



MEETING MINUTES

BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

August 13, 2024

Call to order: Our National Executive Board Meeting was called to order by National President Rebecca Stafford at 7:35 P.M. CST.

Opening:

PNP/Chaplain Stacy Anders opened with prayer. 2VP Karla Keller led our Pledge of Allegiance. PNP/VAVS REP Anne Parker led the Preamble. Recording 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-Sonya Kay
- Recording Secretary-Amy Jo Hutchinson
- Financial Secretary-Carrie Beck
- Treasurer-Stacy Breithaupt
- 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
- Julie Straw – Finance Chair

Minutes Approval:

Minutes from NEB Post Convention Meeting August 3, 2024, were sent to the NEB. One correction was noted.

MOTION to approve the August 3, 2024, Post Convention Minutes with one correction.

Seconded

Call for the Vote.

1 Abstention / 0 Opposed – **MOTION PASSED**

Finance Committee Report to NEB - August 13, 2024

1. FC meeting held on Sunday, August 11th to discuss financial matters:

Motion coming from committee to approve July financials as presented and set aside pending audit. Second is not required.

MOTION to approve the July 2024 Financials to be set aside for audit.

Seconded

Call for the Vote.

0 Abstentions/ 0 Opposed – **MOTION PASSED**

2. Progress of FYE Audit & Tax Return Tax returns for FYE 08/31/2023 have been filed Online store will not open until audit is complete. NT will contact the CPA to arrange for the audit of the online store inventory. Need to inform CPA that an Ohio return will need to be filed (Ohio Maguire/Maguire campaign running)

3. Convention update:

- A. All reimbursements requests (based on changes to Financial policies) need to be submitted asap.

B. Receipt & thorough review of hotel charges need to be completed (subsequent to meeting, hotel charges received, reviewed, and set for payment)

C. NEB/Appointed positions - any personal room charges need to be repaid asap.

4. Maguire/Maguire, Inc. Update:

A. Question re: chapters fundraising across state lines - no answer yet from their legal counsel or referral to a nonprofit atty.

B. Maguire/Maguire will be closing this year due to owner's retirement - they are referring us to the company of a former employee, M.P. May, Inc. - Fundraising chair will investigate further.

C. Reminder to remove CFC reference out of signature lines on email. D. PNT forwarded Athina Balta Law Group contact info to FCC - checking into corporate registration with what DC gov't agencies.

5. Compliance:

A. Still have stragglers from 2023 (financial review has been done on any that did submit financial reports)

B. Plan for streamlining 2024 Compliance - NP & 4VP meeting to set up process.

6. NFS and NT Reports:

A. NFS

1. Still coordinating transition through multiple meetings. NFS reaching out to webmaster to get backside access.

2. Monitor & check reader needs to be shipped from PFS to NFS

B. NT

1. NT still needs access to "backside" - will contact webmaster

2. Reimbursements of Convention registration fees to go through BillPay

3. Yearbooks not picked up - postage costs being received (3 so far)

C. Accounts have been handed to new officers, from past financial officers.

D. New P. O. Box set up with forwarding order submitted.

E. 2 old printers from past financial officers - discussion of disposition

7. Equipment replacement for NEB

A. Replacement of laptops needed for 2VP & 3VP.

B. Need to determine if any other upgrades needed (NT to follow up)

8. Chapter Grant Applications - CA 26 - existing chapter (this will finish out the grants for this fiscal year - leaves 3 new and 8 existing unfulfilled)

9. New Business: Set up meeting dates for future meetings -

Next FC monthly meeting Sunday, September 8, 2024.

Officer Reports

1VP - nothing to add.

2VP - Newsletter articles due by 15th

3VP - nothing to add.

4VP - nothing to add.

REC SEC - nothing to add.

FIN SEC - nothing to add.

TREAS - nothing to add.

PNP/Chaplain- checking with 1VP on Gold Star Cards

PNP-Carla Brodacki - nothing to add.

