



MEETING MINUTES

BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

February 23, 2024 - Midyear - Day One

Call to order: Our National Executive Board Meeting was called to order by National President Rebecca Stafford at 09:17 A.M. CST.

Opening:

PNP Carla Brodacki opened with prayer. PNP/ VAVS REP Anne Parker led us in The Pledge of Allegiance. 1st Vice President Karen Stillwell led our Preamble. 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-Trudy Wysocki
- Dept. Ohio President-Dianna Lynn Feldman
- Dept. MN President-Jen Pecarina
- Parliamentarian-Patti Elliott
- Finance Chair-Julie Straw (Excused)
- PNP/ Bylaw's Chair - Pat Soler

Finance Committee Report to NEB – Reported by NFS – Sonya K.

FC meeting held on Sunday, February 18th to discuss financial matters:

1. **MOTION coming from committee to approve Jan financials as presented and set aside pending audit.**
Motion coming from committee a second is not needed.
CALL for Vote
No opposed, no abstentions- PASSED.
2. **Progress of Audit** - Draft from Independent Auditor, Joseph R. Castellano, CPA was received. FC had no questions or concerns with the draft of the audit.

MOTION coming from committee to accept the Audit as presented and recommends that the NP execute the Management Letter and Engagement letter for the CPA to finalize the audit.

Motion coming from committee a second is not needed.

CALL for Vote

No opposed, no abstentions- PASSED.

3. **Convention update:** Update of a general nature provided to the FC - nothing of a financial nature to be acted upon (Blue stars purchased, Name badges purchased, Bonfire Convention shirt launched, etc.) NP can provide detailed updates.
4. **Maguire/Maguire, Inc.:** Nothing new to report. Several individual state campaigns are in the process of being launched. No details currently.
5. **2023 Compliance** - NFS reported: 162-chapter financial reviews complete, nineteen in follow-up queue, nine chapters/auxiliaries still lacking annual report.
 - A. NFS/NT/4VP are planning additional Zoom instructional calls regarding Balance Sheets and other financial documents that are to be submitted annually.
 - B. Discussion about development of “regional” finance mentors for chapters.

6. NFS and NT Reports:

A. NFS - Potential to earn substantially more interest on funds residing in savings account.

- 1) Flourish program presented via a financial planner - FDIC approved up to \$5M. Funds can be transferred directly from or to our existing checking account.
- 2) 5% interest with Flourish versus 0.04% currently received at Bank of America

MOTION coming from committee for NEB to approve the opening of a savings account with Flourish and move the majority of the funds now residing in Bank of America (B of A) savings account while retaining BSMA fiduciary duty to minimize service fees from B of A.

Motion coming from committee a second is not needed. Discussion followed.

CALL for Vote

No opposed, 1 abstention- PASSED.

- 3) NFS and NT discussed the movement of money into the Flourish account. Recommended that we start with \$150,000 as that would allow us to maintain our Bank of America account without fees. Discussion was held.

MOTION was made to follow the recommendation of the NFS and NT to move \$150,000 to the Flourish account.

Seconded

CALL for Vote

No Opposed, no abstentions - PASSED.

7. NC16 raffle (Blue Star tray): NP & FCC are concerned with the sale of raffle tickets across state lines - discussion concerning raffles indicates that more education is needed for the chapters on this subject. PNP

Parker agreed to contact NC16 to inquire about what permits or licensing they obtained for conducting such a raffle. PNP/ VAVS Anne Parker did contact the chapter and they do hold a license to have raffles in their state. Each state has different laws and regulations regarding raffles.

8. Zeffy.com was presented for consideration as a payment platform. Zeffy.com is a non-profit 501c3 fundraising platform for other non-profits. There is no charge/processing fee to the non-profit. It is a very robust platform with many useful features and reporting options. *(Subsequent to the FC meeting, FCC inquired of Zeffy regarding potential FDIC status - Zeffy & Stripe work together to process payments and just like Square, PayPal, Venmo, or Memberclicks, they are not FDIC insured - they are a payment processor, not a financial institution.)*

Discussion regarding the use of Zeffy. PNP Carla Brodacki will look to see who holds the license for this. She suggested we contact Rally Up as they hold a license for multiple states.

9. NT update
 - A. Waiting for communication from Missouri Dept of Revenue regarding exemption from sales tax for the online store sales.
 - B. Online Store:
 - 1) Tote bag proposed (12 oz heavy cotton, two tone bag with zipper.) Have pricing with one color imprint (\$40 set up, \$7.60 each plus shipping, min qty order 100.) NT will check on potential to have two color imprints and report findings to the NEB.

MOTION coming from committee for the NEB to add the new tote bag to the Online Store (NEB can set the sales price.)

CALL for vote.

No opposed, no abstentions - PASSED.

MOTION to use full color logo on red bag making minimum purchase of 100 bags.

Seconded

Call for a vote.

