



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.
2024-2025 National Executive Board Meeting
September 24 & 25, 2024

Patti called the meeting to order at 8:00 PM.

A motion to dispense of the Ritual was made by Sherrie 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. Those Present: Patti Elliott, Annette Kirk, Joyce Paulsen, Theresa Karlson, Rose Duval, Teresa Bullock, Sherrie McGhee, Joan Snyder, Denise Torbert, Pam Stemple and Nichole Chilton.

Officers Reports

1st Vice President - Annette amended her report to add that she participated in the Centennial Committee.

- 2026 National Convention – She is communicating with two different hotels. Scheduling may be either June 18-21, or the end of June. Lyette Reback will make a donation and will have two volunteers.

2nd Vice President- Joyce amended her report to add “participated in the Centennial Committee”.

Treasurer - Rose

- Financial Reports – The total revenue as of September 18th is \$56,078.79 Expenditure was \$50,000; Operating Expenses - \$6K
- Assets – physical and monetary = \$552,714.19; liabilities – credit cards – president, 1st VP and 2nd VP have been paid off.
- Budget VS Actuals – these numbers are still new as we are still in the first quarter
- Wells Fargo – checking & savings (.15% interest)
- Library of Congress Credit Union – Prime (Interest is 0.15%/year)
- Money Market – CDs matured and were held in the Money Market (2% interest/year). \$3,500.
- Flourish - BSM invests in a financial advisor account (hi yield savings account – 5% monthly) Rose is suggesting that we put \$50,000 into this account initially. Motion to take funds from our accrued monies of \$150,000 over nine months and invest in a Flourish account was made by Rose. Sherrie seconded. Motion carried.
- Ship Thrifty is a shipping vendor. Michelle and Rob Williamson are the owners. Their service is for shipping packages, not regular First-Class mail. There is no fee. We pay costs for postage. They give a 2% discount to those who use their service. A motion was made to start using Ship Thrifty by Pam. Seconded by Joyce. Motion carried.
- Weebly Shipping - Nichole found that if we upgrade to a different version of Weebly, there is the ability to calculate shipping costs based on weight of the packages, rather than a flat-rate shipping charge. Compared to Stamps.com, Weebly would be more cost effective. It would be a 55% savings for shipping. A motion was made to expand the Weebly plan to the next level offering other features for two years at a pro-rated cost of \$700.04 by Rose. Nichole seconded. Motion carried.
- Zeffy is a software package that has many benefits. Fundraising, AGSM Store and Convention are potential uses. Infrastructure is important to consider using this program. Rose is suggesting a working group to

research this program. Patti assigned the following members: Rose, Nichole, Theresa, and Joyce.

- If NEB members want to make in-kind donations to AGSM, please report that to Rose.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting for the evening by Nichole. Teresa seconded. Motion carried.

The meeting reconvened at 8:00 AM on September 25, 2024, with the traditional Opening Ritual.

Sherrie offered the opening prayer.

Secretary – Theresa will amend her report to add the e-votes document.

Patti requested that Theresa read incoming correspondence. The following documents were shared:

- The National Flag Foundation sent a donation request in conjunction with the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026. Annette recommends responding to their letter and share our new board members. Patti suggested that we should support their 250th anniversary. This matter will be discussed during New Business.
- We placed an ad in American Legion Convention Journal
- The Vietnam War Commemoration Chairperson sent an appreciation certificate for AGSM's involvement in recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.
- Theresa will scan these documents and put them in the shared drive. A folder will be created for 2024-2025 Correspondence.

NSO – Teresa amended her report to include participation in the Centennial committee and subcommittees.

IT Chair – Nichole summarized her long list of activities and support that she has provided to the NEB as well as the organization.

- Using Secondary/"Official" Email Addresses – Patti shared from the Chapter President's meeting that some chapters were unaware previous presidents had established official email addresses on the AGSM server. Nichole has reset their passwords and established email addresses for chapters and departments who requested one.
- Quickbase Database Liaison list - NEB members need to check before sending out an email to their liaison members since there are new members and/or updated email addresses.
- Using 2024-2025 NEB Joint Calendar – Nichole ensured everyone can see the joint calendar. Patti requested that everyone put dates they are out of town/unavailable on the joint calendar for everyone's situational awareness.
- Website/Blog/Social Media Updates – Nichole is requesting that NEB members review the website and give her feedback.
- Blogs – NEB members are requested to send Nichole (email to IT@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org) about blog topics/articles. She is also requesting that AGSM members send her blog articles. Please share blog posts on your personal FB/Instagram pages. Patti is requesting that if you see an interesting article, post it on your personal FB page and tag American Gold Star Mothers (National).

VAVS Chair – Pam is requesting that members be more involved with volunteering at VA facilities.

- A VAVS Survey was sent out last month and Pam received feedback from our members. Pam will be scheduling a Zoom meeting to discuss volunteer opportunities with those interested in getting involved.
- Status of Deputy – A Deputy VAVS representative is needed to help support Pam. If any NEB member would like to be the NEB Deputy, please contact Pam. The Deputy must be registered as a volunteer at their local VA.

Chaplain – Sherrie amended her report to include that she prepared the August and September meeting minutes for the Centennial Committee.

Sergeant-at-Arms – Teresa will be posting chore lists in Headquarters for GS Mother’s Week.

Banner Guard – Joan shared that the cost of dry cleaning of the American flag was donated. The cost for cleaning the banner was \$50, and a donation has been made to cover that cost.

Flag Guard – Denise amended her report to include that she attended all NEB zoom meetings and participated in e-votes.

Patti mentioned that any amended reports need to be updated and put in the shared drive. Remove previous versions.

President – Patti shared that the Manor will be meeting bi-monthly. There is a new development in front of the existing building. This facility will be additional housing units. Anticipated completion will be done within 10 years. Annette and Patti were able to have one-on-one conversations with the Manor Board and the board members are so encouraged and pleased the way that they see how we are running our organization.

- Blue Star Mother Patty Delgado shared information about a US Flag maker located in Marietta GA who will provide 150 or 300 4”X6” flags to give to Veterans. This is a free service and orders are due by October 12, 2024. Patti will send this information to the dept/chapter presidents and will forward the flyer to Nichole. Theresa will order 300 for the NEB to be delivered to her house.
- AGSM received First Day Cover Gold Star stamps from Jan Zadina Little. Nichole has a friend who can put them in a shadow box. Historian and IT will decide what to do with these items. We will send a thank you letter to her for these stamps.
- Casualty Lists Update – The AGSM president has access to the US Army casualty list with NOK contact information twice a month. This list is sorted by Mothers only. We handwrite a personal note to express our condolences. Patti received a list of June casualties in July. Patti sent out a handwritten note to a GS Mom in Nebraska. This GS Mother responded with a thankful note. Patti sent an email to the US Army Commander sharing this note and why it is so important that we continue to reach out to these mothers.
- AI generated content – we recently received an email from Zoom to announce AI Companion. AI companion will send out real time updates from Zoom to the members attending the zoom meeting. We opted out of this option. We will not use AI Companion in our zoom meetings.
- We will send thank you notes to Jan Little for stamps, Becky Christmas for towels, and Denise Bush for

the handmade scarves for NEB.

Having discussed and amended all the officer's reports, a motion was made to accept these reports by Annette and Rose seconded. Motion carried.

Standing Committee Reports – For more information refer to all attached reports.

Finance and Budget - Rose

- Unspent funds from previous year will be applied to the next year.
- Rose is working hard on Quickbooks to provide reports and financial information.
- She has created a subscription accounts spreadsheet to track annual service subscriptions.
- Rose adds vendors to her Vendor Contact List when we receive invoices. This is located on the shared drive under Finance & Budget.
- Grant donation tracking – Rose will share this information with Teresa.
- Audit the safe once a year, every September.

Headquarters - Annette

- All upgrades were approved and installed with the exception of the storage closet.
- Landscaping upgrades for the Never Forget Garden. Rose requested a quote from landscapers. One quote came in at \$1,200 for one bush and ground cover. Another quote came in at \$2,500. We need to someone to tell us what kind of plants will work given the sun exposure and lack of daily care we can give to the garden.
- Fire Extinguishers need to be checked and an escape plan needs to be laid out.
- AED's battery dates and pads need to be checked.
- We need to add renovation suggestions to the bathroom door near the dorm room.

Standing Rules/Constitution and Bylaws - Joyce

- CB&L – Publications will send out an early notification for CB&L deadline in the newsletter. Joyce will provide an article regarding changes to CB&L. NEB decided that members need to submit by February 1, 2024.
- Standing Rules – Joyce presented proposed changes to the Standing Rules.

A motion to approve the NEB's Standing Rules as amended was made by Annette. Seconded by Rose – Motion carried.

Past President's Pin (Department) – They will need to buy their own. Depending on the Department, they may add this to their standing rules as the Department will buy the pin for the past president.

A motion was made to take a break by Nichole at 12:47 pm. Teresa seconded.

Legislative – Rose

- Rose shared current legislative activities. Annette mentioned about reestablishing the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mother's Day. As an organization, we need to be repetitive in stating that we celebrate Gold Star Mother's Day the last Sunday in September.

Little Gold Book – Joyce

- The Committee is recommending rebranding the document as *The Ceremonial and Business Procedures of AGSM*. Joyce provided the new version and will be available online for members to print out. All changes were discussed with NEB members. Following discussion, NEB members approved the new name and revision of the C&B Procedures Book.
- Patti wants to explore the printing logistics for members. We will also provide the option for members to download and print from the website. Printed and bound book can also be purchased. The book will be printed and bound so that we can mail to all Chapter Presidents. 100 for new members. 130 Chapter Presidents. Nichole will find a cost for 500 books. Print a 5”X7” layout with gold cover.
- Sample speeches will be compiled by November 1st to be shared with NEB members and will be put into a separate handbook and made available to Members.

Membership - Teresa

- Teresa shared our current membership numbers. 938 active members, 150 over 80, 788 members, and 108 inactive members. Nichole has sent out new membership cards.
- Change of Address Notification Form – This form has been revised. It will be renamed *Change of Personal Information Form*. Nichole can put it on the website. Change of Personal Information form was approved, will be assigned a Form number and will be added to the shared drive.
- Treasure Coast Chapter – The Dept. of FL-PR currently does not have leadership. Patti reached out to all members to keep the chapter open. No one wanted to participate, except two members. Those two members have requested transfers. NEB will wait until December 31st to see if there are any members who still want to keep the Chapter active. There are 11 members and 4 are over 80.
- New Cleveland Ohio Chapter – SOS coordinator will check with GS Mothers in the area to see if they are interested in starting a chapter.

Community Service - Joan

- A Community Service Award will be awarded to one member in good standing at the next convention. Each Department can nominate one member for this award. This submission is due by April 30, 2025. The submissions will be reviewed by the Community Service Committee, and the winner will be awarded a certificate, as well as a waiver of convention fee or a donation to an organization of winner’s choice. Community service hours are separate from VAVS service hours.

Grants & Scholarships - Teresa

- Disaster Grant Update – Teresa received many emails praising our outreach to help Gold Star Mothers.
- Giving Grace Grant – Teresa received three applications. Two are not eligible. One needs more information.
- Chapter Grants – Two were awarded. She just received another one. Teresa recommends that we raise the fund amount to \$300. This information will be shared in the newsletter. Teresa will send out an email about this change. A motion was made to raise the Chapter Grant to \$400 by Sherrie. Nichole seconded. Motion carried.
- Waldorf/CSU Scholarships – Teresa reported that Waldorf received one application and they will award this GSM with their scholarship.

Ways & Means – Theresa will amend the report to change Patti to ex-officio and Pam as full member.

- New Products – Koozies \$2 and Umbrellas \$15. Patti has also provided a contact and pricing for garden flags. A motion was made to approve the purchase of 25 garden flags by Denise. Annette seconded. Motion carried. The retail cost will be \$15.
- Patti will also request information for hats and visors.
- City Pride – After reconnecting in August, Theresa spoke to Don Ross and they have all the tools to make chapter, department and president jewelry with the exception of the Past President's Pin. Theresa will provide dimensions and other information so that he can provide a quote for our review.
- Theresa will put an ad in the next newsletter highlighting Valley Athletic Apparel. She will send it to Nichole by Oct 8th.

Americanism – Joyce sent an email out to identify all Members who are Veterans to be highlighted in the November-December issue of the newsletter.

History - Pam

A number of historical documents have been scanned to the shared drive. The Lineage and Service History documents are located on Quickbase. We are still looking for Doma scanned applications. We do have scanned newsletters.

“New” Database Compliance – Joyce

We're in good financial standing at this time.

Harbor Compliance Issue -

Patti and Joyce had a zoom meeting with Harbor Compliance. After experiencing several issues with them, we have decided to look for another compliance company.

Centennial Committee – A report was not submitted by the report deadline to be included in the board packet.

A motion to accept all committee and position reports was made by Pam. Annette seconded. Motion carried.

Unfinished Business

Liaison Updates – Patti will send out talking points by the 5th of each month. Liaisons should go into Quickbase to download new lists each time you send out an email so that you don't miss new or transferred Moms. Patti wants NEB members to get a pack of notecards and stamps so that they can send a personal note to those members who do not have emails. Chapter and Department Presidents need to reach out to these members as well.

