



The Gold Star Mother

PERPETUATING THE NOBLE PRINCIPLES FOR WHICH THEY FOUGHT AND DIED

May-June 2021 ★ Issue Number 211

2128 Leroy Place, NW, Washington, DC 20008

MEMORIAL DAY



REMEMBER AND HONOR

From the Desk of the National President Strengthen One Another

Cindy Tatum, National President



I hope your Departments and Chapters are meeting, either in person or virtually, to fulfill the duty of electing Delegates and Alternates for the National Convention. The Freedom's Heroes Chapter and Department of Tennessee have been working hard to create a memorable experience for each of you in Memphis, the home of Elvis, the Blues and world-

famous Bar-b-que!! So, pick out your "Blue-Suede Shoes" and go to www.goldstarmoms.com click on the Convention 2021 tab to find all things related to the 2021 National Convention, including Registration for the Convention, Hotel accommodations, the opportunity to share a photo of your hero in the convention slide show and in the Convention Journal, as well as proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws and other Convention news. We hope you will make plans to come early and stay late, there are so many things to see and do-the National Civil Rights Museum, the Stax Museum, Graceland-there is literally something for everyone.

At the February NEB meeting, April 1, 2021 was established as the deadline for the National Executive Board to make a final decision on holding an in-person convention, including a virtual component. The NEB wanted to examine Covid related issues closer to the planned convention dates to determine if an in-person convention would be safe. The NEB was also waiting to receive cost information on holding a virtual component to the in-person convention. A report was given at the April 1 meeting on the cost of holding a virtual convention in addition to the in-person convention, and the NEB voted against holding a live virtual component to the convention due to the projected cost per member to attend. The NEB decided the most cost-effective way to share parts of the

convention with our membership would be to livestream some of the public events.

The National Convention is always an opportunity to reconnect with friends we have met through the years, to make new friends, and to "Strengthen One Another." This year we have added an opportunity for attendees to help strengthen Veterans at the Memphis VA Hospital with a service project we will conduct on Friday afternoon! We hope you will join us! The National Convention is also the time of year we conduct the business of the organization, including voting for NEB Officers for the upcoming year, voting for any proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws, and for conducting any other business brought before the Convention Business Meeting.

As my term as National President of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. comes to an end, I would like to take a minute to thank the members of this year's National Executive Board. Jo Ann, Sarah, Pam, Carol, Ginger, Elaine, Teresa, Lee-Ann, and Patti, you have worked diligently this year, and I am not sure how I could have done anything without you. Each of you continue to amaze me with your dedication to AGSM, and our mission of service. I am a better person today because I have known you. Thank you so much for your support over the past year.

To our members, it has been an honor to serve you on the National Executive Board for eight years. Collectively you are among the strongest women I know, and I cherish the many friendships I have made. Your trust in me to help guide American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. towards a future that includes greater opportunities for service across the military community and to our own membership, will indeed ensure that we can "Strengthen One Another" for years to come.

To my family, especially my husband Andy, thank you for your support, I could not have done any of this without you, you are my unsung heroes, and I love you. Andy, fire up the RV, Miss Daisy is coming home.



SUBMITTING INFORMATION FOR THE NEWSLETTER

ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS:

Information for the newsletter can be emailed to

Teresa Bullock, Director of Publications at: publications@goldstarmoms.com

OR regular mail at: 1900 Dill Rd., Apt 110, Barstow, CA 92311

To ensure your information is included please send all information in Word format and pictures in JPEG.

Information for the July/August newsletter needs to be submitted no later than June 10, 2021.

2021 Convention Call Details

REGISTRATION / CREDENTIALS: All Members and Guests must register and pay the convention registration fee by May 22, 2021. The Registration Fee of \$100.00 is non-optional, and should be paid by all Members, Guests and Associate Members. A late fee of \$25.00 should be paid on all Registrations received after the May 22, 2021 deadline. The registration fee covers the costs of all convention related activities. **Register online or mail completed registration form** with fees to: American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., ATTN: Pam Stemple, National Service Officer, 2128 Leroy Place NW, Washington, D.C. 20008 or through Pay Pal online. Members may register and pay on the first official day of convention, but they will not be registered as a Delegate or Alternate. They will not be guaranteed a copy of the convention journal, convention meals, space at convention activities or convention gifts. No registrations after the first day of convention will be processed without approval of the National Executive Board.

