



MEETING MINUTES

BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

June 11, 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/Chaplain Stacy Anders opened with prayer. 1VP Karen Stillwell led our Pledge of Allegiance. VAVS REP/ PNP Anne Parker led the Blue Star Mother Preamble. Secretary Amy Jo 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-Trudy Wysocki
- Dept. Ohio President-Dianna Lynn Feldman
- Dept. MN President-Jen Pecarina
- Parliamentarian-Patti Elliott
- Finance Chair-Julie Straw (EXCUSED)

Minutes Approval:

Minutes from NEB May 14, 2024, were sent to the NEB prior to this meeting from the National Secretary. The floor was open for discussion or corrections. A motion was called to accept the minutes as written.

MOTION to approve Minutes from May 14, 2024, as written.

Seconded

Call for a vote.

No opposition, no abstentions

PASSED

June Finance Committee Meeting report to the NEB given by NFS.

We held our meeting on Sunday, June 9th, 2024.

- 1) The May 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 May 2024 financial statements as an accurate representation of the operations of this organization pending audit.

MOTION to set aside May Financials for pending audit. Coming from committee a second is not needed.

Call for vote.

No opposition, no abstentions

PASSED

- 2) The FYE 8/31/2023 Audit has been finalized and the Tax Return is on extension.
- 3) We discussed the progress of Convention planning - no matter of a financial nature. It was noted that we had 73 registrations so far and an additional block of "double bed" rooms has been added. NP can provide you with other updates on the Convention planning progress.
- 4) Legal Raffle/Solicitation advice
 - a) Conv Chair to confirm with hotel venue that we are clear to have vendor sales.

b) In Oklahoma:

1.) we cannot "sell" a raffle ticket - we must suggest a donation amount

2.) any 50/50 cannot exceed \$300 in winnings to the recipient

c) NT is checking on whether the Convention store is tax exempt in Okla

d) NP indicated that the upcoming Convention Chatter will include this information to chapters

5) Compliance: All financial reviews of chapters submitted have been completed. There is a handful of chapters that have not submitted info on the grounds that they are closing or closed - "due to" checks from BSMA will be held pending resolution.

6) VAVS Yearbook ad: We ratified an email vote taken earlier in the month authorizing the VAVS to purchase an ad page for \$100 in the current yearbook with funds remaining in their budget.

7) Financial Officers update:

A) NFS submitted report prior to meeting - nothing highlighted during discussion.

B) NT

1.) Missouri exemption has been resubmitted - expect response in 4 weeks.

2.) Large 9" Metallic Logo patch discussion (min order qty 100 pieces) - Motion coming from committee to purchase 100 9" Metallic logo patches with an anticipated cost of \$16 and suggested sales price of \$20.

MOTION coming from committee to purchase 100 "9-inch metallic logo patches with anticipated cost of \$16 and suggested sales price of \$20.

Coming from committee a second is not needed.

CALL for Vote

No opposed, No abstentions

MOTION PASSED

3.) Ladies' Collared, V-neck Wicking Polo (classic fit) with embroidered BSMA logo - addition to Online store (min order qty 36) - Motion coming from committee to purchase 36 Powder blue logo V-neck polo shirts at a cost of \$25-27 (2XL,3XL) and suggested sales price of \$30 (Sm-XL) and \$32 (2XL, 3XL).

MOTION coming from committee to purchase 36 Powder blue logo V-neck polo shirts at a cost of \$25-27 (2XL,3XL) and suggested sales price of \$30 (Sm-XL) and \$32 (2XL, 3XL).

Coming from committee a second is not needed.

CALL for Vote

No opposed, No abstentions

MOTION PASSED

4.) Rolling to Remember Escort Motorcycle BSM service flags - Provided during R2R event by Julie Straw. Remaining 44 flags are being offered to the Online Store at cost (\$5 each). Motion coming from committee to purchase 44 remaining Motorcycle escort flags from Julie Straw for \$220 (at cost) and added to the Online store with a suggested sales price of \$10 each.

