



**DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES**  
**BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.**

**January 20, 2026**

**Call to order:** The National Executive Board meeting was called to order by National President Karen Stillwell at 7:04 P.M. (EST).

**Opening:**

Chaplain Becky opened it with prayer. 1VP Sonya led the Pledge of Allegiance. 4VP Karla led with the preamble. Recording Secretary Leslie conducted roll call.

**The following were present:**

- National President-Karen Stillwell
- 1VP- Sonya Stowers
- 2VP- Beth Bruening
- 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-Linda Powers
- Dept. Ohio President-Barb Cook
- Dept. MN President-Sharon Skaro
- Parliamentarian-Patti Elliott
- Julie Straw – Financial Chair – left at 7:56PM (EST)

### **Finance Committee Report:**

- Committee still working with CPA assistant to work on the December financial statement. Changes should not impact on the results of operations for December 2025.

**MOTION coming from the committee to set aside December financial statements for audit.**

**CALL** for a vote.

**No opposition, no abstentions.**

**MOTION PASSED**

- Discussion was had on which financial reports the NEB wants to be emailed each month. The NEB will always have viewing rights via QuickBooks online if they wish to review.

**MOTION coming from the committee for future monthly financial reports to only include balance sheet; month-end P & L; year-to-date P & L; budget to actual YTD P & L; bank statements for Chase, BofA, PayPal and Flourish accounts; merchandise sales by product for the month and inventory valuation summary report.**

**CALL** for a vote.

**No opposition, no abstentions.**

**MOTION PASSED**

### **Financial Officer Training for chapters/departments/auxiliaries**

- Two training sessions were held with positive reviews. FC requesting input for questionnaire that is to be sent out for those financial officers that were unable to attend the previous training. This will ensure that they have watched both training sessions as well as give an idea on what areas may need more training. Once trainings recordings are sent out, 28 days are suggested to view and complete questionnaire. Discussion was had regarding consequences for not completing, NEB agreed to keep it as positive reinforcement rather than punishment.
- QuickBooks training will be conducted on January 24, 2026, at 7 a.m. (PST)

## **2026 Convention Planning**

**MOTION coming from the committee to have the funds for the annual Presidents Project run through the national BSMA accounting records and control.**

**CALL for a vote.**

**No opposition, 2 abstentions.**

**MOTION PASSED**

- Contract signed with the Veterans Museum. Continuing to receive updates for grants and donations to offset some costs.

## **Compliance Financial Reviews**

- 115 chapters/departments/auxiliaries completed financial portion, 34 in progress, approx. 30 not submitted/started.

## **Financial Officer Update**

- NFS is still working on getting the ACH feature to work properly.

**MOTION coming from the committee to approve \$250 grant to OH 26 and MN 11. Both confirmed to be in compliance.**

**CALL for a vote.**

**No opposition, 1 abstention.**

**MOTION PASSED**

**MOTION coming from the committee to approve the purchase of 100 tins with mints for VAVS volunteer gift at a cost not to exceed \$2.50 each.**

**CALL for a vote.**

**No opposition, 1 abstention.**

**MOTION PASSED**

## **New Business**

- VAVS Rep reported 104 unrepresented VA facilities to share this year VAVS donation. Details to be determined after mid-year.
- Chapter profiles on the national website should have both chapter charter and the chapter CP575 (EIN issuance) attached. FC members will be working to update this.

- FC Chair will be working on a FAQ section to be added to the financial portion of the website as a request from members.

**FC left the meeting at 7:56 p.m. (EST)**

**Minutes Approval:** Minutes from December 16, 2025, were sent to the NEB.

**MOTION to approve.**

**Seconded**

**Call for the Vote.**

**No Opposed/3 Abstained – MOTION PASSED**

**Officer Reports:**

- N4VP- 7 chapters have not begun compliance
- NFS- E-mail NFS if having invoice issues and she will take care of it.
- PNP/VAVS Anne will be removing members that are non-compliant this quarter. Only one chapter has not paid VAVS dues. PNP Anne is working on rectifying.

**Old Business**

- Deed for NY1 Canteen has been signed, notarized and delivered in 2025. Past NRS will turn over any paperwork to current NRS regarding this.
- Online Financial Training for financial officers will be sent out for those that did not attend one of the two virtual classes. These will be sent via email and will have a questionnaire attached.
- Two press releases have been sent out in January and are being shared through social media.
- Midyear 2026 continue to send any travel changes to NP and PNP/Chaplain Becky. Travel light as there is limited room in shuttle.

**New Business**

- Midyear agenda- logos/branding; compliance forms; nomination forms; convention training; group financial training; mentor qualifications; leadership handbook; website “back side” training.
- N1VP brought up that there has been issues using the back side of the website, NP will discuss with webmaster.
- Memorial Day will arrange Zoom meeting for those attending. The hotel info will be sent next month. Wednesday will be a free day for those that

wish to come in. Thursday will be a free day for travel. NP will speak with coordinator to have pricing reflected for Wednesday for those needed.

- Convention 2026 Museum contract signed, the museum fees will be covered by Covelli funds. Committee is looking into transportation to the museum. Convention hotel link will go online later this evening/early tomorrow.
- Social media posts/storytelling campaigns have been going well and being shared.
- Big Dipper – has two new Pro-Tem positions: BDFS Lorraine Camire and BDT Jan Rusk.

