



# THE GOLD STAR MOTHER

Perpetuating the Noble Principles for Which They Fought and Died

ISSUE NUMBER 223

MAY-JUNE 2023



## 2022-2023 Veteran Service Year in Review





# From the Desk of the National President

Sarah Taylor, National President



Just a quarter mile until we cross that finish line. We're all saddled up and ready to jockey through the next couple of months. This month, Pam and I will start the handover process. Our tasks include making sure all membership files are current, sharing important information needed to run the organization, checking that AGSM is audit ready and the house is in order.

The most significant job we've got is to represent AGSM, its members and

our Heroes over the Memorial Day weekend events in Washington, DC. We will honor their lives, service to this great nation and ultimate sacrifice.

Franklin D. Roosevelt said "Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them." We must continue to educate those around us of the true meaning of Memorial Day, a time to honor and reflect on every Hero's dedication and sacrifice. We shall always speak their names with love and respect, never forgetting those who gave all. We don't know them all, but we owe them all.

With June and our National Convention right out in front of us, we'll give this pony one more whip and take our place in the winner's circle. I hope that you've made your plans to join us, and I look forward to seeing all of your beautiful faces, catching up on life events and spending some time with you. I'm excited to share the beautiful state of Kentucky and know you'll enjoy cruising the mighty Ohio on a riverboat and playing



the ponies at Churchill Downs. And did I mention that we will be tackling over 60 constitution and bylaw changes during the business meeting? Please prepare by looking over the listed changes, asking any questions and voicing concerns now so that we can finish and not miss the boat.

A few highlights since our last newsletter...The week of 25 March-1 April was spent honoring our Vietnam

Veterans. It began in Orange County, California, with a dinner attended by some of our Saddleback Valley moms; continued with laying a remembrance bouquet of 21 roses (20 yellow for our Vietnam Veterans, 1 white for our mothers) at the Wall in DC; and ended at Camp Verde, Arizona, where AGSM, Wreaths Across America, the 50th Commemoration and the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown pinned and celebrated hundreds of Vietnam era and combat Veterans with special honors to our Vietnam Native Americans.

The added bonus of our time in Camp Verde was meeting Jerry, the great grandson of Apache Warrior, Geronimo and honoring Native American from Nations across the US. Our Native Americans are dedicated to the freedoms of all people, to the land they love and their forefathers fought and died for. 14% of our Native Americans have and continue to serve in our Armed Forces,

compared to 1% of the rest of our countrymen.

With time to pass the gavel to Pam approaching at breakneck speed, I'll be reflecting back over my years on the National Executive Board. I realize there are no words to

adequately describe how grateful and beyond honored I have been to serve as your National President. As a board member since 2017, I have grown so much as a woman, friend and a human being. I am so grateful to have met and shared stories with thousands of Veterans, supported our Active Military, stood in awe of our Medal of Honor recipients, and forged lifelong friendships with moms who carry this unwanted title. I have traveled across the country, around the world, found what it truly means to serve, learned many lessons, and made the most of each day.

I have been able to share my support for our suicide mothers, suicide awareness and fighting for help for our Veterans and Active Military when the demons won't cease, volunteered countless hours to those who signed the dotted line, grown, learn to let go and healed. I have seen the best in people and been given the chance to see things that most don't even know exist. The encounters I've experienced have truly shaped me and will lead me to continue down the right path in life. You all have played such an important role in this new normal, encouraged me, supported my ideas and shared your precious children with me. I thank you and promise to continue the mission.

It is not my intention to list the accomplishments of your 2022-2023 National Executive Board, as many have been highlighted in my previous letters. Our work and service speak for itself.

I do want to brag about our NEB. With much heart and soul, dedication and love, they have spent countless hours working

on projects, legislation and numerous committees all while being leaders and active members in their own departments and chapters, and always putting what's best for our organization ahead of their personal feelings on the matter.

And to my Executive Committee, I owe the three of you my everything. Without you there holding my hand and guiding me, I would have been lost and probably failed. In times of crisis, you helped to protect our members, showed unity, supported me and each other through word and deed, designed a plan, executed each task in a timely and constructive manner, stayed the course and shared grace.

You've all served as strong, resilient, caring and kind women who want to see AGSM moving forward, ever successful in her mission.

I am so proud of all our members and how they've worked together, stepped up their service to AGSM, our Veterans, Active Military, Gold Star Mothers and the families. You each make this organization successful and this journey a little easier. I am so incredibly grateful and lucky to have been a part of something so amazing. It makes saying my goodbye difficult, so I'll conclude with a "Later my friend" and know that when times are a challenge, Lean On Me!

With love and admiration.

♥ Sarah

PHOTO CREDIT: PATRICK HUGHES (ALL IMAGES ON PAGE 2)



# Chapter and Department Veteran Service Year in Review



**MARYLAND CHAPTER:** Gift Bag Assembly for VA Medical Center Hospitalized Veterans American Legion Post 60 Laurel, Maryland 11 February 2023



**AZALEA CHAPTER:** For many years, the Chapter has baked treats for deploying Marines at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, NC



**HAMPTON ROADS CHAPTER:** "We Love Our Veterans" Valentine's Dinner at VFW Post 4809, Norfolk, VA. 13 February 2023



**DEPARTMENT OF WEST VIRGINIA:** The 2022-2023 "Living Memorials". 55 apple trees are planted, representing our 55 counties



**SWFL CHAPTER:** 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Salute to Women Veterans held at Lakes Park in Ft Myers FL 2 April 2023



**ALBANY CHAPTER:** Helped coordinate a visit from the Director of the New York State Division of Veterans Services to recognize Vietnam Veterans and assisted the Director of the Veteran Miracle Center to provide supplies to Veterans in need. 29 March 2023



**SAN JOSE CHAPTER:** Served up a spook-tacular meal for Veterans at the Palo Alto VA Medical Center. October 2022



**GREATER SOUTHEASTERN TX CHAPTER:** Served breakfast to Veterans and First Responders at VFW Post 1839 in Cleveland, TX. 7 February 2023



**CHAPTER & DEPARTMENT VETERAN SERVICE YEAR IN REVIEW**

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**GARDENIA CHAPTER:** The Gardenia Chapter secured donations for the Mental Health Care Unit at the Durham VA Hospital. July 2022



**DEPARTMENT OF MASSACHUSETTS/ RHODE ISLAND:** Volunteer at Boston Common to help plant 37,000+ flags at the Soldiers and Sailors Monument



**STAR GARNET CHAPTER:** Hosted a hot chocolate and cookies get together with Idaho Veterans at the Idaho Veterans Garden in Caldwell, ID.



**TREASURE COAST CHAPTER:** VAVS Volunteers bring a smile to the guests at the West Palm Beach Fisher House by providing delicious seasonal treats.



**SOUTH BUFFALO CHAPTER:** Provided much needed school supplies to Veteran Students attending St. Bonaventure University in Allegany, NY



**PIKES PEAK CHAPTER:** Presented custom onesies with the mother's branch of service to Veterans attending Bi-Annual Baby shower at the Women Veteran Health Program at VA Western CO Health Care System



**DEPARTMENT OF NEW JERSEY:** Deliver holiday gifts to Military Families for the holidays. December 2022



**DEPARTMENT OF IOWA:** Decorate 5 Christmas Trees with over 600 Hero Ornaments at the IA Gold Star Military Museum. 19 November 2022



**DEPARTMENT OF NEBRASKA:** Sending warm holiday wishes



**GULF COAST CHAPTER:** First annual Remembrance Love Walk was held at Starkey Wilderness Park in New Port Richey, FL 11 February 2023





*American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.*  
**2023 National Convention Registration Form**  
**Friday 16 June - Sunday 18 June 2023**

Deadline for Registration - 26 May 2023 - Mailed Registrations must be postmarked by 26 May 2023

**Register Online at [AmericanGoldStarMothers.org](http://AmericanGoldStarMothers.org)**

Member's Name	
Address	
City, State, Postal Code	
Phone Number	
Email Address	
<b>Is this your first AGSM Convention?</b> YES NO <b>T-Shirt Size</b> S M L XL XXL <b>T-Shirt Style</b> Women's V-neck Unisex crew neck	Chapter _____ Department _____
<b>Are You a Veteran?</b> YES NO	<b>If yes, branch of service</b>

