



MEETING MINUTES

BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

March 18, 2025

Call to order: The National Executive Board meeting was called to order by National President Rebecca Stafford at 6:30 P.M. CST.

Opening:

PNP/Chaplain Carla Brodacki opened with prayer. 1VP Karen Stillwell led the 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 (Joined at 6:50 P.M. CST)
- PNP/Chaplain -Carla Brodacki
- PNP/VAVS REP-Anne Parker
- PNP Pat Soler (Joined at 6:36 P.M. CST)
- Dept. MI President-Trudy Wysocki
- Dept. Ohio President-Barb Cook (Left the meeting at 8:57 P.M. CST)
- Dept. MN President-Jen Pecarina
- Parliamentarian-Patti Elliott
- Julie Straw – Finance Chair

First order of business is to replace our PNP as a voting member of the National Executive Board. The National President has a duty to fill this opening left by the passing of our beloved Stacy Anders for the remainder of her term. She has asked that PNP Pat Soler join our board and be a voting member. She opened the floor for discussion. Seeing none – PNP Pat Soler joined the meeting at 6:36 P.M. CST.

Minutes Approval:

Minutes from NEB Mid-Year Meetings Day One February 21, 2025, were sent to the NEB. Corrections were noted.

MOTION to approve Mid-Year Day One Minutes February 21, 2025, with corrections.

Seconded

Call for the Vote.

No Opposed/ 1 Abstention – **MOTION PASSED**

Minutes from NEB Mid-Year Meetings Day Two February 22, 2025, were sent to the NEB. Corrections were noted.

MOTION to approve Mid-Year Day Two Minutes February 22, 2025, with corrections.

Seconded

Call for the Vote.

No Opposed/ 1 Abstention – **MOTION PASSED**

Minutes from NEB Mid-Year Meetings Day Three February 23, 2025, were sent to the NEB. Corrections were noted.

MOTION to approve Mid-Year Day Three Minutes February 23, 2025, with corrections.

Seconded

Call for the Vote.

No Opposed/ 1 Abstention – **MOTION PASSED**

Finance Committee Report to NEB March 18th, 2025 – Julie Straw Finance Chair

1. FC meeting held on Sunday, March 9th, 2025, to discuss financial matters: You should have the February financial statements to look over. Opened the floor for questions.

Motion coming from Committee for the NEB to approve the February 2025 financial statements to be set aside for audit.

Coming from committee a second is not needed.

Call for the VOTE.

One opposed, No Abstentions – Motion PASSES.

2. Annual Audit & Tax return - CPA has completed the audit and is working on the Form 990 tax return. Management and Representation letters have been signed.

Motion coming from Committee to accept the Audit and have it presented to the 2025 Convention body. Postponed this motion as the NEB has not had the Audit to review. FC will send to NRS so she can forward to the NEB for review.

3. Convention planning 2025

A. Governing Docs and Mentor chairs are to present training – PNP/ Governing Docs Chair is now on the NEB as a voting member, so this will no longer include her, but we are setting precedence for future attendees needed at convention.

Motion coming from Committee to request the NEB approve the travel expenses, including luggage and hotel expenses (based on two per room) for six days for those members necessary to conduct training at the 2025 Convention.

Coming from committee a second is not needed.

Call for Vote.

No Opposed, No Abstentions – MOTION PASSED

B. Mentor Chair found a small pin to serve as a token of appreciation, this will come out of the Convention budget.

Motion coming from Committee to approve the purchase of 44 mentor appreciation pins at a cost of \$1.79 each plus shipping.

Coming from committee a second is not needed.

Call for Vote.

No Opposed, No abstentions – MOTION PASSED

C. FC has received a request from Big Dipper (and agreed) to review their Proposed Budget prior to Convention to provide feedback and minimize obvious questions or areas of concern (must be provided to FC in a timely manner).

4. Fundraising & Press Releases

A. MP May, Inc. - no current updates

B. Draft Press Releases and Request for Donation letters are being composed by D. Vance for FC and NEB review.

5. Compliance matters of a financial matter - 4VP can provide you with a more current update, but we were informed that we have 22 chapters still pending. The entire Financial Review team was thanked for their efforts this year!

6. VAVS - FC acknowledged the NEB's motion last month for a 100% match and it was noted that checks for \$183.80 each will be sent to the 98 VA facilities that have no BSM representation.

7. Chapter Grant Applications

Motion coming from Committee to approve a \$250 Chapter Grant to each WV1 (new chapter), TN7(existing) and MA1(existing) - both in compliance.

Coming from committee a second is not needed.

Call for Vote.

No Opposed, No Abstentions – MOTION PASSED

8. Financial Policy Changes

FC received notes from the Parliamentarian present at Mid-Year and we are working our way through the NEB suggestions. We only made it through the first two sections of the Financial Policies - it may entail a complete re-writing for better continuity. NFS and NT have tackled this project and have some great suggestions waiting for the rest of the FC at our next meeting.

