

**Meeting of the  
BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.  
National Big Dipper Board  
Monday, September 8, 2025, via Zoom**

**Call to Order and Welcome:**

The President called the meeting to order at 5:02pm 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 stood and 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
- 1<sup>st</sup> 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
- PNBDP-2/Chaplain – Doreen Berggren
- PNBDP-3 – Beth Bohannon (arrived at 5:20pm PT)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> National VP – Amy Jo Hutchinson
- Parliamentarian – Brenda Ternullo

**Absent:**

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

**Approval to Record the September Meeting:** Presented by the President

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

The recording of the September meeting was unanimously approved after a motion was made and seconded.

Motion: Dept of Ohio BD President

**Approval of Minutes:** Presented by the President

The minutes of the August 11, 2025, meeting were approved as submitted, after a motion was made and seconded.

Motion: Financial Secretary

## **President Reports:**

- **Department of OH:** Presented by the Dept of OH President

Preparations are underway for the upcoming Ohio State Convention, scheduled for October 17-19. This year's theme, "Fall Into Service," will be reflected throughout the weekend's events, including Saturday night's Fun Night, which will feature a "Touchdown Tailgate Night" celebration. Members are encouraged to participate by dressing as their favorite college or professional football team.

In addition, there has been notable progress with the JCEA applications, with approximately 12 submissions received to date. While a few applications remain incomplete, the overall response represents a significant increase compared to years past. The committee is optimistic about reviewing and disbursing funds to qualified applicants.

- **Department of MI:** Presented by the Dept of OH Michigan President

Preparations are in full swing for the Department of Michigan Convention, scheduled for October 3-5. This year's theme is Mardi Gras, promising a lively and colorful celebration that will include a fortune teller. Attendees can look forward to themed treats such as king cakes and cupcakes with hidden babies, a costume contest, and more. In addition, there will be a fundraiser featuring stained glass blue stars, handcrafted by a coworker of one of the members.

- **National President:** Presented by the National 3<sup>rd</sup> VP

At this time there is nothing to report on behalf of the National President, however she expressed her excitement of Department convention plans shared.

- **National Big Dipper:** Presented by the President

The first batch of JCEA checks were successfully distributed last week. Additional applications are still undergoing verification, particularly regarding school enrollment, and progress continues steadily. Additionally, JCEA has been invited to participate in the October educational fair at Point Hueneme. Promotional efforts are already underway; last Friday, she was invited to attend a squadron event where cookies and JCEA flyers were distributed. A sign-up sheet was provided, resulting in 88 interested individuals who will be contacted once applications become available.

## **Financial Reports:** Presented by the Financial Secretary and Treasurer

- **2025-2026 Approved Budget:**

The approved budget for FY 2025–2026 is ready to be posted. A minor housekeeping correction is being made to the document: the label "proposed" will be removed, accurately reflecting its finalized status. The corrected version will be sent to the National President for final review, and upon her approval, it will be posted to the website.

- **Financial Documents**

The board reviewed the financial documents distributed by the Financial Secretary. Unfortunately, the budget-to-actual comparison was missing, and it will be distributed following the meeting. All other reports were reviewed and accepted with a minor correction which requires reclassification. With no further questions raised, the financials were accepted and set aside for annual review.

- **JCEA Award: Added to the agenda and Presented by the President**

A previously approved email vote, regarding JCEA candidate awards, was formally ratified during the meeting. The board confirmed the decision to award \$700 to each qualified candidate passed after a motion was made and seconded.

Motion: Financial Secretary

**Website Store Update:** Presented by the Treasurer

A variety of new store items were proposed for purchase, including earrings, necklaces, clutch bags, bracelets, and barrettes, with the goal of refreshing inventory and offering products distinct from previous selections. Pricing and potential resale values were discussed, along with vendor sourcing and shipping considerations. It was noted that most items would be ordered from the same vendor, allowing for consolidated shipping. The board confirmed that two outstanding convention orders will be fulfilled this week, accompanied with a letter of apology for the delay. The purchase of store merchandise, up to \$500 including shipping, was approved after a motion was made and seconded.

Motion: Treasurer

**Membership Update:** Presented by the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President

Membership continues to grow steadily, with over 130 new submissions. The board discussed streamlining the membership process, including the potential use of QR code and QuickBooks invoicing. The Treasurer confirmed that membership dues are now categorized for easier tracking: “Department Membership Dues” (\$5) and “Non-Department Membership Dues” (\$10). Clarification was provided regarding payment routing, confirming that full dues should be submitted to National, with appropriate distributions made thereafter to maintain transparency.

**Convention Update:** Presented by the President

The President informed the board of an email from the National Treasurer that provided a breakdown of revenue and expenses from the convention. Registration income totaled \$6,545, with an additional \$225 collected from five late registrants. Catering expenses amounted to \$1,230, and lodging costs totaled \$870, of which \$500 was covered by the President’s budget. After expenses, a net amount of \$4,670 will be received from the NEB, contributing to an overall total of \$10,670 when combined with auction proceeds. The Treasurer noted that a year-end journal entry will be required to reflect this income accurately in the books and ensure alignment with external records. The board expressed appreciation for the collective effort and successful financial outcome.

**Adjournment:**

Before the meeting was adjourned there was some sisterhood time with each person given a few minutes to share.

The President then 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, October 13, 2025, via Zoom.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00pm PT.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie McGaha  
Recording Secretary