

**Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.
National Executive Board
Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
Meeting Date: 10/23/2012**

Call to Order:

The 10/23/2012 regular board meeting of the BSMA was held by electronic means (Go to Meeting) telephone and computer. The meeting convened at 5:04pm (PDT), President Pat Soler presiding and Charilyn Damigo, Recording Secretary. A quorum was present.

Attendees:

Members in attendance:

President Pat Soler
1st Vice President Judy Dorsey
2nd Vice President Cyndi Ventura
3rd Vice President Teresa Bullock
4th Vice President Ginger Novak
Recording Secretary Charilyn Damigo
Treasurer Anne Parker

Dept of OH Pres Pat Pell
Dept of MI Pres Kristine Wirgau
Dept of MN Pres Mary Johnson
PNP Karen Stevens

Absent: none

Excused:

Financial Secretary Kathryn Venable
PNP Robin Barnes McCarthy

Roll Call of Officers -- (Recording Secretary)
Prayer -- (PNP Karen Stevens)
Pledge of Allegiance -- (PNP Karen Stevens)

Business

Welcome

- NP Pat Soler welcomed newly installed Dept. of MN President Mary Johnson

Approval of Minutes

- MOTION: Recommendation that the Minutes from the 9/17/2012 meeting be accepted and posted to the website.
- Convention Minutes were approved by the Minutes Review Committee and were posted to the website on 10/10/2012.

Officer and Committee Reports

Financial Report

- NFS Kathryn Venable submitted the following reports to the NEB:
 - Sept. 2012 bank statement & reconciliation
 - Budget vs. Actuals 09/12

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- Checks 09/12
- Deposits 09/12
- Profit & Loss 9/30/12
- NT Ann Parker provided the following report:
 - My biggest accomplishment of the month was getting the laser printer to print our checks. For the first time ever a check will be entered and printed in one process. We have obtained window envelopes that fit the checks.
 - All bills presented for payment were taken care of during the month and many questions from members were addressed.
 - I am starting to work with the accountant on the audit which has begun.

First VP (Judy Dorsey)

- This has been another busy month for membership and new members. Our numbers continue to grow. I have heard from several who would like to start chapters in areas where there are none and have sent all to Ginger Novak and Rose Ann Elliott. Membership cards are being sent and new request continue to come in. We are down to about 1/4 of the original order. Will order more when we are down to around 500 cards.
- I had the honor of installing the board of Chapter 11 from Enid, OK. Brenda Bingham, is the new President. New officer Roster are coming in just about every day along with Roster Dues Reports.

Second VP (Cyndi Ventura)

- Newsletter will go to the webmaster for publication on Friday.
- Investigation of the Dept. of OK is proceeding.

Third VP (Teresa Bullock)

- September 18, 2012 – October 23, 2012 The Department of Defense announced 24 casualties. There are a total of 69 casualties since August 1, 2012.
- Since September 17, 2012 Forty-six banners have been ordered from Service Flags to honor the families of 27 fallen heroes. Bringing the total to 125 banners ordered and 76 families honored since August 1, 2012.
- I attended the Blue and Gold education and awareness event on 9/28/2012 at Fort Irwin PX. Spoke with active military and family members about what Blue and Gold Star Mother's organizations are and how they and their family members can get involved.
- I attended a Day to Honor event and dinner for Gold Star Families on Gold Star Family day 9/20/2012 in Los Angeles with 30 Gold Star Family members. This event was arranged and sponsored by the SOS of Fort Irwin, CA.

Fourth VP (Ginger Novak)

- I have established a routine which works pretty smoothly for me; I am employing OneNote to allow for filing of all the emails I receive.

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- Since October 1 I have responded to the following in regard to chartering a chapter:
 - LA6
 - NY11
 - PA no number (Pittsburgh area)
 - AR no number (no city name given)
 - CA no number Tandra Johnson
 - CA no number (Shonda Abercrombie--Bakersfield)
 - KY no number (Edmonton area)
 - MO no number (St. Louis area)
 - MO no number (no city name given)
 - KY no number (Bowling Green area)
 - OH no number (Bellevue area)
 - MI no number (Battle Creek area— Laura DeRoo)
 - WY no number (Casper area)
 - WY no number (Buffalo area)
 - NJ no number (southernmost New Jersey)
 - AZ (Jill Richeal—unhappy with AZ1 but no time to consider chartering herself)
 - PA no number (Lancaster area)
 - WV no number (Martinsburg area)
 - No info—Rosa Aldaz
 - NY no number (Saranac Lake area)
 - FL no number (Orlando area)
 - IL5—(Rockford area) lacks only State Registration and they will be able to charter!
- I have worked with NJ3 with IRS compliance. It appears the chapter is going to pay a steep fine (not yet determined) in order to receive their status back. (Marjorie Sietsma is the President)
- I have worked with CA35 with disbanding; they are not terribly communicative, but they seem determined to dissolve, and say they were in touch with the NEB last year, but Rose Anne has no email from them except having to do with filing reports in 2011.
- Rose Anne, Nancy Aubel, and I have completed a compliance document which was too large to send as an attachment. We are going to place it under “Forms and Reports” as a reference doc, hoping to assist during the reporting season.
- KY8 (my own chapter) has discovered an issue in regards to Kentucky registration for all the KY chapters. Because the national organization is not registered, the chapters can't register. I need some guidance from Pat, Karen, and Kathryn on this topic. I have the form, but the registration costs national \$40, and then each KY chapter must file an “Assumed Name” report which is \$15 annually.

