

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.
National Executive Board
Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
Meeting Date: 5/20/2013

Call to Order:

The 5/20/2013 regular board meeting of the BSMA was held by electronic means (Go to Meeting) telephone and computer. The meeting convened at 5:35pm PDT, 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 st Vice President Judy Dorsey	Dept of MI Pres Kristine Wirgau
2 nd Vice President Cyndi Ventura	Dept of MN Mary Johnson
3 rd Vice President Teresa Bullock	PNP Robin Barnes McCarthy
4 th Vice President Ginger Novak	PNP Karen Stevens
Recording Secretary Charilyn Damigo	
Financial Secretary Kathryn Venable	
Treasurer Anne Parker	

Absent: none

Excused: none

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

Business

Approval of Minutes

- MOTION: Recommendation that the Minutes from the 4/29/13 meeting be accepted and posted to the website. Motion is seconded and passes on vote.

Officer and Committee Reports

Financial Report

- Bank Statement, Reconciliation, and Checks Written documents were sent out late this afternoon. Financial documents will be reviewed for posting next month.
- NFC (Karen Stevens) – Notice of non-renewal of insurance policy was received today
 - Ability to offer renewal terms depends upon review of relevant information
 - Insurance Agent is on top of it – will be providing all information requested
 - MOTION from Finance Committee to accept Draft Budget for 2013/14 as presented for the NEB's approval to be included with the Convention Call. Motion passes on vote.
 - MOTION from Finance Committee to accept Financial Policies for 2013/14 as amended, for inclusion with the Convention Call. Motion passes on vote. MOTION: This should not be included in the Convention Call. Motion is seconded and passes on vote.

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- NT (Anne Parker, via email)
 - I have attended the Finance Committee meeting and worked on the budget and financial policies to be presented to the NEB.
 - I have attended a meeting of the Compliance Committee and participated in decisions regarding chapters' standing. I issued checks for membership dues reimbursement to chapters who had come into compliance.
 - I have begun writing checks to the VA facilities where BSMA does not have a REP or a DEP and will complete this by early next week, at which time I will begin to write the third quarter chapter reimbursements for chapters and departments with the goal of finishing these by the end of May.
 - I have worked with First VP Judy in establishing a plan for certifying delegates for convention.

Convention

- Convention Rules have been prepared and have been reviewed by the NEB. MOTION: to accept the Convention Rules as amended. Motion is seconded and passes on vote.
- Election Rules have been prepared and have been reviewed by the NEB. MOTION: to accept the Convention Rules as amended. Motion is seconded and passes on vote.
- Draft Convention Call has also been prepared and is ready to go out.
- MOTION: For our National Convention, any chapter that is suspended for any reason, to include IRS non-compliance, may not be allowed any delegates for voting purposes. Motion is seconded and passes on vote.
- Members who still need to make airline reservations need to do so ASAP to help keep costs down.

Bylaws Committee

- There have been 6 sets of submissions received. These will be prepared and ready for NEB review by next month's meeting.

First VP (Judy Dorsey, via email)

- Continues to work with new member applications, membership cards, Roster Dues Reports, and Officers Rosters.
- Working to cleaning up the data base from rosters sent to all chapters. Have been getting daily emails with members and associates that need to come off. As of right now, there have been over 100 members/associates that have been deleted. When a member's name is sent it and the date is good, I contact the chapter to find out why. Some have moved and others have passed. I don't delete members that have moved because they still can join a new chapter, and it is better to move them from chapter to chapter than having to create a new profile.
- I have talked with NT Anne on getting forms, etc. ready for convention delegates.

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Second VP (Cyndi Ventura, via email)

- Yearbook is progressing-Making templates off line and will begin downloading to Entourage
- After Memorial Day I will be able to dedicate all my time to the yearbook; I'm officially retiring from my business for the summer. I will need to work with Teresa on Fallen Hero Pages over next few weeks.
- Have received 3 articles for this month's Newsletter. It should be completed by Thursday and then I will send it off to Pat for approval.

