



DECEMBER MEETING MINUTES
BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

December 16, 2025

Call to order: The National Executive Board meeting was called to order by National President Karen Stillwell at 7:07 P.M. (EST).

Opening:

Chaplain Becky opened it with prayer. 3VP Amy Jo led the Pledge of Allegiance. 2VP Beth 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 (excused)
- Treasurer-Jacqueline Ransom
- PNP/Chaplain – Rebecca Stafford
- PNP/VAVS REP-Anne Parker (excused)
- PNP Carla Brodacki (excused)
- Dept. MI President-Linda Powers
- Dept. Ohio President-Barb Cook
- Dept. MN President-Sharon Skaro (excused)
- Parliamentarian-Patti Elliott
- Julie Straw – Financial Chair – entered at 7:29PM (EST) left at 7:53PM (EST)

Minutes Approval: Minutes from November 18, 2025, were sent to the NEB.

MOTION to approve with one correction.

Seconded

Call for the Vote.

No Opposed/1 Abstained – MOTION PASSED

Old Business

Financial Training- for financial officers and CP

- Budget, income, expenses January 10 at 4 p.m. (EST), January 14 at 7 p.m. (EST),
- QuickBooks Training January 24, 10 a.m. (EST)
- NP will send out email to CP and state that this training is required per governing documents and must have someone represented from each chapter.

MOTION was made to hold off on all logo approval until after mid-year meeting.

Seconded.

CALL for the vote.

No opposition, no abstentions.

MOTION PASSED

MOTION was made to purchase the \$999.00 executive package for press releases for fiscal year 2025-2026.

Seconded.

CALL for the vote.

No opposition, no abstentions.

MOTION PASSED

- We will have 2 press releases posted by the end of January.
- Mid-year meeting – all flights are booked, PNP/Chaplain Becky will send emails regarding flights, meals and other pertinent information regarding the week events. Please respond to her ASAP.
- If you have ideas for the mid-year agenda please reach out to NP by beginning of January.

- **Any flight changes need to be sent to NP and PNP/Chaplain Becky.**

FC entered at 7:29 P.M. (EST)

Finance Committee Report:

- November financials are still in review with CPA's office concerning the inventory management adjustments from August 31, 2025, that need to be reversed. Will hold and present financials at next months meeting.
- Discussed new line "affiliation income", this is a "cash back" rewards from Shipthriftly. If one of our affiliates have a large mailing we receive rewards. This is separate from the expense line from Shipthriftly.
- Financial Timeline to be shared with chapter officers along with January's financial training. FC briefly reviewed this timeline and will email the draft to NEB in the next 24 hours for review and input.
- FYE august 31, 2025 audit is in progress- no update
- Convention 2026- deposit schedule is being discussed with hotel/event center. A grant is being received to cover the cost of attendees visiting the Veterans Memorial Museum and lunch.
- FYE August 31, 2025, Compliance Financial Review process- 101 chapters have completed the financial review process and 47 others in progress.

Financial Officer Updates:

Fin Sec:

- ACH/EFT transfer is still in process

Treasurer:

- DCLP- our DC resident Agent does not do any filing or business; we just use her address for filing in DC. She forwards any emails to NP.
- Need to track down our BSMA registration. NP will follow up on this
- Any restocking of patches or motorcycle flags will be reviewed at mid-year

MOTION coming from the committee to approve a chapter grant for MN13 pending compliance completion.

- **CALL** for a vote.
- **No opposition, no abstentions.**
- **MOTION PASSED**

FC left meeting at 7:53 P.M. (EST)

Officer Reports:

4VP:

- Compliance update 78 chapters complete, 47 chapters with 1 item or financial reviews that need completed, 11 have not started. Emails have been sent to those remaining chapters.

NT:

- NEB agreed to wait until mid-year to decide what items to restock/discontinue

New Business

- Memorial Day attendees from NEB: NP, 1VP, 2VP, 3VP, 4VP, recsec, chaplain, parliamentarian confirmed.
- Convention board members met with the museum and will sign a contract on Wednesday. (we do have a grant to cover cost)
- Request for training on the backside of the website at mid-year. 1VP agreed to train others.
- NEB agreed to take a holiday break between Saturday, Dec 20, 2025-Sunday, January 4, 2026. Please continue to read emails and make calls as needed.

