

**Meeting of the
BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.
National Big Dipper Board
Monday, May 11, 2026 via Zoom**

Call to Order and Welcome:

The National Big Dipper President called the meeting to order at 5:00pm 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
- Treasurer – Jan Rusk, Pro-Tem
- Dept of OH BD President – Kim Stock Foster
- Dept of MI BD President – Claudette Talbot
- Excused at 5:30pm PT
- PNBBDP-2/Chaplain – Doreen Berggren
- National President – Karen Stillwell
- Parliamentarian – Brenda Ternullo

Absent and Excused:

- 1st Vice President – Penni Holmes
- 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 April meeting was unanimously approved. Having no objections, the meeting will be recorded.

Motion: Treasurer, Pro Tem

Approval of Minutes: Presented by the National Big Dipper President

The minutes of the April 13, 2026 meeting were approved with corrections, after a motion was made and seconded. There were three abstentions.

After a brief discussion it was confirmed since there are only five elected officers for the Big Dipper Board, three is your quorum.

Motion: Treasurer, Pro-Tem

Presidents Reports:

- **Department of Ohio:** Presented by the Department of Ohio President
The board was informed of the North-South Conference, fundraising efforts and the continued efforts to grow membership.
- **Department of Michigan:** Presented by the Department of Michigan President
Fundraiser preparations are underway with stained-glass, blue stars ordered to sell at the National Convention. All Michigan chapter presidents will receive the JCEA application for local distribution.
- **National President:** Presented by the National President
Convention planning continues daily and preparations are on track. The Big Dipper, Fun Night event space was discussed in detail that includes one large room plus an adjacent bar area and outdoor patio space. Work continues on convention bags, folder materials, and donated items, with a focus on Ohio-based businesses. The chapters were encouraged to release held rooms and all were asked to register for convention as soon as possible.
- **National Big Dipper President:** Presented by the National Big Dipper President
The financial team continues to cleanup QuickBooks to include corrections and inventory alignment. The store link issue has been resolved, and the webmaster can now restore the online order page. Several past merchandise orders were not received due to a system glitch, and the customers have been contacted with apologies. Fun Night planning is underway, with the next committee meeting scheduled for this Wednesday. JCEA applications have begun increasing, with ten received to date.

Financial Reports: Presented by the Financial Secretary Pro-Tem and Treasurer Pro-Tem
The board reviewed the financial documents distributed in advance. An explanation was given, that at the request of the individual, the \$40 donation will go toward Fun Night. With no other questions or clarifications, the reports were set aside for review.

Motion: Treasurer, Pro Tem

National Convention Travel: Presented by the National Big Dipper President
Members are asked to send their travel information to the Recording Secretary. This will help coordinate a Sunday-evening work session to assemble silent auction baskets and prepare meeting folders and reports. Also, on August 1, 2026 a transition meeting will be scheduled to include current and newly elected Board members.

Fun Night Committee Report: Presented by the National Big Dipper President

The board was informed of several encouraging responses for dessert donations including at least six dozen cookies and homemade chow mix with an expectation we may receive even more donations as we get closer to convention. The committee is awaiting final guidance from the hotel event planner on food options and pricing. The goal is to provide a balanced selection of cold and hot appetizers along with a dessert/candy bar, while staying within budget.

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

The store has been fully reconciled. Several previously, unreceived online orders were located after a system glitch and test orders now process correctly. An apology notice has been drafted for the affected customers. After a brief discussion the board agreed to include a quilt pin, with these orders, after a motion was made and seconded.

Motion: Recording Secretary

Big Dipper Banner / Tablecloths: Presented by the Treasurer, Pro-Tem

The board was informed that the previously missing tablecloth was located during an inventory review. Updated research shows Amazon offers significantly lower costs than the previous company discussed. Additional vendor option “Banner Buzz” was suggested for comparison. The board confirmed that last month’s approved motion to purchase a Big Dipper tablecloth up to \$150, had no vendor specified. Based on the lower pricing, the Treasurer, Pro-Tem will proceed with ordering two tablecloths instead of one. The banner purchase remains authorized under the prior motion.

Quilt Fundraiser: Presented by the National Big Dipper President

Due to low participation in purchasing quilt squares, the original quilt project will not proceed as planned. A member is creating a quilt herself featuring all current chapters with Big Dipper history. This quilt will be included in the fundraiser, along with an additional donated quilt.

Membership Update: Presented by the National Big Dipper President

In the absence of the 1st VP, the National Big Dipper President stated that we currently have 226 members and requested the Departments to confirm their membership count.

There was a brief discussion about Year Book with the consensus to focus on accomplishments and the number of JCEA awards that have been given. Membership growth equals additional awards that are able to be presented.

Adjournment: At 6:10pm PT, the President requested the Chaplain close the Bible and end the meeting in prayer.

The next meeting will be on Monday, June 8, 2026, via Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie McGaha
Recording Secretary