

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.
National Executive Board
Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
Meeting Date: 8/14/2012

Call to Order:

The 8/14/2012 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

Recording Secretary Charilyn Damigo

Financial Secretary Kathryn Venable

Treasurer Anne Parker

Dept of MI Pres Kristine Wirgau

PNP Robin Barnes McCarthy

PNP Karen Stevens

Absent: none

Excused:

Dept of OH Pres Pat Pell

Dept of MN Pres Jean Duane

Roll Call of Officers -- (NRS Charilyn Damigo)

Prayer -- (PNP Robin Barnes McCarthy)

Pledge of Allegiance -- (PNP Karen Stevens)

Business

Approval of Minutes

- MOTION: Recommendation that the Minutes from the 8/4/2012 meeting be accepted and posted to the website. Motion is seconded and passes on vote.
- There is still a question about the Auditor's statements as reported in the 3/10/12-3/12/12 minutes. Before it is changed the NEB would like further research and discussion at our next meeting.

Officer and Committee Reports

Financial Report

- Bank of America has been notified of our change of officers, and the signature cards are in process. New checks have been ordered.
- NEB & Finance Committee will receive all financial reports (ie., bank reconciliations, etc.) Monthly report of YTD Actuals vs. YTD Budget will be posted on the website.

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- All elected NEB officers & DPs have “review” privileges for Quickbooks online.

Finance Committee

- MOTION: The NFC brought a motion to the NEB to purchase D&O Insurance through AVI Risk Management and Insurance Brokers for an annual Premium of \$12,500. Motion is approved on vote.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION (5:32pm – 6:43pm) to discuss personnel matters

4th VP Position

- NP announced the appointment of Ginger Novak (KY8) to the position of 4th VP.

Committee Chairs

- The following committees/chairs have been appointed:
 - Finance Committee – Karen Stevens
 - Chaplain – Robin Barnes McCarthy
 - Patriotic Instructor – Jean Burlingame
 - Historian – Robin Countryman-Valk
 - Convention Chair – Tami Jenkins
 - Parliamentarian – Solveiga Unger
 - Website – Nancy & Dave Aubel, Kris Wirgau, Charilyn Damigo, Robin Barnes McCarthy
 - Oklahoma Investigation – Cyndi Ventura
 - Gwen Jensen (NV3)
 - Cheree Barrett (TX13)
 - Jeanne Ullmer (MN7)
 - Melissa Farmer (MI 184)
 - Arizona Investigation – Kathryn Venable
 - Rita Gibson (NM1)
 - Sandy Seitz (NY4)
- Compliance Committee, DC Rep, and other Committee Chairs to be announced pending discussion with each prospective person.

First VP (submitted via email, Judy Dorsey)

- Since 8/5 there have been 112 Dues Renewal Forms Submitted and 20 New Member Applications; working on getting the correct information on two more.
- Work with Janet Broussard, learning all the procedures for my office. I still have roster reports to go over and will be starting to work on getting a complete report on the number of members and associates in our data base as well as answering any questions that may come up.
- Many chapters will start holding elections and officers will be changing and the data base will be updated to reflect those changes.
- Orders for new membership cards with NP Pat Soler’s signature have also started coming in.

Second VP (Cyndi Ventura)

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- Cyndi has installed software package and has been getting acquainted with it

Third VP (submitted via email, Teresa Bullock)

- From August 1, 2012 – August 13, 2012 the Department of Defense announced 19 casualties.
- Since August 1, 2012, 24 banners have been ordered from Service Flags to honor the families of 15 fallen heroes.
- Teresa attended the 2nd annual Gold Star Families BBQ in Riverside, CA at the Fairmont Park on Saturday, August 11, 2012. This event was sponsored by the Gold Star Fathers organization with help and assistance by BSM Chapter of Blue Star Mothers H.O.M.E (Hearts Of Mothers Embraced).