REPRESENTATION: Delegates: Each Chapter shall be entitled to one delegate for each five members or major fraction thereof whose current National dues has been received by the National Treasurer **at least 30 days prior to the convention**, and to one alternate for each delegate. Delegates and alternates shall be elected at a regular or special business meeting of the Chapter for which a notice has been given to all members at least ten days prior to said meeting. In addition, each incumbent Chapter President, Department President, and National Officer by virtue of their offices shall be a delegate without alternate. Past National Presidents shall be a delegate without alternate. **Alternates**-Alternates may participate in discussions on the floor and may also serve on appointed committees/positions but may not vote unless their delegate is not present at the time of voting. Members not elected to a Delegate or Alternate position may participate in discussions on the floor and may also serve on appointed committees/positions. The National Service Officer and the National Membership Committee will determine eligibility of delegates. Chapter Presidents and Department Presidents are responsible for communicating the election of said delegates in writing by May 22, 2021 to Sarah Taylor, 8019 Tillman Bethel Road, Henderson, KY 42420 or by email at 2ndvp@goldstarmoms.com

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BYLAWS: Proposed Amendments to the Constitution must be published at least 30 days prior to Convention in *The Gold Star Mother*. Amendments to the C&BL can be made by a Department Board from the floor but must be passed by a unanimous vote of the convention body. For information on appropriate Robert's Rules of Order format, contact Jo Ann Maitland, National Parliamentarian by email: 1stvp@goldstarmoms.com prior to the convention start. **RESOLUTIONS** may be approved at the National Convention after ratification by the National Executive Board. Resolutions must be presented to the NEB in writing by May 22, 2021. Ginger Emerson, National Resolutions

Chair, 10139 West Forester Drive, Sun City, AZ 85351 or by email: secretary@goldstarmoms.com. The Resolutions Chair will be responsible for reviewing and presenting said resolutions to the NEB at their meeting prior to the convention.

MEMORIAL SERVICE: This event recognizes the service of our departed members since the last convention and pays tribute in memory of the fallen. Department Chaplains are responsible for ensuring the accurate reporting of names of all departed members and associate members by May 22, 2021 to Elaine Brattain, National Chaplain, 662 Elm St., Brea, CA 92821 or by email to: chaplain@goldstarmoms.com.

JOURNAL: Aside from helping to defray the cost of the convention, the Journal provides information on Convention events and serves as a tribute to our fallen sons and daughters. **See Journal page for cost, format requirements and publishing deadline. Must be submitted online.** If you have questions, please email Teresa Bullock, publications@goldstarmoms.com

RECOMMENDED DRESS CODE:

Friday Registration: Red Friday T-shirts

Friday Evening: Red, White & Blue Casual

Business Meetings: White Business Dress

Saturday Evening:

Memorial Service: White Business Dress

Installation of officers: White Business Dress

Banquet: Cocktail Attire

NOMINATIONS: Nominations shall be for a specific office on the National Executive Board. (See Constitution and Bylaws for detailed requirements of each office.) Requests for specific Job Descriptions may be made to Pam Stemple, National Service Officer, at nso@goldstarmoms.com. A member in good standing may be considered for a nomination to a National Office when a letter of endorsement from the candidate's Chapter or Department is sent to the Chairman of the Nominations Committee, Becky Christmas, PO Box 173, Wagon Mound, NM 87752 postmarked by May 24, 2021 or by email at beckyxmas@aol.com and received by May 24, 2021. The letter of endorsement is limited to 400 words. The letter must state the specific office the proposed candidate would like to be nominated for, a brief statement of AGSM, Inc., offices held and volunteer activities that support the mission of AGSM. Offices held and volunteer work with other nationally chartered Veterans Service Organizations, and/ or volunteering with the Department of Veteran Affairs will be accepted. If the candidate is a veteran service history may be included. For nominations that endorse the offices of National Treasurer or National Secretary, the candidate may include a synopsis of employment experience or volunteer work history as it pertains to the position of nomination and the AGSM job description only. The letter must be dated and signed from a member of the Chapter or Department submitting the nomination and must include the signature of the

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2021 CONVENTION CALL DETAILS

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candidate. Candidates nominated from the floor must be prepared with a letter of endorsement for the Chair of the Nominations Committee. All the above criteria must be met for consideration of a nomination for an office on the National Executive Board. Letters of endorsement will not be returned.

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

REQUEST FOR UNPLANNED BUSINESS: Members wishing to present a subject on the convention floor which is not a part of the planned agenda must present her request in writing to the National Executive Board of the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., for their consideration **15 days before opening** of the convention. Any member wishing to appear before the Executive Board at their scheduled meeting on June 24, 2021 must request permission in

writing 15 days before the opening of the convention stating purpose and intent. Requests for additions to the business agenda and presence at the National Executive Board meeting must be mailed to National President, Cindy Tatum, 223 Walnut Grove Road, Milan, TN 38358 or emailed to president@goldstarmoms.com

CONDUCT OF BUSINESS MEETINGS: The conduct of all American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. business meetings and/or events shall be by the rules set forth in the Constitution and Bylaws AND the Ceremonial and Business Procedures Book (Little Gold Book, 2017 printing). Members attending convention are encouraged to bring their copies. A limited number of copies of the Constitution & By-Laws and The Little Gold Book will be available for sale at Mothers Cupboard.