Partner Products from Chapters and Departments – Joyce will send the link for her Chapter's products.

Quarterly Officer Meetings –

- Chapter and Department President's meeting is scheduled for November 3rd. Based on feedback from the Presidents, having a secretary and chaplain zoom meeting will be explored in the third quarter.
- Treasurer's Forum – The next meeting will be held in the evening of November 11th.

SHGTUS - Montana Trip – was attended by Patti and Teresa. It was in support of their initiatives for the TUS.

GWOT - Fort Moore Trip – rededication. We set up a table with brochures.

White House Ornaments – Information on the White House ornaments will be shared in the upcoming newsletter.

New Business

- Auditor – Adam from Wegner CPAs met with the finance committee at the HQ. There are three types of audits: Preliminary, Review and Audit. He suggested a review, that costs \$7-8K. He wants to start our review in November. A motion was made to engage CPA to do a review of our financial practices and accounting for the estimated cost of \$7-8K by Annette. Seconded by Nichole. Motion carried.
- Adam discussed the way we reimburse NEB members for mileage driven for a business purpose. IRS government mileage rate \$0.67/mile should be paid to those traveling to Headquarters monthly. A motion was made to proceed with mileage reimbursement of the government rate of \$0.67 by Rose. Denise seconded. Motion carried.
- World War I Memorial Unveiling - Rose was able to attend the two of the three days of the event. They have two events scheduled on November 10th & 11th.
- Lamplighter Awards – Rose attended this dinner that honors dignitaries who support Jewish initiatives. Speaker Mike Johnson was one of the recipients.
- Press Releases/PR WAA MOU – Patti wants us to do a better job of getting our name out into the public. Margie Taylor who is an AGSM member, owns a PR firm. She provided a press release about AGSM. Patti would like to use Margie as a consultant.
- One of the questions that was brought up at the President’s meeting was do we have an MOU with WAA. Patti contacted them and found out that we do have a MOU, but it was done in 2016. WAA will be updating this document with a signing of the new version to coincide with the WAA Convoy in December.
- Dedicated Financial GBC Veteran’s Day – A Save the Date card came from them for their Gala to occur in January in Michigan. Patti spoke to their POC thanking them for the invitation and to let her know when more information is available.
- Veterans Day weekend – Patti wants the NEB to be in Washington DC to attend local events. Travel is tentatively scheduled for November 7-11th.
- February NEB Meeting – Patti mentioned the Four Chaplains Dinner event, which is scheduled for Tuesday, February 4th, and the White Rose Ball event is February 8th. Since we have to meet in February, Patti would like all NEB members to fly into Pittsburgh on Friday so that we can have our business meeting. These plans are currently tentative.
- Letter Outreach to over 80 GSM members – It was suggested that the NEB send a signed letter to thank all of our over 80-year-old members. The members agreed that we could send holiday cards to them as well. Nichole can design a card. A motion was made to send out a letter to our over 80-year-old members

by Pam. Sherrie seconded. Motion carried.

- Following the Treasurers Forum, Toni Gross, an AGSM member from Florida, sent an invitation to Rose and Patti to a VVA Unit 195 fundraiser. This is a talent show put on by Vietnam Veterans incarcerated at Zephyrhills Correctional Institute in Florida. It is on Thanksgiving weekend. Patti will be attending. Her travel will be funded by Gold Star Awareness, Inc.
- The National Flag Foundation (NFF) sent a donation request in conjunction with the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in 2026. A motion was made to donate \$250 to NFF by Theresa. Seconded by Sherrie. Motion carried.

A motion was made to go into Closed Session by Annette. Nichole seconded. Motion carried.

A motion was made to come out of Closed Session by Teresa. Joyce seconded. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Rose to seek a legal review regarding restoring the membership of a previous member. Teresa seconded it. Motion carried. Rose will research the legal resources to get advice.

Good of the Order – nothing at this time.

Closing Prayer was offered by Sherrie.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 AM.

Respectfully submitted by

Theresa Karlson
National Secretary

NEB Approved date:

Patti Elliott, President Date

Theresa Karlson, National Secretary Date



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

National 1st Vice President's Report September 2024

Participated in National Executive Board meetings and e-votes

Participated in the following meetings:

- American Gold Star Manor Board
- USS Olympia Annual Ceremony
- Operation Gratitude
- Memorial Flowers Foundation
- Ship Thrifty
- Library of Congress
- AGSM, Inc. Centennial Committee

Participated in the following Standing Committees:

- Little Gold Book
- Finance & Budget
- Headquarters-Chair

Participated in the following Special Committees:

- Membership
- Community Service
- History
- Gold Star Mother's Day banquet decorations-Chair

Communicated as NEB Liaison with:

- Department of Alabama
- Department of Maryland/Delaware
- Department of Nebraska
- Department of Maine
- Department of Wyoming

I had the opportunity to attend the Annual rededication of the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) Memorial and the Gold Star Family and Survivors Memorial at Ft. Moore, GA. Also, while in Long Beach, CA., I attended a Department of SoCal/HI meeting held at the Manor.

I am learning so much this year serving as the 1st Vice President. I am looking forward to a productive year assisting Madam President, learning, and preparing for the future Board.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Kirk
National 1st Vice President

2nd Vice President – September 2024

For the period June 24 to September 17, 2024

Participated in the National Executive Board Meetings and e-votes Chair

for the following committees:

- Executive Committee
- Constitution & Bylaws, and Standing Rules Committee
- Little Gold Book Committee
- Compliance Committee
- Americanism Committee

Participated as part of the following committees:

- Finance and Budget Committee
- Membership Committee
- Ways & Means Committee
- Centennial Committee

Communicated as NEB Liaison with:

- Department of Arizona
- Department of Georgia
- Department of New Jersey

Respectfully submitted,

Joyce Paulsen – National 2nd Vice President



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

National Treasurer Position Report - September 2024

National Treasurer: Rose Duval

Reporting Period: July 1, 2024 - September 20, 2024

Budget & Finance Chair:

- Worked 1:1 with AGSM, Inc President to establish FY25 Spend Plan
- Assisted in briefing the budget to the Finance and Budget Committee Members
- Attended online training sessions to learn QuickBooks Online
- Scheduled the Quarterly Treasurer's Forum (idea sharing) for all Dept and Chapter Treasurers

Legislative:

- Presented current Congressional Actions

Headquarters Member:

- Check mail on a weekly basis
- Got estimates for Blinds, Sheets, Front Garden, and replacement furniture
- Maintained Google Nest Doorbells as needed
- Organized incoming mail for NEB
- Scanned time-sensitive mail to appropriate NEB members

Member:

- Chapter Grants and Giving Grace Grant Committee
- Compliance

Support:

- Support the Membership Committee
- Support Ways & Means Committee
- Supported the President's Agenda with two (2) emails to assigned Dept/Chapters.

Respectfully submitted by Rose Duval

American Gold Star Mothers Inc

Statement of Activity

July 1 - September 18, 2024

	TOTAL
Revenue	
AGSM Store Income	962.47
Shipping	60.09
Total AGSM Store Income	1,022.56
Contributions (income)	
AGSM Friends	7,964.82
Directed Donations	
Chapter Grants	100.00
Giving Grace Mothers In Need	20,247.59
Total Directed Donations	20,347.59
Total Contributions (income)	28,312.41
GoldStar Manor	
GS Manor Donation	7,730.66
Total GoldStar Manor	7,730.66
GS Mothers Sunday	
GS Sunday Banquet	3,225.00
Total GS Mothers Sunday	3,225.00
Interest	444.87
Well Fargo	4.33
Total Interest	449.20
Membership Dues	303.54
National Convention	
Convention Donations	14,237.56
Total National Convention	14,237.56
Uncategorized Revenue	1,497.46
Total Revenue	\$56,778.39
GROSS PROFIT	\$56,778.39
Expenditures	
AGSM Friends	
Chapter/Dept Grants	500.00
Giving Grace Grants	3,586.26
Service for DC area Veterans	726.49
Total AGSM Friends	4,812.75
AGSM Store Expenses	
AGSM Store Inventory/Supplies	1,066.55
AGSM Store Postage & Shipping	12.57
Total AGSM Store Expenses	1,079.12

American Gold Star Mothers Inc

Statement of Activity

July 1 - September 18, 2024

	TOTAL
Banking Expenses	
Banking Fees/Merchant Account	36.50
PayPal Fees	110.11
Square Fees	9.88
Total Banking Expenses	156.49
GSM Sunday	
Floral / Wreaths/Decorations	604.62
GSM Sunday - Open House	112.81
Transportation around DC	500.00
Total GSM Sunday	1,217.43
Headquarters Operations	
Hqs property taxes paid	7,991.04
Hqs Utilities	1,871.44
Postage	1,575.34
Printing	274.47
Total Postage	1,849.81
Repair & Maintenance of Hqs	1,407.02
Software Subscriptions	195.00
Supplies/Staples	47.99
Total Headquarters Operations	13,362.30
National Board Expenses	
Delta Airlines	-865.90
NEB Lodging - Convention	424.96
NEB Travel - Sept. GSM weekend	308.95
NEB Travel - Convention	537.08
NEB Travel - Memorial Day	97.72
NSO Travel	1,036.99
President Travel	3,668.75
Southwest Airlines	-1,071.92
Total National Board Expenses	4,136.63
National Convention exp	
Journal Expenses	700.00
Miscellaneous Costs	90.00
Transportation	-879.65
Various Meal costs	720.00
Venue/Hotel Expense	19,490.54
Total National Convention exp	20,120.89
Newsletter	
Newsletter Postage	1,380.65
Publishing cost	3,700.00
Total Newsletter	5,080.65

American Gold Star Mothers Inc

Statement of Activity

July 1 - September 18, 2024

	TOTAL
Professional Fees	
Office Supplies & Materials	26.15
Total Professional Fees	26.15
Special Event Expenses	190.00
Total Expenditures	\$50,182.41
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$6,595.98
NET REVENUE	\$6,595.98

American Gold Star Mothers Inc

Budget vs. Actuals: Budget_FY25_P&L_1 - FY25 P&L

July 1 - September 18, 2024

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Revenue				
AGSM Store Income	962.47	2,499.99	-1,537.52	38.50 %
Shipping	60.09	125.01	-64.92	48.07 %
Total AGSM Store Income	1,022.56	2,625.00	-1,602.44	38.95 %
Contributions (income)				
AGSM Friends	7,964.82	12,500.01	-4,535.19	63.72 %
Directed Donations				
Chapter Grants	100.00		100.00	
Giving Grace Mothers In Need	20,247.59	2,499.99	17,747.60	809.91 %
Total Directed Donations	20,347.59	2,499.99	17,847.60	813.91 %
Total Contributions (income)	28,312.41	15,000.00	13,312.41	188.75 %
GoldStar Manor				
GS Home sustaining donations		750.00	-750.00	
GS Manor Donation	7,730.66	11,595.99	-3,865.33	66.67 %
Total GoldStar Manor	7,730.66	12,345.99	-4,615.33	62.62 %
GS Mothers Sunday				
GS Sunday Banquet	3,225.00		3,225.00	
Total GS Mothers Sunday	3,225.00		3,225.00	
Headquarters Stay Donations		37.50	-37.50	
Interest	444.87		444.87	
Library of Congress FCU		375.00	-375.00	
Well Fargo	4.33	18.75	-14.42	23.09 %
Total Interest	449.20	393.75	55.45	114.08 %
Membership Dues	303.54	9,999.99	-9,696.45	3.04 %
National Convention				
Convention Donations	14,237.56		14,237.56	
Total National Convention	14,237.56		14,237.56	
Uncategorized Revenue	1,497.46		1,497.46	
Total Revenue	\$56,778.39	\$40,402.23	\$16,376.16	140.53 %
GROSS PROFIT	\$56,778.39	\$40,402.23	\$16,376.16	140.53 %
Expenditures				
AGSM Friends				
Chapter/Dept Grants	500.00	1,500.00	-1,000.00	33.33 %
Charitable Contributions		1,250.01	-1,250.01	
Giving Grace Dues Assistance		99.99	-99.99	
Giving Grace Grants	3,586.26	7,500.00	-3,913.74	47.82 %
Service for DC area Veterans	726.49	750.00	-23.51	96.87 %
Total AGSM Friends	4,812.75	11,100.00	-6,287.25	43.36 %
AGSM Store Expenses				
AGSM Store Inventory/Supplies	1,066.55	1,500.00	-433.45	71.10 %
AGSM Store Postage & Shipping	12.57	125.01	-112.44	10.06 %

