

Convention Training Thoughts for P squared (Pat and Patti)

Topic	Minutes est.
1. Quick introductions	5
2. Hierarchy of the documents/why important	5
36 USC Ch. 305: BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC. This is our Congressional Charter and can only be changed by Congress; it is the foundation for our remaining Governing Documents	
CONSTITUTION Basic rules pertaining to Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.	
BYLAWS Primarily a set of limitations that members place upon themselves and their officers and describes the boundaries of what can and cannot be done by the organization	
CODE OF CONDUCT More detailed review of the operations of the organization	
AFFILIATION AGREEMENT Legal document signed by National/Department/Chapter/Auxiliary officers defining the relationships between the various levels of the organization	
Policies (Financial; other)	
REFERENCE SHEET A listing of the commonly used acronyms found in the Governing documents Reviewed every 3 years, or sooner in an emergency	
3. What was changed last year (attached)	15
4. What is Robert's Rules of Order and when does it need to be used	??
5. Who really needs to read the Governing documents and where do I go for help? Use C. Boyd example	5

Questions for the Attendees

Can I just go to an online forum to get an answer for Robert's Rules? It's easier than digging through the book.

What if I have suggestions for changes to the GD's; do I have to wait until the next review?

Were just a bunch of ladies that get together once a month; why do we have to bother with all of this?

The Most Significant Changes to the Governing Documents

Constitution

1. New Article V that clarifies the definition of an Associate
2. Article IX revised to allow the NEB to operate at full capacity if a PNP position is vacant (for a meeting, or a term). If the vacant PNP can return, the position goes back to her. The pro tem'd PNP has voting rights.
3. Reinstated Articles for Parliamentary authority and amendments

Bylaws

1. New Article III establishes same rights of an Associate to a Member
2. Got rid of Blue Star Dad's as an auxiliary.
3. New Article VI to better explain the process of disbandment.
4. Allows chapter level financial officers to participate in NEB financial training sessions in lieu of having an accounting or financial background.
5. All national officer position descriptions were updated to include what is actually done (it was moved from the Leadership Guide, which is not a Governing Document and placed in the Bylaws to conform to our Charter).
6. New Article XIII which formally establishes the Standing Committees of the organization.
7. Amendment process mirrors the Constitution.

Code of Conduct

1. Article III clarifies the process for membership and renewals
2. If an in-person meeting for elections is not possible, a member of the NEB must be on the Zoom (social platform) to ensure confidentiality and election integrity.
3. The "suggested agenda" for meetings was revised so chapters did not have to do all of the above; gave the chapters greater flexibility for social/bonding time.

4. Article IX changed the rules of what can be worn as the official uniform.
5. Article XII (Disciplinary Procedure) was revamped and spells out the duties of the Conflict Resolution and Grievance Committees' processes.
6. Article XIV better defines VAVS.
7. Whistleblower Policy and Amendment process updated.

Affiliation Agreement

1. Auxiliaries added to the Agreement.
2. Compliance requirements were presented in a better format and explained.
3. All entities must comply with all policies and guidelines, in addition to the Governing Documents.
4. Liquidation of assets (process, etc.) fully explained.