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

MISCELLANEOUS: Service animals, individually trained to aid an individual with a disability, are permitted at AGSM events, as per the Department of Justice statutes.

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Centennial Commemoration

It is with the utmost honor that we remember the fallen by saying their names. This action sanctifies that they will never be forgotten. But there are the nameless that rest in the Tomb of the Unknown.

As we pay tribute to those who were laid to rest in their hometowns and overseas, we will be commemorating those who have been laid to rest at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. "For nearly 100 years the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier (TUS) has served as the heart of Arlington National Cemetery. It stands as a people's memorial that inspires reflection on service, valor, sacrifice, and mourning. As a sacred memorial site and the grave of three unknown American service members from WWI, WWII, and Korea, it connects visitors with the legacy of the U.S. armed forces throughout the nation's history."

The history of the TOU follows traditions in France and Great Britain who each repatriated and buried one unknown soldier on Armistice Day, November 11, 1920. France, at the base of the Arc de Triomphe and Great Britain buried its Unknown Warrior inside Westminster Abby.

Legislation was passed in December 1920 for a special tomb to be built in Arlington National Cemetery for the purpose of "bringing home the body of an unknown American warrior who in himself represents no section, creed, or race in the late war and who typifies, moreover, the soul

of America and the supreme sacrifice of her heroic dead." The resolution to make this legislation into law was signed on the last day of Woodrow Wilson's Presidency, March 4, 1921. The selection for repatriated U.S. Serviceman was made in France by WWI veteran Sergeant Edward F. Younger when he placed a spray of white roses on one of the caskets brought from the cemeteries. Once chosen the USS Olympia transported the Unknown Soldier's casket from France to the Washington Navy Yard when it arrived on November 9, 1921. The public was able to pay their respects in the U.S. Capitol Rotunda on November 10, 1921. Armistice day 1921 the Unknown's casket was carried by caisson to Arlington National Cemetery's new Memorial Amphitheater and interred in the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

A national commemoration of the centennial of the Tomb was authorized in the NDAA of 2017. American Gold Star Mothers is honored to be included in the activities of the commemorative with local, national, and international events. Events have been ongoing with Armistice remembrances being held November 9th through the 11, 2021 at the Memorial Amphitheater and the Tomb of the Unknown. For the schedule of events and to learn more about the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier Centennial Commemoration please visit: <https://tombguard.org/centennial>.





American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.



2021 In-Person National Convention Registration Form

Deadline to Register May 22, 2021-Late Fee of \$25.00 for Registrations received after May 22.

Member's Name			
Address			
City, State, Zip Code			
Phone Number			
Email Address			
Is this your FIRST AGSM Convention? YES NO	Chapter _____	Member elected as a DELEGATE	
	Department _____	Member elected as an ALTERNATE	
<p>Registration Covers: Receptions, VAVS Luncheon, Banquet Meal, Convention Gift and Transportation to events. *Bring a framed 8"X10" picture of your "Fallen Hero" to the convention for display in the meeting room. Please include your name, their name, DOB & DOD on the back of the picture.</p> <p>**If you would like your Hero's Picture in the 2021 Convention Journal, please fill-in the Journal JotForm at www.goldstarmoms.com under the 2021 Convention Tab.</p> <p>**Also, if you would like your Hero's Picture included in the Convention Slide Show, please fill-in the Fallen Heroes Slideshow JotForm at www.goldstarmoms.com under the 2021 Convention Tab.</p>			<p>REGISTRATION FEE: \$100.00</p>
<p>Friday, June 25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red, White & Blue Suede Shoes Welcome Reception, 6:00-8:00 PM <p>Saturday, June 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> VAVS Luncheon, 12 Noon Beale Street on Your Own <p>Sunday, June 27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorial Service, 9 AM-Reception Follows Banquet, 7:00 PM. Please select your dinner entrée: Beef Chicken Vegetarian <p>Monday, July 28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible Day Trip/TBD 			<p>ATTENDING</p> <p>YES NO</p> <p>YES NO</p> <p>YES NO</p> <p>YES NO</p> <p>YES NO</p>
NAME	ASSOCIATE	GUEST	REGISTRATION FEE: \$100.00
<p>Friday, June 25</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Red, White & Blue Suede Shoes Welcome Reception, 6:00-8:00 PM <p>Saturday, June 26</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dad's & Guests Tour 10:30-3:00 PM (Lunch Provided) Beale Street on Your Own <p>Sunday, June 27</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Memorial Service, 9 AM-Reception Follows Banquet, 7:00 PM. Please select your dinner entrée: Beef Chicken Vegetarian <p>Monday, June 28</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible Day Trip/TBD 			<p>ATTENDING</p> <p>YES NO</p> <p>YES NO</p> <p>YES NO</p> <p>YES NO</p> <p>YES NO</p>
<p>PAYMENT OPTIONS: ■ CHECK payable to American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. Mail before May 22, 2021 to AGSM National Headquarters, 2128 Leroy Place NW, Washington DC 20008. After May 22, 2021 additional charge of \$25.00 per registration, mail to: Pam Stemple, 2855 Freewood Pt., Apt. 9, Colorado Springs, CO 80920.</p> <p>■ CREDIT CARD: ○ VISA ○ MasterCard Account Number _____</p> <p>Expiration Date _____ Amount \$ _____ Signature _____</p> <p>Print Card Holder's Name _____</p> <p>Billing Address: _____</p> <p>■ PAYPAL- log on to www.goldstarmoms.com and go to 2021 National Convention Tab.</p>			