Third VP (Teresa Bullock, via email)

- April Report:
 - March 1, 2013 – March 31, 2013 The Department of Defense announced 14 casualties. There are a total of 118 casualties since August 1, 2012.
 - Since March 1, 2013, 35 banners have been ordered from Service Flags to honor the families of 19 fallen heroes, bringing the total to 269 banners ordered and 168 families honored since August 1, 2012.
- May Report:
 - April 1, 2013 – April 30, 2013 The Department of Defense announced 14 casualties. There are a total of 132 casualties since August 1, 2012.
 - Since April 1, 2013, 28 banners have been ordered from Service Flags to honor the families of 22 fallen heroes, bringing the total to 287 banners ordered and 183 families honored since August 1, 2012.
 - I am working on the Blue-to-Gold Guidelines as well as the Blue-to-Gold Protocol presentation for the National Convention.

Fourth VP (Ginger Novak, via email)

- Chapters requesting information on chartering:
 - GA, north of Columbus
 - OH, Chillicothe
- The Compliance sub-committee (Rose Ann Elliott, Judy Dorsey, and Ginger Novak) turned in their proposed bylaws changes to Pat Pell before the deadline of May 15.
- Helen Franz has begun working with chapters who have had their IRS revoked by the IRS. Only 2 of the 14 chapters given the information about Helen working with them have responded.
- I attended and spoke at "Salute to American Veterans" which took place in Sharonville, OH on Sunday, May 19. The group hopes to make this event annual. Between 40-50 people attended. A wreath was presented to Blue Star Mothers, and my chapter and I placed it on the grave of Army Veteran James L. Brockman, whose widow, Angela, is a member of the Mason-Dixon Blue Star Mothers (KY8). Angie is a 3-star mother, with one son still in active duty service as a USAF Senior. Master Sgt., currently stationed in the United Arab Emirates.

Department of Michigan (Kris Wirgau, via email)

- Continued to work on compliance with chapters.
- Chapter visits

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- MI 179 – Cost of Freedom event
- MI 177 – meeting with officers
- Meetings attended
 - NEB 4/29
 - NFC 5/13
 - Website Committee 5/7
 - Big Dipper 5/5
- Memorial Day events planned
 - Great Lakes Cemetery
 - St Clair Shores parade
 - Heart of America Memorial
- Upcoming dates to remember
 - Jun 22 FunD Day
 - Sep 27 – 29 Department Convention

Department of Minnesota (Mary Johnson, via email)

- The Department of Minnesota has had an uneventful month. On Saturday, May 18th, Karla Keller set up a Blue Star Mother table at the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon annual military Mother's luncheon.
- The Department was asked to have a table at Best Buy's Memorial Week military appreciation week. Two members will represent the department.
- I have reserved a spot at the Military Appreciation Day at the Minnesota State Fair in August.

Department of Ohio (Kris Dervin, via email)

- We held a conference call Tuesday, May 14th for all Department officers and Ohio Chapter Presidents. We discussed our North South Conference and asked for some feedback. All comments were very positive. We also discussed ideas or requests for the Ohio Convention and we will start to plan the convention in June.

New Business

- Update on “Tilted Kilts” restaurant fundraiser/raffle with proceeds to go to National. This could be a large donation. Promotion will start July 4.
- Proposed new items for store: BSMA license plate. Store to purchase an initial order of 250 at a reduced cost due to the bulk purchase. Also proposed BSMA magnets. MOTION: These items will be allowed to be purchased as fundraisers for Convention expenses and will be donated to the national store at the close of Convention. Motion is seconded and passes on vote. MOTION: Sell license plates for \$10 each and magnets for \$5 each. Motion is seconded and passes on vote.
- Department Convention Dates
 - MI – September 27-29
 - MN – October 5
 - OH – November 2,3

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- Grievance Committee – a grievance item had previously been submitted for NEB consideration, but has since been withdrawn. No action needed at this time.
- AZ2 – The previous disbandment of this chapter has been rescinded. There is a new chapter president who wishes to work with NP Pat, perhaps requesting a visit later in the summer, to ensure that their chapter is back on track.
- Big Dipper – has a financial issue since they do not currently have enough money to pay for the Fun Night event. There is also some concern about the financial documentation submitted to the NEB.

Announcements

- NFS Kathryn Venable will be out of reach May 24 – June 1 on vacation. She is also moving to Pocatello, ID on June 26 or 27. Our P.O. Box will be changing and will be announced mid-June.
- Next meeting – 6/11/2013, 5:30pm (PDT)

Adjournment

The president adjourned the meeting at 9:28pm (PDT)