MOTION coming from committee to purchase 44 remaining Motorcycle escort flags from Julie Straw for \$220 (at cost) and added to the Online store with a suggested sales price of \$10 each.

Coming from committee a second is not needed.

CALL for Vote

No opposed, No abstentions

MOTION PASSED

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

9) New Business:

A) Proposed Financial policies and Budget have been moved to Tuesday afternoon of the Convention agenda.

B) Convention body approved Donor Nominations - Members will be asked to nominate a 501c3 organization/project prior to the commencement of Convention. Information will be sent out to the membership soon. This will speed up the vetting and selection process during Convention.

The next meeting of the FC will be held on Sunday, July 7, 2024.

Officer Reports

1VP –Nothing to add to her report, renewals and new members are coming in.

2VP- Nothing to add to her report.

3VP- Nothing to add to her report.

4VP- She did get an email regarding a possible new chapter in Amarillo, Texas.

FS – Nothing to add to her report, but renewals and new members are coming in.

Treas- Nothing to add to her report.

Rec Sec – Nothing to add to her report.

Dept MI- Nothing to add to her report.

Dept OH- Nothing to add to her report.

Dept MN- Nothing to add to her report.

PNP/ Chaplain Stacy- She was able to answer questions on Blue Daisy criteria.

PNP Carla- Nothing to add to her report.

PNP/ VAVS Rep Anne- Nothing to add to her report.

OLD BUSINESS

Leadership Handbook all board members are working to edit this handbook for ease of use. NP is putting together what the NEB sent to her and she will have it for the NEB to review soon.

Memorandum of Understanding-PNP/VAVS Anne Parker stated that it is now legal, and she is waiting further updates. The MOU will be presented to the board for review before it is approved. No further update currently.

National Past President and Past Department President Pins:

NP noted that she still has 8 Past President pins, but that we will need to order them soon especially for the Departments.

25 Year Pin – we are working on this as at one point we did recognize members with 25 years of service, and we want to get back to doing that. It was clarified that the NP has the molds to make additional Past President pins and that they normally are held by the 1VP. To save on shipping costs, as they are quite heavy, NP has maintained possession of them for the time being. 1VP has one pin and there are 7 more in the possession of NP. PNP Carla forwarded a copy of the 25-year guard chain. NP will forward to NT to get them ordered.

Convention Update: T-shirt sales are going great. May be releasing a previous Bonfire shirt as requested. 2VP has the photos she needed for yearbook. Registrations are coming in.

Governing Documents Committee: They have received and compiled items from the body and will have this ready to be sent to the membership this week.

NP to NEB into CES at 8:00 P.M. CST.
NP to NEB out of CES at 8:56 P.M. CST.

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

PNP/Chaplain closed our meeting in prayer at 9:00 P.M. CST.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Jo Hutchinson, National Recording Secretary

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

-Designed a new Member Application and a new Transfer Form

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

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

-Assisting new Chapters with profiles and website information

-Designed and composed message for National newsletter

-Working with old and new Chapters regarding chartering and transferring their membership

-Began organizing and approving Delegate Forms and Rosters for Convention Registration 2024

Attended the National Gold Star Mothers Convention in Colorado Springs, CO

Respectfully Yours in Service,

Karen Stillwell

National 1st VP 2023-2024

1vp@bluestarmothers.us

614-893-1180



National 2nd Vice President June 2024 Report

- Attended NEB Zoom meeting
- Sent final request for yearbook photos to membership
- Reviewed emails for June Newsletter and verified receipt of each email
- Reviewed list from 3VP of May Fallen Heroes
- Designed and edited pages for the June Newsletter
- Finalized June Newsletter
- Emailed National President and webmaster for approval and distribution of June Newsletter
- Ordered 50 soft covered yearbooks for convention
- Responded to emails received for yearbook
- Worked with yearbook team editing photos
- Finalized yearbook and submitted to National President for approval
- Submitted approved yearbook to TreeRing for printing
- Responded to texts, emails and phone calls

