



**A group of women with one thing in common –
all have children serving in the military.
March, 2019**

Chapter President's Letter

Dear Everyone,

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY!! And very soon, HAPPY SPRING! It has been a rough winter for everyone. We had to close the canteen a couple of times due to snow, ice, wind, etc., but we made it through.

We had success delivering the annual Thank You Cookie Baskets to the staff at the VA on Valentine's Day, February 14th. Rosie Asproules, Donna Strelow, Beth Olson, and Bobbie Metcalfe did the deed and made sure all 56 baskets were delivered. We ran short on the Grounds Crew but Beth got them bagels and cream cheese as well as donuts the next morning with a Valentine thanking them for keeping us plowed out. They were thrilled!

Bobbie hit all the VA areas in Rochester including one we had not heard of before. Everyone was surprised and pleased by the gift. We had some fantastic cookies made by all of you - so many, many thanks for all your hard work. We feel this acknowledges the work of the VA for our Veterans. Everybody needs a pat on the back.

Our Valentine Cookie Sale from the Sweet Blessings Bakery in Shortsville was a success once again. The cookies smelled so good and, I am told, tasted even better. My son-in-law in California is willing to swear to that! Thanks to all who sold cookies, especially Debbie Lamphier and Linda Green, for taking them to Constellation and Canandaigua National Bank.

We had a large need for prayers, and I thank you all for sending cards to the elderly WW2 vet on his birthday. Fortunately, all of our prayer requests appear to be in recovery mode and that is just wonderful!

Our biggest event was the purchase of food and supplies that we took to the Rochester Coast Guard Station and the Coast Guard Station in Buffalo during the recent shutdown. Both places were thrilled. Part of the money used came from the Veterans Club at FLCC, and I sent them a note thanking them, once again, for their generosity to their fellow military service people.

Winter always seems to promise to be a quiet time for the Chapter, but once again, that has not happened. Thanks to all of you for everything that you do for our children and their compatriots. We owe them more than we can say.

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 – Rosie Asproules

Parliamentarian - Kathy Zeigler

Patriotic Instructor – Kathy Zeigler

Sgt. at Arms – Donna Strelow

WebMaster – Brian Mader

As of March 3, 2019, there are 39 moms and 33 associate members.

IMPORTANT! In case you are unaware, if you wish to remain a full-participating, voting member, you must attend 4 meetings a year. This rule is in the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. by-laws. By attending meetings, you are up to date on activities and business of the Chapter. Please be sure to attend at least 4 meetings in the fiscal year.

BSMA NY#1 recently changed its mailing address. Correspondence should now be sent to **PO BOX 503, MACEDON, NY 14502.**

Holidays for Heroes 2018 helped 63 Veteran families, 35 single female Veterans, and 20 single male Veterans with gifts and food. Donations for this annual program are accepted all year long. They may be sent to BSMA NY#1, P.O. Box 503, Macedon NY, 14502.

Over 125 visitors attended the grand opening of the Community Living Neighborhood (CLN) at the Bath VA Medical Center on January 7, 2019. Attendees included residents, families, VA staff, political representatives, and others who were wowed by the high-end accommodations now provided in the neighborhood. CLN boasts large single bedrooms with a bathroom and furnished with a desk, dresser, and TV. The CLN has wider hallways and doorways to accommodate wheelchairs as well as extra lighting. With no nurses stations, the staff can work more closely and mingle easier with the residents. There is also a CLN at the Canandaigua VA Medical Center. To learn more about CLN placement, contact Judy Schwingel, GEC Care Line Manager at 607-664-4517 or by email at Judy.Schwingel@va.gov.

A group of deployed soldiers that received baseball equipment from us in 2018, sent pictures of themselves enjoying the equipment!



In January, Joyce spoke with Tory, the FRG, at the Rochester Coast Guard base. The CG personnel were not receiving pay checks as they are part of Homeland Security which was affected by the recent federal government shutdown! At the Canandaigua Aldi's, we purchased from a provided list of most needed items. There was a checkout lane just for us and the large amount of items. A Boy Scout leader and his wife helped load the cars. People were shocked we were shopping for the Rochester Coast Guard station; they did not realize these men and women were affected by the shutdown. We encouraged everyone to support the CG and do what they could. There were three full vehicles of food and other items including teddy bears for the children, sanitary products for the women, and food for dogs/cats.



Even though the shutdown ended on 1/25, and the unpaid workers expected to receive paychecks as soon as possible, it may take much longer. Knowing this, we got supplies for the CG Station in Buffalo as well. These men, women, and families still need to survive until paychecks arrive. Not having to worry about groceries allows the families more money to catch up on other bills.



BSMA NY#1 spent about \$8,500 purchasing supplies for both Coast Guard stations which is money well spent! Both Coast Guard units were most appreciative for our help!

Pix of Valentine cookies baskets all ready to go to offices at VA – Each basket contained about 5 dozen cookies!



Have an old purse that is no longer used? Give it to NY#1! Purses will be filled with travel sized hygiene and sanitary products, snacks, sox, wash cloth and small towel, and a pair of flip flops. These will be given to homeless female Vets!



Ear protection lawsuit! Veterans with hearing loss due to defective ear protection provided by 3M is eligible to apply for funds from a recent lawsuit. Go on-line to apply or call 888-391-1315 for more information.

Upcoming Events

Next chapter meeting is Saturday, April 13th at 9AM.

Armed Forces Day is May 18th, 2019. We believe that the lunch and ceremony will still be at the Diplomat. Bobbie needs a count of who would like to attend that day. She needs a firm count by March 25th AT THE LATEST! After that date, no additional names will be accepted. Tables are donated for our attendance so we do not pay to attend this event. Please be considerate and call Bobbie ASAP.

A Wayne County bike group is requesting us to help again with their Poker Run held on July 14th, 2019, this year. We will supply a light breakfast for the poker run. More information available as the date gets closer.

Shootout for Soldiers is scheduled for July 20-21 at Canandaigua Academy with opening ceremonies at 12N on 7/20.

Stay tuned for more info as NY#1 will participate in Pirate Days in Palmyra in August!

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. 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 June, 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.