American Gold Star Mothers Inc

Budget vs. Actuals: Budget_FY25_P&L_1 - FY25 P&L

July 1 - September 18, 2024

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
AGSM Store Refunds		50.01	-50.01	
Total AGSM Store Expenses	1,079.12	1,675.02	-595.90	64.42 %
Banking Expenses				
Banking Fees/Merchant Account	36.50	75.00	-38.50	48.67 %
PayPal Fees	110.11	450.00	-339.89	24.47 %
Returned check costs		0.00	0.00	
Square Fees	9.88	24.99	-15.11	39.54 %
Total Banking Expenses	156.49	549.99	-393.50	28.45 %
Centennial Expenses		0.00	0.00	
Compliance/Strategic Plan Expenses		6,249.99	-6,249.99	
GSM Sunday				
Facility Rental (deleted)		0.24	-0.24	
Floral / Wreaths/Decorations	604.62	500.01	104.61	120.92 %
GSM Mother Sunday Banquet		2,499.99	-2,499.99	
GSM Sunday - Open House	112.81	225.00	-112.19	50.14 %
Invitations/Printing		24.99	-24.99	
Reception		125.01	-125.01	
Transportation around DC	500.00	750.00	-250.00	66.67 %
Total GSM Sunday	1,217.43	4,125.24	-2,907.81	29.51 %
Headquarters Operations				
Computers & Software		249.99	-249.99	
Hqs Furnishings		500.01	-500.01	
Hqs property Insurance		975.00	-975.00	
Hqs D & O Liability Insurance		375.00	-375.00	
Total Hqs property Insurance		1,350.00	-1,350.00	
Hqs property taxes paid	7,991.04	4,500.00	3,491.04	177.58 %
Hqs Utilities	1,871.44	2,000.01	-128.57	93.57 %
Postage	1,575.34	999.99	575.35	157.54 %
Printing	274.47	125.01	149.46	219.56 %
Total Postage	1,849.81	1,125.00	724.81	164.43 %
Repair & Maintenance of Hqs	1,407.02	750.00	657.02	187.60 %
Floor Restoration (deleted)		0.00	0.00	
Total Repair & Maintenance of Hqs	1,407.02	750.00	657.02	187.60 %
Software Subscriptions	195.00	2,250.00	-2,055.00	8.67 %
Supplies/Staples	47.99	249.99	-202.00	19.20 %
Total Headquarters Operations	13,362.30	12,975.00	387.30	102.98 %
History Project		125.01	-125.01	
Membership				
Membership Cards		174.99	-174.99	
Membership Pins		125.01	-125.01	
Outreach		0.00	0.00	
Total Membership		300.00	-300.00	

American Gold Star Mothers Inc

Budget vs. Actuals: Budget_FY25_P&L_1 - FY25 P&L

July 1 - September 18, 2024

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Memorial Day				
Floral / Wreaths etc.		500.01	-500.01	
Misc expenses		50.01	-50.01	
Transportation		125.01	-125.01	
Total Memorial Day		675.03	-675.03	
National Board Expenses				
Delta Airlines	-865.90		-865.90	
Misc. NEB expense		249.99	-249.99	
NEB Travel - Feb. Board meeting		1,250.01	-1,250.01	
NEB Lodging - Convention	424.96	1,500.00	-1,075.04	28.33 %
NEB Travel - Sept. GSM weekend	308.95	1,250.01	-941.06	24.72 %
NEB Travel - Veterans Day		750.00	-750.00	
NEB Travel - Convention	537.08	999.99	-462.91	53.71 %
NEB Travel - Memorial Day	97.72	1,250.01	-1,152.29	7.82 %
NSO Travel	1,036.99	750.00	286.99	138.27 %
President Travel	3,668.75	2,000.01	1,668.74	183.44 %
Southwest Airlines	-1,071.92		-1,071.92	
Special Event Travel		750.00	-750.00	
VAVS Travel		750.00	-750.00	
Total National Board Expenses	4,136.63	11,500.02	-7,363.39	35.97 %
National Convention exp				
Audio/Visual/Evote Exp.		999.99	-999.99	
Banquet/Gala		2,499.99	-2,499.99	
Convention deposit		1,250.01	-1,250.01	
Convention Liability Insurance		450.00	-450.00	
Dad and guests activity		1,250.01	-1,250.01	
Entertainment		500.01	-500.01	
Journal Expenses	700.00	750.00	-50.00	93.33 %
Memorial Service (deleted)		750.00	-750.00	
Miscellaneous Costs	90.00	750.00	-660.00	12.00 %
National Project		1,250.01	-1,250.01	
Printing (deleted)		125.01	-125.01	
Registration packet		500.01	-500.01	
Transportation	-879.65	1,250.01	-2,129.66	-70.37 %
Various Meal costs	720.00	750.00	-30.00	96.00 %
VAVS Lunch		1,250.01	-1,250.01	
Venue/Hotel Expense	19,490.54	750.00	18,740.54	2,598.74 %
Welcome Reception (deleted)		2,499.99	-2,499.99	
Total National Convention exp	20,120.89	17,575.05	2,545.84	114.49 %
National Fundraiser				
September National Fundraiser (Snacks)		0.00	0.00	
Suicide Awareness Tees/Bracelets/Permits		0.00	0.00	
Total National Fundraiser		0.00	0.00	

American Gold Star Mothers Inc

Budget vs. Actuals: Budget_FY25_P&L_1 - FY25 P&L

July 1 - September 18, 2024

	TOTAL			
	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER BUDGET	% OF BUDGET
Newsletter				
Newsletter Postage	1,380.65	1,025.01	355.64	134.70 %
Publishing cost	3,700.00	3,249.99	450.01	113.85 %
Total Newsletter	5,080.65	4,275.00	805.65	118.85 %
Payroll Expenditures (deleted)		0.00	0.00	
Payroll Processing (deleted)		0.00	0.00	
Payroll Taxes (deleted)		0.00	0.00	
Salary (deleted)		0.00	0.00	
Workmans Comp Insurance (deleted)		0.00	0.00	
Total Payroll Expenditures (deleted)		0.00	0.00	
Professional Fees				
D & O Insurance		0.00	0.00	
Mileage		0.00	0.00	
Office Supplies & Materials	26.15	0.00	26.15	
Printing		0.00	0.00	
Total Office Supplies & Materials	26.15	0.00	26.15	
Petty Cash (deleted)		0.00	0.00	
Professional Fees/Dues		1,500.00	-1,500.00	
Accounting Fees		3,750.00	-3,750.00	
Attorney/Legal Fees		24.99	-24.99	
Consultant Fees		24.99	-24.99	
Dues/License		0.00	0.00	
Total Professional Fees/Dues		5,299.98	-5,299.98	
Total Professional Fees	26.15	5,299.98	-5,273.83	0.49 %
Special Event Expenses	190.00	624.99	-434.99	30.40 %
Veterans Service (deleted)		0.00	0.00	
Total Special Event Expenses	190.00	624.99	-434.99	30.40 %
Uncategorized Expenditure		0.00	0.00	
Veterans Day				
Flowers / Wreaths		500.01	-500.01	
Transportation in and around		50.01	-50.01	
Veterans Day miscellaneous expenses		125.01	-125.01	
Total Veterans Day		675.03	-675.03	
Total Expenditures	\$50,182.41	\$77,725.35	\$ -27,542.94	64.56 %
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$6,595.98	\$ -37,323.12	\$43,919.10	-17.67 %
NET REVENUE	\$6,595.98	\$ -37,323.12	\$43,919.10	-17.67 %

American Gold Star Mothers Inc

Statement of Financial Position

As of September 18, 2024

	TOTAL
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Library of Congress Money Market	97,948.08
Library of Congress Prime Share	3,863.02
WF Checking x5258	342,186.22
WF Savings x1811	51,014.70
Total Bank Accounts	\$495,012.02
Other Current Assets	
PAY PAL	-1,264.83
Total Other Current Assets	\$ -1,264.83
Total Current Assets	\$493,747.19
Fixed Assets	
Accumulated Depreciation	-138,038.00
Buildings	122,755.00
Furniture & Fixtures	68,145.00
Land	6,105.00
Total Fixed Assets	\$58,967.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$552,714.19
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Credit Cards	
Credit Card 5701-Lee-Ann Forsythe	0.00
WF CC x0265 Patti Elliott	-654.95
WF CC x6138 Teresa Bullock	643.00
WF CC x7765 Annette Kirk	81.80
Total Credit Cards	\$69.85
Total Current Liabilities	\$69.85
Total Liabilities	\$69.85
Equity	
Opening Balance Equity	108,419.99
Retained Earnings	437,628.37
Net Revenue	6,595.98
Total Equity	\$552,644.34
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$552,714.19



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

Secretary's Report - September 2024

June 23, 2024 - September 24, 2024

1. Prepared general donation thank you letters for the President's signature.
 - 22 monetary donations
2. Recorded 9 e-votes:
 - August - 4
 - July - 5
3. Prepared minutes for 5 NEB meetings:
 - June 24, 2024
 - July 1 & 2, 2024
 - August 4, 2024
 - August 28, 2024
4. Participated in the following meetings:
 - Ways & Means – Chair
 - Finance Committee
 - Community Service Committee
 - Headquarters Committee
 - Miscellaneous administrative duties to assist NEB members as requested, to include:
 - ❖ Scheduled Zoom meetings
5. Newsletters – Provided a personal article for the Gold Star Mothers Blog and provided an historical article about the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. for the Doughboy Foundation.
6. Gold Star Mothers Weekend
 - Prepared AGSM Store for Open House
 - Volunteered for the Decorations Committee

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Karlson
National Secretary



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.
Record of Votes

1.

TOPIC: Motion to ratify Teresa Bullock as National Service Officer					
Motion: Joan Snyder		Second: Theresa Karlson			
Vote called for: 7/2/2024 9:34 AM					
Patti Elliott	Y	Annette Kirk	Y	Joyce Paulsen	Y
Theresa Karlson	Y	Rose Duval	Y	Teresa Bullock	Abstain
Sherrie McGhee	Y	Nichole Chilton	Y	Pam Stemple	Y
Denise Torbert	Y	Joan Snyder	Y		
Vote closed: 9:45 AM		Result: Carried		Tally: 10-0-1	

2.

TOPIC: Motion for logo usage request – Armed Forces Brewing Co for AGSM Fundraiser					
Motion: Joan Snyder		Second: Sherrie McGhee			
Vote called for: 7/10/2024 @ 11:38 PM					
Patti Elliott	Y	Annette Kirk	Y	Joyce Paulsen	Y
Theresa Karlson	Y	Rose Duval	Y	Teresa Bullock	Y
Sherrie McGhee	Y	Nichole Chilton	Y	Pam Stemple	Y
Denise Torbert	Y	Joan Snyder	Y		
Vote closed: 7/12/2024 @ 7:30 AM		Result: Carried		Tally: 11-0-0	

3.

TOPIC: Motion to get Disaster recovery grant information out to Membership from the affected areas that FEMA designated for Hurricane Beryl					
Motion: Pam Stemple		Second: Teresa Bullock			
Vote called for: 7/13/2024 @ 5:44 PM					
Patti Elliott	Y	Annette Kirk	Y	Joyce Paulsen	Y
Theresa Karlson	Y	Rose Duval	Y	Teresa Bullock	Y
Sherrie McGhee	Y	Nichole Chilton	Y	Pam Stemple	Y
Denise Torbert	Y	Joan Snyder	Y		
Vote closed: 7/13/2024 @ 2:15 PM		Result: Carried		Tally: 11-0-0	

4.

TOPIC: Motion to approve revised Charter application request form					
Motion: Teresa Bullock		Second: Joyce Paulsen			
Vote called for: 7/16/2024 @ 11:34 AM					
Patti Elliott	Y	Annette Kirk	Y	Joyce Paulsen	Y
Theresa Karlson	Y	Rose Duval	Y	Teresa Bullock	Y
Sherrie McGhee	Y	Nichole Chilton	Y	Pam Stemple	Y
Denise Torbert	Y	Joan Snyder	Y		
Vote closed: 7/17/2024 @ 5:41 PM		Result: Carried		Tally: 11-0-0	



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.
Record of Votes

5.

TOPIC: Motion to Approve Logo Request from National Coalition for Patriots					
Motion: Teresa Bullock			Second: Nichole Chilton		
Vote called for: 7/26/2024 @ 8:00 AM					
Patti Elliott	Y	Annette Kirk	Y	Joyce Paulsen	Y
Theresa Karlson	Y	Rose Duval	Y	Teresa Bullock	Y
Sherrie McGhee	Y	Nichole Chilton	Y	Pam Stemple	Y
Denise Torbert	Y	Joan Snyder	Y		
Vote closed: 7/27/2024 @ 8:30 AM			Result: Carried		Tally: 11-0-0

6.

TOPIC: Motion to approve 8/4/2024 Meeting Minutes as amended					
Motion: Teresa Bullock			Second: Annette Kirk		
Vote called for: 8/8/2024 @ 8:00 AM					
Patti Elliott	Y	Annette Kirk	Y	Joyce Paulsen	Abstain
Theresa Karlson	Y	Rose Duval	Y	Teresa Bullock	Y
Sherrie McGhee	Y	Nichole Chilton	Y	Pam Stemple	Abstain
Denise Torbert	Y	Joan Snyder	Y		
Vote closed: 8/11/2024 @8:00 AM			Result: Carried		Tally: 9-0-2

7.

TOPIC: Motion to Approve Logo Request from Subeca, Inc.					
Motion: Teresa Bullock			Second: Annette Kirk		
Vote called for: 8/12/2024 @ 12 Noon					
Patti Elliott	Y	Annette Kirk	Y	Joyce Paulsen	Y
Theresa Karlson	Y	Rose Duval	Y	Teresa Bullock	Y
Sherrie McGhee	Y	Nichole Chilton	Y	Pam Stemple	Y
Denise Torbert	Y	Joan Snyder	Y		
Vote closed: 8/13/2024 @ 12 Noon			Result: Carried		Tally: 11-0-0

8.