Respectfully submitted by
Karla Keller
2nd VP



National 3VP Report

June 1 – June 31, 2024

- Attended NEB meeting
- Researched 43 Active Duty Military deaths
- Reported 26 Active Duty deaths including 7 Repatriated
- Added 600 Veterans to the Fallen Veteran list
- Sent list of Fallen Veterans to 2VP
- Sent list and pictures of Active Duty deaths to Chaplain and 2VP
- Revised B to G guide and Banner request and sent to President for approval
- Attended flag line for a repatriated Soldier
- Assisted chapters with Blue to Gold protocol questions
- Answered phone calls, emails and text messages

June 2024 4vp report

7/6/24

One new chapter has been through the training but unknown circumstance preventing from installing right away

I have sent out a few new chapter requests, NC18 is ready to get started on training; they sent in all paperwork.

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

National Financial Secretary Report – June 2024

Attended NEB Meetings
Attended 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 June and has started July.

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

Annual Report reviews are completed for all chapters/auxiliaries who have submitted.

Checks are being held for 5 chapters as of 7-5-24.

Financials:

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

Due to Chapter/Department Checks

Follow up on checks returned for incorrect addresses and for those being held for non-compliance.

9 checks are still being held for 5 chapters.

March-May (3rd quarter) Due To checks were prepared and mailed.

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. Worked together to defer new members joining late in May.

Departments/Chapters

Worked with Departments/Chapters on various financial related questions.

Transition Documents

Preparing documents for the next NFS.

Submitted by Sonya Kay, National Financial Secretary - July 5, 2024



NATIONAL TREASURER REPORT

June 2024

Made and received telephone calls, texts, and emails

Worked with other NEB members to resolve issues

Paid bills due in June

Posted and matched expenses in QuickBooks

Filled and mailed Online Store Orders –

 Received 29 Online Store Orders in June

Re-ordered items for online store

Attended NEB and Finance Committee Meetings

Worked on Transition documents for the next Treasurer

Responded to chapters with questions

Yours in Service,

Alethea Tennill

National Treasurer



Department of Michigan Presidents Report
June 2024

- Attended the NEB meeting.
- Held Michigan DEB meeting.
- Testified at a Lansing Senate Committee meeting regarding a permanent BSM Day in Michigan.
- Visited with Chapter Presidents from MI177, MI179 and MI195.
- Answered phone calls, emails, and text messages regarding Department business.

Trudy Wysocki
President Department of Michigan

Department of Ohio

June 2024 Report

1. Contacted Ohio VAS REP's and DEP's; plans to set up a zoom call
2. Contact with OH10 - arranged pick up of documents due to chapter closing. Pick up was made.
3. Contact with prospective Chapter OH65. Need for additional documents and membership applications
4. Signed contract with Nationwide Hotel and Conference Center for 2024 State Convention. Began working with the hotel's planner.
5. Department State Convention: worked on Call to Convention and other related documents.
6. Participated with OH57 – Rode on trolley in the Miss Ohio Parade
7. Various emails and calls with Ohio Chapter Presidents, Department Officers, and general public.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynn Feldman, President
Department of Ohio



BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.
Department of Minnesota
P. O. Box 533
Buffalo, MN 55313



June 2024 Department President Report

- Attended June NEB meeting
- Attended to various NEB emails as appropriate
- Tended a table at the 50th Commemoration of the Vietnam War event at the Mall of America
- Attended to other Department business

Jen Pecarina



National Chaplain

June 2024

- Attended NEB meeting.
- Updated the master spreadsheet for GSM.
- Updated the master spreadsheet for our fallen.
- Working on Blue Daisies list.
- Started and added last years Blue Daisies to the new book.
- Started a Thank You Book for members to see at convention.
- Followed up with a few chapters on eligibility BD statis.
- Worked with 1VP, 2VP, and 3VP making sure our list matched.
- Answered phone calls, emails, and text messages.

PNP Stacy Anders

National Chaplain