



NOVEMBER MEETING MINUTES
BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC.

November 18 , 2025

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

Opening:

PNP Anne Parker opened it with prayer. Beth Bruening 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 (excused)
- PNP Carla Brodacki (excused)
- PNP/VAVS REP-Anne Parker
- Dept. MI President-Linda Powers
- Dept. Ohio President-Barb Cook (excused)
- Dept. MN President-Sharon Skaro
- Parliamentarian-Patti Elliott
- Julie Straw – Financial Chair left 7:33 P.M. (EST)

Finance Committee Report:

- FC meeting held on Sunday, November 16, 2025.
- Welcomed new member Jennifer Rowe TX20 replacing PNP Becky
- Chase bank service fees are to be reversed and refunded in November, A note is being sent to CPA regarding Operation Surf payment that should have been reclassified at close of convention as a payable.
- Question on P& L regarding monies owed to Big Dipper. NFS will clarify this after meeting with NT. No motion to set aside until clarification is obtained.
- 8/31/2025 Audit is in progress; financials will be at the advice of the CPA to bring them to compliance with GAAP- no further input needed from NEB or FC.
- Convention 2026 – no update of a financial nature
- 8/31/2025 Compliance Financial Review process- 49 chapters have completed this portion of compliance

Financial Officer Updates:

Fin Sec

- Payment system with Chase is in place
- Researching cost of a remote deposit machine compatible with Chase as the mobile deposit is time consuming.
- Previous BSMA app has been discontinued

Treasurer

- Windows 11 updates are complete
- Some computers need Norton anti-virus
- New blue jacket will be added to online store inventory

Chapter Grant Applications

MOTION coming from the committee to approve four-chapter grants: FL10, CO8, CA39, OH2

No second needed coming from committee

CALL for a vote

No opposition/1 abstention

MOTION PASSED

New Business

- Discussed how to emphasize chapters the necessity of an annual budget and how to use correctly. PDF available on website
- Jennifer volunteered to create a calendar-based checklist for chapters; creating a budget, when to submit compliance, etc.
- Discussed officer training -mandatory for non-bookkeeping experienced chapter financial officers. This requirement is in the BSMA Bylaws, Article XI Elected Officers, Section 1 e: At the chapter level, accounting or financial experience is not required. However, all chapter's financial officers must attend virtual or other financial training sessions, provided by the NEB, during the first quarter after their election.
- NEB should consider having this training session online
- Discussed press release contract with Cicsion. After noting that we have not used it much in the past, NEB agreed to hold the payment to review other options. (Advertising/Publishing budget \$2000)

FC left meeting at 7:33 P.M. (EST)

Minutes Approval:

MOTION to approve October 21, 2025, Minutes with correction.

Seconded

Call for the Vote.

No Opposed/Abstained – **MOTION PASSED**

Officer Reports:

4VP

- 37 chapters completed compliance and 33 additional missing financial reviews or 1 item

NT

- Blue jackets to be delivered tomorrow
- Please book mid-year flights ASAP, flights should be refundable, which may not be the most inexpensive

VAVS

- VA National Executive Committee and the American Legion Conventions are the same date, Doreen will be attending the VA convention in place of PNP Anne.

Old Business:

- Iowa had a successful packing event with 3015 boxes shipped out
- Press releases need to be used more often and encourage chapters to do press as well.
- Mid-year – 7 days, only 4 are paid by BSM. Email NP and Chaplain Becky if you have food allergies/restrictions and how many days you are planning to stay.

New Business:

- Ohio requesting to obtain BSM license plates through DMV with proceeds going to their chapter. Discussion regarding allowing the use of the official BSM logo vs service banner or chapter logo. Agreed that the official logo should not be used.
- Contract has been signed for convention
- Memorial Day, details are still being made, blocks of rooms have been obtained. More information to come.
- General reminders: send officer reports on time, focus on duties and responsibilities, if emailing or texting members with no response, please call them.

Motion to approve to pay for 10 extra yearbook pages to be sold to chapters for advertisements and proceeds to go to VAVS.

Seconded

Call for the Vote.

No opposed/abstained – **MOTION PASSED**

NP took NEB into CES at 8:19 P.M. EST.

NP took NEB out of CES at 9:14 P.M. EST.

