



## MEETING MINUTES

### BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

June 10, 2025

**Call to order:** The National Executive Board meeting was called to order by National President Rebecca Stafford at 6:32 P.M. CST.

**Opening:**

PNP Carla Brodacki opened with prayer. 4VP Sonya Kay led the Pledge of Allegiance. Recording Secretary Amy Jo Hutchinson conducted roll call.

**The following were present:**

- National President-Rebecca Stafford
- 1VP-Karen Stillwell - Excused
- 2VP-Karla Keller
- 3VP-Mary Johnson (Pro-Tem)
- 4VP-Sonya Kay
- Recording Secretary-Amy Jo Hutchinson
- Financial Secretary-Carrie Beck
- Treasurer-Jacqueline Ransom (Pro-Tem)
- PNP/Chaplain -Carla Brodacki
- PNP/VAVS REP-Anne Parker (Joined at 6:36 P.M. CST)
- PNP Pat Soler
- Dept. MI President-Trudy Wysocki - Excused
- Dept. Ohio President-Barb Cook (Joined at 6.58 P.M. CST)
- Dept. MN President-Jen Pecarina
- Parliamentarian-Patti Elliott
- Julie Straw – Finance Chair

**Minutes Approval:** Minutes from NEB May 13, 2025, were sent to the NEB. No corrections were noted.

**MOTION** to approve NEB Minutes from May 13, 2025, as presented.

**Seconded**

**Call for the Vote.**

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

**Finance Committee Report – Financial Chair Julie Straw**

Finance Committee Report to NEB June 10th, 2025

1. FC meeting held on Sunday, June 8th, 2025, to discuss financial matters: You should have the May financial statements to look over.

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

**Coming from Committee a second is not needed.**

**CALL for vote.**

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

2. Annual Audit & Tax return - CPA has provided the DRAFT of the Form 990EZ for comment. There was a timing issue with the Forms 1099-K received from our third-party payment processors and the CPA has made an income/expense adjustment to avoid an IRS matching error which would most likely trigger an IRS audit. FC Member McCracken is confirming the need for an Ohio state return.
3. Convention planning 2025
  - A. Discussed the need for in-kind donations by chapters to be documented.
  - B. Discussed topics to be covered in FC presentation. (Audit, Contract review, Policy discussion w/time limit for suggested changes, Terminology i.e., Reasonable & necessary in regard to airfare, Deficit budget and fundraising planning for future years.)
  - C. PRNewswire - discussed if there are less expensive alternatives and if it is necessary with social media.
3. Fundraising - No update at this time (May need for Ohio return mentioned above.)
4. Compliance matters of a financial matter - 4VP - can provide you with a more current update, but we were informed that we had eleven chapters still pending, seven of whom are almost done.

5. Financial Officer Updates, Concerns or Requests

A. FC is still looking into possible alternatives to Bank of America

B. QB Training module is being set up to test drive.

C. Additional flags and streamers will be purchased as discussed last month. BSMA flag will be taken from current inventory leaving one which has been requested by a chapter. NT will check on source for the BSMA flag including cost and quantity break pricing.

D. Due to Chapter/Dept checks for 2nd and 3rd quarter are in the process of being prepared and sent.

E. NT is getting a quote on a new magnetic-backed hanger "pin" which will display the USA flag rather than the BSMA logo.

6. VAVS yearbook ad –

**Motion coming from Committee to approve a \$100 yearbook ad for the VAVS from their budgeted line-item funds.**

**Coming from Committee a second is not needed.**

**CALL for vote.**

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

The next regularly scheduled FC meeting is July 6, 2025.

**Old Business**

**Convention 2025**

- Rooms at convention confirmed with NP for Officers attending. NP confirmed arriving dates and departing dates.
- NEB training if you have handouts that you need to have printed please have them in by July 1, 2025. Transition documents need to be in by June 15, 2025.
- As of today, there are 169 registrants for convention.
- Big Dipper Fun Night pajama party if you choose to attend.
- The proposed budget for the Big Dipper was submitted to the National Executive Board (NEB) and subsequently discussed.

## **New Business**

- PA9 – Letter regarding Salute to Youth Parade – homecoming 250<sup>th</sup> Celebration asking if National could advertise for this. NP will advise them to check with chapters in her state to see if they can attend.
- Challenge Coins NY14 – asking for NEB approval. There was discussion and it appears that the logo is being altered which is not permitted. NP will notify the chapter.
- Ribbon holder pins for uniform that have a flag on them and do not come with a ribbon. Discussion was had regarding ordering them and if we want to have magnetic backing on them. We sell them for \$12 each. Question is to order 150 at \$3.06 each. Selling them for \$12 each.

