

**Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.**  
**National Executive Board**  
**Minutes**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**Meeting Date: 11/19/2012**

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**Call to Order:**

The 11/19/2012 regular board meeting of the BSMA was held by electronic means (Go to Meeting) telephone and computer. The meeting convened at 5:34pm (PST), President Pat Soler presiding and Charilyn Damigo, Recording Secretary. A quorum was present.

**Attendees:**

**Members in attendance:**

President Pat Soler	Dept of OH Pres Kris Dervin
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice President Judy Dorsey	Dept of MI Pres Kristine Wirgau
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice President Cyndi Ventura	Dept of MN Mary Johnson
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice President Teresa Bullock	PNP Robin Barnes McCarthy
4 <sup>th</sup> Vice President Ginger Novak	PNP Karen Stevens
Recording Secretary Charilyn Damigo	
Treasurer Anne Parker	

**Also Present:** Dave & Nancy Aubel

**Absent:** none

**Excused:** Financial Secretary Kathryn Venable

Roll Call of Officers -- (Recording Secretary)

Pledge of Allegiance -- (PNP Robin Barnes McCarthy)

**Business**

**Approval of Minutes**

- MOTION: Recommendation that the Minutes from the 10/23/2012 meeting be accepted with proposed changes and posted to the website. Motion is seconded and passes on vote.

**Officer and Committee Reports**

**Website Committee Recommendation**

- Background of the need for an updated website presented
- Website Committee received several responses to the Request for Proposal (RFP) and has narrowed the recommended companies down to two (Next Wave & Ripple Effects Interactive), with consideration also for staying with MemberClicks & requesting an update to the current site.
  - Committee feels we need a strong working relationship, not demonstrated in past year by MemberClicks
  - Brief overview of the pros & cons of each company presented to NEB.
  - Website needs to start with National needs & work down to meeting chapter needs.
  - New provider will offer training for admins and web team will help train chapters.

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- NP Pat Soler should have the final sign-off authority after verifying that the web team is very sure that all issues have been addressed (user acceptance testing, bug fixes, penalties for missing deadlines) and review of contract by an attorney.
- Main concern of NEB members is the security of our email system and the inability to track emails sent.
  - Web team notes that the current issues are with the permissions that were in place, not the vendor. All NEB members can currently enter the database and see all passwords.
  - The new contract will allow the web team to have more control
- Committee Recommendation is to contract with Ripple Effects Interactive.
- MOTION: Trust the committee's recommendation to use Ripple Effects Interactive as our website provider if they can guarantee the security of the email provider. Motion is seconded and passes on voice vote. (11 Aye/0 Nay)

#### President's Travel Report – (NP Pat Soler)

- Veterans Day
  - Met with 3 Congressional aides for Senator Murry, Sen. Burr, and another Senator who are all members of the Armed Forces Committee or Veterans Affairs Committee
  - VA is rolling out new procedures with online processing.
  - Attended the reception for the Commandant of the Marine Corps with PNP Robin Barnes McCarthy, followed by dinner. They were seated with close personal friends of Gen. Amos.
  - Sunday morning – attended the buffet breakfast at the White House, excused to anteroom and were given 2-3 minutes with President & Mrs. Obama and Vice President & Mrs. Biden and allowed to wander through the rooms of the White House.
  - On the way to Arlington Ceremony – NP Pat Soler was able to speak with a Chaplain who was a POW at Hanoi Hilton for 100 days, who in turn made contact with Charlie Plumb – hopeful to have him as the main speaker at the Convention. (Will need donations toward the speaking fees)
  - CAUSE – Attended gala dinner, whose honorary chairs are Gen. & Mrs. Colin Powell & wife, Gen. & Mrs. Shinseki, Robert Woodward.
  - BSMA received many accolades everywhere they went.
  - Womens Auxiliary for American Legion representatives were unable to attend; as a result Robin Countryman-Valk was able to lay a wreath at the Tomb of the Unknowns on their behalf.
- Department of Ohio Convention
  - Kris Dervin was elected as DP for Department of Ohio unanimously.
  - NP Pat is very glad she was able to attend all 3 Conventions.

#### Financial Report

- No Report from the Financial Secretary due to significant family crisis issues. All NEB members have access to Quickbooks & NP Pat encourages us to look at the reports on a regular basis.
- Finance Committee (Karen Stevens)

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- Several items ongoing, not ready to give a report.
- NP Pat Soler received invitation to White House on Dec. 14 for a holiday reception for our military supporters. This is a non-budgeted item as it was an event we were unaware of previously. (One night stay). MOTION – approve round trip and one night hotel. Motion is seconded and passes on vote.
- FC has instructed Kathryn Venable to devote her energies toward her family needs, NEB can reassure chapters that are waiting on checks that they will be forthcoming as soon as possible.
- Working with CPA – very close to having all items addressed.
- Treasurer (Anne Parker)
  - I have been busy working with the accountant's office on our annual audit to locate all receipts and invoices. We are currently down to three items that have not been located.
  - I have worked on Quick Books this month to insert into the program all departments and chapters' addresses so that chapter reimbursements so when they are done next time the checks can be printed directly from Quick Books and window envelopes can be used. I have printed several checks so far for expenditures - what a timesaver. Also, we will be using label sheets and placing on the remittance part of these three part checks a list members for whom the chapters a. The third part of the check will be attached to the invoice, receipt, documentation, etc.
  - I have also provided to our National President a spreadsheet which she has furnished to the Philadelphia Insurance of our legal costs incurred to date. Additionally, I have worked with the NP and the NFS on the Combined Federal Campaign submission.

