

**Meeting of the
BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.
National Big Dipper Board
Monday, August 11, 2025, via Zoom**

Call to Order and Welcome:

The President called the meeting to order at 5:06pm PT and welcomed the board members and guests.

Opening Prayer, Pledge of Allegiance and Big Dipper Preamble:

The Chaplain opened the white Bible followed by a prayer. Everyone stood and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Big Dipper PNP3 then read the Preamble.

Roll Call:

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

Present:

- President– Connie M. Shuck
- 1st Vice President – Penni Holmes
- Recording Secretary – Julie McGaha
- Financial Secretary – Rebecca Collins
- Treasurer – Marie Taylor
- Dept of OH BD President – Kim Stock Foster
- Dept of MI BD President – Claudette Lunney Talbot
- PNBBDP-2/Chaplain – Doreen Berggren
- PNBBDP-3 – Beth Bohannon
- National 4VP – Karla Keller
- Parliamentarian – Brenda Ternullo

Also Present:

- 2024-2025 Recording Secretary – Mylessia Quillen
- 2024-2025 Treasurer – Gen Schindler, via phone

Absent:

- National President – Karen Stillwell – Excused
- PNPBD-1 – Pat Lomonaco

Clarification On Numbering Past Big Dipper Presidents: Presented by the President

The explanation was given to assign sequential numbers to past Big Dipper Presidents based on the order in which they stepped down. This system is intended to provide clarity when referencing individuals in meeting minutes by accurately identifying each past Big Dipper President.

Approval to Record the August Meeting: Presented by the President

The Parliamentarian advised the board that approval to record must be obtained at the start of each meeting. Without unanimous consent, the meeting cannot be recorded, therefore a motion is not required.

The recording of the August meeting was unanimously approved.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of July 7, 2025, were approved, with one housekeeping correction, after a motion was made and seconded.

Motion: Financial Secretary

New board members abstained since they were not present at the July 7, 2025, meeting.

Financial Reports: Presented by the 2024-2025 Treasurer

The Board Members were reminded Financial Officers will distribute statements by the Friday before the meeting.

There was much discussion on an accounting adjustment and reclassification of a refund with the correction to be made before submission of compliance.

The Store Report was distributed to board members and discussed as follows:

FY 2024-2025:

- Gross Sales: \$2,746.50
- Expenses: \$833.04
- Net Income: \$1,913.46 (highest in five years)

Five-Year Summary:

- Total Sales: \$8,482.50
- Total Expenses: \$5,048.42
- Net Operating Income: \$3,434.0

At 5:35pm, the 2024-2025 Treasurer was thanked for calling in, before being excused from the meeting.

Approval for Reimbursement:

The reimbursement for the following were explained in detail and approved by Madame President for payment. Madam President made an exception to the 60-day reimbursement policy for the 2024 reimbursement request; however, she encouraged members to review the financial policies and submit reimbursement request within the 60-day window.

The Parliamentarian was acknowledged as a resource for her expertise in finances, QuickBooks, and her past role on the NEB. The Financial Officers were also reminded to reach out to the current NEB finance team or past financial board members as needed.

- Aug 2025: Mylessia Quillen: Quilts 666 Miles = \$93.24
- Aug 2025: Rebecca Collins: Set up PO Box = \$79.
- Aug 2024: Rebecca Collins: Bank 152 Miles = \$21.28

Financial Officers Update: Presented by 2025/26 Financial Secretary and Treasurer

A recommendation was made to use the Mobile Deposit via the Chase app. This was also discussed during the August 1, 2025, meeting with the bank officer. This form of deposit will allow the Financial Secretary to make deposits remotely since there is not a Chase bank in her local vicinity.

A discussion was held on enabling online invoicing through QuickBooks to allow members to pay via email links like NEB currently has. This may serve as an alternative to the PayPal button, as only one payment processor can be used on the website.

The Treasurer has begun entering store inventory into Quick Books. The Treasurer will consult with the Parliamentarian to confirm proper setup.

Currently we have 63 Guard Pins and only 2 Lapel pins with a \$4.03 quote received to restock lapel pins. There was also discussion on restocking items sold at convention.

The Treasurer will send item proposals to the President for her review. Currently items are sourced from Veterans Project and Wona. The Financial Secretary requested website links for reference.

The purchase of 100 lapel pins at \$4.03 each was approved after a motion was made and seconded.

Motion: Treasurer

Approval of JCEA Award Funds: Presented by the President

The Board was informed there were 24 Award recipients. The President will coordinate with the Financial Secretary and Treasurer to come up with a distribution plan that will ensure fairness across all candidates while maintaining a small account balance. A final proposal will be sent to Board members via email for review, approval and ratification at the September meeting.

2025 National Annual Meeting Update: Presented by the President

The President expressed appreciation for a productive meeting with strong reports and successful approvals of the Budget and Standing Rules. She gave special thanks to the Standing Rules Committee along with others for their dedication. The approved budget will be posted on the website by September 1, 2025.

Everyone agreed that this year's Fun Night was the best.

The total income from quilt-related fundraising was \$920.01.

- \$340.01 from square sales
- \$508.00 from raffle ticket sales
- Expenses: \$93.24 for mileage reimbursement to pick up quilts - itemized and documented.

Additional quilts donated for the silent auction were accounted for separately.

Mylessia Quillen volunteered to serve as Chairperson for the 2026 quilt project and will present design options for quilt themes.

The sale of quilt squares for one (1) quilt was approved after a motion was made and seconded.

Motion: Recording Secretary

Newsletter: Presented by the President

Board Members are requested to submit their "Why" bio for the next newsletter. Photos are encouraged so members can put a face with the name. Please submit to the President no later than Friday, August 15, 2025.

Adjournment:

The President thanked everyone for attending and requested the Chaplain end the meeting in prayer before closing of the Bible.

The next meeting will be on Monday, September 8, 2025, via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:07pm PT.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie McGaha

Recording Secretary