Department of Michigan (submitted via email, Kris Wirgau)

- Events attended:
 - Heart of America Memorial unveiling, Macomb County, MI
 - National Convention, Cincinnati, OH, with 3 other DEB members
- Working with vendor (new owner) to get PDP pins – ongoing
- Working with Department Financial Secretary to ensure records are ready for review in September.
- Attended a conference call with Joining Forces – Michigan.
- Had a really great visit with her son (home from deployment!)
- Upcoming dates to remember
 - Oct 5 – 7 Department Convention – Clare, MI (Convention Call attached)

Department of Minnesota

- DP Jean Duane unable to attend National Convention due to family emergency which was explained to and excused by NP Robin Barnes McCarthy.
- Dept. of MN Convention call went out 8/13/2012 (attached)
- NP Pat Soler and NEB are invited to attend.

Department of Ohio (submitted via email, Pat Pell)

- All of OH board members attended the National Convention and commented that it went very well.
- Finalizing Dept. of Ohio Convention details for the rooms and flow of events. Convention call will be coming out in next 15 days; dates are November 2, 3 and 4, 2012 at the Quality Inn in Belleville, Ohio.
- Still working on Chapter 7 re-organization and hope to have this wrapped up by their next meeting on August 21, 2012; Pat plans to attend
- Emailed a mother in Cincinnati regarding her desire to start a chapter there, as there is none, and have not heard back as of today. Pat has offered to help her in any way that she can.
- Next Dept. of Ohio conference call scheduled for this Wed., August 15, 2012 at 7 pm; all chapter presidents have been invited to participate.
- Still need to resolve issue with conference calls starting November 2012 as the provider of this free service will be discontinued. Pat would like to suggest that perhaps the departments

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can partner with the NEB to continue conference calling. How this would work, I'm not sure, but perhaps we can include the Departments on a single contract that would give the organization a better rate than what I'm finding on the web, which is costly.

New Business

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION (7:16pm – 7:25pm)

Communications

- NP Pat Soler has asked all NEB officers to use their name & current office only in all official written correspondence
- Template for letterhead to be sent to NEB members for official use
- Business cards & membership cards to be ordered by Treas. Anne Parker; also more BSMA coins needed for NP Pat Soler's use.

Google for Non-Profits

- NRS Charilyn Damigo has begun investigating the possibility of using this service; approval takes approximately 30 days. If we are approved we do not have to use the service, but can make a decision at a later date.

WWII Veterans Memorial

- Invitation received by NP Pat Soler to attend this event over Labor Day weekend
- 1VP Judy Dorsey to attend on behalf of BSMA, Inc.
- MOTION: to authorize an amount not to exceed \$300 (mileage & hotel) from NP's travel budget to allow Judy Dorsey to accept the invitation. Motion is seconded and passes on vote.

PR Effort

- There has been a suggestion to ask Linda Jewell (prior member NM Rio Grande Chapter) to work on public relations/media contacts

SD Denim to Diamonds

- NP Pat Soler will be attending SDNC fundraiser Sept. 8, 9

Large Donation

- 1VP Judy Dorsey announced a \$10,000 golf contribution received by her chapter.

Announcements

Next meeting – 8/28/2012, 5:00pm (PDT)

Adjournment

The president adjourned the meeting with a moment of silence and closing prayer at 7:32pm (PDT)

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Founded in 1942 in Flint Michigan
Congressionally Chartered in 1960
Kristine Wirgau
Department of Michigan President
34699 Fuerstenau Rd.
Richmond, MI 48062

70th Annual Department of Michigan Convention Call

Greetings:

To the Officers and Members of the Department of Michigan Blue Star Mothers Of America, Inc., The Annual Department of Michigan Convention is hereby called to convene on October 5 – 7th 2012 at the Doherty Hotel, 604 North McEwan, Clare, MI 48617. 1-800-525-4115. Rooms are \$79.00 / \$85.00 / \$99.00 per night, you will need to contact the Hotel direct. Registration will begin at 5 p.m. on Friday evening.