**NP took NEB into CES at 8:17 P.M. (EST).**

**NP took NEB out of CES at 9:21 P.M. (EST).**

**For the Good of the Order:**

- **PNP Carla has accepted to be the Department Liaison to the Department Presidents.**

Seeing nothing else for the GOOD of the Order our NP asked our Chaplain to close us in prayer at 9:21 P.M. (EST).

NEB Minutes

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Majocka, National Recording Secretary



Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.  
National 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President Report  
January 2026

- Attended all NEB Meetings/Calls
- Processed memberships, renewals, and transfers in reporting month
  - a. New Members Processed –49 new members
  - b. New Associates Processed – 1 new associates
  - c. Renewals Processed – about 13, about 1965 since August 1
  - d. Transfers – all requested transfers checked and processed
- Worked with webmaster to get lapsed members access to renew, to figure out some issues that came up with memberships
- 12 Chapter Rosters created and sent
- Monitored Officer Rosters and Affiliation Agreements – processing and notifying chapters of approval or rejection, answering related questions – 22 in January, almost 220 so far this FY (includes resubmissions). 30 have not submitted yet.
- Assisted the National President when needed
- Followed processes when new members indicate they are Gold Star Mothers, so far this FY 19 new members have indicated they are Gold Star Mothers on their online applications, so far 14 CP or MC have responded that they are NOT Gold Star, awaiting response for 5 others. Spreadsheet allows for tracking and follow up.
- Working with Webmaster on updating applications – online and paper – and on making sure our profiles collect the information we request.
- Answered calls, texts, and emails from members
- Communicated via calls, texts, and emails with members and those with Chapter questions.
- Communicated with potential members
- Provided support and information to all Chapters sending basic questions to the N1VP and forwarding to other officers if that was appropriate
- Worked with Webmaster, FinSec, and Treasurer to process dues renewal questions, new members, and transfers
- Assisted with some Chapter questions about elections, pro tem positions, and closings
- Assisted Chapters in navigating the website, their profiles, dues, renewals, and new memberships
- Responded to members not wanting to renew. Positive response to contact with a few members choosing to renew or asking for temporary change to Associate status.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sonya Stowers  
National 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President 2025-2026  
[1vp@bluestarmothers.us](mailto:1vp@bluestarmothers.us)  
309-370-0712



## National 3VP Report

January 2026

- Researched/ Reported Active-Duty Military deaths
- Researched/ Reported Repatriated Military deaths
- Assisted chapters with Blue to Gold protocol questions
- Answered phone calls, emails and text messages
- Attended NEB meetings



National 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President  
January 2026 Report

- Attended NEB Meeting
- Researched and replied to 11 emails from potential new members regarding chapters near them.
- Spoke with three people interested in starting a chapter: Orange County CA, Cambridge NY and Tomah WI
- Received three charter applications, WV, IN, PA
- 118 D/C/A have completed compliance as of 1-31-2026
- 32 D/C/A are just missing one or two items for compliance
- 6 have not started, one of which is probably closing
- Continued working with TX22 to get chapter transitioned from TX15, have had some personal issues arise. They are still working on closing procedure.
- MI203, FL16 and TX21 are working to complete everything for their new chapters
- Continue to work with TX12, TX15 on closing procedures
- CA9 is probably closing, no one will be on the board
- Answered ten emails asking general questions about Blue Star Mothers
- Submitted January newsletter page
- Answered emails/calls/texts from D/C/A's

Respectfully Submitted by  
Karla Keller  
National 4<sup>th</sup> VP



## **Financial Secretary Report: By Carrie Beck**

**January 2026**

Attended all requested NEB/Emergency Meetings/Finance Committee meetings

Answered emails and phone calls

Received and recorded mail

Recorded all deposits/Reconciled Accounts

Processed financial aspects of renewals, transfers, refunds

Currently working on finalizing the ACH portal bank transfer

Worked on spreadshirt designs for convention and mid year.

Met with a several chapters to assist in their compliance records.

Attended/Participated in all Mandatory Trainings

Answered and made necessary changes from CPA requests

Working with Bank to rectify account setup issues.

Uploaded the chatter to the BSMA App.

# **NATIONAL TREASURER REPORT**

**January 2026**

Paid bills and reimbursements as approved

Posted expenses in QuickBooks

Worked on Transition document

Worked on Chapter EIN and opened/closed Chapters list

Shipped 5 Online Store orders

Reminded chapters about uncashed checks

Processed checks due to chapters for 1<sup>st</sup> quarter member dues

Updated chapter addresses as needed in QuickBooks using EIN reports

Participated in Financial and QuickBooks Zoom training

Answered telephone calls, texts, and emails

Yours in Service

Jacqueline Ransom



Department of Ohio President  
Barb Cook  
January 2026

Heald DEB meetings along with the presidents.

Answered emails, text made calls also.

Made thank you cards

Attended a meeting with Chapter president OH21

Worked on the North/South conference with the 1VP for the department.

Helped order Ohio's Cash Calendar for the department's fundraiser.



Department of Michigan Presidents Report  
January, 2026

- NEB meeting
- DEB meeting
- Working on Michigan 2026 Convention
- Held a virtual 2026 MI Convention meeting with the team.
- Answered phone calls, emails, and text messages regarding Department business
- Worked on the Department newsletter
- Sent President's letter for January.
- Set up and attended MI, OH, MN virtual meeting
- Responded to Mid-Year e-mails
- Ordered funeral flowers for MI-203 1VP.
- Work on Financials with the financial team.
- Set up February meeting with Senators and Congresspeople.
- Met with MI-186, at my home, for Chapter President training.

Linda Powers  
President Department of Michigan