TOPIC: Disaster Recovery Grant for Members Affected by Hurricane Debby					
Motion: Annette			Second: Teresa		
Vote called for: 8/18/2024 @ 10:00 AM					
Patti Elliott	Y	Annette Kirk	Y	Joyce Paulsen	Y
Theresa Karlson	Y	Rose Duval	Y	Teresa Bullock	Y
Sherrie McGhee	Y	Nichole Chilton	Y	Pam Stemple	Y
Denise Torbert	Y	Joan Snyder	Y		
Vote closed: 8/18/2024 @ 10:00 AM			Result: Carried		Tally: 11-0-0



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.
Record of Votes

9.

TOPIC: Logo Usage Application from Keller North America for Charity Golf Tournament on Nov 1, 2024					
Motion: Teresa		Second: Denise			
Vote called for: 9/3/2024 @ 11:00 AM					
Patti Elliott	Y	Annette Kirk	Y	Joyce Paulsen	Y
Theresa Karlson	Y	Rose Duval	Y	Teresa Bullock	Y
Sherrie McGhee	Y	Nichole Chilton	Y	Pam Stemple	Y
Denise Torbert	Y	Joan Snyder	Y		
Vote closed: 8/28/2024 @ 7:40 PM		Result: Carried		Tally: 11-0-0	

10.

TOPIC: Motion to approve 8/28/2024 Meeting Minutes with attachments					
Motion: Teresa		Second: Pam Stemple			
Vote called for: 9/3/2024 @ 11:10 AM					
Patti Elliott	Y	Annette Kirk	Y	Joyce Paulsen	Y
Theresa Karlson	Y	Rose Duval	Y	Teresa Bullock	Y
Sherrie McGhee	Y	Nichole Chilton	Abstain	Pam Stemple	Y
Denise Torbert	Y	Joan Snyder	Y		
Vote closed: 9/4/2024 @ 3:10 PM		Result: Carried		Tally: 10-0-1	

11.

TOPIC: Motion to approve logo request from the US Veterans MC of Oklahoma					
Motion: Teresa		Second: Annette			
Vote called for: 9/8/2024 @ 8 PM					
Patti Elliott	Y	Annette Kirk	Y	Joyce Paulsen	Y
Theresa Karlson	Y	Rose Duval	Y	Teresa Bullock	Y
Sherrie McGhee	Y	Nichole Chilton	Y	Pam Stemple	Y
Denise Torbert	Y	Joan Snyder	Y		
Vote closed: 9/9/2024 @ 3:00 PM		Result: Carried		Tally: 11-0-0	

12.

TOPIC: Motion to approve logo request from Keller North America, Inc. for their charity golf tournament on Nov 1, 2024					
Motion: Teresa		Second: Pam			
Vote called for: 9/9/2024 @ 9:13 PM					
Patti Elliott	Y	Annette Kirk	Y	Joyce Paulsen	Y
Theresa Karlson	Y	Rose Duval	Y	Teresa Bullock	Y
Sherrie McGhee	Y	Nichole Chilton	Y	Pam Stemple	Y
Denise Torbert	Y	Joan Snyder	Y		
Vote closed: 9/11/2024 @ 7:00 PM		Result:		Tally:	



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.
Record of Votes

13.

TOPIC: Motion to approve logo request from Maryland Dept of Veterans and Military Families for their Oct 2 nd event.					
Motion: Teresa B		Second: Theresa K			
Vote called for: 9/11/2024 @ 10:48 AM					
Patti Elliott	Y	Annette Kirk	Y	Joyce Paulsen	Y
Theresa Karlson	Y	Rose Duval	Y	Teresa Bullock	Y
Sherrie McGhee	Y	Nichole Chilton	Y	Pam Stemple	Y
Denise Torbert	Y	Joan Snyder	Y		
Vote closed: 9/13/2024 @ 10:00 AM		Result: Carried		Tally: 11-0-0	

14.

TOPIC: Motion to approve the AGSM logo request from the US Veterans MC from OK for the revised flyer which includes the Woody Williams foundation graphic by Teresa and seconded by Rose. Motion Carried. 11-0-0					
Motion: Teresa		Second: Rose			
Vote called for: 9/16/2024 @ 8 AM					
Patti Elliott	Y	Annette Kirk	Y	Joyce Paulsen	Y
Theresa Karlson	Y	Rose Duval	Y	Teresa Bullock	Y
Sherrie McGhee	Y	Nichole Chilton	Y	Pam Stemple	Y
Denise Torbert	Y	Joan Snyder	Y		
Vote closed: 9/18/2024 @ 8 AM		Result: Carried		Tally: 11-0-0	



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

National Service Officer Report - September 2024

For the period July 1 to September 15, 2024

Processed Member and Associate Applications, Transfers, Change of Address, and Death Notices.

Participated in National Executive Board Meetings and e-votes

Worked with Madam President to plan Gold Star Mother Week events.

Participated as part of the following committees:

Executive Committee

Membership Committee

Grants Committee

Scholarship Committee

Compliance Committee

History Committee

Centennial Committee

Communicated as NEB Liaison with:

Department of Texas-Oklahoma

Department of Washington-Oregon-Alaska

Department of Florida-Puerto Rico

Met with the Department of Southern California-Hawaii, Long Beach, CA

Attended Chief Plenty Coups Day of Honor, Billings MT

Attended Global War on Terror Memorial Rededication, Fort Moore, GA

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Bullock
National Service Officer



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

Information and Technology Chair Report September 14, 2024

It is an honor and a privilege to fill the role of Information and Technology Chair for the 2024-2025 year. Advancing our beloved organization by incorporating technology to better serve our Members, Donors, and Supporters is the primary focus of this position.

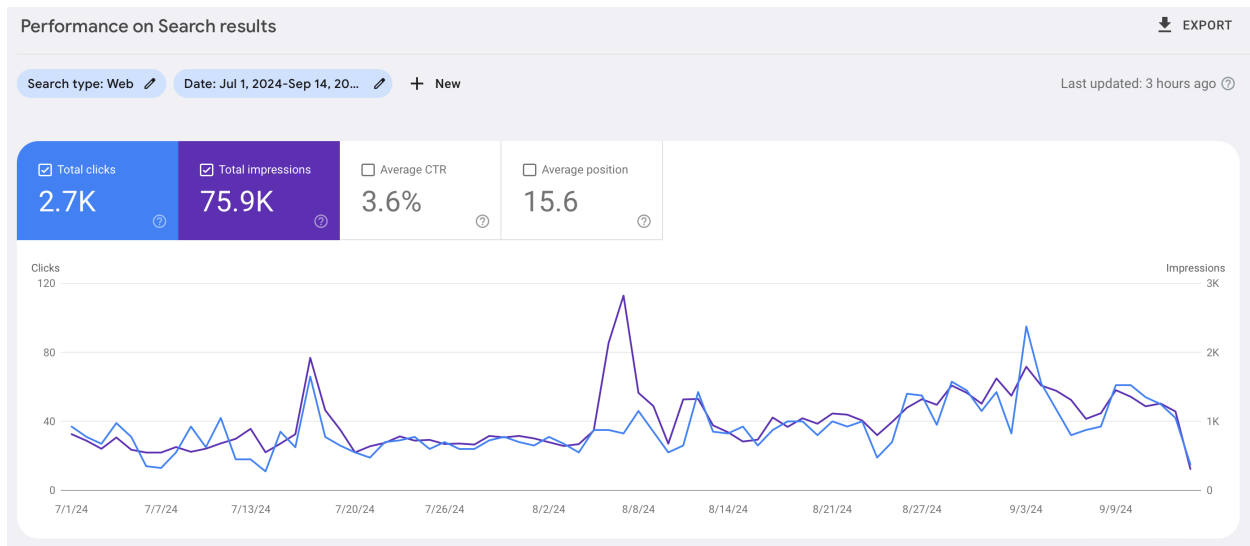
- Participated in National Executive Board Meetings and e-votes
- Created new users and transitioned email addresses for the incoming NEB
- Downloaded and archived all assets from the .com website
- Reworked .org website to be mobile friendly
- Updated website pages and fixed formatting issues
- Added updated forms to website
- Created a QR Code for donations
- Added blog feature to website for news, events, and chapter/department news
- Monitoring and maintaining social media sites
- Created a data base for the history project
- Increased foot traffic on social media and website
- Added MOUs to the website
- Updated inventory for the online store
- Updated the online store to accept Square payments and to save on PayPal fees
- Added new features to current data base
- Designed and created invitations, programs in digital and print form for Gold Star Mothers Weekend
- Partnered with the National President to mail invitations dignitaries and special guests for Gold Star Mothers Weekend
- Worked with the National President and Wavelike to print and publish 2 newsletters
- Created and provided designs for NEB name tags
- Updated business cards for the NEB
- Created graphic for Operation Holiday Salute



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

- Trained new NEB members how to use Google Suite and Quickbase
- Printed and mailed out new membership cards
- Researched and offer options for AGSM branded items for swag and online store
- Suggested and ordered center pieces and flowers for GSM Weekend
- Continuing to research Zeffy option for online payments with 0 processing fees
- Looking into Mailchimp options for mass emailing of members
- Fixed permissions on shared drives
- Troubleshoot tasks with NEB and members
- Participated in the following committees:
 - Ways & Means Committee
 - History Committee
 - Community Service Committee
 - Membership Committee

Website Performance from Google for the period of July 1 - September 14, 2024





American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

Respectfully Submitted

Nichole Jackson Chilton

Information and Technology Chair

September 14, 2024



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

VAVS National Representative Report

September 25, 2024

This year Madam President and I spoke about how important getting our VAVS Program back up and running. We have laid out a “plan” going forward this year to try to get the membership to think about how our organization started with volunteering at the VA’s across the Country. Almost 100 years ago. Now days, there are so many other things you can do to help Veterans, but our organization was founded and Chartered as a Veterans Service Organization. It is a privilege to volunteer in the VA. And we need to do that again. When I ran a report from the database, there were only a handful of VAVS Reps listed. I know that we have more than a few Reps.

I asked Patti if we could send out a JotForm questionnaire to get information out to the membership and see what they have to say about what they think about the VAVS Program. The comments were helpful. The database is up to date from what was in the JotForm.

Another thing we did was add a field on the database where we could check the block if they are a Rep. Like myself, I am the Chapter Treasurer, but also the VAVS for my Chapter. So, looking at the database we wouldn’t know that I was in two positions. This is pretty common, so now we have fixed it. I also added a drop-down selection to the Notes area of the database that has VA Volunteer. Not everyone is a Rep or Dep.

We are still in need of a VAVS National Deputy. If you know of someone, let me know.

I have certified 1 Deputy, and 3 Representatives in the last two months.

I have also started a draft of a Handbook for all Volunteers, and Representatives and Deputies.

I have contacted both the VA Hospital and the Fisher House to see if we can get a list of items to help the Veterans in their care, but have not heard back yet.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Stemple

National VAVS Representative



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.
Chaplain's Report – September 2024

June 23, 2024 – September 24, 2024

1. Prepared Death Notifications of AGSM members or associates and mailed newsletters and condolence cards to their families:
 - Prepared 2 Death Notifications (11 Death Notifications were prepared by Cathy Bordeaux – 2023/2024 National Chaplain) for July-August.
 - i. Mailed 11 newsletters and cards to families for July-August.
 - Prepared 1 Death Notification for September-October.
 - Prepared 2 Death Notifications for November-December.
2. Participated in NEB meetings:
 - June 23, 2024
 - August 4, 2024
 - August 28, 2024
3. Participated in 9 e-votes.
4. Participated the following committees:
 - Constitution & By-Laws/Standing Rules
 - Grants & Scholarships
 - Centennial
 - i. Prepared the minutes for the August 11, 2024, Zoom meeting
 - Open House – AGSM Weekend 2024
5. Communicated as NEB Liaison with:
 - Missouri
 - West Virginia
 - Iowa
 - South Dakota
 - Minnesota

Respectfully Submitted,

Sherrie Battle McGhee – National Chaplain



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

Sgt at Arms Report-September 2024

For the period July 1 to September 15, 2024

- Participated in National Executive Board Meetings
- Participated in Executive Board Meetings
- Created "Chore List" for NEB Members
- Created Room Assignments for NEB Members
- Created grocery list for GSM Weekend

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Bullock

National Sgt at Arms



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

National Banner Guard report

June-September 2024

Attended in 2024-2025 initial NEB meeting in Colorado Springs, CO.

Participated in zoom NEB meetings, emails and e-voting.

Committee Assignments are as follows:

Americanism

Compliance

Headquarter

Community Service – chair

Assigned as the NEB Liaison to following:

Department of New York

Department of Tennessee

Completed Quick Base training

Gold Star Mothers Weekend – assigned to Decorations committee

Written and submitted a self-introduction blog for AGSM media page

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Snyder, National Banner Guard



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

Flag Guard report for September 25,2024

So far this year the Flag Guard position hasn't done any events. Our first event will be Gold Star Mothers Sunday , September 29,2024.

