

**Meeting of the
BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.
National Big Dipper Board
Monday, January 12, 2026 via Zoom**

Call to Order and Welcome:

The National Big Dipper President called the meeting to order at 5:01pm PT and welcomed all in attendance.

Opening Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance and Big Dipper Preamble:

The Chaplain opened the white Bible followed by a prayer. Everyone recited the Pledge of Allegiance followed by reading the Preamble.

Roll Call:

The Recording Secretary took attendance by reading the names listed below.

Present:

- President– Connie M. Shuck
- Recording Secretary – Julie McGaha
- Dept of OH BD President – Kim Stock Foster
- Dept of MI BD President – Claudette Lunney Talbot
- PNPBD-1 – Pat Lomonaco
- PNBBDP-2/Chaplain – Doreen Berggren
- National President – Karen Stillwell
- Parliamentarian – Brenda Ternullo
- Guest – Lorraine Camire

Absent and Excused:

- 1st Vice President – Penni Holmes
- Financial Secretary – Marie Taylor, Pro-Tem
- Treasurer – Jan Rusk, Pro-Tem
- PNBBDP-3 – Beth Bohannon

Approval to Record the Board Meeting: Presented by the National Big Dipper President

The approval to record must be obtained at the start of each meeting.

The recording of the January meeting was unanimously approved. Having no objections, the meeting will be recorded.

Approval of Minutes: Presented by the National Big Dipper President

The minutes of the November 10, 2025 meeting were approved with corrections, after a motion was made and seconded.

Motion: PNPBD2/Chaplain

Financial Secretary, Pro-Tem: Presented by the National Big Dipper President

After a brief discussion a motion was made and seconded, to ratify the electronic vote to appoint Lorraine Camire as Financial Secretary, Pro-Tem, effective January 12, 2026. Lorraine was installed earlier today and now joins the meeting in her appointed role.

Motion: PNPBD2/Chaplain

Presidents Reports:

- **Dept of Ohio:** Presented by the Ohio Big Dipper President
 - This year there were twenty-four (24) JCEA applicants with eleven (11) presented.
 - The Christmas T-shirt fundraiser was successful with plans to pursue a different Christmas design next year. They were impressed with the vendor Bonfire.
 - A meeting will be held in the coming weeks in preparation for the North–South Conference along with outlining plans for the year ahead.
- **Dept of Michigan:** Presented by the Michigan Big Dipper President
 - This year there were two (2) JCEA applicants and both were qualified and received the award.
 - Options are being explored for a Big Dipper membership drive to increase participation.
 - A new Big Dipper T-shirt design is being considered as part of these efforts.
- **National President:** Presented by the National President
 - The National Board will hold its mid-year meeting at the end of February, where several important topics will be reviewed and prepared for presentation to the membership.
 - Appreciation was expressed to all who participated in the recent financial training sessions, which had well over 200 attendees and was considered highly successful. Special thanks were given to Brenda for managing the attendance records during the training. Financial Secretaries and Treasurers are required to attend one of the sessions. The training is open to all members, not just financial officers. Several chapters had multiple members attend.
 - This year's convention will be held in Ohio with details, including room reservations, sent soon.
- **National Big Dipper President:** Presented by the National Big Dipper President

The National Big Dipper President discussed the 2026 Convention Fun Night that included the following:

 - Aviation is the direction of this year's Fun Night since Ohio is the home of the Wright Brothers. Discussion was held regarding Top Gun as the theme.
 - Fun night is scheduled for Wednesday, July 29, with the patio as an option. The hotel will provide a catering menu along with a no-host bar and DJ options. Big Dipper may bring small treats (e.g., candy bars or cookies), provided they are not elaborate and remain within hotel guidelines.
 - At the February meeting, Fun Night pricing will be discussed after receiving hotel information. A request was made to keep registration and Fun Night cost not to exceed \$200.
 - A member offered to donate fighter jet lapel pins as attendee keepsakes, consistent with the aviation theme. Two sample pins are expected to arrive this week for review.

JCEA Awards Updated: Presented by the National Big Dipper President

From the existing list, approximately ten (10) applications have been emailed to candidates with an additional twenty (20) to be sent soon. Members are encouraged to share the application with potential candidates. Last year forty-nine (49) applications were received with this year having a goal of sixty (60) applications.

Financial Reports: Presented by the National Big Dipper President

The board reviewed the November and December financial documents distributed in advance. All reports were set aside for review. A request was made to correct the December 16th deposit to reflect the Cookie Dough fundraiser.

Compliance Update / Completion: Presented by the National Big Dipper President

Compliance is complete, accepted and we passed. Everyone was thanked for their contribution.

Website Store Update: Presented by the National Big Dipper President

The Blue Star Mothers of America (BSMA) website now hosts an updated store page where current items can be ordered. A separate section on the BSMA website also lists national-level merchandise, along with some of the outdated items previously sold. To avoid confusion, and ensure accuracy, the webmaster will be contacted to remove the outdated store gallery and update the BSMA website accordingly. Although the online store is available, the board discussed the need for a paper order form for members who prefer not to order through the BSMA website.

Quilt Fundraiser: Presented by the National Big Dipper President

There was a payment for two quilt squares purchased by one individual. We need to ensure the squares are mailed to the buyer so they can begin working on them. Due to the recent transitions, some steps in the process were not completed, and coordination is required to ensure all quilt square purchases are properly tracked and fulfilled. A conference call is scheduled to clarify details to move forward. A quilted pillow was discussed as an option if there are not enough squares purchased.

Membership Update: Presented by the National Big Dipper President

There was a brief discussion regarding Ohio chapters sending checks to the National Big Dipper Board that are waiting to be processed. This issue was resolved with one (1) exception. Additional details will be emailed to the National Big Dipper President for follow-up.

Adjournment:

At 5:51pm PT, the President requested the Chaplain end the meeting in prayer.

The next meeting will be on Monday, February 9, 2026, via Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie McGaha
Recording Secretary