**Motion to purchase 150 flag pin ribbon holders at \$3.06 each.**

**Seconded.**

**Call for Vote.**

**No Opposed/No Abstentions – MOTION PASSED.**

**Motion to purchase red ribbon to have on hand for Convention.**

**Seconded.**

**Call for Vote.**

**No opposed/ No Abstentions – MOTION PASSED.**

**NP took NEB into CES at 7:30 P.M. CST**

**NP took NEB out of CES at 8:34 P.M. CST**

## **Reminders**

- Please check emails at least once per day.
- Newsletter items to 2VP by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month update that we have \$700 in Ad pages purchased.

Seeing nothing further for the GOOD of the Order she asked our PNP Carla Brodacki to close us in prayer at 8:55 P.M. CST.

NEB Minutes

Respectfully submitted,

Amy Jo Hutchinson, National Recording Secretary



## National 1st Vice President

### June Report 2025

-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

-Assisted members with questions on Convention registration

-Provided support and information to all Chapters sending basic questions to the National 1<sup>st</sup>VP 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

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

-Approving Officer Rosters and Affiliation Agreements

-Processing Convention Delegate Forms and Chapter Rosters

-Working with the webmaster on some website issues and questions

-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

-Processing requested transfers and communicating that information to the Financial Officers

-Worked with the Conflict Resolution Chair to provide Chapter officer rosters and Chapter member contact information

-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

-Providing membership information to all new inquires coordinating areas and options for them; directing them to join a Chapter and/or to 4VP for new charters

-Final update on 1VP Transition Document

-Attended a Chapter Zoom meeting for a struggling Chapter

-Completed documents for Convention Training

-Deferred new members and renewals changing start and expiration dates; as well as communication with the members, the Chapters and our Financial officers with the changes

Respectfully Yours in Service,

Karen Stillwell

National 1<sup>st</sup> VP 2023-2025

[1vp@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:1vp@bluestarmothers.us)

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



## National 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President June 2025 Report

- Attended NEB Zoom meeting
- Worked on yearbook
- Reviewed emails for June Newsletter and verified receipt of each email
- Did not receive any photos from 3VP of any May Fallen Heroes
- Added list of deceased Veterans, from May, received from 3VP, to June Newsletter
- Designed and edited pages for the June Newsletter
- Contacted Treasurer regarding Microsoft Office products and downloaded new Microsoft 365 subscription for 2VP laptop
- Finalized June Newsletter
- Emailed National President and webmaster for approval and distribution of June Newsletter
- Revised 2VP transition documents
- Revised 2VP talking points for Convention training
- Finalized yearbook and submitted for printing
- Assisted National President as needed
- Responded to texts, emails and phone calls

Respectfully submitted by  
Karla Keller  
National 2<sup>nd</sup> VP



## National 3VP Report

June 1 - 30, 2025

- Researched 7 Active Duty Military deaths
- Reported 5 Active Duty deaths
- Assisted chapters with Blue to Gold protocol questions
- Answered phone calls, emails and text messages
- Completed handout for training at Convention
- Completed Veteran's list for newsletter for May & June
- Reviewed training for Convention
- Attended NEB meetings
- Submitted the past year's active duty deaths to the Chaplain for the Memorial Program
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National 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President

June 2025 Report

- Attended all NEB meetings
- Attended all 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 – 2 chapters still outstanding
  - 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
  - Financial documents have all been reviewed and approved.
- Worked on new chapter process improvements
- Multiple more new chapters are working on getting started.
- Working on steps of new chapter process with MI203, OH65, TX21, TX22, as well as working with a good number of potential chapters.
- Assisted NP with Remembrance Week tasks and processes as needed.
- Developed compliance training for Convention
- Updated and submitted N4VP Transition Documents
- Submitted documents needed to NP and NRS for files.
- Supported training of new chapters

Respectfully Submitted by

Sonya Kay Stowers

National 4<sup>th</sup> VP



Department of Michigan Presidents Report  
June 2025

- NEB meeting – Excused
- Michigan DEB meeting – Cancelled (Death in the family)
- Attended Michigan Big Dipper meeting
- Working on Michigan 2025 Convention
- Answered phone calls, emails, and text messages regarding Department business.

Trudy Wysocki  
President Department of Michigan



Department of Ohio  
June 2025  
President Barb Cook

Went to Chapters CEB meeting.  
Worked on dept calls and emails.  
Attend chapter meetings.  
Heald department meeting.  
Talked with 4VP about chapter 64 and 65  
Wrote a letter to chapter 64 sent to Becky for approval.  
Cut letters out for our PJ'S for convention.  
Worked with Marie Taylor on the Department of Ohio's fundraiser.

## JUNE 2025 DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

\*Attended the June NEB meeting

\*Conducted the June DEB meeting

\*Conducted department business via call, text and email

\*Submitted article to department newsletter and passed newsletter along to National President to approve

\*Department convention planning