I have attended all NEB meetings in person or zoom and voted in all e-votes.

I am on the Americanizam committee , the C&BL committee and was on the food committee for our open house on Friday, September 27,2024.

Denise Torber



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

National President's Report

June 23, 2024 - September 15, 2024

6/25/24 - Met with representative of PMI (Philip Morris International) to discuss partner opportunities between PMI and AGSM

6/26/24 - Attended Opening Ceremonies of 133rd Continental Congress of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution

7/22/24 - Visited and toured Veteran's Last Patrol, Spartanburg, SC

7/22/24 - Visited and toured Upstate Warrior Solutions, Greenville, SC

7/22/24 - Visited and toured American Legion Post 3 Museum, Greenville, SC

7/22/24 - Visited and toured Warriors Once Again, Veterans homeless center, Spartanburg, SC

7/22/24 - Keynote address at Palmetto House Republican Women's Patriotic Celebration, Spartanburg, SC

7/25-7/28/24 - Attended Stem to Stone, Wreaths Across America, Columbia Falls, ME

7/28-8/2/24 - Attended Blue Star Mothers of America National Convention, Oklahoma City, OK

8/3/24 - Keynote address at Wake Forest Purple Heart Foundation Dinner, Wake Forest, NC

8/16/24 - Attended American Gold Star Manor Board Meeting, Long Beach, CA

8/17/24 - Meeting with Department of Southern California-Hawaii, Long Beach, CA

8/28-9/1/24 - Participated at the invitation of the Society of the Honor Guard, Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in the Day of Honor ceremonies at the Chief Plenty Coups State Park, Billings, MT, as a celebration of the life and legacy of Chief Plenty Coups

9/5-9/8/24 - Participated at the invitation of the National Infantry Museum Foundation in the rededication of the Global War on Terrorism Memorial, Fort Moore, GA, to include a vendor table to provide information on AGSM

Presided over Zoom board meetings and facilitated e-votes

Responded to calls and correspondence coming to organization

Worked with National Executive Board members to accomplish mission-related goals

Attended and participated in committee meetings

Worked with NSO to plan Gold Star Mothers Weekend activities



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

Finance & Budget Committee Report - September 2024

Chairman: Rose Duval, **Members:** Annette Kirk, Joyce Paulsen, Theresa Karlson **Ex-Officio:** Patti Elliott

Meetings Called: July 21, 2024 (Zoom) & July 30, 2024, (email)

Budget

1. Worked 1:1 with AGSM, Inc President to establish the FY25 Spend Plan.
2. Assisted the President in briefing her budget to the Committee Members.
3. Established a Working 2024-2025 Budget Spreadsheet.
4. Attended 3 online training sessions to learn QuickBooks Online.

Finance

1. Researched point of service vendors.
2. Reviewed investment opportunity.
3. Established a Vendor/Contractor Directory.
4. Established a formal tracking of Grant Donations.
5. Consolidated all Subscriptions under a single credit card.
6. Centrally managed all airline purchases on a single credit card.

Recommendations

1. AGSM, Inc invest in a High Yield Saving Account
2. AGSM, Inc review Zeffy.com operational activities
3. AGSM, Inc Ship Thrifty for all package shipping

Respectfully submitted by Rose Duval

Attachments: Statement of Financial Position
Statement of Activity
Budget vs. Actuals: Fiscal Year 2024-2025
Proposed Motions



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

Finance & Budget Committee
September 21, 2023

Motion #1

Motion Proposed: AGSM, Inc invest \$150,000.00 into a high yield saving account (Flourish) with Mass Mutual over the next 9 months.

Rational: There is an opportunity to invest inactive funds into a HY account and earn higher interest than is currently earned.

Motion #2

Motion Proposed: AGSM, Inc take 30 days to review the features offered by Zeffy for the organizational operations.

Rational: PayPal and Square are functional, limited in features, and both charge a fee.

Motion #3

Motion Proposed: Add Ship Thrifty to our options for shipping packages, to include conventions.

Rational: Offer discounted rates for shipping. They also offer the opportunity to Military Mail as a AGSM Project.



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

Headquarters Report September 2024

Annette Kirk-Chair
Rose Duval
Theresa Karlson
Joan Snyder
Patti Elliott (Ex-Officio)

Participated in Zoom and group text with the committee members

The HQ Committee presented the following upgrades-

- Bed sheets and mattress pads for top floor, 6 setsx\$21.00=**\$126.00**
- HQ deep cleaning, to be completed September 21, 2024-**\$385.00**
- Window cleaning, completed September 5, 2024=**\$565.00**
- Replacement of all blinds (except plantation shutters and blinds in kitchen), installed as blinds arrive =**\$1,306.00**
- Purchase of closet upgrade for flag and banner (pending order and installation)-**\$99.99**
- All upgrades were approved on August 28, 2024 (**total \$2,481.99**)

The HQ Committee has also done the following:

- Threw out two office chairs that were falling apart
- Acquired by donations-
 - 1ea 60x84 white tablecloth
 - Multiple used towels for bathrooms on 3rd & 4th floors
 - Four sets of Twin sheets, white
 - Bathmats for use in 3rd & 4th floor bathrooms
 - Set of 4 TV tray tables for family room
 - Two new end tables for family room (threw out two old ones that are broken)

The committee is seeking advice for specific plants to place in front of HQ. Once we get that information, it will be presented to the NEB for approval if funding is required.

Respectfully submitted,
Annette Kirk
National 1st Vice President



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

C & BL, Standing Rules Committee Report – September 2024

Chair: Joyce Paulsen, **Members:** Sherrie McGhee, Denise Torbert, **Ex-Officio:** Patti Elliott

Meeting called: August 14, 2024 (Zoom)

C&BL

- Confirmed deadlines in February 2025 for any submissions. Meeting if needed to read the submission.

Standing Rules

- Reviewed and made some changes to the document.

Recommendation

- Review the recommended changes to the Standing Rules for 2024-2025

Motion

- To approve the Standing Rules presented.

Respectfully submitted by Joyce Paulsen

Attachments: Standing Rules proposed document



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.
**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE BOARD STANDING
RULES**

HEADQUARTERS:

1. The National President, National Treasurer and National Service Officer at the September NEB meeting shall audit the AGSM headquarters' safe.
2. Only National Executive Board members and former National Officers (and their guests) may request overnight lodging at Headquarters. The National Service Officer will have the member complete the Overnight Lodging Request Form. Each request will be considered for approval on a case-by-case basis. A donation of \$25 per person, per night is suggested to cover expenses of maintaining Headquarters. NEB members may stay five days, extraneous to NEB meetings, per calendar year, without a suggested donation. Past National Presidents may stay at Headquarters without a suggested donation.
3. No items or artifacts shall leave National Headquarters without the approval of the National Executive Board.

FINANCES:

1. Officers of the NEB of AGSM will be reimbursed for expenses related to their office per the approved annual budget.
2. National Officers will be reimbursed travel costs to NEB meetings and Convention *if funds are available*. Travel costs are defined as reasonable airfare, mileage to and from the airport or NEB meeting location, baggage fees, and parking fees. AGSM will pay baggage fees for only one piece of luggage, unless the member is transporting additional supplies needed to or from Washington, D.C. Reasonable cost is defined as the usual cost of airfare from the NEB member's location to the NEB location, mileage not to exceed the cost of airfare. Headquarters parking expenses will be reimbursed for business days.
3. In limited circumstances, advances of authorized travel expenses may be provided when determined to be appropriate by the National President and/or National Service Officer. The amount of the advance must be reasonably calculated, not to exceed the amount of

the anticipated travel expenditures. The advance will be made not more than 30 days prior to the actual occurrence of payment of the expenditures.

4. Expenses related to furnishings at National Headquarters shall be a line item on the approved budget. Any amount over \$500.00 must have the approval of the NEB. The National Service Officer has the authority to spend up to \$1500.00 at National Headquarters without NEB approval in an emergency situation for repairs.
5. Grocery expenses for NEB meetings at headquarters will be divided equally among NEB members in attendance with the payment remitted to the National Treasurer.
6. ~~Debit/Credit card purchases are authorized when it is not feasible to submit a written check for payment of goods or services.~~ Take this out as obsolete?
7. The President shall appoint two NEB members on the Budget and Finance Committee to perform an internal audit of the Treasurer's books at the February and Pre- Convention NEB meetings.
8. Automatic drafts and ACH for recurring pre-approved operating expenses can be paid from the AGSM checking account. An AGSM credit card will be allowed to pay for pre-approved recurring operating expenses or individual invoices, so long as there are no additional fees incurred.
9. Automatic drafts and ACH payments may be established by using AGSM checking account for utilities and other recurring expenses. Automatic drafts and ACH may be used when recurring pre-approved operating expenses cannot be made directly ~~to~~ from the checking account.

NATIONAL CONVENTION PLANNING:

~~-2nd Vice President (2 years before her convention):~~

- ~~● Prepares for the National Convention to be held during her administration as President by selecting a convention site with attention to convenience of travel for members, financial responsibility to the organization and appropriate venue to accommodate essential requirements according to the National Constitution and Bylaws and the Ceremonial and Business Procedures of AGSM.~~
- ~~● Signs a contract with the selected hotel and makes a request to the NEB for a check to deposit with the contract. NEB approves the location and the details in the contract.~~

Proposed change: The changes for the 1st and 2nd VPs have changed for booking their conventions

~~-1st Vice President (1 year before convention):~~

- ~~● Prepares for the National Convention to be held during her administration as President by selecting a convention site with attention to convenience of travel for members, financial responsibility to the organization and appropriate venue to accommodate~~

essential requirements according to the National Constitution and Bylaws and the Ceremonial and Business Procedures of AGSM.

- Signs a contract with the selected hotel and makes a request to the NEB for a check to deposit with the contract. NEB approves the location and the details in the contract.

-2nd Vice President (2 years before her convention):

- Prepares for the National Convention to be held during her administration as President by selecting a convention site with attention to convenience of travel for members, financial responsibility to the organization and appropriate venue to accommodate essential requirements according to the National Constitution and Bylaws and the Ceremonial and Business Procedures of AGSM.

-National President:

- Having selected the location and signed the contract for a hotel of her choice, she must now finalize all the details of her convention, projecting the necessary number in attendance to stay within the budgeted allocation. All details of her convention should be planned with the local chapter in the area. She should utilize the Department as a resource if needed.
- ~~Prepares the National Convention budget following her installation as National President and presents it to the Finance and Budget Committee for the NEB approval before the National budget is presented to the Manor Board at their August meeting.~~
Proposed change to remove: This is not an accurate step
- Provide an update at the September NEB meeting of the schedule for each day of the convention.
- Provides updates to the Finance and Budget Committee as needed (October-January) to determine the registration costs for members and guests.
- Provides an update to the NEB at the February Board meeting with final decisions on the agenda for each day and the cost of each activity, meal and closing banquet.
- Provide all the details for Convention Call, Registration, Journal Ads, Nominating Committee, Tellers Committee, Pages, etc. for NEB approval at the February meeting and for the March-April newsletter.
- There shall be no refunds given for convention registration fees once the closing date is confirmed and published by the National President.
- Present the Conference Agenda, VAVS Luncheon, Memorial Service, Installation Ceremony and Closing Banquet programs for approval by the NEB before the close of the February Board meeting.
- National President appoints the Nomination Committee and provides guidelines for Convention.

ETHICS:

1. Members of the National Executive Board (NEB) will be mindful of their duty of care, for their loyalty to the organization, and shall participate in board meetings and AGSM activities accordingly.

2. Each member of the NEB will respect, honor and protect the confidentiality of all matters involving AGSM, including the discussions at meetings of the NEB and the records of the organization, be they on paper or electronically, excepting of course information which is a matter of public record or common knowledge.
3. Members of the NEB acknowledge that the membership application process and maintenance of membership records may involve the disclosure of private or confidential information. Each member of the NEB will protect the privacy and confidentiality of such information and refrain from copying it or disseminating it.
4. Failure of a member of the NEB to attend the September and February business meetings without written notification and just cause, acceptable to the NEB, shall forfeit her position. The National President with majority approval of the NEB shall appoint her successor. The forfeited officer shall send all property related to her office immediately to the appointed successor.
Proposed change: To move under Officer Duties/Responsibilities as #7

OFFICER DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES:

1. The National President may appoint a member of the National Executive Board (in her absence) to attend official business events.
2. Season's Greetings from the National President shall be printed in the November/December issue of the Gold Star publication.
3. The Executive Committee is made up of the President, 1st Vice President, 2nd Vice President and the National Service Officer.
4. The National President shall formally acknowledge any member who reaches her 90th and 100th birthday by sending a personal letter. The NSO will provide the National President with a list of members reaching 90 and 100 years of age during her term.
5. An event-planning file, ~~both electronic and paper,~~ shall be kept **on the shared drive** by the President and National Service Officer for the upcoming Vice Presidents, for the past three (3) years to include prior event information, vendors, schedules, and financials. Events include Gold Star Mothers Weekend, Veterans Day, Memorial Day, National Convention, and any added AGSM events.
Proposed change: add and remove wording
6. National officers, who draft letters in regard to official organizational business, shall send a copy of such draft to the National President.
7. ~~National officers, who send articles regarding their office for publication in the Gold Star Mother, shall also send a copy to the National President.~~ **Proposed change:**

remove entirely the National President sees all the articles in the publication. Replace with Ethics #4.