NP took NEB into CES at 8:07 P.M. (EST).

NP took NEB out of CES at 8:23 P.M. (EST).

Seeing nothing further for the GOOD of the Order our NP asked our Chaplain to close us in prayer at 8:23 P.M. (EST).

NEB Minutes

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Majocka, National Recording Secretary



Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.
National 1st Vice President Report
December 2025

- Attended all NEB Meetings/Calls
- Processed memberships, renewals, and transfers
 - a. New Members Processed – 34 new members in December
 - b. New Associates Processed – 1 new associates in December
 - c. Renewals Processed – about 18 in December, about 1950 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
- Chapter Rosters created and sent
- Monitored Officer Rosters and Affiliation Agreements – processing and notifying chapters of approval or rejection, answering related questions – 22 in December, almost 200 so far this FY (includes resubmissions). 30+ have not submitted as of mid January.
- Assisted the National President when needed
- Followed processes when new members indicate they are Gold Star Mothers, so far this FY 18 new members have indicated they are Gold Star Mothers on their online applications, so far 13 CP or MC have responded that they are NOT Gold Star, awaiting response for 5 others. Spreadsheet allows for 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 DECEMBER REPORT

- ★ Attended NEB zoom
- ★ Attended NEB closed session meetings
- ★ Received and responded to chapter reports for the news letter
- ★ Prepare National newsletter for NEB President for approval
- ★ Assisted a few chapters with newsletter submission
- ★ Worked on January Newsletter
- ★ Replied to or forwarded emails from Members
- ★ Started working on Yearbook

Respectfully submitted by
Beth Bruening
2nd VP

Respectfully submitted by

National 2nd VP Report for November
Beth Bruening



National 3VP Report

December 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 Required National Training Zoom for Financial Officers and Chapter Presidents



National 4th Vice President
December 2025 Report

- Attended NEB Meeting
- Researched and replied to six emails from potential new members regarding chapters near them
- 89 D/C/A have completed compliance as of 12-31-2025
- 45 D/C/A are just missing one or two items for compliance
- Continued working with TX22 to get chapter transitioned from TX15, have had some personal issues arise. Almost done with closing process.
- MI203, FL16 and TX21 are working to complete everything for their new chapters
- Continue to work with TX12, TX15 on closing procedures
- Answered eight emails asking general questions about Blue Star Mothers
- Submitted December newsletter page
- Answered emails/calls/texts from D/C/A's

Respectfully Submitted by
Karla Keller
National 4th VP

Financial Secretary Report: By Carrie Beck

December 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

Currently working on finalizing the ACH portal bank transfer

Designed 250th and mid year tee designs

Met with a several chapters to assist in their compliance records

Answered and made necessary changes from CPA requests

Working with Bank to rectify account setup issues.

Prepped for Financial trainings

Signed and sent out Chapter checks

NATIONAL TREASURER REPORT

December 2025

Paid bills and reimbursements as approved

Posted expenses in QuickBooks

Worked on Transition document

Shipped 13 Online Store orders

Booked remainder of flights for MidYear

Invoiced Sisters attending MidYear for their share of extra nights

Reminded chapters about uncashed checks

Updated chapter addresses as needed in QuickBooks using EIN reports

Answered telephone calls, texts, and emails

Yours in Service

Jacqueline Ransom



Department of Michigan Presidents Report
December, 2025

- NEB meeting
- Working on Michigan 2026 Convention
- Answered phone calls, emails, and text messages regarding Department business
- Worked on the Department newsletter
- Sent President's letter for December's newsletter.
- Held Training and Team-Building afternoon with DEB Board & Chapter Presidents
- Responded to Mid-Year questions
- Participated in a virtual meeting for Fed. Blue Star Mothers Day.

Linda Powers
President Department of Michigan



Department of Ohio
December 2025
President Barb Cook

Heald monthly meeting for department

Helped my chapter with WAA

worked on Ohio's North/South

Signed contracts for Ohio fall Convention for 2026

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Dept of Minnesota Dec 2025

Attended meeting with Chapter 13
Missed Metro Stand Down due to weather
Reviewed suggestions for funding
Blue to Gold fund
Reviewed ideas for Spring Meeting topics

Respectfully,

Sharon Skaro
President
Department of Minnesota
Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.