Purpose:

In accordance with our Congressional Charter and Article VI of the By-laws the annual convention of the Blue Star Mothers Of America, Inc. will hold an annual convention for the purposes of electing new officers, acting on proposals, resolutions and motions. To conduct business as may be brought before the convention body and to plan the coming year. Chapters will give reports and share ideas with other chapters for the benefit of all.

Representatives/Delegates:

In accordance with Article VII, Section 4 of the ByLaws, each Member of the DEB shall be a Delegate. Each Chapter President shall also be a Delegate at the Department Convention (and are not counted as Chapter delegates). In accordance with Article VII, Section 7 of the ByLaws: Each Chapter is entitled to one (1) Delegate for every ten (10) Members in good standing or fraction thereof. ("Members in good standing" are members who have not received any written discipline within the last twelve months--see ByLaws, Article III, Section 1). All Delegates must be Members in good standing.

Shining Star

We ask Chapters to nominate a Mother from their chapter who has gone over and beyond serving our mission. Nominations must be received via email to Kristine Wirgau- kljwbsma@gmail.com by September 15th, 2012.

Registration:

Registration will be \$55.00 per person. All payments for registration is to be paid by check, made payable to BSMA Dept MI. and mailed to Department Financial Secretary, Sandy Guy, 2327 Sheffield Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49008.

Vender Table:

Any Chapter wishing to sell Chapter items for the purpose of fund-raising will need to send a list of items to be sold, for approval by the Department President. A request will need to be sent to Kristine Wirgau, 34699 Fuerstenau Rd., Richmond, MI 48062 or via email at kljwbsma@gmail.com and must be received by September 15, 2012. You will be notified of approval the following week. If Chapter items are approved you will need to send a Chapter check made out to "BSMA Dept MI" and mailed to Department Financial Secretary, Sandy Guy, 2327 Sheffield Drive, Kalamazoo, MI 49008, in the amount of \$25.00 for your table by September 30, 2012. There will be no profit given to Department for any sales excluding the Department/Chapter shirts. Also 25% of your profit will be given to National should anything be sold with the BSMA, Inc. logo on it.

This is the Tentative Schedule for Convention – Please remember that this could change.

Friday:

DEB meeting at 3:30 p.m. for all Department Elected Board, Chapter Presidents and Past Department Presidents.

Registration – begins at 5:00

Big Dipper Fun Night. The Theme of Big Dipper Fun Night is "A Night with the Stars". We ask that every

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chapter bring some type of basket or item for the silent auction that will help with the funding for these Educational Assistance Awards. The awards will be announced at the close of Convention. Details on this event will be sent via email from Big Dipper Board.

Saturday:

Convention will Open at 10:00 a.m.

1). Committee Reports, 2.) Chapter reports 3) Department Expenses 4) Financial Software
Memorial Service at 11:30 a.m.

Luncheon will be at 12:30 with guest speaker

Convention will Re-Convene from 2 - 5:30 p.m.- Election Rules will be read and Nominations for New Department Officers will occur.

BSMA Banquet will be from 6:30-8, it is dressy attire, with guest speakers.

Sunday:

Convention will re-convene at 10:00 a.m., Election for Department officers will begin.

After the Election and the Installation of the newly elected officers, Convention will close and Newly Elected Officers will meet for Post Convention DEB meeting.

Dress Code: The dress code for the Opening Ceremony and the Memorial Service (Saturday) and for the Elections and Installation of Officers (Sunday) is your Blue Star Mother uniform: white blouse, dark blue slacks or skirt, blue or black shoes dark blue jacket (optional), BSM hat and white gloves for Memorial Service (optional). The rest of the time – Patriotic Casual.

Kristine Wirgau, President
Department Of Michigan

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DEPARTMENT OF MINNESOTA

Jean Duane
President
PO Box 113
Olivia, MN 56277

ANNUAL CONVENTION CALL

GREETINGS:

To the Officers and Members of the Department of Minnesota Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., the Annual Department Convention is hereby called to convene on 12 October – 14 October, 2012 at McQuoids Inn, 1325 Highway 47 North, Isle, MN 56342. Lodging is at the Inn (1-800-862-3535).