First VP (Judy Dorsey)

- New Membership and Dues Renewal for the past two months have remained high. For Oct. new members applications numbered 53 and so far this month 59 new members have been added. 87 members have paid on line.
- Roster Dues Report sent in by membership are at 124. New officers rosters continue to come in along with Membership card requests.
- On Nov. 4TH I had the honor of installing TN3 Music City Blue Star Moms, Reba Baltz, President and her 2012-2012 Chapter Board.
- Have sent questions for chartering new chapters to Ginger Novak and compliance questions to Ross Ann Elliott.
- I would also like to welcome Kris Dervin, OH2, to the NEB. Kris was elected Dept of Ohio President at our Dept. Convention Nov. 4th and installed by NP Pat Soler.

Second VP (Cyndi Ventura)

- Newsletter should be complete by Friday November 23, 2012. This is the largest one yet- Much response from many chapters!
- Investigation into the Dept. of OK progressing. I had NO power here in NY for 10 days and no internet access for over 2 weeks, due to Hurricane Sandy. I will be getting in touch with the investigation committee again after Thanksgiving. Planning another meeting, reports on Chapter presidents coming in. Next step is DEB, will be getting results from that part and will

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compile a full report. Optimistic that all reports should be completed and handed in to the NEB by December's NEB meeting for their final determination.

Third VP (Teresa Bullock)

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Fourth VP (Ginger Novak)

- Ginger & Compliance Chair Rose Ann Elliott have been sending regular updates to the NEB regarding chapter compliance.

Department of Michigan (DP Kris Wirgau)

- Department Convention report not yet completed due to health issues.
- Attended 2 Veteran's Day events - Great Lakes National Cemetery and Shelby Twp., MI. and visited one chapter. Worked with the Finance Committee and the Website Committee throughout.
- Pleased to report that chapter MI 1 - Jack Pitcher (Flint, MI) will continue for another year!

Department of Minnesota (DP Mary Johnson)

- The 1st VP, Jen Pecarina attended a Veteran's Day event at the St. Cloud VA Hospital.
- MN Chapter 14 has voted to disband. The chapter had shrunk and no one was willing to serve on the board as the President or the Financial Secretary.
- Drove (180 miles round trip) to work with Chapter 16 in Pine City. The issues were a bit more than expected. Hoping that the board will move forward and work well together.
- A DEB meeting is scheduled for 12/2/12.

Department of Ohio

- Kris Dervin was elected as the new Department president.

**Yearbook** (PNP Robin Barnes McCarthy)

- Yearbook has been uploaded and will be shipped by Dec. 14 to Kathryn Venable (hopefully sooner)
- 200 copies have been ordered – price is \$25 per yearbook, +shipping
- Year-in-Review pictures were uploaded from all chapters who submitted photos on a calendar page.
- NP Pat would like to send a copy to any of the legislative offices she has visited.

**Department of Arizona Investigation**

- NP Pat spoke with Kathryn Venable – The investigation is progressing slowly due to lack of cooperation, but she will continue with her requests.

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**CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION (7:04pm PST)** to discuss the Department of Oklahoma investigation. The Chair of the Committee has been directed to send certified letters to two of the individuals involved in the investigation.

**CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION (7:16pm PST)** to discuss a chapter dispute. This matter will be referred to Judy Kwarta & the Discipline Committee.

**CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION (7:31pm PST)** to discuss a discipline matter regarding a member.

**DNO Insurance**

- Philadelphia Mutual is still working on our case – we will be receiving a check as reimbursement for at least a portion of our attorney fees. We will potentially know more tomorrow.

**New Business**

- NJ3 has been cleared by IRS, and has been reinstated by National. They have been instructed to come up-to-date with all compliance documents.
- Request from NP Pat to NEB members - please reserve President's Day Weekend (2/16- 2/18) for a potential mid-year NEB meeting. (Potential website instruction/Training). Need to look at budget concerns before making a decision.

**Announcements**

MOTION: NEB will take an end-of-year break from Dec. 23 – Jan. 2. Motion is seconded and passes on vote.

Next meeting – January 14, 2012 4:00pm (PST)

**Adjournment**

The president adjourned the meeting at 8:39pm (PST) following a closing prayer by PNP Robin Barnes McCarthy in her role as Chaplain.