8. All NEB members are required to stay at Headquarters and participate in all scheduled functions during Gold Star Mothers' Sunday weekend and the February Board meeting. Only special prior approval from the National President will be provided for male guests.
9. As hostesses of both the National Convention and Gold Star Mothers' weekend, members of the NEB shall avail themselves to meet and greet AGSM members.
10. The National Service Officer is responsible for coordinating memorial contributions in memory of past National Officers. A contribution in the amount of \$50.00 in memory of Past National Officers (PNOs) will be made to the Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center or any supported Veterans Service Organization near her home Chapter. Donations for Past National Presidents (PNPs) shall be \$400 and made to the PNP's favorite charity. A letter of condolence will be sent to her family, which will include notification of the memorial donation. A limit of \$200 will be allowed for flowers in memory of the PNP.
11. The National Treasurer will send a monthly financial report to the National President and First Vice President. Prior to paying expenditures of funds, the National Treasurer will seek approval from the National President. ~~A report of financial audits must be presented at the September Board meeting.~~
Proposed change: Remove this sentence because there is no financial audit completed.
12. The National VAVS representative may serve two or more consecutive years with the consent of the National President and the approval of the NEB. This recommendation is in compliance with the Director of Voluntary Services of the Department of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The National VAVS Chair shall choose two Deputy VAVS Representatives with the approval by the National Executive Board.
**Proposed change: Rewrite the order of this paragraph.
In accordance with the Director of Voluntary Services of the Department of Veteran Affairs, the National VAVS Representative should serve two or more years with the consent of the National President and the approval of the NEB. The National VAVS Chair shall choose up to two Deputy VAVS Representatives with the approval by the National Executive Board.**
13. The National VAVS Representative and one Deputy Representative shall be reimbursed transportation, lodging, and registration fees if funds are available to the annual VAVS Advisory Committee meeting. The VAVS Representative will be responsible for requesting and presenting a donation to the James Parke Scholarship annually.
14. The Resolutions Committee shall meet ~~at all~~ **when necessary** at NEB meetings and prior to the opening of the National Convention to consider all resolutions received by

the Chair. The Chair shall present resolutions to the NEB with recommendations of the committee. Only resolutions approved by the NEB will be presented to delegates at the National Convention. The Chair of the Resolutions committee will notify the author of rejected resolutions of rationale for unapproved action within 30 days following the National Convention. If needed, the National President shall appoint a **resolution committee that shall consider resolutions submitted.** ~~consisting of the NEB.~~

Proposed change: add and remove wording

15. The 2nd Vice President will hold the position of Compliance Officer and Compliance Committee Chair.

MISCELLANEOUS:

1. Electronic devices are to be turned off during functions scheduled by the NEB and during all NEB meetings. Board members utilizing electronic devices to perform duties during NEB meetings must coordinate such use with the Sgt-At-Arms prior to the meeting. Emergency phone calls may be directed to the ~~National Service Officer or the Sgt-at-Arms.~~ The National Sgt-at Arms will **ensure all NEB members are familiar with the rules.** ~~distribute a list of rules prior to all NEB meetings.~~

Proposed change: add and remove wording

2. Members of the NEB who volunteer at a VA Medical Center are expected to credit all ~~or part~~ of their hours to AGSM per their individual facility protocol. **Proposed change: remove wording**
3. Gold Star Mothers' Sunday shall be observed at National Headquarters. All NEB members are required to stay at Headquarters and participate in all scheduled agenda events. The National President shall provide an agenda to include memorial ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery. ~~and a visit to the Vietnam Memorial.~~
Proposed changes: remove wording.
4. The logo of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. can only be used with the expressed written permission of the NEB using the Logo Use Application process. Departments, Chapters, and third parties who wish to use the logo must apply for written permission from the National Executive Board of AGSM, Inc.
5. A Past President's bar will be purchased by AGSM each year, for the outgoing President's pin, with engraving of her choice.

HOSPITALITY:

Proposed change: Remove the label.

6. In the event a NEB member has surgery, is hospitalized, or has a death in the family, the President may request a card and/or flowers be sent to the Board member.

Proposed change: Move this under Miscellaneous as item #6.

Revised by NEB, September 2018

Revised by NEB, June 2019

Revised by NEB, February 2020

Revised by NEB, June 2020

Revised by NEB, September 2020

Revised by NEB, February 6, 2021

Revised by NEB, September 21, 2023

Revised by NEB, September 22, 2024



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITIES

2024-2025

Date	Action	AGSM Action
7/25/2024	<p>H.R.1182 - Veterans Serving Veterans Act of 2023 (118th Congress) Sponsor: Rescom. González-Colón, Jenniffer [R-PR-At Large] (Introduced 02/24/2023)</p>	No Action
7/25/2024	<p>H.J.Res.65 - Designating November 9th of each year as "Gold Star Father's Day". (118th Congress) Sponsor: Rep. Johnson, Henry C. "Hank," Jr. [D-GA-4] (Introduced 05/25/2023)</p>	No Action
7/25/2024	<p>S.Res.422 — 118th Congress (2023-2024)A resolution designating August 1, 2023, as "Gold Star Children's Day".Sponsor: Wicker, Roger F. [Sen.-R-MS] (Introduced 10/19/2023) Cosponsors: (1)Latest Action: Senate - 10/19/2023 Submitted in the Senate, considered, and agreed to without amendment and with a preamble by Unanimous Consent. (consideration: CR S5104; text: CR S5115) (All Actions)Tracker: This bill has the status Agreed to in Senate Here are the steps for Status of Legislation: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Introduced2. Agreed</p>	No Action
8/30/2024	<p>H.R.9188 - Gold Star and Surviving Spouse Career Services Act Sponsor: Rep. Bacon, Don [R-NE-2] (Introduced 07/30/2024) Bill, Resolution, or Law Text: Introduced in House (07/30/2024) Display Title: Gold Star and Surviving Spouse Career Services Act</p>	No Action



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

Official Title as Introduced: To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain spouses eligible for services under the disabled veterans' outreach program, and for other purposes.

Short Title(s) as Introduced: Gold Star and Surviving Spouse Career Services Act

9/14/2024 [H.Res.1447](#) - Expressing support for the designation of the week of September 22 through September 28, 2024, as "Gold Star Families Remembrance Week". No Action

Sponsor: Rep. Newhouse, Dan [R-WA-4] (Introduced 09/12/2024)

Bill, Resolution, or Law Text: [Introduced in House \(09/12/2024\)](#)

Official Title as Introduced: Expressing support for the designation of the week of September 22 through September 28, 2024, as "Gold Star Families Remembrance Week".



Ceremonial and Business Procedures
of
American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

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Welcome to American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. We are an organization established in 1928 of mothers who have lost a son or daughter in the service of our country. Chartered by the United States Congress in 1984, American Gold Star Mothers (AGSM), Inc., continues to honor our sons and daughters through service - service to veterans and patriotic events.

The Ceremonial and Business Procedures of the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., first printed as the Ritual, provides necessary and important procedures, protocols, and ceremonial activities essential for conducting National, Department, and Chapter events pertaining to AGSM, Inc.

Specifics outlined in this handbook (i.e., conducting meetings, officer responsibilities, and installation of officers) may be used at respective National, Department, or Chapter events.

WEARING WHITE

Wearing white is a time-honored tradition of the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. While black is a traditional color of mourning, the decision to wear white, rather than black, denotes the celebration of our children's goodness, innocence, and sacrifice.

Associate Members and guests may choose to wear patriotic attire in keeping with the dress code of the occasion at which the Mothers are dressed in white.

Our National Convention, Department Conventions, and Chapter Meetings call for the wearing of white as suggested attire, not a requirement.

Wearing white should be in keeping with the dress code of the occasion (i.e., casual, business, or formal).

The American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., cap is the official head attire of the organization. The Organizational Cap may be worn indoors or outdoors for official AGSM, Inc., functions. When a member is invited to attend other Veterans Service Organization functions as an AGSM member, she may wear the AGSM cap.

FLAG ETIQUETTE

PRESENTING AND RETIRING COLORS

The official colors of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., may be referred to as the Organizational Banner or Banner. The AGSM Honor Guard will consist of the Flag Guard (carries the U.S. Flag) and the Banner Guard (carries the Organizational Banner). The United States Flag and the Organizational Banner are to be displayed at all official functions of the organization.

When carried in a procession, the flagstuffs are to be carried to the right side of the Flag and Banner Guards. The U.S. Flag should always have the place of “Marching Right,” or the flag’s right. The AGSM Banner should be on the flag’s left. All other Department banners should follow the procession behind the National Banner.

Members should familiarize themselves with proper U.S. Flag etiquette. When the U.S. Flag is in motion, members will stand solemnly with the right hand over the heart. During the Pledge of Allegiance, all hand-held articles should be laid aside and place the right hand over the heart. The Honor Guard is silent during the performance of their duties. Exceptions may be made by the National President as needed for the business meeting.

It is recommended the Honor Guard wear white business attire, organization caps, and white gloves.

The AGSM Honor Guard will lead the procession at the opening of the National Convention. Department Flags will follow (if on hand). The U.S. flag crosses in front of the Organizational Banner, and the guards simultaneously place the U.S. Flag and the Banner in the respective stands.

At all official functions of the Organization, the Pledge of Allegiance is given, while singing of the National Anthem is optional. The Banner shall be dipped while the Pledge is given and the Anthem is sung. The U.S. Flag is never dipped.

RETIRING COLORS

When the President asks to retire the colors, the Flag and Banner Guard stand, recover the flags, and walk directly to the back of the room, making sure to keep the same pace.

CONDUCTING (National/Department/Chapter) MEETINGS

All business meetings shall be opened according to Ritual, with the Charter displayed.

The Sergeant-At-Arms, Pages, and the Honor Guard will wear organization caps. Organization caps are optional for other members.

It is the duty of the Sergeant-At-Arms to see that the room is properly set up.

It is the Chaplain's responsibility to arrange the altar.

The Honor Guard will ensure that the U.S. Flag and Banner are in their place before, and properly cared for after, each meeting.

Only members of the organization ever stand at the altar.

No one shall pass between the altar and the President's station while the meeting is in session and the Bible is open, except when draping the Charter.

The members stand and render proper etiquette when the U.S. Flag is in motion and during the Pledge of Allegiance. The Honor Guard is to remain stationary and silent during the Pledge of Allegiance or the singing of the National Anthem.

The Chaplain approaches the altar, reverently opens the Bible, offers prayer, steps back a few steps still facing the altar, places hand over heart and the membership body places hand also then turns and returns to her station.

Communications from National and Department Boards shall be read at business meetings of the Chapter.

The Secretary keeps a copy of all written correspondence. At the end of the year, the President may appoint a committee to review and discard all unimportant correspondence.

The Secretary's notes may be bound in a volume or prepared by digital means. After minutes are approved, they shall be dated and signed by the Recording Secretary and President.

After the Treasurer's report is given, the President will ask to have the report filed and subject to audit.

All expenditures from National/Department/Chapter funds shall be received by the Treasurer and, if approved, co-signed by her and the President.

The National/Department/Chapter History book is the property of the National/Department/Chapter Organization.

A member in good standing is one whose National Dues have been paid for the current year and whose per capita National Dues have been received by the National and Department Treasurer.

If a member is financially unable to pay her dues, and the Chapter so desires, her per capita National Dues may be paid from Chapter funds, with no mention of the member's name.

CHAPTER MINUTES – OUTLINE

The minutes of a regular meeting of the National/Department/Chapter, as recorded by the respective Recording Secretary, should include the following:

- Number of officers present and the names of those absent.
- Name of Member for whom the Charter is draped.
- Summary of Treasurer's report, giving total receipts and total expenditures since the previous meeting, and the balance carried forward.
- Corresponding Secretary's report, which should include received communications from ----- (giving name of organization or individuals).
- Bills received, and the Chapter voted to pay for each bill.
- Reports (only pertinent details).
- Record of all motions made with the name of the member offering motion and a proper second. Do not give details of the discussion. Simply state, "Discussion followed," and give the results of the vote.

MEETING RITUAL

PRESIDENT: Will the Officers please take their respective stations and the Sergeant-At-Arms please close the door?

PRESIDENT: Color Guard, present the colors.

(All Stand)

NOTE: (Music may be played as the Color Guard proceeds to the altar.)

PRESIDENT: Madam Chaplain, please approach the altar and open the Bible.

NOTE: (Chaplain leaves her station, slowly approaches the altar, and reverently opens the Bible.)

PRESIDENT: We will have a moment of silent prayer in the name of peace and freedom.

NOTE: (Members offer silent prayer.)

PRESIDENT: Our Chaplain will now ask the Divine Blessing.

CHAPLAIN: Our Father, we pray that Your presence may be felt in all our hearts at this time. Bless our Nation, for which our Sons and Daughters gave their lives.

Bless the members of this beloved Organization, oh, Lord. Open our hearts so that we may live in loving kindness, causing peace and harmony to prevail.

