



**A group of women with one thing in common –
all have children serving in the military.
December, 2018**

Chapter President's Letter

Dear Everyone,

Happy Holidays! It has been an early winter and cold but things are hot at the Canteen! We were interviewed by Julie Sherwood for the Daily Messenger on December 12th. She came to the Canteen and wrote a very nice piece for the paper. Go to: <http://www.mpnnow.com/news/20181212/blue-star-mothers-aid-disaster-victims.....> Then, we made the headline and front page of the print edition! Above the fold!! A nice way to end the year, I think. Thanks to everyone who has put forth the effort this year to help our soldiers and Vets in any way possible. It means a great deal to all of them and their families.

We had all the family gifts delivered. Bobbie coordinated the whole complicated shebang before she left for Colorado, and it worked beautifully. Food Baskets from the Lutheran Church in Canandaigua have been picked up by Brian and his red truck and are now on their way to the people who need them most. There is one last gift for BSMA Family #1 still at the Canteen, and Linda will take care of that.

Sally worked so hard on the clothing rooms. They are a perpetual nightmare. She had some help but could use more. Nancy vacuumed the carpets, and Patti O'Kelly cleaned the dreaded bathroom. Nola is working on the food, and Beth and Rosie are taking on the basement. It all gets done in the end.

Our member, Deb Davis, has come through her first round of cancer surgery with flying colors. Please keep her in your prayers. Chaplain Jean keeps us up to date with prayer requests. It is a sad duty sometimes but she does it with dignity and respect. We are a family as well as a Chapter and I think that is why we do so well.

Please remember our deployed soldiers during the holidays as well as every other day. Pray for them and their safe return home. Pray for those families that have experienced the ultimate sacrifice. They need our support and love. Remember all those who are suffering with PTSD, TBI, and other, more visible wounds. Pray for their healing. Above all, pray for Peace.

Merry Christmas with Love and Best Wishes for the New Year.

Joyce

Blue Star Mothers - New York #1 Elected Executive Board for 2018-19

President – Joyce Mader

1st Vice President – Nancy Bardeen

2nd Vice President – Sally Fritz

3rd Vice President – Valerie Haynes

4th Vice President – Linda Green

Recording Secretary – Laura Evans

Financial Secretary/Membership Chair - Bobbie Metcalfe

Treasurer/Budget – Beth Olson

The following positions are appointed.

Corresponding Secretary – shared by Jean Burlingame and Bobbie Metcalfe

Chaplain – Jean Burlingame

Historian – Nola Trost

Parliamentarian - Kathy Zeigler

Patriotic Instructor – Kathy Zeigler

Sgt. at Arms – Donna Strelow

WebMaster – Brian Mader

Election of new officers held at the October 13th meeting; see picture below. As of September 6, 2018, there are 45 moms and 38 associate members.



The Sons of the American Legion and DAV have formed Butte Vet Help Outpost to support veterans/family members of the recent fires in California. Their website is <http://buttevethelp.com/>. They have a PayPal account set up or checks can be made out to Sons of the American Legion Paradise 259 and mailed to Urban Design and Solar, Attention James Holmes Squadron 259 Commander, 2260 Park Avenue, Chico, CA 95928.

The 2nd annual **Pumpkin Race** held September 29th from 11A-4P at the Blue Star Canteen on the grounds of the VA Medical Center. Veterans grew pumpkins, and NY1 donated wheels with axles to them. Hospitalized Veterans came to the Blue Star Canteen and participated with the community in racing pumpkins, Halloween games, and great food. The Veterans ranged in age from 72 to 100! Who had more fun? There were 18 pumpkins racing this year. Trophies awarded for best pumpkin designs, and 1st, 2nd, & 3rd place medals in three age groups. The children, the adults, and the Veterans participated in a wonderful and heart-warming day bringing the community, and our treasured Veterans together!





BSMA NY#1 won \$2,000.00 at the Charity Cup Races at Finger Lakes Race Track on Saturday, October 27th. We had a wonderful time, and a nice turnout for the party. It was a fun day except for those who had to ride horses in the downpour!

