



BLUE STAR MOTHERS
of AMERICA, INC.
HOUSTON AREA CHAPTER

Blue Star Moms Houston Area Chapter
General Membership Meeting
February 28, 2017

The February meeting of the Blue Star Moms Houston Area Chapter was held at the American Legion Hall in Humble, Texas. Theresa Rodriguez opened the meeting at 7:05PM, welcoming all in attendance.

The invocation was given by Gina Wilson.
The pledge of allegiance was said by all in attendance.
No visitors or new members were in attendance.

Vickie Schultz explained the Combat Wreath; she is updating the wreath and will have it at the next meeting. Brett Payne will be added.

Guest speaker, Kenny Thomas was introduced by Theresa Rodriguez. Kenny, a veteran and now a staff member at Camp Hope, spoke about his struggle with PTSD and how Camp Hope saved him. He briefly explained the program at Camp Hope which currently has 69 residents.

Vickie Schultz explained that BSM will be making Easter baskets filled with candy, coffee, creamer, sugar, etc. which will be delivered to Camp Hope the weekend before Easter. All members were encouraged to attend.

Reports:

- 1st VP – Theresa Rodriguez – nothing to report
- 2nd VP - Vickie Schultz asked members to bring candy, coffee, creamer, sugar, eggs, etc. to the March meeting. The Easter baskets for Camp Hope will be assembled at the March meeting.
- 3rd VP – Joyce Hess announced that over 200 boxes were packed in February and that several volunteers from AHS JROTC and local 4H clubs attended.
- Financial Secretary – Gina Wilson stated there are currently 63 members (11 new members).
- Secretary – Sheila Gonzales stated that general meeting minutes for the November and January meetings were handed out at the meeting for review. **MOTION:** Accepted as written. Seconded. Passed on vote.
- Treasurer – Joyce Hess presented report as of 1/31/17. **MOTION:** Accepted as presented. Seconded. Passed on vote.

Karen McSpadden announced that former member, Nancy Johnson, passed away and that BSM will send flowers or a meal once funeral details are finalized. Karen also announced that Athena has opened a store in Atascocita (1960 and Pinehurst Trail) and will be an official drop off location for BSM donations.

Theresa Rodriguez announced that BSM is looking into attending the JJ Watt Charity Classic Softball Game on May 13, 2017 as a group. Tickets are \$50 each if at least 50 attend. An email will be sent to determine interest.

Gina Wilson announced that there will be a Boots for Troops Concert on March 24, 2017 with two Marine veteran bands at Game On Sports Bar in Conroe and they are also holding a Casino Night Gala – Bets for Vets on May 20, 2017 and are looking for corporate sponsors.

Mary Ellen Forgay announced that the chapter Blue to Gold Liaison was able to present a bear from the Good Bears of the World organization to a child of a fallen hero and an article was published in the February BSM National Newsletter.

Military Count – Navy -6 Army – 7 Air Force – 5 Marines – 6 Coast Guard – 0
Care and Share

Meeting adjourned at 7:43pm

Next meeting is on March 28, 2017.

Minutes submitted by: Sheila Gonzales



BLUE STAR MOTHERS
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Blue Star Moms Houston Area Chapter
General Membership Meeting
March 28, 2017

The March meeting of the Blue Star Moms Houston Area Chapter was held at the American Legion Hall in Humble, Texas. Dianne Rives opened the meeting at 7:01 PM, welcoming all in attendance.

The invocation was given by Mamie White.
The pledge of allegiance was said by all in attendance.

Dianne Rives stated that due to National BSM website problems the roster did not transfer properly. Gina Wilson and Joyce Hess are working with National and the problem will be corrected soon.

Gina Wilson welcomed two new members.

Dianne Rives announced that Prince of Peace Catholic Church has selected BSM as one of the recipients of their Lenten collection. Members are needed to sort and gather the donations on April 4, 2017 at 6 pm at the church.

Dianne Rives opened a gift from Frank Zastoupil. An American flag was flown on 12/15/16 in support of Operation Inherent Resolve on USMC AV-8 B Harrier from Marine Attack Squadron 231 in honor of BSM. The flag and certificate will be framed and displayed.