9. New Business - Many thanks to the Webmaster for updating all of the information on the Financial page of the national website.

Motion coming from Committee requesting the NEB to instruct the Webmaster to:

1) lock down the financial information of the organization to Member and Associate access only, and place a statement on the public access page instructing interested parties to contact the NP and NFS for the organization's 990 public information; and 2) Move the Chapter Grant application and Financial Policy information to Member and Associate access only.

Friendly amendment to have Webmaster create a form to have public request the Audit and 990 available on the web.

Coming from committee a second is not needed.

Call for Vote.

No Opposed , No abstentions - MOTION PASSED

Next FC meeting on Sunday, April 6th, 2025. FC left the meeting at 6:55 P.M. CST

Old Business from Midyear:

- NP is asking that the NEB update their Transition documents presented at mid-year and send them to NRS and NP by March 31, 2025.
- Training documents are to be updated and sent to NRS and NP by June 1, 2025. Include any handouts you may be planning to have for your training. There is not going to be a projector in the rooms for use at Convention. Those will be posted on website after convention.
- BSMA Coin was discussed at Mid-Year and the use of the Military logos. We do not qualify to request a licensing agreement with the DOD. However, if the company we order from our National Coins has a licensed agreement we are good. NT noted that our Vendor who makes our challenge coins does have the agreement. We may encourage other chapters to use our vendor as they have approval to use.

Convention 2025

- Registration is open now. NP asked the NEB to register online. You sign up online and the NT will send you an invoice to pay for your amount. The NEB travel, hotel, and registration is covered by the Organization as approved by the body. The only separate expense would be if NEB members choose to attend Big Dipper they would need to pay separately for that.

- We have nametags for conventions we are making nametags with magnetic back. They are \$5 each estimating 200, total cost of \$1000. We need to pay half now so the order can be placed.
Balance will be due prior to convention. This is coming out of convention budget; we will be moving forward on that.
- DJ for Convention Friday nights banquet. Cost is \$550 he needs a deposit now. This invoice will also be paid out of the convention budget.

New Business

Gold Star Mother Convention - NP will attend. This is already in our budget, and we are budgeted for \$2000 as an approved line item. The registration is \$150, the hotel is \$179 per night plus taxes and fees. 3 nights (\$537.00 plus taxes and fees) flight is \$426.66 for a total of \$1113.66. She does not need approval but wanted to share her travel expenses that are upcoming.

Confidentiality Agreement Updated for National. NP asked that we create one for Chapters and Departments.

MOTION was made to create a Confidentiality agreement for Chapters and Departments to use. Motion seconded.

Asked for discussion – seeing none.

Call for Vote.

No opposed, no Abstentions – MOTION PASSED

NFS had spoken to the FC regarding the need to move money from the savings to the checking to cover Convention expenses. This was a motion made during the Finance Meeting and was to be brought to the NEB for approval.

Motion coming from committee to move funds from the savings at Flourish account of \$25,000 to the Checking at Bank of America.

Coming from committee a second is not needed.

Call for Vote.

No opposed, no Abstentions – MOTION PASSED.

2VP would like to discuss having a page in the yearbook honoring her. PNP Carla B. noted that Stacy Anders was not only a PNP but current NEB member.

Motion to have a page in the yearbook dedicated to PNP Stacy Anders.

Motion Seconded.

Opened floor for discussion. Question for clarification if we are adding an expense or using current page. Answer is not adding additional expense.

Call for the Vote.

No opposed, No Abstentions – MOTION PASSED.

NP took NEB into CES at 7:29 P.M. CST

NP took NEB out of CES at 9:14 P.M. CST

Reminders

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

Seeing nothing further for the GOOD of the Order she asked our PNP/National Chaplain Carla B. to close us in prayer at 9:17 P.M. CST.

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Jo Hutchinson, National Recording Secretary



National 1st Vice President March Report 2025

- Attended all NEB meetings – Regular and Special
- Communicated through emails and phone calls with multiple members and those with Chapter questions
- Processed New Memberships, Renewals 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

-Working with the 4VP on compliance issues

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

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

-Assisting new Chapters with profiles and website information

-Working with old and new Chapters regarding chartering and transferring members

-Worked with webmaster to activate the separate associate application for joining online

-Worked with webmaster to activate the updated 2025 applications with additions for Gold Star children and our Veteran Moms; added to new, associate and transfer forms

-Approving Officer Rosters and Affiliation Agreements

-Assisting Chapters with errors on their officer roster and affiliation agreement as well as duplicates and updates

- Assisting Chapters by running Chapter rosters and helping with member renewals by sending instructions

-Worked with the PNP's and Recording Secretary to provide Chapter officer rosters and Chapter member contact information

-Confirmed updated membership information for all VAVS reps and deputies

-Working with webmaster for online profile additions

-Update member status as needed; officer changes and Blue Daisy information as I receive