No opposed, no abstentions- PASSED.

Setting price for the cost of the bags. Currently the bags sold in the online store are \$20.

MOTION was made to sell the new bags at \$20 each.

Seconded

CALL for vote.

No opposed, no abstentions - PASSED.

- 2) Garrison hats - currently on order, will be ordering additional small logo patches.

MOTION coming from the committee for NEB to increase the sales price of the Garrison hat to \$30 each, immediately.

Discussion was had regarding price increase on hats. Motion disregarded.

MOTION from the floor to change the price of the hats to \$28, they cost us \$25 to make.

Seconded

CALL for vote.

No opposed, no abstentions -PASSED.

- 3) Upcoming bundle -Mother's Day bundle.

MOTION coming from committee for NEB to approve a Mother's Day Bundle of a Ball cap, nail file, and Boots & Tags patch for \$20.

CALL for vote.

No opposed, no abstentions - PASSED.

- 4) Discussed shipping cost shorts (when customer selects wrong shipping charge) - if significant, NT will contact member to submit the difference prior to sending out the order.
- 5) Discussion regarding florist for Memorial Day wreaths - difficulty with delivery - still checking.

6) Discussed adding jewelry to the Online store - nothing specific at this time.

10. Chapter Grant Applications – OR1 (existing) and TX19 (new)

Motion coming from committee for the NEB to approve a chapter grant to OR1 (existing) and TX19 (new) with check not being sent until existing chapter is in compliance.

Discussion was held. NFS asked to withdraw the motion at this time, and she will meet with FC to restate this request.

11. New Business: Discussion about the 2023 Convention inquiry regarding our “rating” as to charitable use of funds being unsatisfactory. FCC investigated several charity rating platforms - to date, Charity Navigator was the only to respond. We do not fit their model to be rated since we are not a conglomerate and national does not file a 990 based on all its subordinates. Further thought needs to be given as to efficiently culling the data from annual compliance filings to prepare a report on BSMA to be submitted to such rating organizations. Suggestion was made that perhaps an Appointed position needs to be created to investigate and mitigate the negative charity rating perception.

Discussion regarding the need for more information on this as National does collect chapter information, but they file their own 990.

12. Next FC monthly meeting will be on Sunday, March 10th, 2024. Respectfully submitted by Julie Straw, Finance Committee Chair.

10:40 A.M. CST Break

10:57 A.M. CST Resumed

OLD BUSINESS

Convention Update: We have several Bonfire shirt campaigns currently running. We are about to launch a new one. All monies will go towards the 2024 National Convention.

MOU – American Legion Auxiliary: This is in legal review currently with the American Legion. No further update currently – PNP/VAVS Rep Ann.

NEW BUSINESS

MOU- American Gold Star Mothers: Our NP has been approached by them to enter this agreement of support for each organization.

MOTION: A motion was made that the Blue Star Mothers of America, INC. enter a Memorandum of Understanding with the American Gold Star Mothers so that we may support each other and each organization.

Seconded

Discussion was held.

CALL for the VOTE

no opposition, no abstentions - PASSED.

Goal is to have this MOU completed and presented at the American Gold Star Mothers Convention in June. It was discussed that once this is completed; we present this to all members at our convention as well.

Governing Documents Review – PNP/Bylaws Chair Pat Soler

She thanked the NEB for allowing her and her committee to work on the Governing Documents on behalf of the membership and the NEB.

Membership Application – discussion regarding changes to the wording of our Membership Application.

Charter (United States Code Title 36 Chapter 305) Parenthetical Congressional Charter- This is what Congress decides. Resolutions to our Charter are amendments that were made. The history of Resolutions was explained, and it is advised that we not return to Congress for additional changes unless it is detrimental to our organization. Congress is no longer issuing charters and we could have our revoked if we continue to nit-pick the wording.

ITEM #1 – Reporting to Congress by March 1 each year. Our Annual Report can be used and given as an Impact Report for Congressional Record.

CONSTITUTION – Discussion regarding suggested corrections and/ or changes from the By -Laws Committee.

MOTION –Make the changes that were recommended by the By-Laws Committee that we leave in “So Help Me GOD” in our rituals and our documents.

Seconded

Friendly Amendment: To add to our application “agreeing to abide by the Governing Documents of Blue Star Mothers of America, INC.

Discussion

CALL FOR VOTE

No opposition, no abstentions

PASSED

Defining the role of Associate. An individual who is not eligible for membership based on the Congressional Charter. Those wishing to be part of the organization in a support role to the mothers to promote the mission. Associates do not have the right to hold office or vote. An Associate is a valuable asset to the organization.

12:11 P.M. CST Break for lunch

1:42 P.M. CST. Resumed

Bylaw’s – Discussion regarding suggested corrections and/or changes from the By-Laws Committee.

The most recent copy of the Bylaws is on the National website stating updated per the 2022 Convention.