<b>Convention Registration includes:</b>		<b>Member Registration Fee: \$130</b>
Friday Member and Guest Luncheon	Community Service Luncheon (Members Only)	
Guest Tour and Lunch (Guests Only)	Riverboat Cruise and Dinner	
Convention Banquet at Churchill Downs	Event T-shirt	
<b>Friday 16 June</b> Member and Guest Luncheon		YES NO
<b>Saturday 17 June</b> Community Service Luncheon (Members Only)		YES NO
<b>Saturday 17 June</b> Riverboat Cruise and Dinner		YES NO
<b>Sunday 18 June</b> Convention Banquet at Churchill Downs		YES NO
<b>Please circle one:</b>		<b>Guest Registration Fee: \$130</b>
<b>Guest Name</b>	<b>Guest Associate</b>	
<b>Guest T-Shirt Size (please circle one):</b>	<b>Style (please circle one):</b>	
S M L XL XXL	Women's V-neck Unisex crew neck	
<b>Friday 16 June</b> Member and Guest Luncheon		YES NO
<b>Saturday 17 June</b> Guest Tour and Lunch (Guests and Associates Only)		YES NO
<b>Saturday 17 June</b> Riverboat Cruise and Dinner		YES NO
<b>Sunday 18 June</b> Convention Banquet at Churchill Downs		YES NO

<b>Payment Options</b> <b>Check:</b> Make Payable to American Gold Star Mothers, Inc <b>Mail To:</b> AGSM National Headquarters 2128 Leroy Place NW Washington DC 20008 <b>(MUST BE POSTMARKED BY 26 MAY 2023)</b> <b>Credit Card:</b> Visa MasterCard AmEx Account Number: _____ Expiration Date: _____ Charge Amount: _____ CVV: _____ Card Holder's Name _____
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# 2023 Convention Call Details

## REGISTRATION / CREDENTIALS:

All Members, Associates and Guests must register and pay any associated convention registration fees by **26 May 2023**. The In-Person Registration Fee of \$130.00 or Virtual Registration Fee of \$30.00 must be paid by all Members, Associates and Guests. A late fee of \$25.00 will be required to be paid on ALL registrations received after the **26 May 2023** deadline (in-person AND virtual). The in-person registration fee covers the costs of all convention-related activities. The virtual registration fee covers the costs associated with the webinar facilitation and voting access for all registered delegates and alternates (as needed). Register online at [GoldStarMoms.com](http://GoldStarMoms.com) or mail completed registration form with fees to American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., 2128 Leroy Place NW, Washington, D.C. 20008. No mailed registrations will be accepted after the **26 May 2023** deadline.

Those attending in person may register and pay on the first official day of convention, but they will not be registered as a Delegate or Alternate. They will not be guaranteed a copy of the convention journal, convention meals, space at convention activities or convention gifts. No registrations after the first day of convention will be processed without approval of the National Executive Board.

**Due to the logistics of providing virtual access to ballots, no virtual registrations will be accepted after 26 May 2023.**

## REPRESENTATION:

Delegates: Each Chapter shall be entitled to one delegate for each five members or major fraction thereof whose current National dues has been received by the National Treasurer at least 30 days prior to the convention and to one alternate for each delegate. Delegates and alternates shall be elected at a regular or special business meeting of the Chapter for which a notice has been given to all members at least ten days prior to said meeting. In addition, each incumbent Chapter President, Department President, and National Officer by virtue of their offices shall be a delegate without alternate. Past National Presidents shall be a delegate without alternate.

Alternates: Alternates may participate in discussions on the floor and may also serve on appointed committees/positions but may not vote unless their delegate is not present at the time of voting. Members not elected to a Delegate or Alternate position may participate in discussions on the floor and may also serve on appointed

committees/positions. The National Service Officer and the National Membership Committee will determine eligibility of delegates.

Virtual Delegates: Each delegate who will be attending virtually **MUST** register separately in order to receive access to voting. Virtual Delegates will be provided information on voting processes, instructions, and preparation one week from the opening of Convention. Such instructions will be sent to the email used on the registration form and will be non-transferable. Access to all ballots will be specific to the email address used on the registration form and each email address will only be able to vote **ONCE** per item to be voted on.

Chapter Presidents and Department Presidents are responsible for communicating the election of both in-person and virtual delegates **in writing** by **26 May 2023** to Patti Elliott at [2ndVP@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org](mailto:2ndVP@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org).

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS:

Proposed Amendments to the Constitution must be published at least 30 days prior to Convention in *The Gold Star Mother*. Proposed Amendments must be submitted no later than **15 March 2023** to be published in the May/June issue. Amendments to the C&BL can be made by a Department Board from the floor but must be passed by a unanimous vote of the convention body. For information on appropriate Robert's Rules of Order format, contact Patti Elliott, National Parliamentarian, by email at [2ndVP@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org](mailto:2ndVP@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org) prior to the start of convention.

## RESOLUTIONS:

May be approved at the National Convention after ratification by the National Executive Board. Resolutions must be presented to the NEB in writing by **26 May 2023**. Send to Pam Stemple, National Resolutions Chair by email at [1stvp@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org](mailto:1stvp@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org). The Resolutions Chair will be responsible for reviewing and presenting said resolutions to the NEB at their meeting prior to the convention.

## MEMORIAL SERVICE:

This event recognizes the service of our deceased members and associates and pays tribute to the fallen. Department Chaplains are responsible for ensuring the reporting of names of all deceased members and associates by **26 May 2023** to Suzanne Sheaffer, National Chaplain, at [chaplain@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org](mailto:chaplain@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org).





# 2023 Convention Call Details

## **JOURNAL:**

Aside from helping to defray the cost of the convention, the Journal provides information on Convention events and serves as a tribute to our fallen sons and daughters. **See Journal page for cost, format requirements and publishing deadline. Must be submitted online by 23 April 2023.**

If you have questions, please email Lee-Ann Forsythe, [publications@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org](mailto:publications@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org).

## **RECOMMENDED DRESS CODE:**

Friday Workshops and Service Project: RED Friday T-Shirt

Saturday Business Meetings: Business White

Saturday Evening: Casual

Sunday Memorial Service: Business White

Sunday Installation of Officers: Business White

Sunday Banquet: Cocktail, Hats/Fascinators encouraged

## **NOMINATIONS:**

Nominations shall be for a specific office on the National Executive Board. (See Constitution and Bylaws for detailed requirements of each office.) Requests for specific Job Descriptions may be made to Pam Stemple, at [1stVP@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org](mailto:1stVP@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org).

A member in good standing may be considered for a nomination to a National Office when a letter of endorsement from the candidate's Chapter or Department is sent to Cindy Kruger Chip, Nominations Chair, by email at [cindychip2021@gmail.com](mailto:cindychip2021@gmail.com) or mailed to 261 South E Street, Pensacola, FL 32502. **Nominations must be received by 26 May 2023.** The letter of endorsement is limited to 400 words. The letter must state the specific office the proposed candidate would like to be nominated for, a brief statement of AGSM, Inc., offices held and volunteer activities that support the mission of AGSM. Offices held and volunteer work with other nationally chartered Veterans Service Organizations, and/or volunteering with the Department of Veteran Affairs will be accepted. If the candidate is a veteran, the service history may be included. For nominations that endorse the offices of National Treasurer or National Secretary, the candidate may include a synopsis of employment experience or volunteer work history as it pertains to the position of nomination and the AGSM job description only.

The letter must be dated and signed from a member of the Chapter or Department submitting the nomination and must include the signature of the candidate. Candidates nominated from the floor must be prepared with a letter of endorsement for the Chair of the Nominations Committee.

All the above criteria must be met for consideration of a nomination for an office on the National Executive Board. Letters of endorsement will not be returned.

**PAGES:** The National Sergeant-at-Arms appoints and directs at least two Pages to assist with conduct of the business meetings and other events. During the business meetings, Pages will wear white business attire, caps, white gloves, and a badge designating their position.

## **REQUEST FOR UNPLANNED BUSINESS:**

Members wishing to present a subject on the convention floor which is not a part of the planned agenda must present such request in writing to the National Executive Board for their consideration by **1 June 2023**. Any member wishing to appear before the Executive Board at their scheduled meeting on 15 June 2023 must request permission in writing by **1 June 2023**, stating purpose and intent. Requests for additions to the business agenda and presence at the National Executive Board meeting on 15 June 2023 must be sent to Sarah Taylor, National President, at [president@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org](mailto:president@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org).

