

**Meeting of the
BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.
National Big Dipper Board
Monday, February 9, 2026 via Zoom**

Call to Order and Welcome:

The National Big Dipper President called the meeting to order at 5:03pm 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
- Financial Secretary – Lorraine Camire, Pro-Tem
- Dept of OH BD President – Kim Stock Foster
- PNBBDP-2/Chaplain – Doreen Berggren
- National President – Karen Stillwell
- Parliamentarian – Brenda Ternullo

Absent and Excused:

- 1st Vice President – Penni Holmes
- Treasurer – Jan Rusk, Pro-Tem
- Dept of MI BD President – Claudette Lunney Talbot
- PNPBD-1 – Pat Lomonaco
- 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 February 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 January 12, 2026 meeting were approved with corrections, after a motion was made and seconded.

Motion: PNBBDP-2/Chaplain

Presidents Reports:

- **Dept of Ohio:** Presented by the Ohio Big Dipper President
No current update.
- **National President:** Presented by the National President
Nothing new to add from last month

- **National Big Dipper President:** Presented by the National Big Dipper President
The National Big Dipper President discussed the 2026 Convention Fun Night and informed the board several have expressed interest on being part of the planning committee. An updated catering menu, along with venue options, will be discussed, and the board will receive an update at the March meeting.

JCEA Awards Updated: Presented by the National Big Dipper President

The JCEA Committee met last week and has identified a Chair and Co-Chair, so the team is fully in place and ready to begin reviewing submissions. At this time, no applications have been received, but the committee is prepared to process as soon as they begin to arrive.

Financial Reports: Presented by the Financial Secretary Pro-Tem

The following QuickBooks discrepancies were discussed in detail.

- Incorrect Budget-to-Actuals from August–December 2025 due to last year’s budget being copied instead of the National Convention, approved budget.
- After an in-depth discussion, and seeing no further questions or clarification, the August, September, October, November and December 2025 Budget-to-Actuals are rescinded and will be removed from the website. Once the corrected documents are reviewed the Big Dipper President, in separate emails, will send the National President each month’s corrected documents.
- The January financials were reviewed, and seeing no further questions, they are set aside for review.
- The Financial Secretary Pro-Tem was thanked for her hard work and for reaching out for assistance.

Website Store Update: Presented by the Financial Secretary, Pro-Tem

The accuracy of what is currently on hand cannot be verified at this time. The National President will reach out to the Treasurer Pro-Tem to ensure the system reflects the correct inventory.

Store Order Form: Presented by PNBBDP-2/Chaplain

The order form will be updated once the inventory is verified.

Quilt Fundraiser: Presented by the National Big Dipper President

Unfortunately, the interest in the quilt project has significantly declined. There was discussion on shifting to a smaller item such as a table runner or pillow. It was noted that if the quilt fundraiser is canceled, the money collected would need to be refunded or donors given the option to redirect their contribution.

Membership Update: Presented by the Big Dipper President

This will be included in the next newsletter.

Adjournment:

At 5:37pm PT, the President requested the Chaplain close the Bible and end the meeting in prayer.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie McGaha
Recording Secretary