
- Responded to texts, emails and phone calls

Respectfully submitted by
Karla Keller
2nd VP



National 3VP Report

March 1 - March 3, 2024

- Attended NEB meeting
- Researched 35 Military deaths
- Reported 32 Active Duty deaths including 4 Repatriated
- Researched 596 Fallen Veterans
- Added 583 Veterans to the Fallen Veteran list for the month of March
- Sent list of Fallen Veterans to 2VP
- Sent list and pictures of Active Duty deaths to Chaplain and 2VP
- Googlemeet with Department 3VPs and OH BtoG Liaison to clarify Blue to Gold procedures
- Sent a draft of updated Gold Star Banner approval form to National President for approval
- Assisted chapters with Blue to Gold protocol questions
- Answered phone calls, emails and text messages

March2024 4vp report

4/8//24

As of 4/8/24 there are 177 chapters that have completed compliance, 3 auxiliaries and all 3 Departments!

14 Chapters and one auxiliary haven't completed compliance yet, 9 of which have filed but needs to correct something. 4 need to file/submit at least one form, one needs to get me the state form.

I have sent out compliance reminders to the chapters that have not completed compliance.

New Chapter is ready to start training.

I have sent out five new chapter requests.

I have answered many emails with questions regarding resetting email passwords, obtaining chapter emails, and membership questions.

National Financial Secretary Report – March 2024

Attended NEB Meetings
Attended all Finance Committee Meetings
Emails, texts, calls - answered, responded, and filed as needed

National Financial Assistant

She has worked on building spreadsheets with info needed to enter deposits into QB for March and has started April. She is reviewing Annual Report Financial Documents and following up with Chapters for Compliance.

Compliance Annual Report Financial Document Reviews by NFS, NFA, and PNP AP

178 annual report financial document reviews complete and approved, 9 in follow up process, 0 submitted and in queue to review as of 4-4-24.

8 chapters/auxiliaries have not submitted annual reports as of 4-4-24.

Financials:

Completed entering March deposits in QB for all 4 accounts, reconciled, reports created and sent to FC.

New Flourish account earned \$484.67 interest in the first month..

Due to Chapter/Department Checks

1st quarter due to checks, sorted those to be mailed and those to be held until compliance is complete, mailed all checks to chapters 4VP reported have completed compliance. 18 are still being held, along with 1 chapter grant check.

Worked with NT and N1VP to prep 2nd quarter due to checks, checks prepped and mailed, 8 being held until chapter is compliant.

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 mail/emails received from members with questions.

Chapters

Worked with Chapters on various financial related questions.

Rolling to Remember

Attended Rolling to Remember meeting.

Set up and tracked Shirts from Carl tab and Year Rockers from Previous Years tab in master spreadsheet, tracking orders as requested by NP.

Transition Documents

Preparing documents for the next NFS.

Submitted by Sonya Kay, National Financial Secretary - April 4, 2024



NATIONAL TREASURER REPORT

March 2024

Made and received telephone calls, texts, and emails

Paid bills due March

Posted and matched expenses in QuickBooks

Filled and mailed Online Store Orders –

 Received 26 Online Store Orders in March

Completed/mailed all checks to Finsec

Responded to chapters with questions

Re-ordered items for online store

Worked on budget for 2024-2025

Yours in Service,

Alethea Tennill

National Treasurer



Department of Michigan Presidents Report
March 2024

- Attended the NEB meeting.
- Held Michigan DEB meeting.
- Attended/Participated in Big Dipper Board meetings.
- Attended/Participated in Sisters in Action planning meetings.
- Answered phone calls, emails, and text messages regarding Department business.

Trudy Wysocki
President Department of Michigan

Department of Ohio

March 2024 Report

1. Continued plans and arrangements for the 2024 Department of Ohio Ohio spring North South Conference
2. Chaired monthly DEB Zoom call with Department executives and Chapter Presidents
3. Worked with Dept 2VP on newsletter
4. Various emails and calls with Ohio Chapter Presidents, Department Officers, and the general public.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynn Feldman, President
Department of Ohio

DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA MARCH 2024 REPORT

- Attended March NEB meeting.
- Held March DEB meeting.
- Continued with planning and communications regarding Dept Spring Meeting.
- Submitted article to Department newsletter.
- Answered phone calls, emails, and text messages regarding Department business.

Jen Pecarina

Department of Minnesota President