## **CONDUCT OF BUSINESS MEETINGS:**

The conduct of all American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., business meetings and/or events shall be by the rules set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws and the Ceremonial and Business Procedures Book (Little Gold Book, 2017 printing). Members attending convention are encouraged to print the most recent version of the Constitution and Bylaws (approved at the 2022 National Convention), available at [GoldStarMoms.com](http://GoldStarMoms.com).

## **PARLIMENTARY AUTHORITY:**

Robert's Rules of Order Revised shall govern this organization in all cases to which they are applicable, provided it is not inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws.

## **MISCELLANEOUS:**

All mailed submissions must be received by the stated deadlines.



# Proposed By-Laws Change – National Executive Board

**\*NOTE: Underlining is added for emphasis only to draw attention to specific proposed changes and will not appear in the final, approved version.**

## 1. Proposed:

Global replacement: Any reference to the word "Chairman" to be changed to "Chair."

**Rationale:** To use a gender-neutral term. At this point, the chair of all committees within AGSM is a female.

## 2. Proposed:

Global replacement: Any reference to the word "mailed" in reference to the newsletter to be changed to "distributed."

**Rationale:** To reflect the recent change that some members have opted to receive their newsletter electronically and will not get a "mailed" copy.

## 3. Proposed:

National Constitution - Article III - Organization

New Sec. 6 - All members will be assigned to a Chapter. Members requesting a transfer from one Chapter to another shall complete a Member Transfer Request and submit it to the National Service Officer for processing.

**Rationale:** To provide clarification that all members are assigned to a Chapter and there is no "member at large" status. Transfers between Chapters was previously addressed in Article IX of the Chapter Bylaws and is being moved here for clarity.

## 4. Proposed:

National Constitution - Article IV - Eligibility and Membership

New Sec. 7 - Stepmothers who do not qualify under Sec. 2 of this Article are eligible to join as Associate Members. They pay no dues, hold no office and have no vote, but may be appointed as a Deputy to the representative at the VA Medical Center.

New Sec. 8 - Stepfathers are eligible to join as Associate Members. They pay no dues, hold no office and have no vote, but may be appointed as a Deputy to the representative at the VA Medical Center.

Renumber current Sec. 7 to Sec. 9. Renumber current Sec. 8 to Sec. 10.

**Rationale:** There are many stepparents who are supportive of and participate in AGSM activities with our Gold Star Mothers.

## 5. Current:

National Constitution - Article VII - National Officers

Sec. 1 - The National Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of delegates assembled and voting at each National Convention and shall consist of: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, Sergeant-at-Arms, Flag Guard (or Bearer), and Banner Guard (or Bearer). A person shall be eligible for re-election to the office of National President, or the respective offices of Vice Presidents, provided she has served two terms on the National Executive Board since her tenure as National President or National Vice President. A person shall be eligible for re-election to the office of National President, or the respective offices of Vice Presidents, but shall not serve more than two terms. To be eligible for the office of National President or First or Second Vice President, a member shall have served a term as Chapter President, Department President and two terms on the National Executive Board. If no one candidate for an office receives a majority vote on the first ballot, delegates will then vote on the two candidates who received the greatest number of votes on the first ballot.

## Proposed:

Sec. 1 - The National Officers shall be elected by a majority vote of delegates assembled and voting at each National Convention and shall consist of: President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Chaplain, Sergeant-at-Arms, Flag Guard (or Bearer), and Banner Guard (or Bearer).

a. A person shall be eligible for re-election to the office of National President, or the respective offices of Vice Presidents, provided she has served two terms on the National Executive Board since her tenure as National President or National Vice President.

b. A person shall be eligible for re-election to the office of National President, or the respective offices of Vice Presidents, but shall not serve more than two terms.

c. To be eligible for the office of National President or First or Second Vice President, a member shall have served a term as a Chapter President or a Department President and two terms on the National Executive Board.

d. If no one candidate for an office receives a majority vote on the first ballot, delegates will then vote on the two candidates who received the greatest number of votes on the first ballot.

## Rationale:

Add subparagraphs for ease of reference.

In proposed new subparagraph c., add the word "or" in the eligibility criteria for National President, First and Second Vice President. We have many one-Chapter Departments in AGSM. In these Departments, the officers are both Chapter and Department president at the same time. The way it is currently written excludes these members from moving up in the NEB because they are not separately Chapter and Department president. Additionally, this opens up the pool of NEB candidates to those who may not get the opportunity to serve as Department president due to internal Departmental politics.

## 6. Current:

National Constitution - Article VIII - National Executive Board

Sec. 2. Seven members of the National Executive Board shall constitute a quorum of said Board.

## Proposed:

Sec. 2. Two-thirds of the members of the National Executive Board shall constitute a quorum of said Board.

**Rationale:** The number of members on the NEB fluctuates between nine and eleven depending on the decision of the National President with regard to appointed committee chairs. By making it a majority fraction of the members of any current NEB, it allows for this fluctuation.

## 7. Current:

National Constitution - Article VIII - National Executive Board

Sec. 3. The National Executive Board shall act by majority vote.

## Proposed:

Sec. 3. The National Executive Board shall act by majority vote of those present at any meeting of the National Executive Board.

**Rationale:** To clarify that a majority is defined as those members of the National Executive Board present at any meeting of the National Executive Board.

## 8. Current:

National Constitution - Article XI - Discipline/Code of Procedure

Sec. d. If, in the opinion of the National Executive Board, a formal hearing is necessary, it shall require that charges under oath and in writing be submitted to the National Secretary and a copy to the National President. Reasonable notice in writing of the charges made and the date set for the hearing shall be furnished to the involved member, and the member shall be given the opportunity to be present throughout the hearing. The National Executive Board shall not be bound by formal rules of evidence, but the involved member must be given a reasonable opportunity to confront her accusers, to question them and to present her own defense. The involved shall have the right to be represented by any other member of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., whom she may select to act as her counsel. The National Executive Board may also, in its discretion, allow the accused member to be represented by an attorney-at-law, and if the National Executive Board retains an attorney-at-law to represent it at the hearing, the member shall have the right to be so represented.

## Proposed:

Sec. d. If, in the opinion of the National Executive Board, a formal hearing is necessary, it shall require that charges under oath and in writing be submitted to the National Secretary and a copy to the National President, or her designee. Reasonable notice in writing of the charges made and the date set for the hearing shall be furnished to the involved member, and the member shall be given the opportunity to be present throughout the hearing. The National Executive Board shall not be bound by formal rules of evidence, but the involved member must be given a reasonable opportunity to confront her accusers, to question them and to present her own defense. The involved shall have the right to be represented by any other member of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., whom she may select to act as her counsel. The National Executive Board may also, in its discretion, allow the accused member to be represented by an attorney-at-law, and if the National Executive Board retains an attorney-at-law to represent it at the hearing, the member shall have the right to be so represented.

**Rationale:** In the event the National President or National Secretary is the member filing charges, an alternate designee would need to be appointed to act in that person's capacity for the hearing of such charges. You cannot be both the accuser and the judge in these situations.

## 9. Proposed:

National Constitution - Article XI - Discipline

Proposed new Sec. 4 – The charter of any Chapter or Department whose charitable determination is revoked by the Internal Revenue Service will be immediately



suspended until such time as the Chapter or Department receives full reinstatement by the Internal Revenue Service. Once the Chapter or Department receives such reinstatement, the suspension will be reviewed under the guidelines in the Code of Procedure outlined in the National Constitution and Bylaws. Current Sec. 4 would be renumbered Sec. 5.

**Rationale:** In order for the organization to retain its compliance with Internal Revenue Code and other state and local regulations, it is necessary for each Chapter and Department to follow all requirements set forth in any such Code or law. To not do so would be injurious and prejudicial to the welfare of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

#### 10. Proposed:

National Constitution - Article XI - Discipline - Code of Procedure

New Sec. g – If the charter of a Chapter or Department has been suspended in accordance with Article XI, Section 4 of the National Constitution and Bylaws, upon reinstatement by the Internal Revenue Service, the Chapter or Department shall petition the National Executive Board for release of the suspension in the following manner:

- (i) The Chapter or Department president shall provide by email a written request to the National President, with a copy to the National Secretary, the following:
  - A) a chronology of events leading to the suspension
  - B) supporting documentation of reinstatement by the Internal Revenue Service, including any documentation or correspondence completed for or exchanged with the Internal Revenue Service
  - C) a plan outlining steps to ensure future compliance with any applicable Internal Revenue Code requirements
- (ii) The National Executive Board shall meet to review all documentation within two (2) weeks of receipt of the request.
- (iii) The National President shall inform the Chapter or Department of the decision of the National Executive Board, whose decision shall be final.