Department of Michigan

- No formal report due to Department Convention – Newly elected officers are as follows:
 - President Kristine Wirgau - MI 180
 - 1st Vice President Lisa Gwilt - MI 99
 - 2nd Vice President Sharon Kramer (Sherry) - MI 178
 - 3rd Vice President Barb Butler – MI 179
 - Recording Secretary Kathy Barnes - MI 188
 - Financial Secretary Carla Brodacki – MI 180
 - Treasurer Melissa Farmer – MI 184

Department of Minnesota

- No formal report due to Department Convention – Newly elected officers are as follows:

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- President - Mary Johnson - MN8
- 1st VP – Jen Pecarina - MN13
- 2nd VP - Sharon Skaro – MN1
- 3rd VP - Jeanne Ulmer- MN7
- Recording Secretary – Denise Guerra– MN15
- Financial Secretary - Connie Hall – MN11
- Treasurer - Sharon Lynn - MN7
- Past President - Dottie Sills

Department of Ohio (DP Pat Pell)

- The Department of Ohio has been busy preparing for their November 2-4, 2012 convention. The Department is in the process of completing all of our compliance documents and financials for Calendar Year ending 8/31/12.
- We sent out several reminder emails to the chapter officers asking them to follow up on renewals for membership and Big Dipper at their chapter meeting, since these memberships expire as of 8/31/12.
- I have attended 6 meetings for OH7 - Patriot Moms (May through October 2012). This chapter has been struggling since last November to stay open and to finally have enough members to hold elections (due to multiple board resignations). They have elected a new chapter board and we will see if this board remains throughout the year. I have turned over all of their financials, current and past records to the new officers after re-organizing them. Their records were in disarray due to the number of officers who had them but only served for a short period of time.

President's Report

- Report given by NP Pat Soler regarding Gold Star Mothers' Day weekend
- NP Pat also attended Minnesota and Michigan Department Conventions

Bylaws Review

- Governing Documents were reviewed by an Attorney Patrick McMahon on 9/28/2012. The letter was forwarded to the Bylaws chair. Small changes were recommended for clarification. The attorney elected to perform his services on a pro bono basis.
- Attorney's recommendation is that the Bylaws should not be changing year-to-year.

National Financial Committee

- NP Pat Soler is recommending the addition of an additional member to the committee. Helen Franz (TX6) – CPA with over 30 years' experience.
- MOTION: To approve Helen Franz as a member of the NF Committee. Motion is seconded and passes on vote.
- FC met last night. Meeting's primary focus was on the financial issues regarding Dept. of OK. Further documentation is needed.
- Committee is also working on getting reimbursement for Convention expenses from a member

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- NP Pat Soler is continuing to work with Philadelphia Mutual to get reimbursement for legal expenses.
- NFC does not recommend posting FC meeting minutes on the web due to the confidential nature of some of the items. They should be sent to the NRS to be kept separate as a part of the investigation of the Department of OK. (Documents received that included Meeting Minutes and received from the former DEB of OK contain information that should be kept confidential).
- MOTION: As a result of the ongoing confidential investigation, at this time the FC minutes will not be made public as they contain confidential information. They will be sent to the NRS to be kept on file.

2011 Yearbook

- Yearbook is being formatted, reviewed by NP Pat Soler, almost ready to be printed.

Website Committee

- Meeting delayed due to Dept. of MI Convention. Next meeting will be held within the next few days.
- Web site committee can meet as often as necessary to move forward.
- DP Mary Johnson is willing to review the documents that we have received from the top two bidders.

Kentucky State Requirement

- 4th VP Ginger Novak has been advised by the State of Kentucky that the National organization is required to file a "Foreign Corporation Form" in their state.

Closed Executive Session (5:57pm – 6:24pm)

- The NEB met in closed executive session to discuss the ongoing investigations of the Departments of Arizona and Oklahoma.

New Business

- NP Pat Soler met with a representative from Sen. Feinstein's office & Sen. Boxer's senior aide & during her recent trip to Washington D.C., who gave her names of several other contacts. She would like to have DC Rep Teresa Sumner continue to follow up with these connections. This is non-partisan relationship to promote BSMA, Inc. and our support of Veterans issues.
- Veterans Day – NP Pat Soler will be traveling to Washington DC from 11/8 – 11/12 for the Veterans Day events. DC Rep Teresa Sumner, PNP Robin Barnes McCarthy, Robin Countryman-Valk (Historian) and Jean Burlingame (Patriotic Instructor) will also be in attendance.

Announcements

- NP Pat Soler thanks everyone for their cards, flowers, prayer, and support during the recent death of her mother.

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- Next meeting – Monday 11/19/2012, 5:30pm (PST)

Adjournment

The president adjourned the meeting at 6:40pm (PDT)

DRAFT