



MARCH MEETING MINUTES
BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

March 17, 2026

Call to order: The National Executive Board meeting was called to order by National President Karen Stillwell at 7:05 P.M. (EST).

Opening:

PNP Carla opened it with prayer. Dept. MI Pres. led the Pledge of Allegiance. 3VP led with the preamble. Rec Sec Leslie conducted a roll call.

The following were present:

- National President-Karen Stillwell
- 1VP- Sonya Stowers
- 2VP- Beth Bruening-excused
- 3VP- Amy Jo Hutchinson
- 4VP- Karla Keller
- Recording Secretary-Leslie Majocka
- Financial Secretary-Carrie Beck- entered 7:25PM
- Treasurer-Jacqueline Ransom- entered 7:41PM
- PNP/Chaplain – Rebecca Stafford- excused
- PNP/VAVS REP-Anne Parker- entered 7:23PM
- PNP Carla Brodacki
- Dept. MI President-Linda Powers
- Dept. Ohio President-Barb Cook- left at 8:40PM
- Dept. MN President-Sharon Skaro- entered 8:29PM
- Parliamentarian-Patti Elliott
- Julie Straw – Financial Chair – entered 7:11PM left at 7:33PM

MOTION to approve minutes from February 27, 2026, Midyear Day 1 with one correction.

Seconded

Call for the Vote.

No Opposed/no abstentions – MOTION PASSED

FC entered meeting at 7:11 p.m.

MOTION coming from the committee to approve the February 2026 financial statements to be set aside for audit.

CALL for a vote.

No opposition, no abstentions.

MOTION PASSED

- CPA is still in the auditing process, expecting update before mid-May. Once complete financial statements will be rerun and submitted to NEB as there will most likely be adjustments.

Finance Committee Report:

- NFS - ACH will be processed through QB, discontinue Moolah
- NT - looking at new anti-virus software options Norton has not been consistent. Looking into replacing laptops for NEB if needed.

Chapter Grant Applications

- Ratified email vote for MN7 existing chapter grant
- Discussed approval of FL3 grant involving Delayed Entry Program, which was approved by NEB at mid-year.

MOTION coming from the committee to approve \$250 grant to MI186.

CALL for a vote.

No opposition, no abstentions.

MOTION PASSED

PNP Anne entered meeting at 7:23 p.m. (EST)

VAVS Update

MOTION coming from the committee to increase the national budgeted amount of \$11,000 by \$93.40 (@\$0.94/facility) for an even \$225 distribution per VA non represented facility.

CALL for a vote.

No opposition, no abstentions.

MOTION PASSED

MOTION coming from the committee to approve the VAVS checks for this fiscal year in the amount of \$225 each to the 99 non-represented VA facilities for a total distribution of \$22,275.

CALL for a vote.

No opposition, no abstentions.

MOTION PASSED

NFS entered meeting at 7:25 p.m.

Compliance Financial Reviews

- There are 14 chapter reviews in progress

2026 Convention Planning

- The Give Butter App has raised \$1,200 thus far. OH Chapter will cover lunches. Registration is live online.

Financial Officer Training for chapters/departments/auxiliaries

- Requested financial officers' complete questionnaire by April 15.
- Questionnaire has been made into a Google quiz, submitted online.
- volunteer@bluestarmothers.us email will be used for questionnaire responses and review by FC members.
- Follow ups with chapter will be determined later.

Mid-year suggestions/requests to BSMA Financial Policies & Budget

- Suggested "How to budget" guidelines should be in Leadership Handbook vs. Financial Policies
- PO Box needs full chapter name, state and number
- PO Box or address changes need to be reported within 10 days
- Uncashed check procedure to max of 180 days

- Uncashed check section to include department forfeiting their portion of the check if not cashed; respective chapter portion will be sent to affected chapter.

NFS entered the meeting at 7:25 p.m. (EST)

- Increasing chapter grant amount to \$500; will need to review budget and decide if this will be for new vs all chapters.
- Additional budget of \$3000.00 to professional fees-accounting for bookkeeping or accounting assistance should the need arise.
- FC requests any additional suggestions for budget or policy be submitted asap as next meeting is moved up to April 12, 2026.

FC left meeting 7:33p.m.(EST)

**MOTION to approve minutes from February 28, 2026, Midyear Day 2
Seconded**

Call for the Vote.

No Opposed/no abstentions – MOTION PASSED

**MOTION to approve minutes from March 1, 2026, Midyear Day 3
Seconded**

Call for the Vote.

No Opposed/no abstentions – MOTION PASSED

NT entered the meeting at 7:41 p.m. (EST)

Officer Reports:

- **4VP**-since mid-year, 2 inquiries for starting chapters; applications WA and OH; 145 compliances complete, 23 need few items, 14 need financial reviews, 1 chapter needs multiple items.
- **NFS**-working on ACH
- **NT**-Having issues with Norton, NT looking into Bitdefender with a slight increase in cost.

MOTION to authorize NT to purchase, through Tech Soup, a required amount of copies from Bitdefender for our BSM computers.

CALL for a vote.

MOTION PASSED

- **PNP Anne**-will be representing BSMA at the executive committee meeting of the VAVS in TX.

Old Business

- Email will be sent soon for the financial training.
- Press release should be out by tomorrow. Will also have press release for the Presidents Project
- BDA Standing Rules were shared with BDA and the Governing Documents Chair(GDC). GDC suggested the revision of standing rule #5.

MOTION to approve the revision of the BDA standing rule number five to “Standing rules approved at the BDA annual meeting will be sent to the NEB one week after the conclusion of the annual meeting. The SR are not valid until approved by the NEB.”

