

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.
National Executive Board
Minutes
Regular Board Meeting
Meeting Date: July 9, 2013

Call to Order:

The July 9, 2013 regular board meeting of the BSMA was held by electronic means (Go to Meeting) telephone and computer. The meeting convened at 5:42pm (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

3rd Vice President Teresa Bullock

4th Vice President Ginger Novak

Recording Secretary Charilyn Damigo

Financial Secretary Kathryn Venable

Treasurer Anne Parker

Dept of MI Pres Kristine Wirgau

Dept of MN Mary Johnson

PNP Robin Barnes McCarthy

PNP Karen Stevens

Absent: none

Excused:

Dept of OH Pres Kris Dervin

2nd Vice President Cyndi Ventura

Roll Call of Officers -- (NRS Charilyn Damigo)

Pledge of Allegiance -- (PNP Karen Stevens)

Business

Approval of Minutes

MOTION: Recommendation that the Minutes from the 6/11/2013 meeting be accepted and posted to the website. Motion is seconded and passes on vote.

CLOSED EXECUTIVE SESSION: (5:47pm – 6:06pm) The Board entered closed executive session for updates on executive board personnel and on the recent lawsuit filed by Wendy Hoffman against PNP Robin McCarthy.

- The following statement is to be our response to any inquiries: "The litigation between the Parties has been amicably resolved. Blue Star Mothers of America has published a statement on its website regarding the resolution of the case. The terms of the settlement are confidential, and I (we) have agreed not to discuss the settlement."

Officer and Committee Reports

Convention Update (NP Pat Soler)

- Pre-Convention Board Meeting will be held at 2:00pm Tuesday afternoon.

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- Agenda is almost settled – PNP Karen will be choreographing the opening ceremony.
- Memorial Service – PNP Robin and 3VP Teresa will be coordinating the program.
- Paper form will be available for any member who would like to attend the meals only. All other registrations should be online.

Bylaws Committee (NP Pat Soler)

- One of the proposed changes is regarding the compliance dates. NP Pat noted that the new website may not be ready in time to accommodate this change if it passes. This will need to be mentioned at Convention.

Website Committee (NP Pat Soler)

- Web committee members reviewed existing website information and re-wrote some sections. This was sent to REI on June 24. However, membership database access was not available to them until the first week of July due to Dave Aubel's schedule. This has affected the completion dates slightly. We should receive REI's work by the end of July and then we will have one month to do our beta testing. Current estimate to go live is mid-September and training is scheduled after that.
- We have received a 10% retainer fee from REI pending our approval of their work.

Financial Report (NFC Karen Stevens)

- MOTION: Recommendation from Committee that the Financial Reports from May 2013 be accepted and posted to the website. Motion passes on vote.
- The following financial reports were submitted by NFS Kathryn Venable for review by the NEB:
 - Budget vs. Actuals (6/30/2013)
 - Capital Budget (6/30/2013)
 - P & L Summary (6/30/2013)
 - Checks (6/30/2013)
 - Deposits ((6/30/2013)
 - Bank Statement (6/30/2013)
 - Bank Reconciliation (6/30/2013)
- MOTION: Recommendation from Committee that the Financial Reports from June 2013 be accepted and posted to the website. Motion passes on vote.
- Final Proposed Budget for Convention has previously been approved by the NEB. Finance Committee would also like to include the July financials for comparison.
- Insurance carrier has assured NFC Karen Stevens that there is no problem in our policy being renewed. However, the agent is on maternity leave and Karen is still waiting for confirmation from the company.

Treasurer (Anne Parker, via email)

- Anne has answered numerous emails and corrected chapter and VAVS addresses as they came up. She is trying to work on the Treasurer's job description (as requested by NP Pat Soler) but her work schedule has gotten in the way considerably.