**Rationale:** In order for the organization to retain its compliance with Internal Revenue Code and other state and local regulations, it is necessary for each Chapter and Department to follow all requirements set forth in any such Code or law. To not do so would be injurious and prejudicial to the welfare of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

#### 11. Proposed:

National Constitution - Article XIII - Amendments

New Sec. 3. All proposed amendments submitted for consideration shall be accompanied by minutes in proper format of the meeting at which the proposed amendment was approved by a Department Board.

Renumber current Sec. 3 to Sec. 4.

**Rationale:** In recent years, there have been proposed amendments submitted by individual members without consultation with their Chapters and/or Departments and proposed amendments submitted without documentation that it was, indeed, the action of a Department Board to bring forth such proposed amendments. The C&BL chair has then had to go back to the submitter and request additional documentation. By putting the full requirements in the C&BL, it will save this step and allow the submission to be done right the first time.

#### 12. Current:

National Bylaws - Article I - National Officers and Election

Sec. 6. The Election Judge shall hand the ballots of a National Election in a sealed envelope to the National Secretary, who will retain the same until the National Officers have been installed, after which said ballots shall be destroyed by the National Recording Secretary.

#### Proposed:

Sec. 6. The Election Judge shall hand the ballots and/or results of a National Election in a sealed envelope to the National Secretary, who will retain the same until the National Officers have been installed, after which said documents shall be destroyed by the National Recording Secretary.

**Rationale:** As there are now options for virtual attendance at a National Convention and/or voting via electronic means, rather than ballots, we need to adjust the language to describe the disposition of these reports.

#### 13. Proposed:

National Bylaws - Article II - Duties of Officers

Replace paragraphs delineated by alphabetic designation with Section numbers.

Thus, it will be:

Sec. 1. The National President ...

Sec. 2. The National First Vice President ...

Etc.

Sec. 15. The Parliamentarian ...

**Rationale:** Clerical/administrative changes to be consistent with the section designations throughout the remainder of the C&BL document.

#### 14. Current:

National Bylaws - Article II - Duties of Officers

(g) THE NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER shall perform such duties as prescribed by the National Executive Board, which includes, but is not limited to, management of all electronic and hard copy membership and memorial information, processing of electronic and hard copy communications pertaining to the interest of the organization, oversees all supplies and jewelry accounts, assist with all AGSM, Inc., events and may serve as the hostess and manager of headquarters at the discretion of the National Executive Board.

#### Proposed:

With the clerical change listed above, this will be new Sec. 7.

Sec. 7. THE NATIONAL SERVICE OFFICER shall perform such duties as prescribed by the National Executive Board, which includes, but is not limited to, management of all electronic and hard copy membership and memorial information, processing of electronic and hard copy communications pertaining to the interest of the organization, oversees all Headquarters and office supplies, assist with all AGSM, Inc., events and may serve as the hostess and manager of headquarters at the discretion of the National Executive Board.

**Rationale:** Remove the reference to "and jewelry accounts." Add a delineation of which supplies the NSO is responsible for ordering. This is no longer applicable.

#### 15. Current:

National Bylaws - Article III - Meetings

Sec. 1. The National Executive Board shall meet within twenty-four hours after the adjournment of the National Convention and shall also meet in Washington, D.C., in September and February and immediately before the succeeding National Convention. Special meetings may be held at the call of the National President upon reasonable notice to the members or at the request in writing of seven members of the National Executive Board to the National Secretary.

#### Proposed:

Sec. 1. The National Executive Board shall meet within twenty-four hours after the adjournment of the National Convention and shall also meet in Washington, D.C., in September and February and immediately before the succeeding National Convention. Additional meetings may be held at the call of the National President upon reasonable notice to the members or at the request in writing of two-thirds of the members of the National Executive Board to the National Secretary.

**Rationale:** In recent years, the National Executive Board frequently meets outside of the three meetings prescribed in this Section. The number of members on the NEB fluctuates between nine and eleven depending on the decision of the National President with regard to appointed committee chairs. By making it a majority fraction of the members of any current NEB, it allows for this fluctuation.

#### 16. Current:

National Bylaws - Article III - Meetings

Sec. 2. Seven members of the National Executive Board shall constitute a quorum.

#### Proposed:

Sec. 2. Two-thirds of the members of the National Executive Board shall constitute a quorum of said Board.

**Rationale:** The number of members on the NEB fluctuates between nine and eleven depending on the decision of the National President with regard to appointed committee chairs. By making it a majority fraction of the members of any current NEB, it allows for this fluctuation.

#### 17. Current:

National Bylaws - Article III - Meetings

Sec. 3. The National Executive Board shall act by majority vote.

#### Proposed:

Sec. 3. The National Executive Board shall act by majority vote of those present at any meeting of the National Executive Board.

**Rationale:** To clarify that a majority is defined as those members of the National Executive Board present at any meeting of the National Executive Board.

#### 18. Proposed:

National Bylaws - Article II - Duties of Officers

With the clerical change listed above, add the following sentence at the end of the description of duties of Sections 1 through 15.

"She shall perform other duties as assigned and at the request of the National President."

#### Rationale:

The listing of duties describe the general nature of each officers' duties and



## PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGE – NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

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responsibilities. However, they should not be construed as an exhaustive list. All NEB members may be required to perform duties outside of their normal responsibilities as needed for the operation of the organization.

### 19. Current:

National Bylaws - Article IV -Duties and Powers of the National Executive Board

Sec. 5 - Upon suspension or revocation of a Department charter, the National Executive Board may provide for the supervision of all Chapters in said Department until such time as another Department is organized and instituted. The National Executive Board may transfer the Chapters of a Department whose charter has been suspended or revoked to another properly existing Department.

### Proposed:

Sec. 5 - Upon revocation, cancellation or suspension of the charter of a Department of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., said Department shall immediately cease operations and deliver its charter to the National Service Officer. The National Executive Board is authorized, empowered and directed by and through its duly authorized agent to take possession, custody and control of all records, property and assets of said Department, which shall belong to American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., until such time the Department is re-established. It shall be the duty of the Department to forward an official notice to the National Service Officer. No financial responsibility of the Department shall be assumed by American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

### Rationale:

If a Department charter is revoked, canceled or suspended, the provisions for follow-up should be consistent with what happens to a Chapter whose charter is revoked, canceled or suspended.

### 20. Proposed:

National Bylaws - Article IV -Duties and Powers of the National Executive Board

Add a new Sec. 10 - Members of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., who desire to represent American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., on the boards of another organization of any type must submit a written request to be appointed as the representative of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., to such board. The National Executive Board will review the request and, if approved, submit a written endorsement for such member to serve on the board as our official representative. American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., will in no way be liable for any adverse actions taken by such member in their service on such board, nor any adverse actions taken by the board should they become the subject of litigation.

### Rationale:

It has come to the attention of the National Executive Board that members are being appointed to serve on the boards of other organizations and holding themselves out as official representatives of AGSM, Inc. In one case that we are aware of, the actions of the member have become the subject of litigation. This could potentially open AGSM, Inc., to liability. It is important as an organization that we know who is representing that they are our "official" representatives. This would not apply in situations where someone is appointed to a board because they are a "gold star mother," only in situations where they specifically are appointed because they are a member of AGSM, Inc.

### 21. Current:

National Bylaws - Article V -Committees

Sec. 1. There shall be the following Standing Committees: Finance and Budget; Headquarters; Standing Rules; Constitution and Bylaws; and Legislative appointed by the National President in accordance with the National Constitution and approved by the National Executive Board. Standing Committees function from convention to convention and shall be composed of members of the National Executive Board.

### Proposed:

Sec. 1. There shall be the following Standing Committees: Finance and Budget; Headquarters; Standing Rules; Constitution and Bylaws; and Legislative appointed by the National President in accordance with the National Constitution and approved by the National Executive Board. Standing Committees function from convention to convention and shall be composed of members of the National Executive Board and Past National Officers.

