



BLUE STAR MOTHERS
of **AMERICA, INC.**
HOUSTON AREA CHAPTER

Blue Star Moms Houston Area Chapter
General Membership Meeting
February 26, 2019

Business Meeting

The February meeting of the Blue Star Moms Houston Area Chapter was held at the American Legion Hall in Humble, Texas. Joyce Hess opened the meeting at 7:00 PM, welcoming all in attendance.

The invocation was given by Mamie White.

The pledge of allegiance was led by Kingwood Park HS JROTC and said by all in attendance.

Sheila Gonzales introduced visitors and new members. Two new members Kristina Selten and Sonia Aro (guest of Pauline)

Combat Wreath – Vickie Shultz presented the Wreath. Courtney will be taking over the Combat Wreath.

Gwen Geiser introduced the text messaging system. She went thru the instructions which were on the back of the agenda.

Business Meeting –

1. Vickie Shultz did not have anything to report.
2. Mamie White went over Care Packages. Friday, March 8 will be sorting and March 9th will be packing at 9am on Saturday. There are 25 names; each will receive 2 food and 1 toiletry box.
 - a. Girl Scouts – 200 to 250 cases. Cookies for Soldiers. Friday, April 12th. Location and time to be announced. BSM will wrap the boxes.
 - b. Help needed for names of deployed for our list (Chaplain/Commander –Point of Contact)
 - c. Women Veteran’s Power Enrichment – Kid Zone. We will not be helping at this time.
 - d. Picking up donations – Teens for Soldiers at St. Agnes High School in Sugar Land. Donations – Decorated Bags. They will also decorate boxes for Christmas.
3. Gina – Updating the website.
4. Theresa – Not present
5. Joyce – Voting on minutes from Aug/Sept/Oct. & Nov/Dec/Jan. **Motion, 2nd Motion, Passed on Vote.**
6. Sheila – Financial Report
 - a. \$240 Dues, \$5,759.33 in Donations, \$240 Deposited, \$138 from Store, \$346 Christmas Door Prizes, \$1,935 from Donation Drive – Cooler, \$1080 Hospitality/ Christmas Dinner, \$55.91 Kroger, \$35.73 IGive.
 - b. 83 Members – 71 Moms, 12 Associate Members. 9 New, 1 New Associate Member. 5 Renewals.
 - c. \$135 Roster Dues to National.
 - d. Cards and Name Tags are done.
 - e. Birthday Cards for Service Members.
7. Dianne – Treasurer Report
 - a. Oct. 31, 2018 – Jan 31, 2019 Budget
 - b. Increase in Postage
 - c. Government Shut Down – Enlisted Coast Guard not paid. A motion was made at last meeting to buy food and supplies for families. Received \$600 in donations, then shut down was over and the donations were not needed. Offered to give back to those who donated. But all wanted to keep the donations.
 - i. Dee suggested an Emergency Fund. Dianne noted that we currently have an emergency fund of \$500.
 - ii. Will address at March Board Meeting. Vickie wanted to address at the meeting.
 - d. Voted on Treasurer Report – **Motion, 2nd Motion, Passed on Vote.**



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8. Donna – Parliamentarian – Nominating Committee for March Meeting.
9. Elaine – Corresponding Secretary – Received \$250 in Gift Cards for Care Packages. Thank you Notes up to date.
10. Gwen – Sergeant at Arms – Introduced Buddy System. 4 Buddies, 3 Mentors, 12 calls made. Calls done by Vickie, Dianne, Pauline, Dana & Gwen) Dee's idea from meeting was well received. Suggestions to calling new members and assist with welcoming. To feel connected and help new members.

Business Meeting Complete at this time

Gina Wilson – Introduced Branch Bonding. Break out in Military Groups.

