



SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES
BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

September 16, 2025

Call to order: The National Executive Board meeting was called to order by National President Karen Stillwell at 7:03 P.M. (EST).

Opening:

Chaplain Becky opened it with prayer. PNP Carla Brodacki led the Pledge of Allegiance. 4VP Karla Keller led with the preamble. Recording Secretary Leslie Majocka conducted roll call.

The following were present:

- National President-Karen Stillwell
- 1VP- Sonya Stowers
- 2VP- Beth Bruening -entered at 7:27 P.M. (EST)
- 3VP- Amy Jo Hutchinson
- 4VP- Karla Keller
- Recording Secretary-Leslie Majocka
- Financial Secretary-Carrie Beck
- Treasurer-Jacqueline Ransom
- PNP/Chaplain – Rebecca Stafford
- PNP/VAVS REP-Anne Parker
- PNP Carla Brodacki
- Dept. MI President-Trudy Wysocki – left 9:54 P.M. (EST)
- Dept. Ohio President-Barb Cook
- Dept. MN President-Jen Pecarina – entered at 7:57 P.M. (EST)
- Parliamentarian-Patti Elliott
- Julie Straw – Financial Chair – left at 7:32 P.M. (EST)

Finance Committee Report:

- FC meeting held on Sunday, September 14, 2025. Welcomed two new members.
- The July financial statements were presented to NEB for review.

Motion coming from committee to set aside the July 2025 financial reports pending end year audit.

MOTION to approve July 2025 financials as presented and set aside pending audit. No second needed coming from committee.

CALL for a vote.

No opposition, no abstentions.

MOTION PASSED

- The August 31, 2025, audit kicked off- inventory count performed September 25, 2025, by the auditor, in a holding until finalizing August financials
- August financial statements were presented to NEB for review.

Motion coming from committee for the NEB to set aside the August 2025 financial reports for year end audit with the understanding that additional FYE August 31, 2025, transactions are still expected, and these statements may be revised in coming months.

MOTION to set aside financials as presented. No second needed coming from committee.

CALL for a vote.

No opposition, no abstentions.

MOTION PASSED

- Convention 2025 recap- venue charges have been reviewed, reconciled and paid by NT. Some reimbursement requests are yet to be received. An accounting of funds owed BD was sent and awaiting reply.
- Fundraising -MP May update- this has been handed off to Fundraising Chair appointed by NP.

- FYE August 31, 2025, Compliance Financial Review process- informed there are 5 financial report reviewers assisting the 4VP this year; two chapters already submitted reports for review. No other updates.

Financial Officer Updates:

NFS:

- Bank transfer

Motion coming from Committee to acknowledge transfer of \$60,000 from BofA account to new Chase account for upcoming payments.

MOTION to transfer funds from BofA to Chase. No second needed coming from committee.

CALL for a vote.

No opposition, no abstentions.

MOTION PASSED

- A new computer needed for 1VP-not urgent over 5 years old.
- Discussed the need to confirm all NEB computers are capable to upgrading to Windows 11 in the next 90 days. NT has link to test. If not capable may need to replace computer or purchase Windows 10 extended support for 18 months, which may end up costing more than a new computer.

NT:

- Will be ordering checks for the Chase account.
- Needs guidance from NEB on updated brochure design prior to reordering. NP agreed to update brochure design. Will need new QR code as well.
- Needs guidance from NEB on desired clothing articles in the online store inventory as opposed to using Spreadshirt, as well as preferred vendors. Embroidered vs screen print.
- Lapel pin based on our challenge coin was offered by vendor.

Chapter Grant Applications

- FYE August 31, 2025 – Applications received prior to year end.
- Some of these requests were for events that would occur before it was feasible to approve or get funds to the chapter.

MOTION coming from committee to allow chapters to reimburse their chapter “general fund” with grant money that was applied for prior to the event but not received before the event occurred. They must have proceeded in holding the event.

Motion to allow chapters to reimburse their general funds

CALL for a vote.

No opposition, no abstentions.

MOTION PASSED

MOTION coming from the committee to approve these chapter grants NV5, VA5, TN6, MI188, and OK10.

CALL for a vote.

No opposition, no abstentions.

MOTION PASSED

- This closes out the grants for Fye August 31, 2025, having received 21 grant applications, 2 non-eligible, 2 new chapters and 17 existing chapters for a total budget of \$8,000.
- FC to put recurring link to encourage chapters to apply for grants via web “Grant Form” to make easier to apply.

New Business

- Monthly FC monthly meetings for the Sunday prior to NEB monthly meetings.

MOTION coming from the Committee to abandon the Bill Fire mobile BSMA app platform and notify membership of the link to the new BSMA mobile app on JotForm.

CALL for the vote.

No opposition, no abstentions.