**Rationale:** It is beneficial to use the knowledge and expertise of Past National Officers to assist committees.

### 22. Current:

National Bylaws - Article V - Committees

Sec. 2. Special Committees may be appointed from time to time by the National President or National Executive Board. A member of the National Executive Board or Past National President shall at all times be chairman of a special committee on which are serving members in good standing of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

### Proposed:

Sec. 2. Special Committees may be appointed from time to time by the National President or National Executive Board. A member of the National Executive Board or Past National President shall at all times be chairman of a special committee.

**Rationale:** The Committee structure does not allow for anyone other than members of AGSM to serve on committees. This language is redundant and unnecessary.

### 23. Current:

National Bylaws - Article VI - Dues

Sec. 1. (b) Mothers who are 80 years of age or older are exempt from payment of per capita dues. There must be a five-year prior membership eligibility for exemption from nonpayment of dues for those members over 90.

### Proposed:

(b) Mothers who are 80 years of age or older are exempt from payment of per capita dues. There must be a five-year prior membership eligibility for exemption from nonpayment of dues for those members over 80.

**Rationale:** This is a clerical error that was not changed in the previous edition of the C&BL.

### 24. Current:

National Bylaws - Article VI - Dues

Sec. 2. (b) A member whose dues for the current calendar year are not paid by March 1st of such year shall be declared delinquent and suspended from all privileges. A delinquent member cannot hold office or vote.

### Proposed:

Sec. 2. (b) A member whose dues for the current calendar year are not paid by March 1st of such year shall be moved to inactive status and suspended from all privileges and cannot hold office or vote.

**Rationale:** The proper term is "inactive," rather than "delinquent."

### 25. Current:

National Bylaws - Article VI - Dues

Sec. 2. (c) Dues for the current calendar year will be accepted to and including December 31st of each year. The delinquent member shall be reinstated to all privileges when payment is received.

### Proposed:

Sec. 2. (c) Dues for the current calendar year will be accepted to and including December 31st of each year. The inactive member shall be reinstated to all privileges when payment is received.

**Rationale:** The proper term is "inactive," rather than "delinquent."

### 26. Current:

Department Bylaws - Article I - Organization

Sec. 4. Each Department, by vote of its members, may designate the amount of its annual membership dues. The amount of the annual Department dues is to be paid each year before January 15th.

### Proposed:

Sec. 4. Each Department, by vote of its members, may designate the amount of its annual Department dues.

**Rationale:** Not all Departments have Department dues. It is the function of the Department to determine if they will have Department dues and to provide for collection of the same in the Department Standing Rules.

### 27. Current:

Department Bylaws - Article I - Organization

Sec. 5. All Chapter members must be in good standing and have all per capita paid to be a member of the Department.

### Proposed:

Eliminate this paragraph.

**Rationale:** Redundant. Only those people in good standing would be a member of the Chapter and, therefore, the Department anyway.

### 28. Current:

Department Bylaws - Article II - Officers

Sec. 2. A Corresponding Secretary, Historian, Custodian of Records, Community Service Chairman, VAVS Chairman and Americanism Chairman may be appointed by the Department President with the approval of the Department Executive Board. If deemed necessary, a Legislative Chairman and Parliamentarian may be appointed by the Department President with the approval of the Department Executive Board and they shall be members of said Board.

**Proposed:**

Sec. 2. A Corresponding Secretary, Historian, ~~Custodian of Records~~; Community Service Chairman, VAVS Chairman and Americanism Chairman may be appointed by the Department President with the approval of the Department Executive Board. If deemed necessary, a Legislative Chairman and Parliamentarian may be appointed by the Department President with the approval of the Department Executive Board and they shall be members of said Board.

**Rationale:** Only one Chapter and one Department currently lists this as a role they staff. As Departments operate, this is no longer a role currently utilized.

**29. Proposed:**

Department Bylaws - Article III - Duties of Officers

Replace paragraphs delineated by alphabetic designation with Section numbers.

Thus, it will be:

Sec. 1. The Department President ...

Sec. 2. The Department First Vice President . . .

Etc.

Sec. 15. The Department Community Service Chair ...

**Rationale:** Clerical/administrative changes to be consistent with the section designations throughout the remainder of the C&BL document.

**30. Proposed:**

Department Bylaws - Article III - Duties of Officers

With the clerical change listed above, add the following sentence at the end of the description of duties of Sections I through 15.

"She shall perform other duties as assigned and at the request of the National President."

**Rationale:** The listing of duties describe the general nature of each officers' duties and responsibilities. However, they should not be construed as an exhaustive list. All Department Board members may be required to perform duties outside of their normal responsibilities as needed for the operation of the organization.

**31. Current:**

Department Bylaws - Article III - Duties of Officers

With the clerical change listed above, the duties of the Department President becomes new Section I.

Sec I. THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT shall preside at all Board and Executive Board meetings and the Department Convention. She shall appoint all committees and shall be an ex officio member of same, except the Nominating Committee. She shall sign all warrants and checks drawn on the treasury for appropriations of money and shall perform all other duties and exercise the powers usually incident to the chief executive office. The term of office for the Department President shall be from convention to convention.

**Proposed:**

Sec. 1. THE DEPARTMENT PRESIDENT shall preside at all Board and Executive Board meetings and the Department Convention. She shall appoint all committees and shall be an ex officio member of same, except the Nominating Committee. She shall approve all expenditures and sign checks drawn on the treasury for appropriations of money and shall perform all other duties and exercise the powers usually incident to the chief executive office. ~~The term of office for the Department President shall be from convention to convention.~~

**Rationale:** The term "warrants" is outdated. It is important for the President to approve all expenses. The term of office for Department officers should be addressed in the Department's Standing Rules. Many Departments currently have a two-year term of office for their officers.

**32. Current:**

Department Bylaws - Article III - Duties of Officers

With the clerical change listed above, the duties of the Department Corresponding Secretary becomes new Section 5.

Sec. 5. THE DEPARTMENT CORRESPONDING SECRETARY shall conduct the correspondence of the Department and keep copy of same in permanent form; shall notify each Officer, Chapter President, Past Department President and VAVS Representative of time and place of Board Meetings, shall notify same of time, place and purpose of special meetings. She shall issue and sign warrants for the appropriations of money.

**Proposed:**

Sec. 5. THE DEPARTMENT CORRESPONDING SECRETARY shall conduct the correspondence of the Department and keep copy of same in permanent form; shall notify each Officer, Chapter President, Past Department President and VAVS Representative of time and place of Board Meetings, shall notify same of time, place and purpose of special meetings. She shall issue and sign warrants for the appropriations of money;

**Rationale:** The Corresponding Secretary has nothing to do with signing checks or issuing payments.

**33. Current:**

Department Bylaws - Article III - Duties of Officers

With the clerical change listed above, the duties of the Department Treasurer becomes new Section 6.

(f) THE DEPARTMENT TREASURER shall deposit all funds in a bank, shall collect all fees and certify to the payment thereof; shall keep the financial books; shall pay claims approved by the Department President; shall render a statement at the end of the calendar year to each Chapter delinquent in payment of Department dues, if applicable; shall render an itemized that at each Convention of monies received and disbursed between Conventions; shall have books audited by three members of the Department appointed by the Department President prior to each Convention; shall collect the National per capita for each member and shall forward to the National Treasurer before February 15th of each year. Three signatures are required on all bank accounts, namely: Department President, Department Treasurer and one other officer. Any one of the three signatures may sign Department checks. She shall screen all new membership applications and forward to the National Service Officer with a check drawn on the Department Treasury.

**Proposed:**

Sec. 6. THE DEPARTMENT TREASURER shall deposit all funds in a bank, shall collect all fees and certify to the payment thereof; shall keep the financial books; shall pay claims approved by the Department President; shall prepare a financial report to be presented at each Convention of monies received and disbursed between Conventions; shall have books audited by three members of the Department appointed by the Department President prior to each Convention; shall collect the National per capita for each member and shall forward to the National Treasurer before February 15th of each year.

**Rationale:** If a Department has Department dues, the method for collection should be addressed in the Department's Standing Rules. With new compliance procedures, Departments should address who will be signatories on their checking account in the Department's Standing Rules. The Department Treasurer does not screen new membership applications. That is the function of the National Service Officer.