-Provide membership information for all inquiries directed to me and the other National officers

-Started the process of organizing Delegate forms and Chapter rosters for the National Convention

-Continued mid-year summaries of regular and special meetings

-Updated the National 1VP Transition document and submitted to
National President and National Recording Secretary

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 March 2025 Report

- Attended NEB Zoom meeting
- Attended emergency NEB meetings
- Worked on yearbook pages
- Reviewed emails for March Newsletter and verified receipt of each email
- Reviewed list and photos from 3VP of February Fallen Heroes and reformatted photos as needed
- Added list of deceased Veterans, from February, received from 3VP, to March Newsletter
- Designed and edited pages for the March Newsletter
- Contacted Treasurer regarding Microsoft Office products no longer on computer
- Worked with 1VP to complete March Newsletter after software issue
- Finalized March Newsletter
- Emailed National President and webmaster for approval and distribution of March Newsletter
- Revised 2VP transition documents
- Revised 2VP talking points for Convention training
- Assisted National President as needed
- Responded to texts, emails and phone calls

Respectfully submitted by
Karla Keller
National 2nd VP



National 3VP Report

March 1 – March 31, 2025

Jacqueline: March 1 – March 21, 2025

- Researched 13 Active Duty Military deaths
- Reported 10 Active Duty deaths including 1 Repatriated
- Added Veterans to the Fallen Veteran list
- Sent list and pictures of Active Duty deaths to Chaplain and 2VP
- Sent list of Fallen Veterans to 2VP for newsletter
- Assisted chapters with Blue to Gold protocol questions
- Emailed transition document to Nat President
- Continued revising Conv training document
- Worked with Mary on transition
- Answered phone calls, emails and text messages

Mary – March 21 – 31, 2025

- Worked with Jacqueline on transitioning
- Many phone calls with Jacqueline for transition
- Reported 4 Active Duty deaths
- Sent list of Fallen Veterans (for March 2025) to 2VP for newsletter
- Connected NV3 to a family wishing a Gold Star banner for a WWII Casualty
- Connected Dept of MI President with a Yellow Ribbon group wanting a BSM information table at an event in Detroit
- Researched 1 death, not active duty
- Answered emails



National 4th Vice President

March 2025 Report

- Attended all NEB meetings
- Attended Finance Committee meetings
- Answered multiple emails from potential new chapters, researched locations, sent getting started information.
- Answered emails from potential new members re chapters near them.
- Answered emails/calls/texts from DCAs.
- Tracked compliance
 - Contacted chapters still not finished, giving NEB deadlines as needed.
 - Contacted chapters still not finished, offering help per NEB discussions
 - Contacted chapters still not finished with any help requested
- Worked on new chapter process improvements
- Multiple more new chapters are working on getting started.

Respectfully Submitted by

Sonya Kay Stowers

National 4th VP



Department of Michigan Presidents Report
February 2025

- Held Michigan DEB meeting.
- Attended BDMI meeting.
- Participated in Mid-Year meeting.
- Working on Michigan 2025 Convention destination.
- Attended Michigan BSM Day at the Capital 2/4/25.
- Held in person meeting with Dept Recording Secretary.
- Answered phone calls, emails, and text messages regarding Department business.
- Participated in Sisters in Action committee meeting.

Trudy Wysocki
President Department of Michigan



Department of Ohio
March 2025
President Barb Cook

Heald monthly meetings for the department.

Working on Ohio's North/South conference.

Was on close NEB call's

Attended CEB meeting for Chapter 21.

MARCH 2025 DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*Attended March NEB meeting

*Conducted Department of MN Spring Meeting

*attended emergency NEB meeting

*conducted Department business via phone call, text, email, in person

*started planning for Department Fall Convention

*submitted article for National newsletter

*submitted article for Department newsletter

* I didn't do anything for this but we have another Blue Daisy from Minnesota in March, Meryle O'Connor – Jeanne Ullmer's Mother,

**PNP Pat Soler Report
April 2025**

Contacted and worked with two chapters, as assigned

Participated in Regular and Closed Session meetings of the NEB

Provided advice and counsel, when requested

Financial Secretary and Treasurer Report

March 2025

Treasurer: (Jackie)

Received all store inventory from previous treasurer. Counted and verified store contents

Set up store

Acclimating to new position/familiarizing myself with transition docs/financials/store

Processed incoming convention registrations/invoices

Processed new bill payments/reimbursements per policy

Financial Secretary

Met and assisted several chapters on compliance financials

Started the bank transition process for new treasurer

Updated all financial accounts/monitoring pending account transition with new treasurer

Assisted in bill pay/reimbursements per financial policy until NT is completely set up

Reviewed and revised FP with old NT and submitted to Fin Chair possible updates to FP

Entered Deposits in QuickBooks/reconciled accounts

Financial Team:

Attended requested NEB meetings

Answered emails and phone calls

Completed and sent out VAVS funds