

**Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.
National Executive Board
Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
Meeting Date: 3/27/2012**

Call to Order:

The 3/27/12 regular board meeting of the BSMA was held by electronic means (Go to Meeting) telephone and computer. The meeting convened at 8:33pm EDT, President Robin McCarthy presiding and Charilyn Damigo, Recording Secretary. A quorum was present.

Attendees:

Members in attendance:

President Robin Barnes McCarthy	Dept of MN Pres Jean Duane (8:46 pm)
1 st Vice President Janet Broussard	Dept of OH Pres Pat Pell
2 nd Vice President Rev. Lin McGee	Dept of OK Pres Cathy O'Shields
3 rd Vice President Teresa Bullock	Dept of MI Pres Kristine Wirgau
4 th Vice President Rose Ann Elliott	PNP Susan Nail
Recording Secretary Charilyn Damigo	PNP Karen Stevens
Financial Secretary Anne Parker	Chaplain Gloria Cervantes (opening prayer)
Treasurer Julie Roberts	

Absent: none

Excused: none

Roll Call of Officers -- (Recording Secretary)
Prayer -- (Gloria Cervantes)
Pledge of Allegiance -- (Pat Pell)
Blue Star Mothers Preamble -- (Cathy O'Shields)

Business

Approval of Minutes

- MOTION: Recommendation that the Minutes from the 3/10/12 and 3/12/12 meeting be accepted and posted to the website. Motion is seconded and passes on vote.

Officer and Committee Reports

Financial Report (FC – Karen Stevens)

- March 22 meeting with everyone present.
- CPA has suggested changes in our profit/loss statement from last year which were presented at our last meeting; if we choose not to make these changes he would have to file a report. He will make the changes if we accept them tonight.
 - MOTION: Accept CPA's recommendations for changes in last year's profit/loss statement. Motion passes on vote. (Correction approved by NEB 7/1/12)
- Currently in process of making recommendations for bylaws committee suggestions, working on budget preparations, 2 chapter issues.

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Treasurer's Report – Julie Roberts (via email)

- Starting Balance for February 29, 2012: \$122,267.56
- Ending Balance for February 29, 2012: \$124,057.91
- Number of checks written for February 2012:
 - Checks - 36
 - Bill Pay – 2
 - Debit Card – 5
 - Bank Charges – 1
 - Voided Checks – 0
- Continue to work with chapters that have issues pertaining to membership dues not received from national and vice versa.
- Prepared the Department Roster Dues checks for February
- Prepared all Reimbursement Forms submitted and approved by 3 or more members of the Finance Committee.
- Continued preparing the 2nd Quarterly membership dues checks for Chapters and Departments.
- Working with 4th VP on complying letters/emails to go to the chapters that are not in compliant with the Governing Documents.

Convention Committee

- Cost: \$85/person; \$125/person with riverboat cruise
- Hotel reservations: Currently there are 42 rooms reserved (= 2 free rooms)
- Alternate lodging available nearby should the hotel fill up
- Vendors: Tables will be available Thursday and Friday only. Vendor booths to be closed during sessions.
- MOTION: Chapter tables \$25, Outside vendors \$50. Motion is seconded and passes on vote.
- Posting forms (Registration, Emergency Release, Riverboat Cruise) on Website
- Anniversary pins/patches will be available (Commemorative fundraiser for Convention)

By-Laws Committee

- Recommendations will be accepted until May 1

Nominating Committee

- Form has been emailed to all NEB members for nominations to be reviewed prior to the convention.
- Nominations will also be accepted from the floor of the convention. The suggestion has been made that nominations accepted at the Convention will be written out and presented by the committee. This will be considered, but no decision is being made now.
- Officers should present a report prior to elections explaining the time and financial commitments required for each office.
- All candidates do have to be present at the Convention

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Closed Executive Session (9:04pm EDT)

Left Executive Session (9:54 pm EDT).

First VP – Janet Broussard

- No Report.

Second VP – Rev. Lin McGee

- Yearbook – meeting every 2 weeks. Everyone on committee is working on assignments. Next meeting is Thursday.
- Yearbook Ads went out by email.
- Newsletter will be ready by March 3 or 4.

Third VP – Teresa Bullock

- The Department of Defense has released the names of ten (10) Army Casualties and one (1) Marine Casualty during the Month of March.
- Twenty-one (21) Gold Star Banners were ordered for presentation to twelve (12) fallen heroes' parents and/or spouse.

Fourth VP – Rose Ann Elliott

- Written report with the current compliance list was sent to the NEB.
- IN9 has finished all requirements this afternoon (since report was submitted).
- Of the 34 chapters that were originally suspended for non-compliance, 13 have become compliant. (Of the 21 non-compliant chapters, 11 are due to 990 issues).
- MOTION: Terminate the chapters from the 3/14/12 suspension list who have not met their requirements, excluding IN8 (has submitted IRS 1023) as of midnight 3/28/2012. (Withdrawn)
- MOTION: Terminate the following chapters from the 3/14/12 suspension list who have not responded to their suspension letter, as of midnight 3/28/2012. Motion is seconded and passes on vote.