**34. Proposed:**

Department Bylaws - Article III - Duties of Officers

Section (h) - Custodian of Records - eliminate this paragraph.

**Rationale:** Only one Chapter and one Department currently lists this as a role they staff. As Departments operate, this is no longer a role currently utilized.

**35. Current:**

Department Bylaws - Article III - Duties of Officers

With the clerical change listed above and the elimination of Sec. (h), the duties of the Department VAVS Chair becomes new Sec. 11.

(l) THE DEPARTMENT VAVS CHAIRMAN shall cooperate with the VAVS Representatives in the Department, coordinate and encourage volunteer service for veterans in all hospitals and render a report of such activities within the Department at each Department Convention.

**Proposed:**

Sec. 11. THE DEPARTMENT VAVS CHAIRMAN shall cooperate with the VAVS Representatives in the Department, coordinate and encourage volunteer service for all agencies in the VA system and render a report of such activities within the Department at each Department Convention.

**Rationale:** Service to Veterans within the VA system has grown to include more than just hospital-based services (e.g., Vet Centers, nursing homes, clinics, etc.)

**36. Current:**

Department Bylaws - Article IV - Duties of a Department

1. To promote peace, harmony and good fellowship among all Chapters.
2. To instruct Chapters in interpreting the Ritual and the duties of all Chapter Officers, the National Constitution and Bylaws, the Department Bylaws and the Standing Rules so that Chapter, Department and National are functioning in unity.
3. To organize Chapters.
4. To instruct Department Officers in the fulfillment of their duties as outlined in the Procedure.

**Proposed:**

1. To promote peace, harmony and good fellowship among all Chapters.
2. To comply with the Constitution and Bylaws of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.
3. To carry out our Mission in deeds as well as words.
4. To organize and establish new Chapters, maintain existing Chapters and instruct Chapters in the procedures of the Ritual and the duties of all Department Officers,



## PROPOSED BY-LAWS CHANGE – NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD

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Chapter Officers, the National Constitution and Bylaws, the Department Bylaws and the Standing Rules so that Chapter, Department and National are functioning in unity.

5. To maintain compliance with all financial reporting requirements as shall be promulgated by the Internal Revenue Service, the state within which the Department operates and the National Executive Board.

**Rationale:** New proposed Points 2 and 3 are in the Chapter bylaws currently. It is important that Departments also share these principles. Through the compliance process, it has become clear that many Departments do not understand their role in assisting the Chapters within their Department. These changes will provide clarification, as well as adding the requirement to maintain compliance with IRS and state regulations going forward.

### 37. Current:

Department Bylaws - Article VI - Conventions

Sec. 3. Each Chapter in good standing is entitled to be represented by one delegate and one alternate, duly elected, for every five members or major fraction thereof. In addition, each Chapter President, Department Officer, Past Department President and VAVS Representative shall be a delegate with one vote and shall have no alternate.

### Proposed:

Sec. 3. Each chartered Chapter ~~in good standing~~ is entitled to be represented by one delegate and one alternate, duly elected, for every five members or major fraction thereof. In addition, each Chapter President, Department Officer and Past Department President ~~and VAVS Representative~~ shall be a delegate with one vote and shall have no alternate.

**Rationale:** Members are "in good standing," not Chapters. Chapters are chartered. The VAVS Representative, by being a Department Officer, already has a vote. It is redundant to list them separately.

### 38. Proposed:

Department Bylaws - Article VII - Elections

Add a new Section 5:

Sec. 5. The President-elect shall plan the installation of officers and shall choose the Installing Officer, who must be a member in good standing. She shall be a Chapter President, Past Chapter President, Department Officer, Past Department Officer, National or Past National Officer of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. The ritual of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., shall be used for the installation ceremony.

**Rationale:** This clause appears in the Chapter Bylaws. It outlines the procedure for the installation of officers at the Department level.

### 39. Current:

Department Bylaws - Article X - Standing Rules

A Department shall adopt Standing Rules at the Department Convention, provided said Standing Rules have been approved by the National Executive Board as not being contrary to the National Constitution or National and Department Bylaws.

### Proposed:

A Department shall adopt Standing Rules at the Department Convention. Following the Department Convention, said Standing Rules shall be forwarded to the National Constitution and Bylaws Chair for review by the National Executive Board to ensure they are in accordance with the National Constitution, National Bylaws and Department Bylaws.

**Rationale:** Clarification on when and who will conduct the review to ensure Standing Rules do not conflict with the National Constitution, National Bylaws and Department Bylaws.

### 40. Current:

Chapter Bylaws - Article I - Organization

Sec. 3. Those who desire to form a Chapter shall make application for a charter to the President of the Department in which they reside. The charter shall be issued by the National President and National Secretary upon receipt of the application properly executed by the charter members of the proposed Chapter.

### Proposed:

Sec. 3. Those who desire to form a Chapter shall notify the Department President and make application for a charter to the National Service Officer. The charter application shall be reviewed by the National Executive Board to ensure it is properly executed by the charter members of the proposed Chapter. If approved, a charter shall be issued and signed by the National President and National Secretary.

**Rationale:** Applications for charters are submitted to the National Service Officer and approved by the National Executive Board.

### 41. Proposed:

Chapter Bylaws - Article I - Organization

Add new Section 6:

Sec. 6. Each Chapter, by vote of its members, may designate the amount of its annual Chapter dues.

**Rationale:** To allow each Chapter to determine if they will have Chapter dues.

### 42. Current:

Chapter Bylaws - Article II - Officers

Sec. 2. The Chapter President may appoint a Corresponding Secretary, Historian, Custodian of Records, Community Service Chairman, VAVS Chairman, Americanism Chairman and, if deemed necessary by the Chapter, a Parliamentarian and Legislative Chairman.

### Proposed:

Sec. 2. The Chapter President may appoint a Corresponding Secretary, Historian, Custodian of Records, Community Service Chairman, VAVS Chairman, Americanism Chairman and, if deemed necessary by the Chapter, a Parliamentarian and Legislative Chairman.

**Rationale:** Only one Chapter and one Department currently lists this as a role they staff. As Chapters operate, this is no longer a role currently utilized.

### 43. Proposed:

Chapter Bylaws - Article III - Duties of Officers

Replace paragraphs delineated by alphabetic designation with Section numbers.

Thus, it will be:

Sec. 1. The Chapter President ...

Sec. 2. The Chapter First Vice President ...

Etc.

Sec. 15. The Chapter Community Service Chair ...

**Rationale:** Clerical/administrative changes to be consistent with the section designations throughout the remainder of the C&BL document.

### 44. Proposed:

Chapter Bylaws - Article III - Duties of Officers

With the clerical change listed above, add the following sentence at the end of the description of duties of Sections 1 through 15.

"She shall perform other duties as assigned and at the request of the National President."

**Rationale:** The listing of duties describes the general nature of each officers' duties and responsibilities. However, they should not be construed as an exhaustive list. All Department Board members may be required to perform duties outside of their normal responsibilities as needed for the operation of the organization.

### 45. Current:

Chapter Bylaws - Article III - Duties of Officers

With the clerical change listed above, the duties of the Department President becomes new Section 1.

(a) THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT shall perform the duties and exercise the powers usually incident to the chief executive's office. She shall preside at all meetings of the Chapter. She shall appoint all committees and is an ex officio member of same, except the Nominating Committee. She shall act as judge at all elections and obligate new members. She shall sign all checks drawn on the treasury for appropriations of money. All questions of debate shall be decided by vote of the Chapter.

### Proposed:

Sec. 1. THE CHAPTER PRESIDENT shall perform the duties and exercise the powers usually incident to the chief executive's office. She shall preside at all meetings of the Chapter. She shall appoint all committees and shall be an ex officio member of same, except the Nominating Committee. She shall act as judge at all elections and obligate new members. She shall approve all expenditures and sign checks drawn on the treasury for appropriations of money. ~~All questions of debate shall be decided by vote of the Chapter.~~

**Rationale:** It is important for the President to approve all expenses. The procedure for handling debated issues is covered in Robert's Rules of Order, which governs all AGSM meetings.

### 46. Current:

Chapter Bylaws - Article III - Duties of Officers

With the clerical change listed above, the duties of the Chapter Treasurer becomes new Section 6.

