



## *American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.*

2024-2025 National Executive Board Meeting  
Via Zoom  
August 4, 2024

Patti Elliott called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

A motion to dispense of the Ritual was made by Annette and was seconded by Nichole. Motion carried.

Sherrie McGhee led the group in the Opening Prayer.

After the Pledge of Allegiance, Theresa conducted the roll call of the officers.

Present: Patti Elliott, Annette Kirk, Theresa Karlson, Rose Duval, Teresa Bullock, Sherrie McGhee, Joan Snyder, Denise Torbert and Nichole Chilton

Absent: Pam Stemple and Joyce Paulsen

### Standing Committee Reports

- Finance and Budget - Rose Duval  
The members were able to review and comment on the 2024-2025 budget prior to the meeting. A motion to approve the budget was made by Sherrie and was seconded by Teresa. Motion carried.
- Headquarters - Annette Kirk  
The committee will meet tomorrow, August 5<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. No report at this time.
- Standing Rules/Constitution and Bylaws - Joyce Paulsen  
Patti shared that Joyce is working on updating these documents.
- Legislative - Rose Duval  
The Hire Veterans Act has been introduced in the Senate. This bill will require the Director of the Office of Personnel Management to establish a pilot program to identify and refer veterans for potential employment with Federal land management agencies, and for other purposes.

August 1, 2024, has been designated as "Gold Star Children's Day".

There is a resolution that has been introduced into the House to designate November 9<sup>th</sup> as Gold Star Father's Day.

Everyone agreed that Congress should re-establish the last Sunday of September as "Gold Star Mother's Day" and establish a separate day for Gold Star Families.

### Special Committee Reports

- Little Gold Book - Joyce Paulsen  
Patti shared that Becky Christmas and Jenn Jackman have been helping revise this booklet. Joyce will send out a draft, then we will vote on it. She will update us at the next meeting.
- Membership - Teresa Bullock  
Membership Card Printer Update – Patti has received the printer and supplies. We currently have 776 active members, 153 members are over 80 and 193 associate members.
- Community Service - Joan Snyder  
The committee met on July 17<sup>th</sup>. They discussed updating the CSR Form for Departments/Chapters, Operation Holiday Salute and expanding outreach to our members by giving them opportunities to serve. Joan shared that she cuts out stars from retired American flags with a special poem and distributes them at her local events. She also mentioned that the committee wants to do something different for the VAVs community service luncheon. She suggested that we recognize a member who is exemplary in their service to the community. Recipients will have the option to have their convention registration fee waived, or have AGSM give a donation to a charity of their choice. Patti can deliver the Operation Holiday Salute to Veterans Last Patrol.
- Grants & Scholarships - Teresa Bullock  
Disaster Grant Update – There were three requests for a total amount of \$2,790.13  
Waldorf/CSU Scholarships – Teresa sent an email referencing these two scholarships to members. We have not received any applications as of today. She will send out another email to remind members about this program.

We have not received any Giving Grace Grant requests at this time; however, Teresa referred a member to GS Manor since she was not eligible for the Giving Grace Grant. Rose put together a checklist (worksheet) of items that members need to submit with their application to the Manor. This worksheet will be added to our website, along with a link to the Manor’s grant program.

The Columbus Foundation Grant – Rose shared that we will be receiving a \$20,000 grant from the Columbus Foundation. This money needs to be spent by April 30, 2025. Any money used from this grant is specifically for the Giving Grace Grants.

- Ways & Means - Theresa Karlson  
The committee will be meeting on Wednesday, August 7 at 7:00 PM. Theresa shared that she has been working on inventory and that the committee will discuss the City Pride status, Gold Star Mothers Weekend Open House, postage rates and potentially increasing costs of products.
- Americanism - Joyce Paulsen – No report at this time.
- History - Nichole Chilton for Pam Stemple  
“New” Database – Nichole shared that we will be using the Quickbase database to enter lineage information, which would be similar to Ancestry. We can start entering Hero or member information into the database.
- VAVS - Patti Elliott for Pam Stemple – Patti mentioned that Pam and Carla are working on a VAVs handbook for volunteers. Pam will send out an email to Department and Chapter Presidents to get their designated VAVs representatives. A checkbox has been added in the database to allow us to track who the VAVS reps are in chapters and departments.

- Compliance - Joyce Paulsen – Joyce has requested more information from Harbor Compliance but has not received an answer.

### Unfinished Business

- Business Cards Update - Patti Elliott  
The business cards have been ordered for all those who submitted their information and should be delivered soon.
- Nametag Design Options - Nichole Chilton  
Nichole shared two samples of nametags. Both designs had gold backgrounds with black lettering. One measured at 2" X 3" and the other one was 1 ½" X 3". It was decided that we would only have our names, no titles, National Executive Board and American Gold Star Mothers as well as the logo. A motion was made to order the gold nameplate with black lettering, size 1 ½" X 3" by Teresa and was seconded by Sherrie. Motion carried.
- Website/Blog/Social Media Updates - Nichole Chilton  
Nichole has been really busy cleaning up the website, adding the blog and updating our social media. The website is now mobile friendly. Three board members have submitted their articles, which have been posted. Patti encouraged everyone to invite their Facebook friends to follow AGSM's Facebook page.
- Quickbase and Google Drive Training Schedule - Nichole Chilton  
Nichole will be providing Quickbase and Google Drive Training to those NEB members who are not familiar with these programs or need a refresher. Please reach out to Nichole with dates and times when you want to meet with her. Training needs to be completed no later than August 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Liaison Assignments - Pending Training - Patti will assign NEB members as liaisons to Chapters and Departments. This is a great opportunity to share what is new with AGSM and be a resource to those members. Liaison assignments will be assigned when training is completed.