Reminders:

- Birthday Cards
- Shopping Information
- Services/Resources
- Ways to Help Chapter
- National Newsletter – Good Article “Why We do What We Do”
- Women's Health Services – Baby Shower
- National Convention – 77th Annual in August 2019. Bloomington, Minn. ? Funds to Attend
- 15th Year Birthday – Houston Chapter – September 2019
- Blue to Gold – Mary Ellen (Gold Star Banners)
- Blue Fleece Jacket available on National website store
- Gina – T-Shirts – Will have for Next General Meeting in March
- FB Post – WWII Veteran's 100th Birthday – Send Card
- May 11th Golf Tournament – Saturday
- March 30th, Saturday 8am – Jones State Park – Conroe ROTC Hike 14 miles
- Saturday March 2nd – Brazoria County VOW 22 Hike – 4miles – Lake Jackson

Military Count – Navy -8 Army – 12 Air Force – 6 Marines – 6 Coast Guard – 0

Dona Hunter – Donations at Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 8:45pm

Next meeting is on March 26th, 2019

Minutes submitted by: Theresa Rodriguez (Taken by Donna Moore)



BLUE STAR MOTHERS
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Blue Star Moms Houston Area Chapter
General Membership Meeting
March 26, 2019

The March meeting of the Blue Star Moms Houston Area Chapter was held at the American Legion Hall in Humble, Texas. Joyce Hess opened the meeting at 7:03 PM, welcoming all in attendance.

The invocation was given by Pauline Brown.

The pledge of allegiance was said by all in attendance.

Sheila Gonzales introduced visitors and new members. Two new members Beth Putnam and Kathy Uhlman. One visitor Carolyn Hayth.

Combat Wreath – Courtney Wassell presented the Wreath.

Guest Speaker – Andy Medrano, Army Ranger, 23 year Army Veteran. Works as a counselor/mentor at Camp Valhalla/22 Kill. They provide outdoor trips for veterans. For more information on the programs visit the website 22Kill.com.

Donna Moore spoke about and explained the Nominating Committee. She passed out information on the positions and a questionnaire for the members to fill out if they were interested in Board position.

Mamie White went over the Kingwood Fallen Heroes Memorial Golf Tournament. A flyer was passed around with all the details. Rachel will pass out a sign-up sheet at the next General Meeting.

General Announcements – Joyce Hess spoke about the last packing party. Also, that 168 cases of Girl Scout Cookies were sent out. Joyce and Donna attended the Women's Conference in Richmond. They did a drive for BSM and collected Jerky and Tuna Packs. Joyce also announced our participation with KPRC Channel 2 News.

Military Count – Navy 12, Army 8, Air Force 6, Marines 8, Coast Guard 0

Care and Share

Door Prizes

A LOOK AHEAD:

March 30 – Conroe ISD JROTC Hike, 8:00 am, Jones State Park

April 12 – Cookies2Soldiers Packing Party in Tomball. Not yet confirmed

April 23 – General Membership Meeting - Army bring refreshments

**May 3 – Sorting for Packing Party, 6:00 pm, Legion Hall

**May 4 – Packing Party, 9:00 am, Legion Hall - *These dates may change and be pushed back until June.

May 4 – Atascocita HS JROTC Eagle Dash, 9:00 am (date changed, was April 6)

May 8 – VA Hospital Baby Shower for all Vets – No specifics available yet.

May 11 – Kingwood Fallen Heroes Memorial Golf Tournament (www.kingwoodfallenheroes.com)

May 18 – Armed Forces Day

May 18 – Impact A Hero 10K/5K – Sugar Land (www.impactahero.org) BSM will have a booth/table at the event

May 27 – Memorial Day Service at Houston National Cemetery (pending details) 9:30 am BSM meet up earlier

May 28 – General Membership Meeting – Navy/Air Force brings refreshments



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REMINDERS:

- Birthday Cards!!! Get a card to send to your Military Child the month prior to their birthday.
- Visit the Website for information and to verify your profile:
Houston Chapter Website: www.bsmhoustonarea.org
BSM Houston Community Facebook Page: Blue Star Moms, Houston Area Chapter
BSM Houston Closed Group Facebook Page: Blue Star Moms Houston Chapter
E-Mail address: bsmpostmaster@bsmhoustonarea.org
Care Packages: carepackages@bsmhoustonarea.org
Combat Wreath: combatwreath@bsmhoustonarea.org
Photos: photos@bsmhoustonarea.org
Bling Shirts: everythingsparkles@comcast.net
BSMA National Website: www.bluestarmothers.org
- Welcome Home Banner is available to use when your hero returns home from deployment, email: bsmpostmaster@bsmhoustonarea.org
- If you are NOT receiving email blasts, please let Gina Wilson know – support@bsmhoustonarea.org

Meeting adjourned at 8:39 pm
Next meeting is on April 23, 2019

Minutes submitted by: Theresa Rodriguez



BLUE STAR MOTHERS
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Blue Star Moms Houston Area Chapter
General Membership Meeting
April 23, 2019

The April meeting of the Blue Star Moms Houston Area Chapter was held at the American Legion Hall in Humble, Texas. Joyce Hess opened the meeting at 7:04 PM, welcoming all in attendance.