Changes to the Constitution and Bylaws

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION

#1 Pg. 5 Article III, *Organization*

Sec. 3. The American Gold Star Home Chapter in California Shall be accorded all the privileges of membership as any other Chapter in the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc.

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

Delete Section 3.

Rationale: The Home Chapter is like other chapters and has all privileges membership affords.

#2 Pg. 6 Article V, *Finance Dues*

XXX no section exists regarding Department dues. Add section 4.

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

Sec. 4. Each Department of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., may designate by vote of the Department, annual membership dues as the Department deems advisable. Such dues shall include the National and Chapter per capita.

Rationale: Adds the missing provision of Department dues, where applicable. Subsequent sections will be adjusted sequentially as Sec. 5. And Sec. 6.

#3 Pg. 6 Article VI, *National Convention*

Sec. 1. The National Convention shall be held annually at a place to be determined by the National Second Vice-President, with the approval of the National Executive Board. Convention Call shall be printed in the MAR-APR issue of the Gold Star Mothers Newsletter and mailed to the membership.

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

Sec. 1. The National Convention shall be held annually at a place to be determined by the National Second Vice-President, with the approval of the National Executive Board. **The National Convention may be held electronically with the approval of the National Executive Board and announced in the Convention Call.** Convention Call shall be printed in the MAR-APR issue of the Gold Star Mothers Newsletter and mailed to the membership.

Rationale: To provide the allowance of a virtual convention.

#4 Sec. 3. ...In addition each incumbent Chapter President, Department President, Past National President and National Officers by virtue of their offices shall be a delegate without alternate.

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

Sec. 3. ...In addition, each incumbent Chapter President, Department President, Past National Presidents and **current** National Officers by virtue of their offices shall be a delegate without alternate.

Rationale: Clarifies that Past National officers are not automatically delegates.

NATIONAL BYLAWS

#5 Pg. 11 Article I, *National Officers and Election*

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

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

Sec. 6. The Election Judge **and the National Secretary shall destroy or delete all election results following the installation of officers.**

Rationale: Allows for either in person or electronic voting.

#6 Pg. 12 Article II, *Duties of Officers*

(c) THE NATIONAL SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT shall fulfill the obligation ... in the event of ...inability to serve.

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

(c) THE NATIONAL SECOND VICE-PRESIDENT shall fulfill the obligation ... in the event of ...inability to serve. **She shall determine the location of the upcoming Convention to be held in two years and present such location to the NEB for approval.**

Rationale: Add the presentation of her Convention location for NEB approval, as outlined in the standing rules.

#7 Pg. 13

(h) THE NATIONAL HISTORIAN shall ...She shall gather historical data from sources which may include archives, diaries ... and other souvenirs. She shall work toward preserving the heritage of the organization.

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

(h) THE NATIONAL HISTORIAN shall ... She shall gather **and oversee the permanent recording of** historical data from sources which may include archives, diaries ... and other souvenirs. She shall work toward preserving the heritage of the organization.

Rationale: Include oversight of the digitization process to preserve AGSM history.

#8 Pg. 13

(k) THE NATIONAL VAVS REPRESENTATIVE shall represent the organization at the National Advisory Committee meetings, keep well informed on all directives from the Special Service Headquarters and impart full and complete information...

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

(k) THE NATIONAL VAVS REPRESENTATIVE shall represent the organization at the National Advisory Committee meetings, keep well informed on all directives

from the **Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service** and impart full and complete information...

Rationale: To align with the National program; VAVS is inclusive of all support services.

#9 Pg. 16 Article V, *Committees*

Sec. 1 There shall be the following Standing Committees: Finance and Budget; Headquarters; Standing Rules; By-Laws, and legislative appointed by the National President...