(f) THE CHAPTER TREASURER shall receive and disburse all funds of the Chapter, keep accurate accounts and give a statement of the financial condition of the Chapter at each meeting and at the end of her term. She shall pay all claims approved by the Chapter. She shall screen all new membership applications and send the application fee to the Department Treasurer. She shall notify all members when dues are payable and shall send annual Department and National per capitās to the Department Treasurer by January 15th of each year. She shall have the books audited before the end of her term by three members of the Chapter, appointed by the President. Three signatures are required on all bank accounts, namely: Chapter President, Chapter Treasurer and one other officer, with any one signature required on Chapter checks.

**Proposed:**

Sec. 6. THE CHAPTER TREASURER shall receive and disburse all funds of the Chapter, keep accurate accounts and give a statement of the financial condition of the Chapter at each meeting and at the end of her term. She shall pay all claims approved by the Chapter. She shall screen all new membership applications and send the application fee to the Department Treasurer. She shall notify all members when dues are payable and shall send annual Department and National per capitās to the Department Treasurer by January 15th of each year. She shall have the books audited before the end of her term by three members of the Chapter, appointed by the President. Three signatures are required on all bank accounts, namely: Chapter President, Chapter Treasurer and one other officer, with any one signature required on Chapter checks.

**Rationale:** The Chapter Treasurer does not screen new membership applications. That is the function of the National Service Officer. With new compliance procedures, Chapters should address who will be signatories on their checking account in the Chapter's Standing Rules.

**47. Proposed:**

Chapter Bylaws - Article III - Duties of Officers

Section (h) - Custodian of Records - eliminate this paragraph.

**Rationale:** Only one Chapter and one Department currently lists this as a role they staff. As Departments operate, this is no longer a role currently utilized.

**48. Current:**

Chapter Bylaws - Article III - Duties of Officers

With the clerical change listed above and the elimination of Sec. (h), the duties of the Chapter VAVS Chair becomes new Sec. 11.

(i) THE CHAPTER VAVS CHAIRMAN shall render such services as the Chapter directs to hospitalized veterans through the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service Representative and in other facilities through the proper authorities.

**Proposed:**

Sec. 11. THE CHAPTER VAVS CHAIRMAN shall render such services as the Chapter directs to coordinate and encourage volunteer service for all agencies in the VA system and render a report of such activities to the Department VAVS Chair.

**Rationale:** Service to Veterans within the VA system has grown to include more than just hospital-based services (e.g., Vet Centers, nursing homes, clinics, etc.).

**49. Proposed:**

Chapter Bylaws - Article IV - Duties of a Chapter

Add the following new Section 4.

4. To maintain compliance with all financial reporting requirements as shall be promulgated by the Internal Revenue Service, the state within which the Department operates and the National Executive Board.

**Rationale:** To add the requirement to maintain compliance with IRS and state regulations going forward.

**50. Current:**

Chapter Bylaws - Article V - Meetings

Sec. 2. The quorum necessary to hold a business meeting shall be determined according to the membership of the Chapter by vote of the Chapter.

**Proposed:**

Sec. 2. The quorum necessary to hold a business meeting shall be determined according to the membership of the Chapter as outlined in the Chapter's Standing Rules.

**Rationale:** To allow the Chapter to determine their operating procedures based on what works best for them.

**51. Current:**

Chapter Bylaws - Article VI - Conventions

Sec. 1. Each Chapter President, by virtue of her office, shall be a delegate to Department and National Conventions with one vote. She shall have no alternate. In addition, the Department President, Past Department Presidents and VAVS Representatives have a vote at Department Board Meetings and Department Conventions.

**Proposed:**

Sec. 1. Each Chapter President, by virtue of her office, shall be a delegate to Department and National Conventions with one vote. She shall have no alternate. In addition, the Department President, Past Department Presidents and VAVS Representatives have a vote at Department Board Meetings and Department Conventions.

**Rationale:** This language pertains to Departments and not Chapters.

**52. Current:**

Chapter Bylaws - Article VI - Conventions

Sec. 2. Each Chapter in good standing is entitled to be represented by one delegate and one alternate for every five members or major fraction thereof.

**Proposed:**

Sec. 2. Each chartered Chapter in good standing is entitled to be represented by one delegate and one alternate for every five members or major fraction thereof.

**Rationale:** Members are "in good standing," not Chapters. Chapters are chartered.

**53. Current:**

Chapter Bylaws - Article IX - Dues

Sec. 2. (d) Members requesting a transfer from one Chapter to another must be in good standing in the Chapter she is leaving. The Chapter receiving such a transfer must vote in favor of the transfer for the transfer to be effective.

**Proposed:**

Eliminate this subsection altogether in this section of the Chapter Bylaws.

**Rationale:** The process for transfers between Chapters is a function of AGSM National and is proposed to be moved to Article III of the National Constitution, as outlined above.

**54. Current:**

Chapter Bylaws - Article XI - Discipline

Any Chapter failing to meet its obligations as outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws or ceasing to function for six months as a Chapter of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., or refusing to pay any Department and National per capita shall upon order of the National Executive Board surrender its charter for cancellation. Upon failure to surrender such charter, immediate steps may be taken by the National Executive Board for its revocation, suspension or cancellation. See Article XI of the Constitution.

**Proposed:**

Discipline shall be outlined in Article XI of the National Constitution and Code of Procedure of the same Article.

**Rationale:** The procedure for discipline is outlined in Article XI of the National Constitution and Code of Procedure of the same Article. The procedure for discipline should be consistent across both Departments and Chapters.

**55. Current:**

Chapter Bylaws - Article XII - Standing Rules

A Chapter may adopt Standing Rules at any regular business meeting, providing said Standing Rules have been read at the previous business meeting or have been mailed to each member of the Chapter at least fifteen days prior to the date of meeting at which the vote will be taken on them. All proposed Standing Rules must be approved by the Department Board as not being contrary to the Constitution and Bylaws.

**Proposed:**

A Chapter shall adopt Standing Rules. The Standing Rules should be reviewed annually and proposed changes voted on at a regular business meeting. Standing Rules shall be submitted for approval to the Department Board as not being contrary to the National Constitution and Bylaws. Once approved, a copy of the Chapter Standing Rules shall be submitted to the National Secretary to be included in the Chapter's files at Headquarters.

**Rationale:** To address new compliance requirements and how each Chapter will handle compliance, Standing Rules will outline the procedures they will follow. As part of the duties of a Department to manage Chapters, they are the proper entity to perform the review of the Chapter's Standing Rules.



**Proposed By-Laws Change – Department of MI**  
[Received 02/18/23]

**56. Current:**

National Bylaws - Article VI - Dues

Sec. 1. (a) - The annual dues shall be paid to the Chapter Treasurer. Included shall be the per capita which shall be sent to the Department Treasurer. The Department Treasurer will in turn forward the National per capita to the National Treasurer prior to February 15th of the ensuing year.

**Proposed:**

Sec. 1. (a) - The annual dues shall be paid to the Chapter Treasurer. Included shall be the per capita which shall be sent to the Department Treasurer. The Department Treasurer will in turn forward the National per capita to the National Treasurer prior to June 1st of the ensuing year.

**Rationale:** In order to align our membership year with our fiscal year.

**57. Current:**

National Bylaws - Article VI - Dues

Sec. 2. (a) - The calendar year is January 1st through December 31st. For the purpose of keeping adequate records and accountings, dues should be paid in the month of December preceding the ensuing year.

**Proposed:**

Sec. 2. (a) - The fiscal year is July 1st through June 30th. For the purpose of keeping adequate records and accountings, dues should be paid in the month of May preceding the ensuing year.

**Rationale:** Membership year and fiscal should be aligned to eliminate the confusion.

**58. Current:**

National Bylaws - Article VI - Dues

Sec. 2. (b) - A member whose dues for the current calendar year are not paid by March 1st of such year shall be declared delinquent and suspended from all privileges. A delinquent member cannot hold office or vote.

**Proposed:**

Sec. 2. (b) - A member whose dues for the current fiscal year are not paid by July 1st such year shall be declared delinquent and suspended from all privileges. A delinquent member cannot hold office or vote.

**Rationale:** To align our fiscal and membership year.

**59. Current:**

National Bylaws - Article VI - Dues

Sec. 2. (c) - Dues for the current calendar year will be accepted to and including December 31st of each year. The delinquent member shall be reinstated to all privileges when payment is received.