The invocation was given by Mamie White

The pledge of allegiance was said by Oak Ridge HS JROTC and by all in attendance.

Oak Ridge HS JROTC raised fund for BSM by attending a 14 Mile Hike in remembrance of Bataan Death March. They presented a check to BSM in the amount of \$2,800. Then the JROTC introduced each member present. They discussed why they joined the JROTC and what they would like to do in the future.

Gwen Geiser introduced visitors and new members. No new members. One visitor Phillip Durham – Marine, son of Susan Durham and Jamie Durham.

Combat Wreath – Courtney Wassell presented the Wreath.

Donna Moore spoke about and explained the Nominating Committee. She presented the Nominating Committee of herself, Mamie White, Dana Bohn, and Vickie Schultz. **Motion was presented to accept, 2nd Motion, Passed on Vote.**

Board Members presented a Panel Discussion for each of the Board Positions. Q&A for members to learn about each position. If a member presented a question, the member received a drawing ticket for a special door prize.

Mamie presented the details of the Kingwood Fallen Heroes Memorial Golf Tournament. Rachel Morales was not present.

General Announcements were made by President Joyce Hess.

- The American Legion Hall approved for BSM to put shelves in the storage area for the BSM Store Supplies. Joyce asked if anyone had available to donate.
- The American Legion Hall (Frank) said that the \$500 dollar donation we made to them would be used for new construction on the door/roof, etc.
- Reminded everyone to use the Care Package Email carepackage@bsmhoustonarea.org for Care Packages and not personal emails.
- Reminded everyone on ways we can help the chapter when shopping thru Kroger, Amazon Smile, and iGive.
- Reviewed a statement that is on the National Website: The Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. is a non-partisan, non-political, non-sectarian organization. We do not support any political candidate or do we endorse any religious organization. The military represents all aspects of America as does our organization. We are a 501c3 Organization.

A LOOK AHEAD:

May – Military Appreciation Month

May 1 – Greentree Elementary Packing Party, 12:45pm – 1:45pm

May 2 – Greentree Elementary Packing Party, 12:45pm – 1:45pm

May 4 – Atascocita HS JROTC Eagle Dash, 9:00 am (date changed, was April 6)

May 8 – VA Hospital Baby Shower for Vets – This has been Cancelled.

May 11 – Kingwood Fallen Heroes Memorial Golf Tournament (www.kingwoodfallenheroes.com)

May 18 – Armed Forces Day

May 18 – Impact A Hero 10k/5k – Sugar Land (www.impactahero.org)

May 27 – Memorial Day Service at Houston National Cemetery (pending details)

May 28 – General Membership Meeting – Navy/Air Force brings refreshments

June 25 – General Membership Meeting – Marines/Coast Guard bring refreshments



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Military Count – Skipped due to time.

Care and Share

Door Prizes

REMINDERS:

- Birthday Cards!!! Get a card to send to your Military Child the month prior to their birthday.
- Visit the Website for information and to verify your profile:
Houston Chapter Website: www.bsmhoustonarea.org
BSM Houston Community Facebook Page: Blue Star Moms, Houston Area Chapter
BSM Houston Closed Group Facebook Page: Blue Star Moms Houston Chapter
E-Mail address: bsmpostmaster@bsmhoustonarea.org
Care Packages: carepackages@bsmhoustonarea.org
Combat Wreath: combatwreath@bsmhoustonarea.org
Photos: photos@bsmhoustonarea.org
Bling Shirts: everythingsparkles@comcast.net
BSMA National Website: www.bluestarmothers.org
- Welcome Home Banner is available to use when your hero returns home from deployment, email:
bsmpostmaster@bsmhoustonarea.org
- If you are NOT receiving email blasts, please let Gina Wilson know – support@bsmhoustonarea.org

Meeting adjourned at 8:40 pm

Click 2 Houston KPRC – Slide Show presentation

Next meeting is on May 28, 2019

Minutes submitted by: Theresa Rodriguez