Vickie Schultz explained the Combat Wreath; Derrick Camino (Navy) and Amber Johnson (Army) were added to the wreath.

Donna Moore announced that Fort Bend County will be holding their "Our Community Salutes" on May 21, 2017 from 4-7 pm at Safari Ranch in Richmond, Texas. The event honors local high school seniors (new recruits) who have chosen to serve in the military upon graduation. BSM has been invited to attend.

Rachel Morales announced that the Kingwood Fallen Heroes Golf Tournament will be held on April 29, 2017. Rachel Medford with Constellation will be decorating for the tournament and she has invited BSM to speak at their office downtown on Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at 2 pm. Anyone interested in attending should contact Rachel. The tournament Kick Off Party will be held on Friday, April 28, 2017 at Bill's Café at 6 pm and BSM is invited. BSM will be collecting wine for a silent auction item. Sign-up sheets were passed around. Volunteers are needed starting at 10 am to put flags on carts and set up the BSM table. Additional volunteers are needed at 11 am for registration, 1:30-3:30 pm photographers are needed, at 6 pm dinner servers are needed and for tear down at the end of the night. Anyone wishing to eat dinner will need to pay \$25.

Vickie Schultz stated that the Easter baskets will be delivered to Camp Hope on April 9, 2017 at 2 pm. Interested members should meet at Camp Hope.

Military Count – Navy -15 Army – 11 Air Force – 3 Marines – 11 Coast Guard – 0

Care and Share

Easter baskets were assembled.

Raffle

Meeting adjourned at 8:08pm

Next meeting is on April 25, 2017.

Minutes submitted by: Sheila Gonzales



BLUE STAR MOTHERS
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Blue Star Moms Houston Area Chapter
General Membership Meeting
April 25, 2017

The April meeting of the Blue Star Moms Houston Area Chapter was held at the American Legion Hall in Humble, Texas. Dianne Rives opened the meeting at 7:05 PM, welcoming all in attendance.

The invocation was given by Mary Smith.

The pledge of allegiance was said by all in attendance.

Gina Wilson introduced visitors and new members.

Guest speaker, Chris Michon was introduced by Dianne Rives. Chris, a veteran and founder of Kingwood Student Veterans Association at Lone Star College, spoke about his struggle transitioning to civilian life and the concerns the organization is addressing. Dianne Rives presented Chris a check from BSM in the amount of \$200.

Dianne Rives explained the Nominating Committee. **MOTION:** Accept Karen McSpadden, Mamie White and Teresa Winthrow as members of the Nominating Committee. Seconded. Passed on vote.

Rachel Morales announced that the Kingwood Fallen Heroes Golf Tournament will be held on April 29, 2017. The tournament Kick Off Party will be held on Friday, April 28, 2017 at Bill's Café at 6:30 pm. BSM will be collecting wine for a silent auction item. Sign-up sheets were passed around. Volunteers are needed starting at 10:30 am to put flags on carts and set up the BSM table. Additional volunteers are needed at 11 am for registration, 1:30-3:30 pm photographers are needed, at 6 pm dinner servers are needed and for tear down at the end of the night. Anyone wishing to eat dinner will need to pay \$25.

Vickie Schultz explained the Combat Wreath; Michael Fincher (Army) was added to the wreath.

Military Count – Navy -12 Army – 12 Air Force – 6 Marines – 11 Coast Guard – 4

Chris Michon announced that Rusty Buckle BBQ will provide BBQ dinner for celebrations when heroes return home.

Dianne Rives announced that for the most part issues with the BSM National website have been corrected.

Vickie Schultz expressed appreciation for all who helped with the Easter baskets presented to Camp Hope. The residents were very appreciative of our donation and time spent with them.

Joyce Hess announced new BSM Red Friday shirts are available for purchase. She also displayed the National Red Friday t-shirt which is available for purchase online. BSM 75 year pins were also purchased and will be available next month.

Mamie White announced available dates for a visit to the VA Hospital; it was decided the visit will be made on June 24.

Door Prizes

Care and Share

Meeting adjourned at 8:11pm

Next meeting is on May 23, 2017

Minutes submitted by: Sheila Gonzales