Offer mercy, we pray, and lift up those who are in sorrow or sickness. Will you in Your infinite tenderness help them find comfort and healing at this time?

Guide us that we may become a great power in this land for Charity, Service, and Loyalty. In Your Name, we give you all honor and glory, both now and forever. Amen.

NOTE: (The Chaplain, still facing the altar, takes a few steps back, places hand over heart and membership follows and she returns to her station.)

PRESIDENT: Members, the Americanism Chair will now lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(All repeat together.)

AMERICANISM CHAIR: "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

NOTE: (The National Anthem may be sung.)

PRESIDENT: Post the Colors.

NOTE: (The Flag Guard and Banner Guard simultaneously post the Colors in respective flag stands, using proper flag etiquette.)

(Members may be seated)

PRESIDENT: Madam First Vice President, what is our Preamble?

(First Vice President rises.)

FIRST VICE PRESIDENT: In fond memory of our Sons and Daughters who died in military service to our Country; in the sincere belief that the sacrifices they have made will cause to burn more brightly the fires of patriotism and glory; in the lasting hope that our young men and women have helped to create a structure that time cannot tear down; and with a compelling desire to carry on the torch they let fall with death:

We, inspired by the love we bore them, have associated ourselves together to perpetuate the noble principles for which they fought and died.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Madam First Vice President. Madam Second Vice President, what is our Mission?

(Second Vice President rises.)

SECOND VICE PRESIDENT: Our mission is to assist all those who bear the sacred name of "Gold Star Mother" and help each other bear the cross of sorrow which has come to us through the sacrifices our Sons and Daughters made for Freedom and Democracy; to work for the mutual benefit of all Gold Star Mothers; to minister and serve the disabled comrades, as best we can, of our Sons and Daughters; to cooperate with all Veterans Service Organizations, civic and patriotic organizations in commemorating the deeds of our fallen heroes, particularly on Memorial Day and all through the days of the year; and to encourage peace and harmony between all peoples.

PRESIDENT: Thank you, Madam Second Vice President.

I now declare this National Convention/Department Convention/Chapter Meeting of the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., convened for the transaction of such business as officially comes before it.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

- 1. Roll Call of officers.**
- 2. Draping of Charter (Page 18).**
- 3. Obligation of Members (Page 17).**
- 4. Reading of minutes of previous meeting.**
(After approval, to be signed by Secretary and President, with date.)
- 5. Report of Treasurer.**
- 6. Report of Standing Committees.**
 - a. Finance and Budget**
 - b. Headquarters**
 - c. Standing Rules**
 - d. Constitution & Bylaws**
 - e. Legislative**
- 7. Report of Special Committees (as appointed by the President) and may include:**
 - a. Veterans Affairs**
 - b. Ways and Means**
 - c. Membership**
 - d. Reports of any other committees that the President or Chapter deems necessary.**
- 8. Reading of communications by the Secretary.**
- 9. Unfinished Business.**
- 10. New Business.**
- 11. Good of the Order.**

Footnote:

Short recess may be declared by the President at any time throughout the order of business.

NOTE: (*Chaplain closes Bible, placing hand over heart and members follow then recess; and opens Bible, placing a hand over heart, and membership follows before regular order of business is continued.*)

PRESIDENT: If there is no further business to come before the National/Department/Chapter, we will proceed to close.

(All Stand)

PRESIDENT: Let us bow our heads in silent prayer in memory of those who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

NOTE: (Offer a moment of silent prayer.)

PRESIDENT: Madam Chaplain, will you please lead us in the closing prayer?

NOTE: (Chaplain approaches the altar.)

CHAPLAIN: Dear Heavenly Father, we thank You for this privilege of meeting together, and as we go forth to intermingle with the busy world, we ask You to protect and guide us according to Your most holy will. Help us to do Your work through our words and our deeds.

Dear Father, as we go about our busy days, help us to remember our obligation to You, and to each other. May we go from here to better work and better usefulness to our country and to those we have promised to help. Oh, Lord, enlighten our understanding and bless our efforts to continue honoring our Sons and Daughters through our service.

All this we ask in Your name. Amen.

NOTE: (Chaplain closes Bible, places a hand over heart and members follow and she returns to her station.)

PRESIDENT: Color Guard, retire the Colors.

NOTE: (Color Guard retires the Colors)

PRESIDENT: I now declare this National Convention/Department/Chapter of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., ended. (May offer the next meeting date at this time.)

OBLIGATION

The Oath of Obligation is to be used at the Installation Ceremony of the National Convention, Departments, and Chapters of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. The Oath of Obligation should be recited at Department Conventions and Chapter Meetings when a new member is present. The Oath will not be taken lightly and will remind Gold Star Mothers of the camaraderie we share, just as our fallen Sons and Daughters did while defending our Nation.

(All Stand)

PRESIDENT: Mother(s), as a member of our organization, I earnestly trust that you fully understand the objects for which we are banded together.

Please raise your right hand and repeat after me, using your name where I do mine.

NOTE: (/ denotes a pause)

I (name) / 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.

PRESIDENT: You may lower your hands.

DRAPING the CHARTER

When the Organization is deprived of one of its members by death, the Chapter or National Charter will be draped in black during the meeting immediately following her death.

The Sergeant-At-Arms may assist the Chaplain with the Draping of the Charter.

PRESIDENT: With deep regret, let us remember our beloved Gold Star Mothers (name), who died since our last gathering. In sympathy, we will drape our Charter in loving memory of (name).

(All Stand)

The Sergeant-At-Arms may escort the Chaplain to the Charter. Facing the Charter, the Chaplain says:

CHAPLAIN: It is my solemn duty to drape the Charter of _____ National/Department/Chapter in memory of our departed Gold Star Mother (Name) .

NOTE: (Chaplain drapes Charter and offers the following prayer.)

CHAPLAIN: Dear Heavenly Father, hear our prayer as we gather here to honor our departed Mother. Though she has died and left this earth as we know it, may she live again in the mansion that has been prepared for her in Your house. Grant us wisdom to understand Your greatness, discernment to see Your goodness, and insight to accept Your love with humility and thanksgiving. Amen.

NOTE: (The Lord's Prayer may be repeated in unison.)

NOTE: (The Sergeant-At-Arms and Chaplain return to their stations.)

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

The President-elect shall plan the installation of her officers and shall choose the Installing Officer, who must be a member in good standing. The Installing Officer shall be a Current National or Past National Officer, Current Department or Past Department Officer, or Current President or Past Chapter President of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

The President-elect should have at least the following officers for the Installation Ceremony: the Installing Officer, Chaplain, Sergeant-At-Arms, and, if possible, an officer or member to fill each of the remaining stations.

The Ritual of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., shall be used for the Installation Ceremony and will normally be conducted as last on the agenda of the National/Department/Chapter ceremony.

When installations are open to the public, the ceremony takes place after the meeting has been declared open according to Ritual. No additional business other than the installation ceremony will be conducted.

The retiring President presides until she introduces and turns the meeting over to the Installing Officer.

After Installation, the newly installed President presides and closes the meeting.

A list of names of officers and the office they are about to assume, in proper order according to Ritual, shall be prepared and given to the Installing Officer.

In an emergency where an officer is unable to be present at the time of Installation, the National/Department/Chapter President shall administer the oath of office at the next meeting.

Officers will assume their duties immediately following installation.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Will the Installing Sergeant-At-Arms retire with the officers and prepare for Installation?

NOTE: (Officers, led by Installation Sergeant-At-Arms, will walk from the room in an orderly fashion.)

Installing Sergeant-At-Arms will place the Officers in pairs.

After the Installing Sergeant-At-Arms has Officers placed in their proper order, she enters the meeting room and announces to the Installing Officer.

INSTALLATION SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Madam Installing Officer, the Officers are assembled and prepared.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Madam Installing Sergeant-At-Arms, please present the Officers at the altar.

NOTE: (Installing Sergeant-At-Arms leads the procession in. Officers assemble on either side of the altar. Installing Sergeant-At-Arms then steps to the side and waits for further instructions.)

(All Stand)

INSTALLING OFFICER: Let us all bow our heads while we are led in prayer.

INSTALLING CHAPLAIN (or member of the Clergy): Our Father, we pray You are with us at this time and draw especially near to the Mothers assembled before You. They are about to assume a most sacred obligation. Father, please grant them strength to carry out the sacred promises made before God and all of us assembled here. Guide them in all things that they may perform the duties of their offices with honor and dignity, and by doing so, will gain the love and approval of their fellow Gold Star Mothers. Through their work, may they hear in their hearts Your voice whispering, "Well done, good and faithful servant." All this we ask in Your name. Amen.

(Members may be seated)

INSTALLING OFFICER: Officers, you have been elected or appointed to responsible positions. Perform the duties of your office faithfully and conscientiously, meeting all challenges with compassion and strength bravely as true Americans.

Do you accept the office to which you have been elected or appointed?

NOTE: (All answer, "I do.")

INSTALLING OFFICER: That being your intention, I will ask you to raise your right hand and repeat the following pledge, using your name where I do mine.

NOTE: (/ denotes pause.)

I (name) / in the presence of Almighty God / pledge allegiance / to the Flag of the United States of America / and accept the office / to which I have been elected or appointed / and promise to fill such office / to the best of my ability.

I pledge to conduct myself / in such a manner / that will only reflect good of the order / keeping sacred its ritual / and will comply / with all the Constitution and Bylaws / of American Gold Star Mothers / and when my successor / has been duly elected and installed / I will turn over to her / all books and other property of the organization / in my possession.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Madam President, step forward, please.

(President steps forward.)

INSTALLING OFFICER: Madam President, you, by your election and promise, are this day assuming a grave responsibility. It shall be your duty to preside at meetings of the National/Department/Chapter Organization and to preserve order therein. You will decide all questions of debate, subject, however, to an appeal to the National/Department/Chapter. It will be your duty to appoint all committees not otherwise provided for, obligate new members, and sign checks drawn on the Treasury for appropriation of money.

Remember, you are the guiding hand and you must be charitable in your dealings and upright in your example, for yours is a trustworthy position, and let not the confidence that has been placed in you be unappreciated.

The members in electing you have promised to support you in your efforts and you can look to them for assistance.

NOTE: (After charge, President steps back into position. Other officers step forward as they are called.)

INSTALLING OFFICER: Madam National Service Officer, you have been duly appointed to manage the day-to-day actions pertaining to the National Headquarters. Your duties will include receiving and processing all membership applications. It shall be your duty to keep a copy of all applications for membership in the Department/Chapter files after they have been approved. Your duties will include assisting Madam President with holiday and event planning. Assisting the National Executive Board with necessary actions for them to complete their duties. You will perform other such duties as the President may direct.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Madam First Vice President and Madam Second Vice President, you have been duly elected and are to uphold and maintain the Constitution and Bylaws of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., and assist the President in any way that may be within your power.

Madam First Vice President, it shall be your duty to preside at meetings of the National/Department/Chapter Organization in the absence of the President.

Madam Second Vice President, it shall be your duty to preside at meetings of the National/Department/Chapter Organization in the absence of the President and First Vice President.

You are both to familiarize yourselves with your duties so that when obliged to assume these responsibilities, you may be qualified to do so.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Madam Secretary, in electing you for this important office, the membership shows its confidence in your ability to perform all duties required of you. Your minutes will be the only evidence in the future of what has been done in the National/Department/Chapter Organization. It is important that all matters pertaining to the business of the Organization be properly recorded. Guard well these records and be faithful to the maximum. You will assist the President in managing incoming and outgoing correspondence.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Madam Treasurer, one holding such an office shall possess the qualifications of fidelity and accuracy. You are responsible for the funds of the National/Department/Chapter Organization. It shall be your duty to keep an accurate account of each member; collect all money due the National/Department/Chapter Organization, giving a receipt therefore; notify all members regarding the payment of dues; and at each meeting provide a statement of the financial condition of the Organization.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Madam Chaplain, it shall be your duty to conduct devotional moments at the opening and closing of each meeting; conduct all Memorial Services; send names and addresses of deceased Members and Dads to the Chaplain of the National/Department Headquarters; and perform such other duties as pertains to your office.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Madam Historian, it shall be your duty to preserve a record of the activities of the National/Department/Chapter, past and current. You will keep all pictures, newspaper articles, and other items of historic value to the National/Department/Chapter Organization. Items of National and Department importance should be sent to the respective historians.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Madam Sergeant-At-Arms, it shall be your duty to guard the door of the National/Department/Chapter Organization meeting room and see that order is maintained during meetings. You shall assist during obligation ceremonies and perform such other duties as the President may direct.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Madam Americanism Chair, it shall be your duty to lead the Pledge of Allegiance at the opening of meetings and to further all patriotic work as outlined in the objectives of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. You shall assist in programs set up by the National and Department Americanism Chair.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Madam Veterans Administration Volunteer Services (VAVS) Chair, it shall be your duty to render such service as your National/Department/Chapter Board directs to veterans through the VAVS Representatives, and all other hospital work through the proper authorities. You shall submit a report annually at the national convention.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Madam Community Service Chair, it shall be your duty to compile the Community Service Report from the reports given to you by your Department/Chapter members of their community service activities and forward the same to the National/Department Organization Community Service Chair.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Madam Parliamentarian, you shall study the Constitution and Bylaws of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., and interpret it upon the request of the President. You shall become familiar with Roberts Rules of Order and advise the President during meetings.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Madam Legislative Chair, you shall keep informed of all pertinent legislation of interest and benefit to American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., and inform the members.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Madam Flag Guard and Madam Banner Guard, it shall be your duty to carry the Colors in presenting and retiring same at National/Department/Chapter meetings; and at such times as the President may direct. You will see that the Flag and Banner are in their place before, and properly cared for after, each meeting. You will display them at official times and do so with dignity and reverence.