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- She has worked with Judy to establish chapter delegate allocations to ensure a smooth registration at Convention.
- Quickbooks has made it easier to keep track of money that has been unclaimed by chapters for a variety of reasons – there is approx. \$11,000 that needs to be readjusted on the Balance Sheet. With NEB's approval, Anne will work with CPA to get this straightened out. MOTION: NT Anne Parker will work with our CPA in making adjustments to the balance sheet items. Motion is seconded and passes on vote.

First VP (Judy Dorsey, via email)

- New membership applications for 2014 are starting to come in along with Dues Reports and Roster Dues Reports. Judy has sent emails to new members that do not put a chapter down. New Officer Rosters will also start coming in after convention.
- Judy is out of membership cards and new ones will be ordered after convention. She has one partial order left to fill on the current request.
- She has sent Ginger a couple of requests asking about starting new chapters.
- Convention Delegate forms are also coming in. To date there are 14 Delegate Forms and 55 Registrations. The next few weeks are going to be very busy with both coming in. At Convention she will have a copy of all delegate forms received.
- A few chapters are sending in rosters that still need to be cleaned up before the new site is up and running.

Second VP (Cyndi Ventura)

- Yearbook has gone to the publisher and will be available at Convention.
- NRS Charilyn Damigo has offered to help with the newsletter if needed.

Third VP (Teresa Bullock, via email)

- June 1, 2013 – June 30, 2013 The Department of Defense announced 18 casualties. There are a total of 169 casualties since August 1, 2012.
- Since June 1, 2013 there have been 27 banners ordered from Service Flags to honor the families of 21 fallen heroes, bringing the total to 363 banners ordered and 235 families honored since August 1, 2012.

Fourth VP (Ginger Novak, via email)

- Ginger has answered inquiries concerning chartering Chapters in these locations:
 - CA, Modesto
 - AR, England (south of Little Rock)
 - OH, Fairborn
 - IL, Greenville
 - NY, Seneca Co.
 - OR, Willamette Valley
 - AZ, Pinal Co. (Maricopa)
 - MI, Mecosta

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- NV, Spanish Springs
- Update on 1023 chapters:
 - A great deal of progress has been made by several chapters; Congressional assistance has been suggested for all those chapters who have filed their 1023 form, as this appears to be helpful in speeding up the reinstatement process from the IRS.
 - Sincere thanks to Helen Franz, of chapter TX 6, for her expert assistance. She is preparing a PowerPoint presentation which I will present at Convention 2013, detailing the importance and direction for filing financial reports. We will also make it available to the members who are not able to attend Convention.

Department of Michigan (Kris Wirgau, via email)

- Event: FunD Day (June 22) 6 Chapters were represented and Fun was had by all, \$368.00 was raised.
- Meetings attended: NEB 6/11/13
- Upcoming dates to remember: Sep 27 – 29 Department Convention

Department of Minnesota (Mary Johnson, via email)

- The Department of Minnesota has had a quiet month.
- The spring meeting minutes were sent out to all members. This caused two concerns. The MN DEB will discuss a past DEB member's emailed concerns tomorrow night. Mary also received an email from a member who stated that she has not received any support for two years. Mary will be checking which chapter she joined so she can do some follow-up.
- Mary has been in contact with the group setting up Military Appreciation Day at the Minnesota State Fair regarding a table for the Blue Star Mothers.

Department of Ohio

- Ohio DEB will be meeting to name their 1st VP as acting president in the place of Kris Dervin due to her illness. As the interim president she will be able to attend NEB meetings and give a department report, but she will not have a vote on the NEB unless she is voted into office.

New Business

- Big Dipper –NP Pat spoke with BD President Paulette this morning. Some of the issues that were concerning to the NEB were addressed positively. It was suggested that the NP become an ex officio member of the BD Board and attend all of their meetings via telephone.

Announcements

- NFS Kathryn Venable is now settled in Idaho. She will be driving to Convention and bringing the store items (Finance Committee approved).

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- Magnets and License Plates are now available on the website and will be announced on our Facebook page.
- Next meeting – **pre-Convention NEB meeting Tuesday August 13, 2:00pm (PDT)**

Adjournment

The president adjourned the meeting at 7:18pm (PDT)