Monday, November 12th at 2:30PM, our Veterans enjoyed a wonderful Thanksgiving Meal at the Canteen. The food was out of this world delicious! The Canteen was buzzing with activity! Thanks to all the cooks like Randy G who cooked, carved, and delivered one of the 25 lb. turkeys as well as Bobbie, Nancy, and Sally who cooked smaller ones. Hams were cooked by Jane, Kathy Z, and Kathy C. Lots of people made mashed potatoes, stuffing, squash, relish trays, green bean casseroles, corn, sweet breads, rolls and pies! You name it, we had it. Also, the trifle made by Aileen was a huge hit! Rosie and Greg did the dishes. Thank you to Mik and Laura for their hard work upstairs in the rooms organizing and cleaning up. All was wonderfully coordinated by Linda.

Bobbie took nine take-outs and two pies to the VA Police, the Fire Department, and the Ambulance Company on base. Wesley delivered food to the RN and two SA's on duty in the DOM that night. All were thrilled to be included. Everything was splendid.

Unfortunately, the VA took about 20 of the Veterans to Lyons for dinner even though we expected them at the Canteen. There were plenty of left overs for hot turkey and gravy sandwiches, and scalloped potatoes with ham another night. They say that many hands make less work, and that was evident last night! There were also three volunteers from the Lions Club which was wonderful as well. Many thanks and appreciation to all who helped!

With the support of generous sponsor Nick Violas and Chef Storm of Nolan's, the Canandaigua DAV delivered a hot Thanksgiving turkey and fixings dinner for 8 to a Veteran who needed a

boost this Thanksgiving. Nolan's was not open on Thanksgiving, but they managed to get the DAV what was needed for this Veteran and family!! Also, thanks to Linda Green @ Blue Star Mothers NY#1 for assisting with contacting the Veteran and family. The Veteran's family was all smiling when the DAV left their house! DAV provided meals to five Veteran families in all.

The **11th Annual Light of Love** honoring military Veterans and their families moved from its former outdoor location at Kershaw Park on Canandaigua Lake to the Canandaigua VA Medical Center in the auditorium of Building 5. It was held on Sunday, November 25th. The Light of Love featured the lighting of a Christmas tree, the ceremonial hanging of star ornaments containing photographs of veterans and active duty personnel, patriotic readings, music, and community camaraderie.



2018 Holidays for Heroes mailed packages to 14 overseas units that each received a Christmas tree and a Party in a Box. Also, there were 62 families provided gifts in 2018. Donations for this annual Holidays for Heroes program are accepted all year long. They may be sent to BSMA NY#1, P.O. Box 426, Bloomfield NY, 14469.

There is a face book page called Open Homes for Traveling Military. This is families who open their homes to provide shelter and support to traveling military. Military can look at this list and find where a host family is located in case of need.

Canteen will be closed on December 26th and reopen on January 2nd. Dates for January and February are open.

In February, 2019, we will again provide cookies for those working at the VA. Also, we hope to have a cookie sale again. More info when available.

Ongoing BSMA NY#1 Fundraisers



New RED (Remember Everyone Deployed) t-shirts available. Design is on the back. Window car clings are available for all military branches. Contact Bobbie at 585-200-0121 for more information on other items and to order.



Buy a Brick Fundraiser was introduced by Joanne at the January, 2016, meeting. As of the May meeting, 25 bricks were sold/ordered. Bricks cost \$50 and a duplicate brick is \$35. Bricks will be placed in the Patriot Garden around the flag poles at the Blue Star Canteen. The 4" by 8" brick in Regimental Red is etched through a laser process. Got questions? Contact Sally at salfriz.2@gmail.com. Information on this fundraiser is available at <http://thatsmybrick.com/bluestarmothersny1> .

Keep collecting those used cell phones and toner cartridges from your printers. Also, any scrap metal, wire, old stoves, refrigerators, or other metal items are needed. We get cash for them! Please contact Bobbie Metcalfe.

Interested in contributing information for a future newsletter? The next newsletter will be published in March, 2019; the deadline is the 15th of the month. Please send MaryAgnes (mother of two Marines and godmother of a Soldier) an email at mamcavoy@aol.com should you wish to submit information. Please do check our website www.bluestarmothersny1.org for additional information, photos, and more. This newsletter is also available on the website address noted above under the "About Us" menu tab.

