



MEETING MINUTES

BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

July 9, 2024

Call to order: Our National Executive Board Meeting was called to order by National President Rebecca Stafford at 07:31 P.M. CST.

Opening:

PNP/Chaplain Stacy Anders opened with prayer. 3VP Jacqueline Ransom led our Pledge of Allegiance. 1VP Karen Stillwell 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 (EXCUSED)
- PNP/VAVS REP-Anne Parker (ENTERED at 7:59 CST)
- Dept. MI President-Trudy Wysocki
- Dept. Ohio President-Dianna Lynn Feldman
- Dept. MN President-Jen Pecarina
- Parliamentarian-Patti Elliott
- Finance Chair-Julie Straw

Minutes Approval:

Minutes from NEB June 11, 2024, were sent to the NEB prior to this meeting from the National Secretary. The floor was open for discussion or corrections. There were two corrections. A motion was called to accept the minutes with corrections.

MOTION to approve Minutes from June 11, 2024, with two corrections.

Seconded

Call for a vote.

No opposition, no abstentions

PASSED

July Finance Committee Meeting report to the NEB given by Julie Straw, National Finance Chair.

1. FC meeting held on Sunday, July 7th to discuss financial matters:

Motion coming from committee to approve June financials as presented and set aside pending audit.

MOTION to accept the June Financials as presented and set aside pending audit. Coming from committee a second is not needed.

Call for a vote.

No opposition, no abstentions

PASSED

2. Progress of Tax Return

Needs NP signature and confirm correct address (to CPA prior to July 15th.)

3. Convention update:

A. Need to be able to pull up June financials at Convention. NFS will have them ready.

B. Flowers need to be ordered for both the memorial & blue daisies for memorial table.

C. FCC has submitted a summary spreadsheet of all Convention Body-Approved Donation nominations to Convention chair for printing and inclusion in the convention binder.

4. Maguire/Maguire, Inc.: no update this month, but Ohio campaign is running. C McCracken will follow up with them regarding possible non-profit legal counsel referral.

5. 2023 Compliance -

A. NFS still holding Due to Chapter checks.

B. Item to be placed on Sept FC agenda - methods to improve coordination between 4VP, financial officers & FC in financial review of chapters required for compliance.

6. NFS and NT Reports:

A. NFS - Report was provided prior to meeting.

1. Convention income and expenses to date are both under budget. 166 registrants of a projected 200.

2. Silent Auction will be run differently this year - need guidance on timing from NEB & Convention Chair.

3. Arranging for help for NT at convention store set up and operation.

4. NFS will need help with Silent Auction.

5. PNP Anne organizing help from FC and other delegates for the above.

B. NT

1. Missouri Sales Tax exemption - still do not have National organization "home state" registration (i.e., DC) from our legal representative/Resident Agent in DC. Will follow up since it may be needed in future years wherever the online store may be located. NT checking with DC Resident Agent.

2. Online store restocking - White logo shirts: Ordering 2X and two size 4X based on member requests.

3. Convention stores latest items reviewed: Blue polos, 9" patches & Ornaments.

7. Chapter Grant Applications - No new applications received this month. Will try to remember to mention at convention we have awarded 16 of a possible 28 grants (4 new & 12 existing) this fiscal year. May apply every other year.

8. New Business:

- A. Donations and merchandise sales during Rolling to Remember: Nothing given was “restricted or earmarked” by the donor so will hit general funds or online store sales. May be used wherever needed by the organization.
- B. Mention at Convention: Legal and fiduciary responsibility of chapters to submit membership applications and funds in a timely manner (within a month).

9. Next FC monthly meeting: Unknown - up to the new NEB & FC committee.

Officer Reports

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

2VP- Yearbooks have arrived and will be at convention.

3VP- Nothing to add to her report.

4VP- NC18 is ready to start training.

FS - Nothing to add to her report.

Treas- New patches are in and blue polo shirts are on their way.

Rec Sec - Nothing to add to her report.

Dept MI- Happy to announce Michigan now has February 1st as Blue Star Mother’s Day.

Dept OH- Nothing to add to her report.

Dept MN- Nothing to add to her report.

PNP/ Chaplain Stacy- Nothing to add to her report.

PNP/ VAVS Rep Anne- Request for help with sweatpants project and National Store at convention. Warriors for Freedom will be there at convention on Tuesday to help.

OLD BUSINESS

Memorandum of Understanding-PNP/VAVS Anne Parker stated that they are in the middle of their convention so we will not expect to hear from them for a bit. The MOU will be presented to the board for review before it is approved. No further update currently.

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. NP and NT are close to producing something and will have that information shortly.

Convention Update: Most items are on schedule. Registrations are still coming in.

NEW BUSINESS

Blue to Gold Procedures Review: Procedure forms were sent to the NEB for review prior to the meeting. NEB members were able to suggest grammatical errors and format errors. 3VP will work on the noted corrections and have these forms ready for the website.

NP to NEB into CES at 8:25 P.M. CST.
NP to NEB out of CES at 9:10 P.M. CST.

Reminders: July Newsletter items in by July 15
Check your emails as often as possible.

Yearbook price for each book is \$27.97. It was discussed what the price should be at convention. After some discussion, a motion was made.

MOTION to sell yearbooks at the convention for \$30 each.

Call for a vote.