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

Sec. 1 There shall be the following Standing Committees: Finance and Budget: Headquarters; Standing Rules; **Constitution and Bylaws**, and Legislative appointed by the National President...

Rationale: To correct the omission of “Constitution” on the list of Standing Committees.

#10 Pg. 16 Article VI, *Dues*

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

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

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

Rationale: Delete “Included shall be the per capita which shall be” to clarify the order of operation for payment of National per capita.

#11 Pg. 16

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

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

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

Rationale: Delete “from non-payment of dues for those members over 90” to simplify.

#12 Pg. 16

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

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

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

Rationale: Insert National per capita for clarification this section is addressing National per capita only.

#13 Pg. 16

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

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

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

Rationale: Modified wording to align with designation used in the database for tracking membership and to protect the use of the organizations’ registered trademark.

#14 Pg. 16

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

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

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

Rationale: Adding “unpaid National per capita” clarifies the requirement for reinstatement and terms align with the database.

#15 Pg. 16

Sec. 2. (d) A member whose dues for the current calendar year are not paid by December 31st of such year may thereafter be reinstated only upon consent of her Chapter and upon payment of all unpaid per capita.

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

Delete Sec. 2. (d) and reorder the following subsection.

Rationale: Delete this subsection as chapter consent for reinstatement is inaccurate and the due date for National per capita is addressed in the previous section.

#16 Pg. 16

Sec. 2. (e) If the National per capita has not been paid on a member for two or more consecutive years, the delinquent member must reapply for membership as a new member in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws.

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

Sec. 2. (e) If the National per capita has not been paid ~~on a member~~ for two ~~or more~~ consecutive years, the ~~delinquent inactive~~ member **moves to former member status, and** must reapply for membership as a new member in accordance with the Constitution and ~~By-Laws-Bylaws~~.

Continued on page 8

CHANGES TO THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS *Continued from page 7*

Rationale: Replace “delinquent” with “inactive” and outline the protocol to transfer membership status from inactive to former, and requirements for reinstatement.

DEPARTMENT BY-LAWS

#17 Pg. 17 Article I *Organization*

Sec. 4. The amount of the annual per capita per member is to be paid each year before January 15th.

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

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

Rationale: Add sentence to clarify that Department dues are at the discretion of each Department and not mandatory for National membership.

#18 Pg. 17

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

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

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

Rationale: To clarify that a members’ good standing is required for Department membership.

#19 Pg. 18 Article III, *Duties of Officers*

(f) THE DEPARTMENT TREASURER shall deposit all funds in a bank, shall collect all fees and certify to the payment thereof; shall keep the financial books; shall pay claims approved by the Department President; shall render a statement at the end of the calendar year to each Chapter delinquent in payment of Department per capita; shall render and itemized statement at each Convention of monies received and disbursed between Conventions...

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

(f) THE DEPARTMENT TREASURER shall deposit all funds in a bank, shall collect all fees and certify to the payment thereof; shall keep the financial books; shall pay claims approved by the Department President; shall render a statement at the end of the calendar year to each Chapter delinquent in payment of Department per capita dues, if applicable; shall render and itemized statement at each Convention of monies received and disbursed between Conventions...

Rationale: Add “if applicable”; to clarify that Department dues are at the discretion of each Department and not infer they are mandatory.

#20 Pg. 19

(h) THE DEPARTMENT CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS.... She shall handle all supplies except those pertaining to the Hospital Program.

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

(h) THE DEPARTMENT CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS....

She shall handle all supplies except those pertaining to the Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service hospital program.

Rationale: Reflect the current term for the voluntary services at the VA hospitals.

CHAPTER BY-LAWS

#21 Pg. 24 Article III, *Duties of Officers*

(e) THE CHAPTER CORRESPONDING SECRETARY... She shall issue and sign all warrants, send date of obligation of all new members to the Department Treasurer, mail a complete file card of each new member to the National Treasurer upon receipt of membership care and notify each member in good standing prior to election of officers three days prior to special meetings...

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

(e) THE CHAPTER CORRESPONDING SECRETARY... She shall ~~issue and sign all warrants~~, send date of obligation of all new members to the Department Treasurer, ~~mail a complete file card of each new member to the National Treasurer upon receipt of membership care~~ and notify each member in good standing prior to election of officers, and three days prior to special meetings...

Rationale: Remove the reference to file cards as they are no longer used.

NOTE: Reference to warrants was previously approved but not updated in the most current printing.

#22 Pg. 24

(h) THE CHAPTER CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS...

She shall handle all supplies except those pertaining to the Hospital Program.

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

(h) THE CHAPTER CUSTODIAN OF RECORDS... She shall handle all supplies except those pertaining to the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service hospital program.

Rationale: Reflect the current term for the voluntary services at the VA hospitals.