**Proposed:**

Sec. 2. (c) - Dues for the current fiscal year will be accepted to and including June 30th of each year. The delinquent member shall be reinstated to all privileges when payment is received.

**Rationale:** To align our fiscal and membership year.

**60. Current:**

National Bylaws - Article VI - Dues

Sec. 2. (d) - If the National per capita has not been paid for two consecutive years, the inactive member moves to former member status and must reapply for membership as a new member in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws.

**Proposed:**

Sec. 2. (d) - If the National per capita has not been paid in the past year, the delinquent member moves to former member status and must reapply for membership as a new member in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws.

**Rationale:** A member that chooses not to pay her membership for a year, should not be required to pay for two years membership when she does come back. Thus, penalizing the member and discourages membership. The word inactive changed to delinquent is to provide consistency in our wording.

**61. Current:**

Chapter Bylaws - Article IX - Dues

Sec. 2. (a) - The calendar year is January 1st through December 31st. For the purpose

of keeping adequate records and accountings, dues should be paid in the month of December preceding the ensuing year. As amended June 2022

**Proposed:**

Sec. 2. (a) - The fiscal year is July 1st through June 30. For the purpose of keeping adequate records and accountings, dues should be paid in the month of May preceding the ensuing year.

**Rationale:** Membership year and fiscal should be aligned to eliminate the confusion of what is due when.

**62. Current:**

Chapter Bylaws - Article IX - Dues

Sec. 2. (b) - A member whose National per capita for the current calendar year is not paid by March 1st of such year shall be considered inactive and suspended from all privileges, including holding office and voting, and has relinquished her right to use the registered trademark of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., in any form.

**Proposed:**

Sec. 2. (b) - A member whose National per capita for the current fiscal year is not paid by July 1st of such year shall be considered delinquent and suspended from all privileges, including holding office and voting, and has relinquished her right to use the registered trademark of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., in any form.

**Rationale:** Membership year and fiscal should be aligned to eliminate the confusion of what is due when and to make the wording consistent in our governing documents. The word inactive changed to delinquent is to provide consistency in our wording.

**63. Current:**

Chapter Bylaws - Article IX - Dues

Sec. 2. (c) - A member whose National per capita for the current year is not paid by December 31st of such year may thereafter be reinstated only upon payment of unpaid National per capita.

**Proposed:**

Sec. 2. (c) - A member whose National per capita for the current year is not paid by June 30th of such year must reapply for membership as a new member in accordance with the Constitution and Bylaws.

**Rationale:** A member who chooses not to be in our organization one year and then pays her dues for the next, should not be required to pay two years of dues. This penalizes the member and discourages her from coming back.

**64. Current:**

Chapter Bylaws - Article X - Per Capita

Chapter shall pay the annual National and Department per capita based on individual membership as prescribed in Article V, Section 3 of the Constitution and Article I, Section 4 of the Department Bylaws. Chapter shall send National and Department per capita to the Department Treasurer by January 15th of each year.

**Proposed:**

Chapter shall pay the annual National per capita based on individual membership as prescribed in Article V, Section 3 of the Constitution and Article I, Section 4 of the Department Bylaws. Chapter shall send National per capita to the Department Treasurer by June 1st of each year.

**Rationale:** Membership year and fiscal should be aligned.

**Proposed By-Laws Change – Department of TX-OK**  
[Received 03/01/23]

**65. Proposed:**

National Constitution - Article IV - Eligibility and Membership

Gold Star Fathers, Gold Star Siblings, Gold Star Grandparents, and Gold Star Children are eligible to join as Associate Members. They pay no dues, hold no office, and have no vote, but may be appointed as a Deputy to the representative at the VA Medical Center.

**Rationale:** Having attended many Gold Star functions and allowed the opportunity to talk with children who lost a parent, it has been obvious that we are leaving behind a part of the family with the exclusion of Gold Star Children as associate members. For many who actively serve and represent the Gold Star Family, having them join us will make sure they have a place to belong, give them a voice and a place to honor their parent as they serve with us. For associate membership eligibility, the child applicant must submit an AGSM application form and the required military documentation which will be processed by the AGSM NSO.

# Welcome to our NEWEST MEMBERS

**Tanya Garner**, Member - Cobb, GA

**Elaine Berg**, Member - Nebraska GSM, NE

**Teresa Jarvis**, Member - Greater Southeastern TX, TX-OK

**Tina Hillman**, Member - Allegheny County, PA

**Cheree Barrett**, Member - North/West TX, TX-OK

**Martha Rabon**, Member - Low State, SC

**Janice Hayward**, Member - Phoenix, AZ

**Gloria Ortiz**, Member - Newton, MA-RI

**Martha Cotter**, Member - Pikes Peak GSM, CO

**Jennifer Childers**, Member - Cobb, GA

**Jennifer Risberg**, Member - Eau Claire, WI

**Tammy Wise-Thrash**, Member - Tampa Bay, FL-PR

**Holly Smith**, Member - Arkansas GSM, AR

**Linda Wright-Dennis**, Member - Kentucky GSM, KY

**Sandy Isom**, Member - Arkansas GSM ,AR

**Elaine Roach**, Member - Saddleback Valley ,CA,S-HI



## Heartfelt Appreciation TO OUR DONORS

*American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. could not continue our work as a Veterans Service Organization without the continued support of our generous donors.*

### FRIENDS OF AGSM

AGSM Saint Louis Chapter  
Aloha Trucking  
APM Cares  
Asian Pacific Advisors  
Bob's Equipment, LLC  
Steve Davis  
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Michelle Apana Elaban  
Harmony Chapter #4 O.E.S.  
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Island Fender  
Leeward Lodge F and AM  
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Oka's Auto Body  
Par Hawaii Refining  
Prism Acoustical & Drywall LLC  
Jowell Rivera  
Verne W. Santos  
SH Fender Shop, Inc.  
Sarah J. Silva  
Kyle Keleii and Wynnette A B Spillner

## We Hold in Loving Memory

*These members have, on the wings of eagles, soared beyond the rainbow, and are reunited with those who have gone before...*

Name	Date of Death	Chapter	Department	
Yolanda Hatala	20-Feb-23	Hudson Valley #31	NY	Member
Margaret Setaro	24-Mar-23	Worcester	MA	Member
Arlene Carroll	20-Feb-23	Milwaukee	WI	Member
Evelyn Bates	11-Mar-23	Bayshore	NJ	Member
Iris Graham	02-Jan-23	Hudson Valley #31	NY	Member
Alan Whitney	19-Jan-22	Albany	NY	Associate

*Be of good courage, and he shall strengthen your heart,  
all ye that hope in the Lord.*

**Psalm 31:24**

**Note to all Chaplains - All Death Notices go to:**

Suzanne Sheaffer, National Chaplain  
chaplain@americangoldstarmothers.org  
GoldStarMoms.com/contact-the-national-chaplain







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**OBLIGATION OF AMERICAN GOLD STAR MOTHERS, INC.**

IN THE PRESENCE OF ALMIGHTY GOD AND THESE AMERICAN GOLD STAR MOTHERS, DO, OF MY OWN FREE WILL AND ACCORD, MOST FAITHFULLY PROMISE THAT I WILL COMPLY WITH ALL THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS OF THIS ORGANIZATION.

THAT I WILL NEVER WRONG, OR PERMIT A WRONG TO BE DONE, TO ANY MEMBER OF THIS ORGANIZATION IF IT IS IN MY POWER TO PREVENT IT.

SHOULD MY AFFILIATION WITH THIS ORGANIZATION CEASE IN ANY WAY, I SHALL CONSIDER THIS PLEDGE A LIFELONG OBLIGATION.

I WILL BEAR TRUE FAITH AND ALLEGIANCE TO THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, AND TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF MY COUNTRY'S HONOR.

ALL THIS I PROMISE ON MY HONOR AS A TRUE AMERICAN.

**2022-2023 VETERAN SERVICE YEAR IN REVIEW**

1. Suicide Awareness Walk 
2. Veterans Day 
3. Gold Star Mothers Day 
4. Visiting Grace 
5. Celebrating the 247th Birthday at the National Museum of the Marine Corps 
6. Library of Congress MOU Signing 
7. WAA Escort to Arlington 
8. Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier MOU Signing 
9. Phillies AGSM Chair Dedication (I) 
10. Stop SuiSilence Symposium 
11. Honoring the Fallen at Pearl Harbor 