NOTE: (The Installing Chaplain, or member of the Clergy, may offer the prayer below or personal words of prayer.)

INSTALLING CHAPLAIN: Our Heavenly Father, we come before You with grateful hearts for Your many blessings. Be with us today in this, our meeting, give us strength to do Your will. If any of our members are ill or in sorrow, comfort and keep them. Guide and direct us in the daily walks of life and hear us as we pray. Amen.

NOTE: (The Lord's prayer may be sung by a soloist or repeated in unison by the assemblage.)

INSTALLING OFFICER: Installing Sergeant-At-Arms, conduct the newly installed officers (minus the newly elected President) to their stations as I call their name and office. Please remain standing until all have been taken to their stations.

NOTE: (Have a list of Officers' names and offices.)

INSTALLING OFFICER: Installing Sergeant-At-Arms, please conduct the newly installed President to her station.

INSTALLING OFFICER: Madam President, allow me to congratulate you upon the honor bestowed upon you by the members of the National/Department/Chapter Organization. May you perform every duty of your office faithfully, and may this National/Department/Chapter Organization grow in love and significance during your administration. I now present you with this emblem of authority, the gavel. May you wield it wisely and gently.

NOTE: (Installing Officer raises her right hand.)

INSTALLING OFFICER: And now, by the powers vested in me, I declare these Officers of the National/Department/Chapter Organization of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., duly installed and qualified to enter upon the duties of their respective offices for the ensuing year.

RITUAL SERVICE FOR DECEASED MEMBERS

Consult the family as to the time and the place for the Ritual Service. The Chapter members should attend the funerals of deceased members and conduct the Ritual Service when requested to do so by the family.

If Colors are requested and available, they should be posted previously. The American Flag should be at the head of the casket and the Gold Star Banner at the foot.

The President and the Chaplain conduct the Ritual Service. The president (or her representative) takes her position at the head of the casket and the Chaplain at the foot.

If possible, each member attending the Ritual Service should have a flower (preferably gold or yellow). These are to be placed in a vase by each member at the end of the service.

The President places her flower in the vase first, then the Chaplain. They then return to their places, where they remain standing until the last member leaves the casket.

Members approach the casket two by two and, after placing their flowers, stand solemnly with their hand over their heart for a few seconds, then turn and leave the casket as the next two fall in line, and so on until all have placed flowers and the service is ended.

RITUAL SERVICE FOR DECEASED MEMBERS AT CHAPEL

Consult the family as to the time and the place for the Ritual Service. The Chapter members should attend the funerals of deceased members and conduct the Ritual Service when requested to do so by the family.

PRESIDENT: Mothers, we gather this day to pay tribute of love and respect and remember our departed Gold Star Mother.

She gave to the defense of this land of ours that which is the utmost precious of jewels - her (Son/Daughter), who has given (his/her) life for Freedom and Democracy.

NOTE: (President places a flower in the vase, saying:)

I place this flower in the name of the American Gold Star Mother, (Name of Chapter), with the love and respect of the Organization and with a prayer that we shall meet in the world beyond.

CHAPLAIN: Dear Heavenly Father, hear our prayers as we gather here to honor and remember our dear Gold Star Mother. We ask that she may live again in the mansion that has been prepared for her in Your house. Amen.

NOTE: (Chaplain and members place a flower in the vase after prayer.)

PRAYER FOR DECEASED GOLD STAR FATHERS and ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Consult the family as to the time and the place for the Ritual Service. The Chapter members should attend the funerals of deceased members and conduct the Ritual Service when requested to do so by the family.

The following prayer may be repeated at a service for Fathers and Associate Members:

Dear Heavenly Father, we are gathered here today to pay our respects to Gold Star Father,
_____.

Hear our prayers for his family and friends. Comfort and guide them in their daily walks of life.

Bless our dear Gold Star Father/Associate. May eternal light shine upon him and bring him to everlasting rest and peace in the world beyond.



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

Little Gold Book – September 2024

Chair: Joyce Paulsen, **Members:** Annette Kirk, Becky Christmas, Jennifer Jackman, **Ex-Officio:** Patti Elliott

Meetings called: July 14, 2024 (Zoom), & August 8, 2024 (Zoom).

LGB

- Reviewed the entire book in the two meetings.
- Updated and made the committee recommended changes

Recommendations

- Review and re-format the book when complete.
- Rename the book - Ceremonial and Business Procedures of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.
- Recommended adding rituals for memorial dedications.

Respectfully submitted by Joyce Paulsen



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

Membership Committee Report

September 2024

Membership Committee: Chair Teresa Bullock

Members: Annette Kirk, Joyce Paulsen, Pam Stemple, Nichole Chilton, Patti Elliot (Ex-Officio)

Total Active Membership: 938

Over 80: 150

Members: 788

Inactive Members: 108

Our committee meeting was held on July 24, 2024.

Applications:

1. No updates to membership application were needed upon review of application.
2. Madam President would like the committee to come up with a Friends of AGSM application. The committee will explore what needs to be included on the application before the February NEB meeting.

Membership Cards

1. The chair worked with IT once card machine was returned to determine what membership cards were still needed and decided on a plan to update IT when new members or transfers need cards.

Change of Address:

1. Previous membership chair recommended a form for members to submit a change of address on. Madam President created one and the committee agreed it should be added in a fillable form to the website.

Recommendations to the NEB:

Accept attached Change of Address form.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Bullock
Membership Chair



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

Change of Address Notification

Member or Associate Name _____

Chapter _____

E-mail Address _____

New Address _____

Phone No. _____

Do you want to transfer chapters? _____

If yes, to which chapter do you want to transfer? _____

If you want to transfer chapters, please complete the Member Transfer Request Form.



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

Community Service Committee Report

Period June-September 2024

Members: Joan Snyder (chair)

Annette Kirk

Theresa Karlson

Nichole Chilton

Patti Elliot (Ex-Officio)

The Community Service Committee held its first meeting for 2024-2025 on 7/17/2024 via zoom.

1. Discussed updating CS forms for the 2024 reporting year.
2. It was discussed and agreed that AGSM would again participate in Veteran's Last Patrol 6th Annual Operation Holiday Salute for 2024. Previous year's flyer would be updated and distributed to membership.
3. Discussed ways to expand Community Service among our membership
 - a. Increase reporting response
 - i. Digital tally form so members can quickly tally the information in real time
 - ii. Evelyn Brady (Tampa Bay Chapter president, Depart. of Florida) has already consented to share her excel spreadsheet to the membership
 - iii. Link to given to membership
 - b. Increase opportunities for ALL members to participate
 - c. Increase our outreach to our members and the veteran community
4. 2025 Natl Convention Community Service Luncheon – looking to do something different for recognition
 - a. Discussed ways to recognize an individual member for their outstanding community service
 - i. Create a Grace Darling Seibold award for an individual (money coming from the grants fund)
 - ii. Draft of criteria for award selection
 - iii. Each Department would submit one candidate to NEB by May 1st
 - iv. NEB to make final selection
 - v. Award would be
 1. 2025 Convention Registration paid OR
 2. Monetary donation to charity of choice
 - vi. Report and submit written proposal at September NEB meeting in Washington, D.C.

5. Asked to submit an article for the AGSM Newsletter

a. Article submitted and published in the September/October newsletter

ACTION ITEM:

1. Community Service committee proposes to present a Community Service Award to a single individual AGSM member in good standing.
 - a. One nominee will be submitted by each Department to the Community Service Chair by April 30, 2025.
 - b. Nominees must have submitted a Community Service Report for 2024.
 - c. The application will include a summary of the individual's community service in not more than 500 words.
 - d. Community Service Committee will review the submissions and select the individual winner.
 - e. Prize will be:
 - i. 2025 Convention Registration paid OR
 - ii. Equivalent monetary donation to the charity of their choice

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Snyder, Community Service Chair



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

Grant Committee

Report for Period July 1 to September 15, 2023

Chair: Teresa Bullock

Members: Sherrie McGhee, Denise Torbert, Rose Duval, Patti Elliot (Ex Officio)

Chapter Grants – Application period currently open. Closes on September 30, 2 requests have been awarded, if others are received, we will discuss at that time.

Giving Grace Grants – Application period was opened July 1, 2024. Received 3 applications, 2 denied due to no eligibility, 1 Pending receipt of more information to finalize grant award.

Disaster Relief Grants – Application period was opened for hurricane Ian for members in areas identified by FEMA, received and awarded 3 grants for a total of \$2,793.13. Application period was opened for hurricane Debby and no requests were received.

Recommendation: Raise the Chapter grant amount from \$200 to \$300.

Respectfully submitted,

Teresa Bullock
Grants and Scholarship Chair



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

Ways & Means Committee Report
September 2024
Amended 9/25/2025

1. The first Ways & Means Committee Meeting was held on 8/7/2024. Attendees included Theresa Karlson, Pam Stemple, Joyce Paulsen, Nichole Chilton and Ex-Officio Patti Elliott. The following items were discussed:

- Inventory – Provided a spreadsheet of items that includes pricing, costs to AGSM, weights and inventory of products at HQ. Researched and provided information for two new logo products to the NEB, that include koozies and umbrellas.
- Postage – Based on the weight of items from HQ and how much Vista Print charges for postage, we need to establish consistent postage for our customers. Ship Thrifty has provided information about another postage service option.
- The AGSM Store email – Nichole has established an email for the AGSM Store to solicit new ideas for products. AGSMStore@AmericanGoldStarMothers.org
- City Pride – Theresa contacted Don Ross and forwarded pictures of the Past President Pins, Past President Bar, Past Department President Bar and Chapter President Pin. He does not have the PNP jewelry tooling but does have the Chapter President Pin tooling. He will provide a quote for these items.
- Umbrellas & Koozies - Committee members agreed to provide cost and information about two added items to inventory – Umbrellas and Koozies. NEB members agreed for the Ways & Means Committee to purchase 36 gold umbrellas with white logo and 250 red koozies with logo.
- Challenge Coin Vendor - Theresa has contacted Brent Casey with Valor Coins and Pins, who is Woody Williams' grandson. He has provided a lower cost for our challenge coin and is excited to provide these to AGSM. Some of the proceeds will be donated to the Woody Williams Foundation. We still have 102 challenge coins available for purchase and will wait until after GSM Weekend to assess if we will order more. Estimated cost for 100 coins = \$4.00 each, plus one time die cost (\$99 for each side). Shipping to be calculated based on quantity.
- Gold Star Mothers Open House – Prepare the AGSM Store items to sell at HQ during the open house on Friday, September 24th.

2. Attended the Ship Thrifty zoom meeting on August 13th to discuss another option to ship products to members. The NEB will need to vote on using this service. We will continue to use Stamps.com until we make a decision.

3. Processed 13 individual orders from the AGSM Store since July 2024. These included HQ and Vistaprint items.

Respectfully submitted,

Theresa Karlson



Ways & Means Chair

American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

Americanism Committee Report – September 2024

Chair: Joyce Paulsen, **Members:** Joan Snyder, Denise Torbert, **Ex-Officio:** Patti Elliott

Meeting called: August 21, 2024 (Zoom)

Committee Plan:

- To provide an Americanism tidbit twice a month.
- Each committee member will take turns to submit items.
- Joyce will put together a calendar for this to occur.

Respectfully submitted by Joyce Paulsen



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

Historian Report

September 25, 2024

History Committee – Pam Stemple, Chair, Annette Kirk, Teresa Bullock, Nichole Chilton

We met as a Committee in August 2024. There is one major project that will be started this year. The History Project. The WW1, WW2, and Korea applications that we have scanned will be input in the new database. With the way the documents were scanned, we will be putting them in one by one and uploading the documents for each mother and her Hero

History Project Update – Nichole has finished data entry fields for the History Project in the database in QuickBase for the History Project. Thank you to Nichole for getting this accomplished so quickly.

- This month I have started entering the scanned applications that are in the Historian shared drive and started inputting them into the new database called Lineage and Service History.
- Training will be planned in the near future for the NEB.

I have answered questions from members and non-members about the history of AGSM.

We will have items up for review for the Open House on Friday, September 27th.

Nothing more to report.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pam Stemple

Historian 2024-2025



American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

Compliance Committee Report – September 2024

Chair: Joyce Paulsen, **Members:** Teresa Bullock, Rose Duval, Joan Snyder, **Ex-Officio:** Patti Elliott

Meeting called: August 27, 2024 (Zoom)

Compliance

- Shared the Harbor Compliance communication of getting credits for our account
- Attentiveness to our account feels lacking. Have been waiting 6 weeks.
- I have updated all requested information for our account

Recommendation

- Research other compliance companies

Respectfully submitted by Joyce Paulsen