

**Meeting of the
BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.
National Big Dipper Board
Monday, October 13, 2025, via Zoom**

Call to Order and Welcome:

The 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
- 1st Vice President – Penni Holmes
- Recording Secretary – Julie McGaha
- Financial Secretary – Rebecca Collins
- Treasurer – Marie Taylor
- PNPBD-1 – Pat Lomonaco – (arrived at 5:19pm PT)
- PNBBDP-2/Chaplain – Doreen Berggren
- National President – Karen Stillwell
- Parliamentarian – Brenda Ternullo

Absent and Excused:

- Dept of OH BD President – Kim Stock Foster
- Dept of MI BD President – Claudette Lunney Talbot
- PNBBDP-3 – Beth Bohannon

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 October meeting was unanimously approved. Having no objections, the meeting will be recorded.

Approval of Minutes: Presented by the President

The minutes of the September 8, 2025, meeting were approved as submitted, after a motion was made and seconded.

Motion: 1st Vice President

Financial Reports: Presented by the Financial Secretary and Treasurer

The board reviewed the financial documents distributed in advance. All reports were accepted and set aside for annual review.

President Reports:

- Both the Dept of Ohio and Dept of Michigan Big Dipper Presidents were not present; therefore, their reports were not presented.

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

The National President proposed reinstating membership cards for Big Dipper, noting that they could support the Membership Chair's efforts. After historical context was explained, with the board reiterating that digital cards would incur no cost and allow members to print their own. There was also a reminder that there may possibly be a template existing on Google Drive. It was confirmed that the board would consider digital membership cards moving forward, aiming to provide chapters with a printable token for new members.

The National Presented then requested the JCEA application be uploaded to the website with an updated address and approval date, noting that it was approved by the National Board and ready for early posting. She also stated that the convention date and location announcement was imminent and would be shared soon. The Big Dipper President acknowledged the approval and affirmed that she and the 1st Vice President would work together to ensure the JCEA application is posted promptly, aligning with earlier discussions.

- **National Big Dipper President / JCEA Awards Update:** Presented by the President
The Big Dipper President reported verification of school enrollment has been received for the last five awardees, and the information has been forwarded to the financial officers for processing. Checks will be distributed shortly, allowing the closure of last year's JCEA cycle and beginning preparations for the current year. Enthusiasm was expressed about the upcoming year with the hope of exceeding previous candidate numbers.

Approval of Fun Night Expenses-NEB: Presented by the President

A confirmed receipt of final Fun Night figures noting an updated attendance of total members was received. An expressed confidence in the figures provided, they will be reviewed with the goal to close this pending item.

Website Store Update: Presented by the Treasurer

The Treasurer provided an update on the website store, confirming that it is nearly ready. She demonstrated a Google Form created to streamline orders, which automatically populates a backend spreadsheet for easy integration into QuickBooks. The form includes fields for member information and item selection, with categories. The treasurer was thanked for her efforts and dedication.

Quilt Fundraiser: Presented by President

The President stated a decision on the quilt theme needs to be chosen. After a brief discussion the Patriotic quilt was chosen after a motion was made and seconded.

Motion: 1st Vice President

Membership Update: Presented by the 1st Vice President

Membership efforts are progressing well especially with the upcoming Ohio convention and recent Michigan convention. The process has been complicated by dual payment paths through departments and Big Dipper directly, prompting extra care in recordkeeping. The importance of cross-checking membership lists with department chairs is important to avoid payment discrepancies.

The President agreed follow up and clarification is needed before releasing payments. It was noted Michigan has elected a new Big Dipper auxiliary board, presenting an opportunity to establish clear communication and alignment moving forward.

Cookie Dough Updated was added to the agenda: Presented by the PNBBDP-2/Chaplain

The cookie fundraiser has been extended until November 3 to ensure delivery before Thanksgiving. Cookies will arrive frozen, so recipients should store them promptly. So far, 14 orders have raised \$217, including donations. Board members are encouraged to purchase a tub or contribute to help fund upcoming scholarship applications.

Adjournment:

Before the meeting was adjourned the President acknowledged The Financial Secretary's email stating, effective Monday, October 20, 2025, she will be stepping down due to health reasons. The President wished her strength and healing and reminded her she will be in our thoughts and prayers.

At 5:38pm PT, the President requested the Chaplain end the meeting in prayer before closing the Bible.

Executive Session:

At 5:40pm PT, the Board entered Executive Session.

After a brief discussion a motion was made and seconded, effective October 21, 2025, the current Treasurer will move to Pro-Term Financial Secretary.

Motion: 1st Vice President

The next meeting will be on Monday, November 10, 2025, via Zoom.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julie McGaha
Recording Secretary