### New Business

- Commemoration Ceremony of the Korean Armistice - Rose Duval  
Rose attended this commemorative ceremony honoring our Korean War Heroes. The ceremony included a special meaning of the wreaths that were presented.
- GSM Weekend Final Invite - Patti Elliott and Nichole Chilton  
Once we have a final RSVP date, Patti and Nichole will provide the final invitation to members and distinguished guests.

### GSM Weekend Plans - Teresa Bullock

- GSM Weekend Scholarship for Two Members – Two free airline tickets, provided by a gracious donor, will be provided to two members to use for Gold Star Mothers Weekend. A motion was made by Rose to accept the airfare donation, that AGSM will pay for the recipient's hotel room (2-night stay) and banquet fee. Nichole seconded the motion. Motion carried. Once Teresa receives the scholarship applications, she will redact the member's information and provide them to the members of the Executive Committee, who will select the recipients.
- Travel Plans – Please make your travel plans now and plan to arrive no later than Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>

evening. The dress code for the weekend will be sent out in an email.

- Business Meeting - Wednesday, September 25 (and possibly Thursday if needed)
- Library of Congress - Thursday, September 26 (10:00-12:00)
- Open House - Friday, September 27 (6:00-8:00)
- Armed Forces Retirement Home - Saturday, September 28 (9:00-11:30 - set up 8:30) Only 15 members can attend.
- Possible Other Service Activity – Teresa will contact the Vet Center in DC to ask if AGSM members can provide volunteer services.
- Subcommittees – Teresa will need volunteers for the following events. Please respond to her no later than Wednesday, August 6, 2024.
  - ❖ Open House – NEB members will help plan refreshments, greet guests and clean up.
  - ❖ Friday Breakfast with Glen – Patti needs 2-3 people to help prepare breakfast Friday morning.
  - ❖ Banquet - Saturday, September 28 (6:00-10:00) – NEB volunteers are needed to help decorate.
  - ❖ Arlington - Sunday, September 29 (11:30-2:00) NEB members will escort distinguished visitors to seating.
- Speaker for Arlington and Banquet – Kerry Ward from the Library of Congress and Joe Hull from the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, will be our speakers at the banquet. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs General Brown has been invited to be our speaker for Arlington’s ceremony. Additionally, CSM (Ret) Ivory Hinton, who served with Patti’s son, will also speak.
- Partner Products from Chapters and Departments Scheduling - We will begin to provide a link to Chapter and Department fundraisers soon on the website. As an example, the Department of New Mexico has necklaces and earrings for a fundraiser. It will be the responsibility of the Chapters and Departments to process the order, as well as collect the money for these orders. AGSM will only provide a link to their fundraiser.

#### Quarterly Officer Meetings

- Chapter and Department Presidents – Patti will be scheduling this forum in the near future to be able to listen to members and address any questions they may have about the organization.
- Treasurers Forum – Rose will continue to provide this forum to Chapter treasurers on a quarterly basis.

Stem to Stone/Friends Pins – Patti attended the Stem to Stone event sponsored by Wreaths Across America in Columbia Falls, Maine. She presented Karen and Morrill Worcester with three AGSM Friends Pin. Karen wore her pin throughout the entire event. One of the pins will be put in the display case in the WAA Museum.

Sending out BSMA MOU to Members – Patti will send the BSMA MOU to all members and will also be posted on our website and shared in our newsletter.

SHGTUS - Montana Trip – Patti and Teresa will travel to Billings, MT, with the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier to commemorate the Day of Honor at Chief Plenty Coups State Park over Labor Day Weekend.

GWOT - Fort Moore Trip – Patti and Teresa will attend the rededication of the GWOT Memorial at Fort Moore September 5-8. Annette and Pam are also planning to go and will assist with the AGSM table as needed.

Closed Session A motion was made to go into closed session at 9:42 PM by Annette and was seconded by Sherrie. A motion was made to leave the closed session by Teresa at 10:10 PM and was seconded by Nichole.

TAPS Capitol Hill Reception – September 25, 2024 –The NEB has been invited to attend a TAPS reception being held at the Capitol. A motion was made to accept the invitation to attend the reception by Nichole and was seconded by Annette. Motion carried. NEB Members can choose individually whether they will attend. Please let Patti know if you want to attend.

Good of the Order

Rose was able to purchase stamps at a discount rate since we bought in bulk. This purchase resulted in a cost of \$0.12/stamp. A savings of \$0.60/stamp.

Sherrie McGhee led the group in closing prayer.

The meeting adjourned at 10:17 PM