CALL for a vote.

MOTION PASSED

- Webmaster has been informed of the recommended compliance documents. 4VP will assist webmaster with changes.
- BDA Nomination forms were submitted to BDA.
- Discussed where to publish hours expected for national positions for full transparency to nominees.
- Logo Committee is being established by NP. No new logos will be approved. It is recommended that chapters use official BSM logo with their chapter name at this time. NP will instruct committee of guidelines and will have a committee member with digital experience.

New Business

- Presidents Project “3rd & Goal”. The sponsorship information will be sent to membership soon.
- Remembrance Week- there was an email sent out with additional information. There will be a meeting as we get closer to the date.
- Convention 2026 – continue to pass along “Give Butter” campaign, “Convention Chatter” will be sent soon.
- New Trainings on Zoom- Pres, 1VP, rec sec , financial and compliance. If you are involved in one of theses please plan your agenda.

- More discussion regarding the roles and time commitments required of national positions. NEB agreed to put this information into the nomination letter. NP will discuss this with Convention Chair.

NP took NEB into CES at 7:18 P.M. (EST).

NP took NEB out of CES at 9:28 P.M. (EST).

Seeing nothing else for the GOOD of the Order our NP asked PNP Carla to close us in prayer at 9:28 P.M. (EST).

NEB Minutes

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Majocka, National Recording Secretary

APPROVED



Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.
National 1st Vice President Report
March 2026

- Attended all NEB Meetings/Calls and Mid Year
- Processed memberships, renewals, and transfers in reporting month
 - a. New Members Processed –128 new members
 - b. New Associates Processed – 1 new associates
 - c. Renewals Processed – about 9, about 1980 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
- 15 Chapter Rosters created and sent
- Monitored Officer Rosters and Affiliation Agreements – processing and notifying chapters of approval or rejection, answering related questions – 7 processed in February, almost 240 so far this FY (includes resubmissions). 1 is outstanding, working with them on a special election.
- Assisted the National President when needed
- Followed processes when new members indicate they are Gold Star Mothers, so far this FY 23 new members have indicated they are Gold Star Mothers on their online applications, so far 18 CP or MC have responded that they are NOT Gold Star, 2CP has confirmed that a new member IS a Gold Star, awaiting response for 3 others. Spreadsheet allows for tracking and follow up.
- Began processing Convention Delegate Forms – created spreadsheet to track information and a file system to store forms on computer.
- 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 1st Vice President 2025-2026
1vp@bluestarmothers.us
309-370-0712



NATIONAL 2nd VP APRIL REPORT

- ★ Set up Yearbook team
- ★ 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 April Newsletter
- ★ Replied to or forwarded emails from Members
- ★ Started working on Yearbook
- ★ Set up Yearbook AD spreadsheet
- ★ Created a yearbook fact sheet PDF for distribution to members

Respectfully submitted by
Beth Bruening
2nd VP

Respectfully submitted by

National 2nd VP Report for November

Beth Bruening



National 3VP Report

March 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
- Prepared and sent email reminder for Membership regarding Blue to Gold Protocols



National 4th Vice President
March 2026 Report

- Attended NEB Meeting
- Attended Mid-Year Meeting
- Researched and replied to 40 emails from potential new members regarding chapters near them.
- Emailed or spoke with 11 people interested in starting a chapter in: FL, ME, OH, VA, CA, Puerto Rico, ND, IL, WA, AL and GA.
- Received two charter applications, OH, WA
- Compliance update as of 3-31-2026
 - 160 D/C/A are done
 - 9 D/C/A are just missing one or two items
 - 1 chapter has not started
- Worked on project to collect EIN letters from Chapters and uploaded to chapter profiles
- CA9 voted to close March 14th
- CO7 emailed they were closing
- Answered multiple emails asking general questions about Blue Star Mothers
- Led a Google Meets meeting with a chapter executive board, and another NEB member, regarding chapter issues
- Answered emails/calls/texts from D/C/A's

Respectfully Submitted by
Karla Keller
National 4th VP



Financial Secretary Report: By Carrie Beck

March 2025

Attended all requested Finance Committee meetings

Attended Mid-Year Meeting

Answered emails and phone calls

Received and recorded mail

Recorded all deposits/Reconciled Accounts

Produced Financial Reports

Processed financial aspects of renewals, transfers, refunds

Finalized ACH process and updated with webmaster

Worked on spreadshirt new design for president.

Met with a several chapters to assisting their compliance records.

Answered and made necessary changes from CPA requests

NATIONAL TREASURER REPORT

March 2026

Paid bills and reimbursements as approved

Posted expenses in QuickBooks

Continued working on Transition document

Continued working on Chapter EIN and opened/closed Chapters list

Shipped 23 Online Store orders

Cut checks for 2nd quarter due to Chapters

Cut checks for VAVS facilities

Updated chapter addresses as needed in QuickBooks using EIN reports

Attended Finance Committee and NEB meetings

Assisted Chapters with Financial questions

Answered telephone calls, texts, and emails

Yours in Service

Jacqueline Ransom



Department of Michigan Presidents Report
March, 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 March.
- Work on financials with the financial team.
- Attended MI-186 Chapter meeting.
- Attended Sisters-In-Action meeting.

Linda Powers
President Department of Michigan



Department of Ohio President
Barb Cook
March 2026

Worked with North/South
Attained mid-year
Made cards for nationals.
Worked with chapters on finishing the compliance.
Chapter CEB meeting and our regular meeting.
I worked at our chapter's 10th craft show.