



OCTOBER MEETING MINUTES
BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

October 21, 2025

Call to order: The National Executive Board meeting was called to order by National President Karen Stillwell at 7:01 P.M. EST.

Opening:

Chaplain Becky opened it with prayer. Sonya Stowers led the Pledge of Allegiance. Amy Jo Hutchinson 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
- 3VP- Amy Jo Hutchinson
- 4VP- Karla Keller
- Recording Secretary-Leslie Majocka
- Financial Secretary-Carrie Beck
- Treasurer-Jacqueline Ransom
- PNP/Chaplain – Rebecca Stafford
- PNP Carla Brodacki
- PNP/VAVS REP-Anne Parker entered 7:25 P.M. (EST)
- Dept. MI President-Linda Powers
- Dept. Ohio President-Barb Cook
- Dept. MN President-Jen Pecarina
- Parliamentarian-Patti Elliott entered 7:32 P.M. (EST)
- Julie Straw – Financial Chair left 7:17 P.M. (EST)

Finance Committee Report:

- FC meeting held on Sunday, October 19, 2025.

MOTION coming from the committee for the NEB to set aside the September 2025 financial report for year-end audit. Per FinSec correction made regarding deferred membership dues. This correction will be sent to NEB via email after meeting. This will not affect results of operations.

No second needed coming from committee

CALL for a vote

No opposition/no abstentions

MOTION PASSED

- August 31, 2025, audit is in progress. Any adjustments to the financials now will be at the advice of the CPA. No further input from NEB or FC is needed.
- Convention 2025 recap- An accounting of funds was reconciled. Big Dipper will be paid \$4,674.
- August 31, 2025, Compliance Financial Review process 36 chapters have already been submitted for review and are in various stages of approval.

Financial Officer Updates:

Fin Sec

- Still working on ACH with Chase and with Moolah account- officer names are being updated and put in transition documents.
- NP computer needs Norton antivirus renewal- in process
- QuickBooks to renew for \$2,970.00
- We still need to confirm that all NEB computers are up to date with Windows 11 in the next 90 days. NT has links for testing this. If they are capable of updating- need to facilitate update; if not capable will need to purchase Windows 10 extended support or replace computer.

Treasurer

- Update on new items/restocking

Chapter Grant Applications

MOTION coming from the committee to approve three-chapter grants: CA15, MI203 and FL16.

No second needed coming from committee
CALL for a vote
No opposition/no abstentions
MOTION PASSED

MOTION coming from the committee to preemptively approve chapter grant for a newly chartered chapter TX21, pending they get their application in prior to NEB November meeting so they don't have to wait until Dec to receive funds.

Seconded

Call for the Vote.

No Opposed/Abstained – **MOTION PASSED**

FC left meeting at 7:17 P.M. (EST)

Officer Reports:

MOTION to approve C09 moving forward as a newly chartered chapter.

Seconded

Call for the Vote.

No Opposed/Abstained – **MOTION PASSED**

PNP/Chaplain sent out well over 1600 GSM cards, approx. 100 came back, approx. 40-45 cards were returned with incorrect address. Post office was able to assist in getting correct addresses and a note will be sent with the reason for late arrival.

Minutes Approval:

MOTION to approve September 16, 2025, Minutes without corrections.

Seconded

Call for the Vote.

No Opposed/Abstained – **MOTION PASSED**

PNP Anne entered at 7:25 P.M. (EST)

Old Business

- There is a procedure in place for submitting standing rules
- Logo summary in place and will discuss at mid-year

- Ratify email votes

Motion to approve the 3 bundles presented to us by the NT to be included in the online store

Seconded

Call for the Vote.

No opposed/abstained – **MOTION PASSED**

NT Report:

- Discussed ordering blue jackets, description and pricing.

Motion to approve ordering 48 blue jackets.

Seconded

Call for the Vote.

No opposed/abstained – **MOTION PASSED**

- Discussion was had regarding what sizes, and how many of each size.

Parliamentarian entered at 7:32 P.M.

Motion to send out an email to all members, letting them know we are getting ready to order new blue jackets, and requesting anyone who needs a greater than 3X to contact NT within 1 week, so the order can be placed.

Seconded

Call for the Vote.

No opposed/abstained – **MOTION PASSED**

- Discussion regarding the cost vs how much to sell them for. The price of the new jacket is less than red jacket.

Motion to sell the blue jackets for \$50.00.

Seconded

Call for the Vote.

No opposed/abstained – **MOTION PASSED**

Motion to sell the remaining red jackets for \$50.00.

Seconded

Call for the Vote.

No opposed/abstained – **MOTION PASSED**

- Will hold on reordering the blue fleece
- Mid-Year- Requesting each NEB member to look at flights for mid-year on any airline, most cost efficient/reasonable itinerary. Please let NP know ASAP how many days you will be staying. 4/7 days are covered by NEB, remainder days will be at your own cost. The house is available from Wednesday, Feb 25- check out Wednesday, March 4. Dates covered are Thursday, February 26- Sunday, March 1.
- Please keep in mind if you are responding to questions to copy NP on the email, as to remain united in our answers. This includes conversations with other NEB members.