#23 Pg. 25

(l) THE CHAPTER VAVS CHAIRMAN shall render such services as the Chapter directs to hospitalized veterans through the VAVS Representative and in other facilities through the proper authorities. She shall submit a report annually to the Department VAVS Chairman.

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

(l) THE CHAPTER VAVS CHAIRMAN shall render such services as the Chapter directs to hospitalized veterans through the Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service VAVS Representative and in other facilities through the proper authorities. ~~She shall submit a report annually to the Department VAVS Chairman.~~

Rationale: To Align with the National program; VAVS is inclusive of all support services. Remove as the Department VAVS Chairman receives a report from the VA.

#24 Pg. 27 Article IX, *Dues*

Sec. 1. Each Chapter, by vote of its members, may designate the amount of its annual membership dues.

Such membership dues shall include the Department and National per capita.

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

Sec. 1. Each Chapter, by vote of its members, may designate the amount of its annual membership dues. Such membership dues shall include the Department ~~dues, if applicable~~ and National per capita.

Rationale: Insert “if applicable” to clarify that Department dues are at the discretion of each department.

#25 Pg. 27

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

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

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

Rationale: Remove dues and insert National per capita to clarify that only National per capita is required for membership. Replace “delinquent” with “inactive” to align with database terminology.

#26 Pg. 27

Sec. 2. (c) Dues for the current fiscal year will be accepted to and including December 31st of each year. The delinquent member shall be automatically reinstated to all privileges upon the payment of dues.

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

Delete Sec. 2. (c) and reorder following subsections.

Rationale: Delete subsection 2. (c); Chapter dues are at the discretion of each Chapter and the date due, if applicable, is outlined in Sec 2. (a). Non-payment of approved Chapter dues does not permit revocation of AGSM membership.

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Sec. 2. (d) A member whose dues for the current year are not paid by December 31st of such year may thereafter be reinstated only upon obtaining consent of her Chapter and upon payment to the Department Treasurer by the Chapter Treasurer all unpaid per capita.

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

Sec. 2. (c) A member whose ~~National per capita dues~~ for the current year ~~are is~~ not paid by December 31st of such year may thereafter be reinstated only upon ~~obtaining consent of her Chapter and upon payment to the Department Treasurer by the Chapter Treasurer all payment of~~ unpaid National per capita.

Rationale: Remove verbiage connecting chapter dues with membership status and reinstatement, reiterating that only payment of National per capita is required for membership.

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Sec. 2. (e) Members requesting a transfer from one Chapter to another must be in good standing in the Chapter she is leaving, and must have paid her dues for the current year. The Chapter receiving such a transfer for the transfer to be effective.

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

Sec. 2. (d) Members requesting a transfer from one Chapter to another must be in good standing in the Chapter she is leaving, ~~and must have paid her dues for the current year.~~ The Chapter receiving such a transfer for the transfer to be effective.

Rationale: Delete second clause in first sentence “and must have paid her dues for the current year” as only National per capita is required for active membership.

#29 Pg. 28 Article XI, *Discipline*

Any Chapter failing to meet its obligations as outlined in the Constitution and By-Laws, or ceasing to function for six months as a Chapter of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., or refusing to pay Department and National per capita shall upon order of the National Executive Board surrender its charter for cancellation.

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

Any Chapter failing to meet its obligations as outlined in the Constitution and By-Laws, or ceasing to function for six months as a Chapter of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc., or refusing to pay ~~Department and~~ National per capita shall upon order of the National Executive Board surrender its charter for cancellation.

Rationale: Delete “Department and” as Department dues are at the discretion of each Department and not mandatory.

Department of Virginia submission:

#30 Pg. 16 *Dues*, Article VI

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

PROPOSED RECOMMENDATION

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



Women's Veterans Day

By Sarah Taylor, Americanism Chair

Each year on November 11, we come together as a Nation to honor all our veterans for their service on Veterans Day. Did you know that there is a day marked to celebrate and honor our women veterans? While researching to write an article about women's roles in the military, I came upon a snippet about Women's Veterans Day and knew that this needed to be brought to everyone's attention.

Nearly 70 years ago, President Harry Truman signed into law the Women's Armed Service Integration Act on June 12, 1948, which allowed women to serve as permanent, regular members of the United States Armed Forces though women had already been serving in many capacities. During the Revolutionary War, women would disguise themselves as men to serve along with their husbands, fathers, brothers, and fellow Patriots while many other fulfilled the role as medical caregivers. Women served as nurses in the Civil War, but it was not until WWI that women could enlist in other positions during wartime. As the need for soldiers greatly increased in WWII, women were recruited for non-combat positions such as telephone operators, weather forecasters, and linguists. While continuing to serve through the Korean and Vietnam War, women's roles had

advanced by Desert Shield/ Storm and they held positions as administrators, air traffic controllers, logistical, engineer equipment managers, ammunition technicians. By 1994, women could serve in all positions except ground in combat roles. In December 2015, former Secretary of Defense Carter announced that the Pentagon would open all combat jobs in the United States Military to women. Today, women make up nearly 18% of our military with over 1.4 million active-duty women and an additional 850,000+ serving in the Reserves and National Guard. As the old Virginia Slim slogan says...you've come a long way, baby!