<input type="checkbox"/> CT2	<input type="checkbox"/> IN3	<input type="checkbox"/> NC11
<input type="checkbox"/> FL5	<input type="checkbox"/> LA4	<input type="checkbox"/> NC14
<input type="checkbox"/> ID2	<input type="checkbox"/> MS1	<input type="checkbox"/> NC7
<input type="checkbox"/> IN168	<input type="checkbox"/> NC1	<input type="checkbox"/> NC9
- FB comments regarding compliance issues have been made by a chapter member whose chapter is working with Rose Ann on compliance and by another member whose chapter has been compliant since January.
- Several other chapters (29) are only missing one item. A suspension letter will be sent this week.

Financial Secretary – Anne Parker

- Will need to re-stock the store soon. Many orders coming in recently.
- Recommends that in the future we will need someone to act as an advocate between the chapters and the IRS.

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- NP Robin has contacted a supervisor at the IRS to see if we can “blanket” chapters who need the IRS1023 form completed. She is waiting for a response.

Department of Michigan – Kristine Wirgau

- Events attended
 - VAVS Motor City Valentine’s Concert
 - Wayne State University – Col Gregory Gadson Scholarship Endowment (endowed by Urban Science)
 - Wayne State University – "Ten Things You Should Know About Today's Student Veterans" presented by Alison Lighthall (very interesting!)
 - All were also good networking events
- Chapters visited
 - MI 178 – book signing
 - MI 1 – continuation of chapter
 - MI 95 – continuation of chapter
 - MI 180 – reported on department activities (does this one count?)
- Compliance status
 - MI 174 – IRS revoked (working on paperwork)
 - MI 187 – chaplains fund check (it is in the mail to Anne!)
 - MI 184 – missing bank stmt and recon
- Other
 - Working with vendor (new owner) to get PDP pins
- Upcoming dates to remember
 - Apr 14 School of Instruction - Stanton, MI - (DEB meeting prior)
 - Jun 23 FunD Day – Flat Rock MI - (DEB meeting prior)
 - Oct 5 – 7 Department Convention – Clare, MI

Department of Minnesota – Jean Duane

- Preparing for Department spring meeting
- Several fundraisers pending.

Department of Ohio – Pat Pell

- The elected board will meet on 3/31/12 (face to face) to discuss format and handouts for the North/South conference, which is scheduled April 28, 2012 in Columbus, Ohio.
- Compliance issue for Chapter OH60 should be completed (need Affiliation agreement resigned by current officers) by April 10, 2012.
- As president I attended Chapter 2 monthly meeting in March. They are receiving a special honor in April from the Military and I asked them to submit to the newsletter and yearbook. It is called the ESGR honor and will involve a formal presentation in April.

Department of Oklahoma - Cathy O’Shields

- Completed the Welcome Home Concert on March 13, 2012 of the United States Army Field Band & Soldiers’ Chorus had a great turnout of Blue Star Mothers and also general public.

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The Army Band said that we will do this again in about 2 years as they are scheduled to be in this area once again.

- March 24, 2012 St. Patty's day parade was attended by the Department of Oklahoma and we also were able to be in attendance at the State Capital for the reading of the fallen from the beginning of the war in 2003 to current. This was such a heart wrenching event but it was such a completion for our Gold Star Families.
- Moving forward with our Department meeting on July 14, 2012 in Tahlequah; this will be a training event to go over all of the bylaw changes for the delegates and chapters so they can make sure they understand the changes that could be taking place if the vote is accepted.
- Department convention is still moving forward for October 19-21 in Hulbert Oklahoma and we are getting the final details worked out on this with the committee.
- Other items of interest would be the many Yellow Ribbon Events that taking place for the next few months. This is in support of our returning troops that were deployed to Afghanistan. This is a reintegration for the troops that were deployed to make sure they get the VA assistance needed and to make sure they can return to family life.
- Gold Star Family event will take place on September 29, 2012 and this will be held as a luncheon again and will start at 11:00 and end at 4:00 pm. This is to honor the families that have lost a child in the service. This is a very moving event and it helps the families bond with other families.

Closed Executive Session (11:23pm EDT)

Left Executive Session (11:37pm EDT)

Website:

- RFP nearly completed
- Post on Commerce Business Daily for five days, with ten days' response time
- Up to three months to complete project (website will not be offline for this period)
- Report in newsletter/email to membership

New Business

- None

Announcements

Next meeting – Sunday 4/22/2012. 6:00pm EDT.

Adjournment

The president adjourned the meeting at 11:42pm EDT.