No opposed, no abstentions

PASSED

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

PNP/Chaplain closed our meeting in prayer at 9:15 P.M. CST.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Jo Hutchinson, National Recording Secretary



National 1st Vice President

July 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

-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

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

-Organized, approved and printed Delegate Forms and Rosters for the National Convention Registration 2024

-Attended the National Convention in OKC 2024

-Attended Pre and Post Convention NEB Meeting as well as closed

-Assisted the National Chaplain with set up of the Blue Daisy table

-Registered all delegates for the National Convention

-Assisted members at Convention with their Chapter and member questions/issues

Respectfully Yours in Service,

Karen Stillwell

National 1st VP 2023-2025

1vp@bluestarmothers.us

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



National 2nd Vice President July 2024 Report

- Attended NEB Zoom meeting
- Reviewed emails for July Newsletter and verified receipt of each email
- Reviewed list from 3VP of June Fallen Heroes
- Designed and edited pages for the July Newsletter
- Finalized July Newsletter
- Emailed National President and webmaster for approval and distribution of July Newsletter
- Responded to emails received for yearbook
- Ordered yearbooks to sell at convention, worked with volunteer who was willing to accept delivery of yearbooks in Oklahoma City
- Responded to texts, emails and phone calls
- Assisted National President as needed
- Organized collecting hats and volunteers for Honoring Our Children program for convention
- Attended National Convention
- Distributed Yearbooks at National Convention

Respectfully submitted by
Karla Keller
National 2nd VP



National 3VP Report

July 1 – July 31, 2024

- Attended NEB meeting
- Researched 27 Active Duty Military deaths
- Reported 24 Active Duty deaths including 5 Repatriated
- Added 515 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
- Sent list of Active Duty deaths and Veterans to be read at Convention to Chaplain
- Sent Blue to Gold Guide and Banner Request forms to Webmaster for uploading to National Website
- Assisted chapters with Blue to Gold protocol questions
- Answered phone calls, emails and text messages
- Attended National Convention

National Financial Secretary Report – July 2024

Attended NEB Meetings
Attended Finance Committee Meetings
Attend National Convention
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 July and has started August.

Financials:

Completed entering July 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.

4 checks are still being held for 3 chapters.

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.

National Convention

Attend Convention, confirm payment of all attendees, process all income, run silent auction, assist with governing document review, etc.

Submitted by Sonya Kay, National Financial Secretary – August 10, 2024



Department of Michigan Presidents Report
July 2024

- Attended the NEB meeting.
- Held Michigan DEB meeting.
- Attended BDMI meeting.
- Attended National Convention.
- Helped with Convention committee preparation where needed.
- BSM Permanent Day in Michigan – Completed
- Working on Michigan Convention details
- Answered phone calls, emails, and text messages regarding Department business.

Trudy Wysocki
President Department of Michigan

Department of Ohio

July 2024 Report

1. Chaired Ohio DEB meeting
2. Attended July NEB meeting
3. As Department president, participated with OH9 president at Adaptive Sports Connection/Boundless Freedom activity day for Veterans/Wounded Warriors and families; represented Department of Ohio, spoke with attendees, and gave out information and promoted all state chapters
4. 2024 State Convention
 - Began working with Nationwide Hotel conference planner
 - Made site visit with Ohio Big Dipper officers
 - Worked on and mailed Call to Convention with other related documents
5. Attended 2024 National Convention
6. Various emails and calls with Ohio Chapter Presidents, Department Officers, and general public.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynn Feldman, President
Department of Ohio

July 2024 Department of Minnesota Presidents Report

*Attended July NEB meeting

*Conducted July DEB meeting

*Attended 2024 National Convention in Oklahoma City, OK

*Reported to appropriate department and national officers the death of a member of MN Chapter 13, Mary Beth Broderick on July 12

*Various phone calls, texts and email correspondence regarding department business including our fall convention on October 12

Respectfully.

Jen Pecarina

President – Department of Minnesota 2023-2024

VAVS/PAST NATIONAL PRESIDENT

ANNE PARRKER

JULY 2024 REPORT

July is my annual travel month but I managed to stay busy. I started training a new chapter, NC18, and their training will continue in August with the goal of installing them in September. I continue to work with the Department of Ohio trying to get the necessary paperwork in for their newest chapter to charter.

VAVS volunteers at convention were recognized with a small memo pad and pen thanking them for their service. The service project at convention was an overwhelming success and received many positive comments. The volunteers who helped make it happen were awesome.

We continue to appoint new REPs and DEPs and remove those who are not reporting. This month we appointed two and removed four.

I assumed the position of mentor for LA7 and will continue my work with this chapter and the four other chapters I mentor.

I will be travelling again in the fall but will stay in touch and be available if new chapter charters. I plan to rerecord governing documents videos as soon as they are approved by legal.

I appreciate the opportunity to serve with all of you and welcome our new members.



National Chaplain 2023-2024

Past National President 2022-2023

July 2024

- Attended NEB meeting.
- Finalized the Blue Daisy list.
- Finalized the master spreadsheet for our fallen.
- Shipped the Chaplain box to NP for convention.
- Worked with 1VP, 2VP, and 3VP making sure our list matched.
- Contacted 26 members and asked if they would like to participate in the memorial at the convention.
- Emailed each member their list of names they will read.
- Attended the 81st convention.
- Answered phone calls, emails, and text messages.

PNP Stacy Anders

National Chaplain