Though not nationally celebrated, 11 states currently commemorate Women's Veterans Day with proclamations and resolutions. There is an ongoing effort to have June 12 recognized at the national level as Women Veterans Appreciation Day with resolutions in the House of Representatives (2019,2020) and the US Senate (2020). Whether it passes or not, I want you all to mark your calendars for June 12, reach out to our women veterans and let them know how much we appreciate their service.

To our many AGSM members who are veterans, Thank You.

Memorial Day

There are NO public events taking place in DC at the time of printing. Please watch our National website and our Facebook page for any events that may come available to us.



Did You Know?

On Memorial Day 1921, four WWI Unknowns were exhumed from an American cemetery in France. The four were placed in identical caskets. A highly decorated WWI Veteran, Sgt. Edward F. Younger, US Army, was tasked with selecting one of the Heroes for burial in Arlington National Cemetery.

Chapter and Department News

FLORIDA

→ Three Gold Star Mothers met for lunch at a well-known pizza place here in lovely Tampa Bay where there is no such thing as a snow day, but we do have “love bug season” and frozen iguanas dropping out of trees during an occasional cold day. Two of the moms pictured were “new” Gold Star moms, with their loss still so recent, not yet members of AGSM, Inc. Gulf Coast FL Chapter, but in need of a listening ear and an understanding heart. Between the tears and the hugs over flat crust pizza, new friendships were forged. Even though my loss was 10 years ago, when I witness mothers open up to one another...it blesses and strengthens me. So, “as iron sharpens iron, so one (wo) man sharpens another,” Proverbs 27:17.



MASSACHUSETTS

→ Massachusetts Gold Star Mothers Robin Abbott and Doris Syrakos visit the future site of the Replica Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Fall River, MA to commemorate Vietnam War Veterans Day.



MARYLAND

↓ On February 16, 2021 Midge Matlock-Williams, USO Northern Region Operations Manager, partnered with the Capital Area Food Bank to sponsor a “Drive By Free Food Give Away” for active-duty service members and their immediate families. An invitation was extended to members of the Maryland Patriot Guard, Gold Star Mothers MD Chapter members, and other volunteers. Janice Chance represented the MD Chapter. The group of volunteers also included one of our country’s wounded warriors, Angela, several veterans and two veteran spouses. Janice served at one of the food assembly stations with Angela and Micah an Air Force veteran. The team of volunteers packaged the fresh produce and other food items then placed the food into the vehicles of our heroes. All the activities were done in compliance with COVID 19 protocols. It was another Great opportunity to “HONOR OUR HEROES THROUGH SERVICE”.

KANSAS

↓ Kansas Department of American Gold Star Mothers, Inc met on Saturday, April 17, 2021.



Pictured left to right: Sandy Nettleton, Karen Funcheon, Angela Foster, Denise Lange, Donna Temple Roberts, Terri Norgren, and Deb Austin, representing Northeast, Sunflower and Wichita chapters of Kansas.



Continued on page 12

Chapter and Department News

Continued from page 11

MARYLAND (continued)

↓The Maryland Chapter was notified by Ms. Cereta Spencer, Director of Development & Community Engagement about the Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training (MCVET) Coat Drive. The MD chapter graciously purchased much needed Men and Woman coats for our Heroes and had them shipped to the center. We were able to donate these items for a total cost of \$1,111. After the items were delivered, several members expressed their appreciation for the donations and the Chapter's continued support. They graciously sent us a picture expressing their appreciation. Maryland Gold Star Mothers are looking forward to being able to visit with and to serve our heroes once Covid precautions are lifted.



PENNSYLVANIA

←The Allegheny County PA chapter gave donations of lap blankets, puzzles and a monetary donation to be used for women Veteran's needs at the Southwest Veterans Hospital in Allegheny County, PA. Pictured are Nancy Hoffman and Dee West.

TENNESSEE

→Freedoms Heroes Chapter, Department of Tennessee donated 204 cake mixes and 204 cans of cake frosting for the 204 food baskets given Dec 18, 2021 at the Memphis VA Medical Center to food veterans in need and their families. Gold Star parents Pam and Jim Fleming



delivering the food to the site where the baskets were packed.