It was noted that the Constitution is who we are and that the Bylaws are how we conduct our mission.

3:55 P.M. CST Break

4:10 P.M. Resumed

By-Laws – Discussion regarding suggested corrections and/or changes from the By-Laws Committee.

Closed in prayer by PNP Carla Brodacki.

6:25 P.M. CST Closed for the evening.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Jo Hutchinson

National Recording Secretary

APPROVED



MEETING MINUTES

BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

February 24, 2024 – Midyear – Day Two

Call to order: Our National Executive Board Meeting was called to order by National President Rebecca Stafford at 09:02 A.M. CST.

Opening:

PNP Carla Brodacki opened with prayer. PNP/ VAVS REP Anne Parker led us in The Pledge of Allegiance. 1st Vice President Karen Stillwell led our Preamble. 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
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- 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)
- PNP/ Bylaw's Chair – Pat Soler

Governing Documents Review – PNP/Bylaws chair Pat Soler

Bylaws – Discussion regarding suggested corrections and/ or changes from the By-Laws Committee.

10:40 A.M. CST Break

10:57 A.M. CST Resumed

Bylaws – Discussion regarding suggested corrections and/ or changes from the By-Laws Committee.

12:24 P.M. CST Break for lunch

1:37 P.M. CST Resumed

Bylaws – Discussion regarding suggested corrections and/ or changes from the By-Laws Committee.

Code of Conduct - Discussion regarding suggested corrections and/ or changes from the By-Laws Committee.

3:25 P.M. CST Break

3:40 P.M. Resumed

Code of Conduct- Discussion regarding suggested corrections and/ or changes from the By-Laws Committee.

5:28 P.M. CST Break for Dinner

Closed in prayer by PNP Carla Brodacki

6:41 P.M. CST Resumed

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
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Minutes Approval:

Minutes from NEB meeting January 9, 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.

MOTION to approve Minutes from January 9, 2024, as presented.

Seconded

Call for a vote.

no opposition, no abstentions- PASSED.

6:44 P.M. CST NP took the NEB into CES.

8:04 P.M. CST NP took the NEB out of CES.

Reminders:

- Book flight arrangements for National Convention as soon as you can.
- Pre-Convention meeting is Sunday July 28, 2024, evening time. There will be a transition meeting on the morning of Saturday August 3, 2024. Department Presidents will not need to attend the transition meeting, we will get their signatures on Friday August 2, 2024.
- Work with NT on Norton Anti-virus.

2VP discussion on the yearbook number of pages and possible ads.

8:16 P.M. CST Closed with prayer.

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Jo Hutchinson
National Recording Secretary

APPROVED



MEETING MINUTES

BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

February 25, 2024 – Midyear – Day Three

Call to order: Our National Executive Board Meeting was called to order by National President Rebecca Stafford at 08:27 A.M. CST.

Opening:

PNP Carla Brodacki opened with prayer. PNP/ VAVS REP Anne Parker led us in The Pledge of Allegiance. 1st Vice President Karen Stillwell led our Preamble. Recording Secretary Amy Hutchinson conducted roll call.

The following were present:

- National President-Rebecca Stafford
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- Dept. Ohio President-Dianna Lynn Feldman
- Dept. MN President-Jen Pecarina
- Parliamentarian-Patti Elliott
- PNP/ Bylaw's Chair – Pat Soler

8:28 A.M. CST NP took the NEB into CES

8:37 A.M. CST NP took the Neb out of CES.

PNP/ Bylaws Chair Pat Soler joined the meeting at 8:37 A.M. CST.

Governing Documents Review – PNP/Bylaws chair Pat Soler

Returned to Bylaws – Discussion regarding suggested corrections and/ or changes from the By-Laws Committee.

Code of Conduct – Discussion regarding suggested corrections and/or changes from the By-Laws Committee.

10:48 A.M. CST Break

11:10 A.M. CST Resumed

Affiliation Agreement – Discussion regarding suggested corrections and/or changes from the By-Laws Committee.

1:12 P.M. CST Break for lunch

2:14 P.M. CST Resumed

Convention Timeline – Discussion regarding the suggested timeline for convention to allow for time for Governing Documents review with proposed changes.

Plan is to have all documents with proposed changes to all chapters so that they have time to review and go over the items with the membership. The entire membership will receive a copy of these documents and proposed changes.

Convention Updates: Proposed schedule of Convention discussed.

Closing Procedures reviewed 4VP – Discussion regarding the possible changes needed. We are trying to address the chapter prior to the decision to close.

Yearbook: 2VP regarding adding 10 additional pages to our 100 minimum.

MOTION to make our yearbook 110 pages.

Seconded.

CALL for Vote

No opposed, no abstentions. – PASSED

5:40 P.M. CST Closed with Prayer PNP Carla Brodacki

Minutes Respectfully Submitted,
Amy Jo Hutchinson
National Recording Secretary