PNP/VAVS REP-Anne Parker - nothing to add.

Dept. MI President- nothing to add.

Dept. Ohio President-nothing to add.

Dept. MN President- nothing to add.

Parliamentarian-nothing to add.

Old Business

- MOU with our American Legion Auxiliary has now become Resolution of Support. Document was sent to the NEB prior to this meeting for review. Call for discussion. Seeing none she will send this back to The American Legion to approve at their National convention. PNP/VAVS Rep will keep us updated on its progress.
- Convention 2024 wrap up – Affiliation Agreement signed and sent for posting to Website. NFS has verified amounts owed and made final payment to the hotel.
- NEB Meeting date will stay second Tuesday of each month but will begin at 7:30 Eastern, 6:30 Central, 5:30 Mountain, and 4:30 Pacific time beginning in September.

New Business

- **Grant Station** - NFS received an email from Grant Station – they help us with grants. Apparently, they are membership based and are asking for payment through Tech Soup. NFS/ NT will research it and see if we have used it or paid for it in the past. They may be phishing.
- **Closing chapter materials** – NP noted that the NFS receives all their Minutes, Financial items, and Charter and then the NFS sends Charter to the 4VP. She is suggesting that we keep the items together with the NFS. NP asked for NEB input, and it was noted that all the items stayed with the NFS, and she only needed to scan the Charter and send it to 4VP. NP is verifying that this is how we will continue with Closing Chapter items.
- **Mid-Year 2025** – Pensacola, FL February 19 -26, 2025. Arriving the Wednesday prior to and leaving the Wednesday after. Contract has been signed.
- **Convention 2025** – Next Convention city has been confirmed. Dates will be July 28 – Aug 1, 2025. There is a new Convention committee she is working to plan this event. This will be a training year, planning breakout sessions with all officers.
- **Memorial Day weekend** – May 23 – 25, 2025. Rolling to Remember. This year the NP will plan to invite Gold Star Mothers from our organization and Veteran mothers from our organization as a priority.

- **Public Relations Person** - We are looking for a Public Relations person for our organization.
- **Press release** – NP will have a Press Release for all our hometown news media to print coming soon welcoming our National Executive Board.

Reminders

- Please check email at least once per day.
- Newsletter items to 2VP by the 15th of the month

Honoring our Children – 2VP - Need Space Force and Air Force Covers for our collection. MN DEPT President will check on Space Force and 1VP has an Air Force Cover for us.

Department Conventions – Just updating if all Conventions have sent out Call to Conventions. NP is planning her travel arrangements.

Seeing nothing further for the GOOD of the Order she asked out National Chaplain to close us in prayer.

NP Closed the meeting at 8:41 P.M. CST.

Respectfully submitted,
Amy Jo Hutchinson, National Recording Secretary



National 1st Vice President August Report 2024

-Attended Post NEB Convention Transition Meeting

-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, new members and transfers

-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 members

-Worked with Chaplain to acquire a Gold Star card design and quote for the cards

-Assisted with Gavel Club Elections

-Working with 4VP on training documents

-Designed and submitted a membership page for the newsletter

-Worked with PNP Pat on designing and publishing a newsletter to answer questions for members eligibility

-Updating instructions for the Officer Roster and Affiliation Agreement

-Responding to members not wanting to renew

-Approving Officer Rosters and Affiliation Agreements

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 August 2024 Report

- Attended NEB Zoom meeting
- Reviewed emails for August Newsletter and verified receipt of each email
- Reviewed list from 3VP of July Fallen Heroes
- Designed and edited pages for the August Newsletter
- Finalized August Newsletter
- Emailed National President and webmaster for approval and distribution of August Newsletter
- Responded to emails received for yearbook
- Worked with Treasurer to contact those who ordered yearbooks that were delivered to convention but they did not attend convention and no one from their chapter attended either
- Assisted National President as needed
- Responded to texts, emails and phone calls