MOTION PASSED

- Apart from the FC meeting discussion with NFS regarding the inquiry/request received from general membership for the National chart of accounts to set the precedence in displaying/grouping expenses by function- Program, Management & General, Fundraising. This could be accomplished easily by adding a P-, MG-, or F- in front of each expense

line item. QuickBooks would then automatically group them alphabetically within a P, MG. or F. Some discussion was had.

2vp entered meeting at 7:27 P.M. (EST)

MOTION was made to direct the NFS to classify the NBSMA chart of accounts expense items only by functional designation.

Seconded.

CALL for the vote.

No opposition, no abstentions.

MOTION PASSED

- NP requested clarification regarding confusion with financials and voting at chapter levels, do or do not need to vote on financials. To clarify with normal monthly or quarterly financial reports the membership option are 1) no vote or action taken or 2) motion to receive report for filing. 3) motion to acknowledge receipt of financial reports of operations 4) motion to set aside received financial reports for year-end review. Avoid “approved” when dealing with interim information only reports. The year end, audit, budget to actual for year, annual report or final fiscal report that represents the chapters statement of operations used in IRS voted to accept these financial reports as an accurate representation of our operations. Julie will put together summary of this for next month.

FC left meeting at 7:32 P.M. (EST)

Minutes Approval: Minutes from August 19, 2025, were sent to the NEB. Discussion was had regarding an entry in the minutes and whether it should be removed.

MOTION to approve leaving the entry in the minutes was made.

Seconded

Call for the Vote.

No Opposed/Abstained – MOTION PASSED

MOTION to approve August 19, 2025, with corrections.

Seconded

Call for the Vote.

No Opposed/Abstained – MOTION PASSED

Officer Reports:

NT

Restocking Items: logo vest- hold; red jacket- consider blue jacket option, NT will check on this option; blue polo- after discussion, decision held until NFS looks into options; boots and tanks patch last year 2024 finance committee chose not to reorder. Discussion regarding Blue Daisy patches for chapters decided that chapters can do this on their own.

DP MN entering 7:57 P.M. (EST)

MOTION to order minimum order of 200 Branch Patches

Seconded

Call for the Vote.

No Opposed/Abstained – MOTION PASSED

MOTION to reorder BSM blankets

Seconded

Call for the Vote.

No Opposed/Abstained – MOTION PASSED

- Ribbon bar pins will not be reordered due to new American Flag pins
- Company that makes our coins will make lapel pins based on our coins 100 for \$149. No artwork will be charged. Discussion regarding which side of coin to use for pin. NT will have company do a mockup of what this will look like
- PNP Carla discussed getting zip up hoodie and fleece jackets. NT will look into fleece and windbreaker jackets. Chaplain Becky recommended looking into Spreadshirt options. NFS will look into the options for Spreadshirt.

Old Business

- NP asked PNP Becky for convention update, nothing to report at this time, will have at the next meeting.

- Standing Rules were sent to chapters, NP states it is going well.
- Logo update- NP would like to have a more official branding. Many chapters continue to have logos that are similar to the BSMA logo.
- 3VP currently attempting to compile veterans' death notification list for the newsletter. Concerned that veterans will be missed, discussion regarding whether veterans' names that are sent to 3VP or if she should be researching veterans' deaths online as it is very time consuming. After discussion, we will list only the veterans' names given by the chapter members.
- Blue To Gold list should only include the Blue to Gold names. Suggested we put names of veterans into a book that are received from our BSM body to be read at convention. Only search should be for active duty. No vote needed as this was never the intention of the Blue to Gold program. The Blue Daisies and veteran deaths should be going to the Chaplain per governing documents. 3VP will send the list she has comprised to chaplain.
- NEB mid-year conference will be Thurs, Feb 25 – Sun, March 4, 2026. House reservations have been made.

New Business

- Grievance Chair, Charilyn Bradley (Grievance Form is now on website)
- Conflict resolution – not appointed
- PR Chair – not appointed
- Fundraising Chair, Kari Frye. NP would like to make connections with corporate donors, and they will help to advertise for us. To build membership. A fundraising letter to request donors will be out in the future.
- Confidentiality Agreement should be completed by all Department and Chapter Board Members
- Parliamentarian clarified that officer installation must be a member. Also clarified that It is in the best interested that all board members should sign confidentiality agreement and that it should go into the leadership handbook.
- Training for compliance will be online soon
- Rec Sec to work with 3VP to get updated confidentiality agreement to NP which will then be sent to all CP and DP

NP took NEB into CES at 8:48 P.M. (EST).

NP took NEB out of CES at 10:44 P.M. (EST).

Seeing nothing further for the GOOD of the Order our NP asked our Chaplain to close us in prayer at 10:44 P.M. (EST).

NEB Minutes

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Majocka, National Recording Secretary

APPROVED