PURPOSE:

In accordance with Article VII, Section 2 of the By Laws of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., the Department will hold an Annual Convention for the purposes of electing new officers, acting on proposals, resolutions, and motions, to conduct business as may be brought before the body and to plan the coming year.

REPRESENTATIVES:

In accordance with Article VII, Section 4 of the ByLaws, With the exception of the DP, each Member of the DEB shall be a Delegate at the respective Convention (see ByLaws, Article III, Section 1 for exceptions). Each Chapter President shall also be a Delegate at the National Convention.

In accordance with Article VII, Section 7 of the ByLaws: Each Chapter is entitled to one (1) Delegate for every ten (10) Members in good standing or fraction thereof . ("Members in good standing" are members who have not received any written discipline within the last twelve months--see ByLaws, Article III, Section 1). All Delegates must be Members in good standing. All Chapter Presidents are entitled to vote at the Department Convention and are NOT counted in Chapter delegates.

2012 Department Convention Tentative Agenda

THEME: “Keeping the Home Fires Burning, Keeping BSM Strong”
(Subject to Last-Minute Changes)

Friday October 12, 2012

3 PM Chapter Presidents Meeting with the Department President

4 PM Department Board Meeting – all welcome

Registration: 6pm – 7 pm

7 pm-9pm Meet & Greet Event including the Presidents Reception – Activities planned by convention chairs

Saturday, October 13, 2012

Breakfast on your own (full kitchens in your lodges)

Registration open from 8:30-9 AM

9 AM Opening of Convention –

Uniform: Department Officers dress uniforms of BSM garrison hat, blue slacks or skirt, white blouses & blue jacket.

Members dress uniform of BSM garrison hat, white blouse, dark blue slacks or skirt. (Hat is optional as not everyone owns one.) (Can change to patriotic casual dress during lunch break)

Convention/Meeting Protocol

Officers Reports

Chapter Reports

Noon Lunch: Pot-luck Salad Luncheon, Chapters see attachment

Convention Reconvenes

Old Business

New Business

Break

Hands on Break out – Quilt Squares/Fleece Blankets

4 PM - Election of Officers

Recess Meeting

Prepare for banquet – formal dress; feel free to wear formals or dressy church style clothes

6:30 Candle light Memorial Service/ (weather permitting outside down near lake - dock area.) If we run out of time due to elections we will do a sunrise Memorial Service at 7:45 Sunday morning

7:00 Banquet

Sunday, October 14th

8:15 AM “Keeping the home fires burning program” Prayer service; non-denominational (optional)

9AM Convention Reconvenes in Meeting Hall

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Uniform:

Department Officers dress uniforms of BSM garrison hat, blue slacks or skirt, white blouses & blue jacket.

Members dress uniform of BSM garrison hat, white blouse, dark blue slacks or skirt. (Hat is optional as not everyone owns one.)

Installation of Officers

Close of Convention 10:00 AM

The 2012-2013 Department Officers Board meeting along with the 2011-2012 Department Officers to be held immediately following close of convention. To be closed by noon

Convention Information –

THEME: “Keeping the Home Fires Burning, Keeping BSM Strong”

“Convention Chatter” from our convention chairs Angie Flowers and Tish Carlson will be assisting with communications as we go forward. We will send out an email on the convention chatter here early September with details of chapter tables/fundraiser tables, silent auctions and many more items. Watch your emails!

Noon Salad Lunch

Each chapter is asked to bring two salads per every 10 members in attendance plus one platter of breads/crackers or buns. Beverages provided

Banquet Menu

Roast beef & baked chicken breast wild rice pallet

Baby red potatoes

Green beans

Italian pasta, coleslaw & fresh fruit salad

Rolls/butter

Brownie

Coffee & water

If special requirements are needed for your meals please state on your registration form.