↓The Volunteer Chapter of AGSM (TN) was invited and attended the National Vietnam Veterans Memorial Day Ceremony held at the East Tennessee Veterans Cemetery. The Ceremony was sponsored by the Bill Robinson Chapter #1078 of the Vietnam Veterans of America. In attendance was Lynn Forehand, Sherrie McGhee, and Marsha Hunt. We spoke the names of the sons of our Vietnam Gold Star Sisters: Iris Walden - PFC Frank Walden (KIA Vietnam), Sara Crabtree - SP4 Harvy Crabtree (KIA Vietnam), Marion Wilkinson - Major John Terrell Wilkinson (KIA Vietnam).



WEST VIRGINIA

↓Gold Star Mothers Terry Cunningham, Belinda Jividen and Barbara Ulbrich of the West Virginia Gold Star Mothers attended the "Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Prayer Service" hosted by Huntington, WV Hospice.



Welcome to Our Newest Members

“No one wants to become eligible to join our organization. However, we find strength in the fellowship of other Gold Star Mothers who strive to keep the memory of their sons and daughters alive by working to help the veterans. We look forward to meeting all the new members listed below. Getting to know you better and helping you in any way possible is our goal.”

National Executive Board

Be inspired, then make it happen

NAME	MEMBERSHIP	DEPARTMENT	CHAPTER
Lorraine Obregon	Member	AZ	Tucson
Lorna Jones	Member	CA_S-HI	Bakersfield
Ertha Hewitt-Heath	Member	FL-PR	Tampa Bay
Sally J. Dixon	Member	GA	Cobb
Carmoneta Horton-Mayfield	Member	IL	Northern IL
Linda Grinnell	Member	ME	Old Town #7
Nancy Holscher	Member	NE	Nebraska GSM
Patricia Seaman	Member	NJ	Bayshore
Ginger Tadlock	Member	SC	Andrew Pickens
Kate Bentley	Member	WA-OR-AK	Washington State GSM
Patricia Crawford	Member	WA-OR-AK	Washington State GSM
Dawn Pelham	Member	WA-OR-AK	Washington State GSM
Grace Washington	Member	WA-OR-AK	Washington State GSM

ASSOCIATES

Glen Crowl, Jr	Associate	AZ	Phoenix
James R. Scott	Associate	ME	Old Town
William R. Tadlock	Associate	SC	Andrew Pickens
Barbara Carden	Associate	WV	West Virginia



Heartfelt Appreciation to our Donors

**AMERICAN GOLD STAR MOTHERS, INC. COULD NOT CONTINUE
OUR WORK AS A VETERANS SERVICE ORGANIZATION WITHOUT THE
CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR GENEROUS DONORS.**

Friends of AGSM

Tiffany Powley in memory of Michael Christopher Hardegree

Elizabeth Swallow in memory of
Shirley Gaudio of the North Penn AGSM chapter

Donations to Working Dogs for Vets Kitchen Project

Azalea Chapter, NC.

Kentucky Gold Star Moms

American Legion Post 19, Columbia, TN

Donations for the 2021 Convention-Memphis

FedEx

TN Farm Bureau

Tractor Supply Foundation

US Xpress

VFW Post 4798, Trenton, TN

VFW Post 6908, Mountain City, TN

VFW Post 12051, Clinton, TN

VFW Post 12199, Sevierville, TN

Woody Williams Foundation

We Hold in Loving Memory

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

NAME	DOD	CHAPTER	DEPARTMENT
Frances Brittingham	11/16/2014	Camden	New Jersey
Dolores Hesson	7/13/2017	Camden	New Jersey
Dorotha Kennedy	8/7/2017	Camden	New Jersey
Helen Zicchino	1/11/2019	Camden	New Jersey
Josephine May	4/3/2020	Greater Johnstown	Pennsylvania
Edith "Mother" Hines	10/25/2020	Baltimore	Maryland
Marion Wilkinson	11/13/2020	Volunteer	Tennessee
Donald "Tip" Cowan, GS DAD	2/25/2021	Albuquerque	New Mexico
Donna Ribisi	3/1/2021	Pikes Chapter	Colorado
Rose Ann McNerney	3/2/2021	Greater Johnstown	Pennsylvania
Irene Hall	3/11/2021	Azalea	North Carolina
Shirley Gaudio	3/24/2021	North Penn	Pennsylvania

*"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the
shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for thou art
with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me."*

Psalm 23:4

Note to all Chaplains - All Death Notices go to:
Elaine Brattain, National Chaplain
chaplain@goldstarmoms.com
Cell Number: 714-356-2176
622 E. Elm Street • Brea, CA 92821





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OBLIGATION OF AMERICAN GOLD STAR MOTHERS, INC.

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

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

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

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

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

THE AMERICAN GOLD STAR MANOR 3021 GOLD STAR DRIVE, LONG BEACH, CA 90810

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