New Business

- New Conflict Resolution Chair- Carmen Johnson FL11
- PR Chair – Amy Zienta OH21, she will work with Fundraising Chair.
- Announced at Ohio Convention that next National Convention will be held in Columbus, Ohio from July 27- Aug 1. All NEB members will need to arrive on Sunday, July 26 for a meeting that evening.
- Memorial Day “Rolling to Remember” NEB will be invited, unsure who else will be invited depending on how many bikes we are able to get. May 21- May 26. Entire cost of this trip is on your own.
- Iowa chapter has a large care packaging event and is requesting members of the NEB to attend if possible. Prepacking earlier in the week, Friday (press will be present) November 6, 7 and 8th. An Airbnb may be available if NEB members would like to attend. Notify NP if interested.

NP took NEB into CES at 8:14 P.M. EST.

NP took NEB out of CES at 8:49 P.M. EST.

Seeing nothing further for the GOOD of the Order our NP asked our Chaplain to close us in prayer at 8:49 P.M. EST.

NEB Minutes

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Majocka, National Recording Secretary



National 1st Vice President Report
October 2025

- Attended NEB Meetings/Calls
- Processed memberships, renewals, and transfers
 - a. New Members Processed – 111 new members in October
 - b. New Associates Processed – 11 new associates in October
 - c. Renewals Processed – about 180 in October, about 1700 in August and September
 - d. Transfers – all requested transfers checked and processed
- Worked with webmaster to get lapsed members access to renew
- Chapter Rosters created and sent – approximately 30 in October
- Monitored Officer Rosters and Affiliation Agreements – processing and notifying chapters of approval or rejection, answering related questions – 47 in October, 103 so far this FY
- Assisted the National President when needed
- Followed processes when new members indicate they are Gold Star Mothers, so far 9 members have indicated they are Gold Star Mothers on their online applications, so far 6 have responded that they are NOT Gold Star, awaiting response for 3 other more recent ones. Spreadsheet allows tracking and follow up.
- 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 1st Vice President 2025-2026
1vp@bluestarmothers.us
309-370-0712



NATIONAL 2nd VP OCTOBER REPORT

- ★ Attended NEB zoom
- ★ Attended NEB closed session meetings
- ★ Received and responded to chapter reports for the newsletter
- ★ Submitted National newsletter to NEB President and Webmaster for approval
- ★ Attended Michigan Department Convention
- ★ Attended Ohio Department of Convention
- ★ Worked on November Newsletter
- ★ Replied to or forwarded emails from Members

Respectfully submitted by Beth Bruening 2nd VP



National 3VP Report

October 2025

- Researched Active Duty Military deaths
- Reported Active Duty Deaths
- Assisted chapters with Blue to Gold protocol questions
- Answered phone calls, emails and text messages
- Attended NEB meetings
- Attended Department of Ohio Convention



National 4th Vice President

October Report

- Attended NEB Meeting
- Attended Closed Session meeting
- Answered emails from two potential new chapters, researched locations.
- Sent chartering information for new WV, AL chapters and CO9 to review that may want to start a chapter in their area.
- Researched and replied to five emails from potential new members regarding chapters near them. One from Ireland!
- 23 chapters have completed compliance as of 10-31-25. Many just missing one or two items.
- Continued working with TX22 to get chapter transitioned from TX15.
- MI203, FL16 and TX21 have all been installed and working on finishing their documents.
- Potential chapters are working on assembling members to fill board positions to open a new chapter.
- Worked with TX12, TX15 on closing procedures. CT5 was officially closed.
- Created newsletter page.
- Answered emails/calls/texts from D/C/As.

Respectfully Submitted by

Karla Keller

National 4th VP

Financial Secretary Report: By Carrie Beck

October 2025

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

Successfully changed over the bank accounts in the Merchant Svcs portals.

Worked on and finalized app for distribution

Met with a few chapters to assist in their QB recording Signed and sent out Chapter checks

NATIONAL TREASURER REPORT

October 2025

Paid bills and reimbursements as approved
Posted expenses in QuickBooks
Worked on Transition document
Issued Due to Chapter checks for June-July-August 2025
Researched, requested quotes for restocking online store
Created Christmas Online Store bundles
Shipped 30 Online Store orders
Started booking flights for Midyear
Created Google Sheet for tracking Laptop information
Researched closing chapters for IRS subordinate list
Discussed inventory with CPA's office
Answered telephone calls, texts, and emails

Yours in Service

Jacqueline Ransom

Department of Michigan Presidents Report

October, 2025

- NEB meeting
- Michigan DEB meeting
- Attended Michigan Big Dipper meeting
- Working on Michigan 2026 Convention
- Chapter MI203 Installation
- Answered phone calls, emails, and text messages regarding Department business
- Attend funerals for 2 unclaimed veterans at Fort Custer Cemetery
- Met with Trudy for training
- Attend MI Convention
- Spoke with 14 of 15 Chapter Presidents
- Worked on the Department newsletter
- Sent President's letter for October's newsletter.
- Worked on compliance with PDP & Financial Dept.
- Sent in the DEB Affiliation Agreement to the NEB fir upload to the web.
- Planning a Christmas get-together in December for the DEB Board and all Chapter Presidents.

Linda Powers

President Department of Michigan

OCTOBER 2025 DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*Attended the October NEB meeting

*Conducted the October DEB meeting

*Conducted the 2025 Department of Minnesota Convention

*Attended the 2025 Department of Michigan Convention

*Attended the 2025 Department of Ohio Convention

*Conducted department business via text, phone and email

*Transitioned the new department president for 2025-2026