Seeing nothing further for the GOOD of the Order our NP asked our Chaplain to close us in prayer at 9:14 P.M. EST.

NEB Minutes

Respectfully submitted,

Leslie Majocka, National Recording Secretary



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

- Attended all NEB Meetings/Calls
- Processed memberships, renewals, and transfers
 - a. New Members Processed – 46 new members in November
 - b. New Associates Processed – 2 new associates in November
 - c. Renewals Processed – about 50 in October, about 1930 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 – approximately 18 in October
- Monitored Officer Rosters and Affiliation Agreements – processing and notifying chapters of approval or rejection, answering related questions – 43 in October, 146 so far this FY
- Assisted the National President when needed
- Followed processes when new members indicate they are Gold Star Mothers, so far this FY 12 new members have indicated they are Gold Star Mothers on their online applications, so far 8 CP or MC have responded that they are NOT Gold Star, awaiting response for 4 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 NOVEMBER 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
- ★ Attended Big Dipper Meeting for National President
- ★ Assisted a few chapters with newsletter submission
- ★ Worked on December Newsletter
- ★ Replied to or forwarded emails from Members

Respectfully submitted by
Beth Bruening
2nd VP

Respectfully submitted by

National 2nd VP Report for November
Beth Bruening



National 3VP Report

November 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



National 4th Vice President
November Report

- Attended NEB Meeting
- Attended Closed Session Emergency meeting
- Sent chartering information for potential new chapter in IL
- Researched and replied to seven emails from potential new members regarding chapters near them
- Sent out 21 emails to chapters who have not started compliance
- 53 D/C/A have completed compliance as of 11-30-25
- 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 six emails asking general questions about Blue Star Mothers
- Submitted November 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

November 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 new wreath spreadshirt design

Met with a several chapters to assist in their compliance records

Answered and made necessary changes from CPA requests

Worked with Karen on convention finance processing for the hotel

Signed and sent out Chapter checks

NATIONAL TREASURER REPORT

November 2025

Paid bills and reimbursements as approved

Posted expenses in Quickbooks

Worked on Transition document

Received blue jackets, bagged them and sent info to Webmaster for the online store

Shipped 19 Online Store orders

Continued booking flights for MidYear

Created a spreadsheet for MidYear pick up and drop off information

Purchased Norton Antivirus and renewed a Microsoft license

Sent letter to IRS with closed chapters list

Working with Library of Congress about the yearbook

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
November, 2025

- NEB meeting
- Michigan DEB meeting
- Attended mentor meeting
- Working on Michigan 2026 Convention
- Visited MI-186, worked on a plan for her chapter.
- Had a meeting with Chapter MI-186 President
- MI-1856 President – had 2 training sessions with her
- Spoke with NEW Mentor
- Spoke with MI Mentors about developing the program
- Enlisted 1 new Mentor
- Worked on the 12/6/25 DEB Board/Ch. President event
- Shopped for the 12/6/25 event.
- Attended Veteran Day event at the National Cemetery
- Attend a closed NEB meeting
- Continue to monitor flights to Florida
- Visit the Hero's Denter in St. Louis, MI RE: 12/6/25 event
- Worked on getting MI brooches on the website.
- Attend I-179 packing event
- Attend a post event meeting with MI-179
- Set up my grievance committee
- Set up my convention committee
- Set up a communications committee
- Answered phone calls, emails, and text messages regarding Department business
- Worked on the Department newsletter
- Sent President's letter for November's newsletter.
- Worked on compliance with chapters.

Linda Powers
President Department of Michigan

Department of Ohio
November, 2025
President Barb Cook

Working on Ohio's Spring conference.

Heald DEB meetings along with the presidents.

Answered emails, text made calls also.

Sent email to the two new Department presidents to also get a meeting to meet the new Department presidents.

Helped my chapter get ready for our Christmas packaging

Went to Chapter 26th Anniversary party.

President, Department of Ohio
Barb Cook

report of activities November 2025

NEB Zoom meeting November

Assisted with Department Compliance

Reached out to member to fill Mn Department Blue to Gold Liaison duties.

Reached out to member to fill Department of Mn newsletter responsibilities.

Connected with Bravo Zulu House to discuss presentation for state Spring Meeting.

DEB Meeting

Respectfully,

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