Respectfully submitted by
Karla Keller
National 2nd VP



National 3VP Report

August 1 – August 31, 2024

- Attended NEB meeting
- Researched 33 Active Duty Military deaths
- Reported 29 Active Duty deaths including 10 Repatriated
- Added 564 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
- Assisted chapters with Blue to Gold protocol questions
- Answered phone calls, emails and text messages
- Attended National Convention



National 4th Vice President
August 2024 Report

- Attended all NEB meetings, including post-convention/transition meeting.
- Attended National Convention
- Attended Finance Committee meetings
- Completed Transitions
- Updated Chartering Chapter documents and had posted to website to replace outdated versions.
- Created Compliance Email Training documents to be mailed to all DCA presidents/membership chairs. The first 3 have been sent with positive response.
- Put together Financial Review Team for Annual Report financial document review and started training. Created form letter and example documents for them to use to communicate with DCAs so it is consistent across all.
- Creating tracking spreadsheets, with updates for more complete information, for both Compliance and Annual Report reviews.
- Updating Compliance Guide – in process.
- Worked with webmaster to get compliance related documents updated on website.
- Working with two new chapters nearing chartering.
- Answered multiple emails from potential new chapters, researched locations, sent getting started information (11 locations).
- Created a spreadsheet to track potential new chapters and where they are in the process.
- Researched closing chapters and created a spreadsheet to know better where they are in the process.
- Answered emails from potential new members re chapters near them.
- Answered emails/calls/texts from DCAs.

Respectfully Submitted by
Sonya Kay
National 4th VP



National Chaplain 2023-2024

Past National President 2022-2023

August 2024

- Attended NEB meeting.
- Worked on the new Gold Star Mothers Cards.
- Used the same picture as our yearbook and voting paddles, changed the silver stars to gold.
- Received approval on GSM Cards from National President.
- Received stamps for GSM mailing.
- Reached out to 3 officers for quotes on the GSM cards.
- Picked the best quote and started working on getting ready to order.
- Added new names to the list of Gold Star mothers.
- Sent all names to our National Treasure to print labels.
- Answered phone calls, emails, and text messages.

PNP Stacy Anders

National Chaplain



Department of Michigan Presidents Report
August 2024

- Attended the NEB meeting.
- Attended National Convention.
- Held Michigan DEB meeting.
- Attended BDMI meeting.
- Michigan Call to Convention sent.
- Working on Michigan Convention Hotel/weekend details
- Answered phone calls, emails, and text messages regarding Department business.

Trudy Wysocki
President Department of Michigan

**Department of Ohio
August 2024 Report**

1. Chaired monthly DEB meeting
2. Attended August NEB meeting
3. Attended last two days of National Convention
4. Met with OH22 Chapter officers
5. Attended OH22 Chapter meeting
6. Continued preparing for Department convention
7. Attend Memorial Service for WWII Military Service Member whose remains were recovered and returned home
8. Various emails and calls with Ohio Chapter Presidents, Department Officers, and the general public.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Feldman,

President, Department of Ohio

AUGUST 2024 DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA REPORT

*Informed the NEB and DEB regarding two Blue Daisies from our Department. Laurie Mandery MN 13 passed away on August 7, 2024 and Stella Huso MN 13 passed away on August 11, 2024.

*Attended both funerals for MN 13 Blue Daisies on August 15 and August 30.

*Attended August NEB meeting.

*Installed newly elected officers of MN 7 on August 15.

*Attended the MN state fair on Military Appreciation Day, August 27. I volunteered at the department information booth for a two hour shift and participated in the state fair parade.

*Delivered or mailed the two remaining NEB gifts to Carla and Karla from convention NEB meeting

*Conducted department business via email, text and phone calls.

*Attended to department convention business.

*Sent out the call to convention for the department convention on October 12, 2024