



**A GROUP OF WOMEN WITH ONE THING IN COMMON –
ALL HAVE CHILDREN SERVING IN THE MILITARY.
DECEMBER, 2014**

Chapter President's Letter

Dear Everyone,

Welcome to December! We have had a very busy month of November. Valerie and her team pulled off a wonderful Light of Love ceremony at Kershaw Park with very good attendance from the community. The fire trucks even hung the huge flag this year!! We are now getting families adopted for Christmas. We can use some help for the family the Canteen adopted so let's try and do a great job. So far we have all 56 families adopted. It has been a frenzy of emails, phone calls and nail biting but it really did happen. Bobbie is the Chairperson for this project and has done a great job.

We have our special Christmas Dinner on the 19th (a Friday this time) at the Canteen. Linda has planned a roast beef dinner that sounds delicious. I hope that everyone will help out as much as they are able. We are also going to attempt to wrap all the toys donated by the Marine Corp Council for our family's children, on December 13th in lieu of a regular meeting with lunch to follow at Eric's. Please come and help!

Merry Christmas to all our children serving in the armed forces. We miss them but they are always in our prayers. As the song says, many will only be home for Christmas through dreams but they are always in our hearts. Merry Christmas to all of you with best wishes for the New Year.

Love,
Joyce

Blue Star Mother New York #1 Elected Executive Board for 2014-15

President – Joyce Mader

1st Vice President - Bonny Beck

2nd Vice President – Carol Adamowicz

3rd Vice President – Valerie Haines

4th Vice President – Linda Green

Recording Secretary – Fran Gallahan

Financial Secretary/Membership Chair - Bobbie Metcalfe

Treasurer/Budget - Kathy Conratt

The following positions are appointed.

Chaplain – Jean Burlingame

Historian - Beth Olson

Patriotic Instructor and Parliamentarian - Kathy Zeigler

Correspondence Committee - Mary Jean Carlson

WebMaster - Brian Mader

As of the November 8th meeting, there are 55 moms and 40 associate members.

Elections held at the October meeting



Here are the elected officers for 2014-15. Deb Lamphier (holding sign) is standing in for Val Haynes and Sally Burges (holding sign) is standing in for Jean Burlingame. Fran Gallahan is hiding in the back!

A guest speaker at the October 11th meeting was a Vietnam Vet and Patriot Rider named Jerry Lamb. Jerry is Commander of Post 428 in Ontario; the Post became affiliated with an organization called Lap Robes for Vets. A motion was passed for us to donate \$50 to help with supply costs. Jerry also said his group scheduled a ride for May 9, 2015, to benefit Pines of Peace Hospice of Ontario. He asked if BSMA NY#1 can help with food that day. A motion passed to help; we will receive more details as the date gets closer. Jerry also mentioned there would be donation jars at the ride stops for our benefit.

A message from Brian Mader, Webmaster regarding the NY#1 web page - The "Members" page on the website contains a listing of all Members, Associates, and Minutes of the Monthly Chapter meetings. Access to the page required one username and password that all Members and Associates used. This method is changed to provide enhanced security. Each member is now able to log in to the page with a unique password of your own choosing. You will now be able to edit your own contact information securely. Membership renewals for 2015/16 will be completed online on the website. Everyone should have received an email that provided a temporary password. If you have not, please contact Brian at bmadder@rochester.rr.com.

In the early fall, there was some vandalism at the Canteen. One vet, who has some severe mental issues, got angry, twice physically menaced one of our Moms in the parking lot, and created a furor inside as well. The vet kicked the 4x4 support stand on one of the silhouettes and knocked it over. (The silhouette was not broken.) We will be having a VA cop show up at the Canteen for coffee, to remind the vets that need reminding, that we are not without protection. The perpetrator of the crime was known to the VA cops and has been removed from the VA in Canandaigua.
 On Saturday evening, November 8th, BSMA NY#1 was honored by the Kiwanis Club of Farmington-Victor with a gift of \$1,000.00 for our service to the veteran community. The event was held at the Ravenwood Golf Club.

Veterans Day on November 11th had a busy schedule of events. One program was the installation and dedication of a Blue Star Marker in a garden at the Bear Creek/Thompson Park entrance on Lake Road, Ontario, NY. Photo provided by Jerry Lamb, Commander, Meyers-Ingraham American Legion Post 428.



Thanksgiving dinner at the Canteen on Monday, November 17th was a huge success. The Vets were very happy and enjoyed it tremendously. Thanks to Linda Green for all her coordination for this event.

The Light of Love on Sunday, December 1st, was another great success thanks to the work of Valerie. Maryanne Sernoffsky was wonderful as our Mistress of Ceremonies. Bonny received quite a few compliments, including one from a Korean War Veteran that was attending for the first time. Thanks to Canandaigua and Shortsville, there was not one, but two fire trucks flying a huge American flag. What an impressive sight. The Patriot Guard Riders were there to stand the flag line which is always impressive. Special thanks to Victoria Haynes

who helped us say the Pledge of Allegiance. She did a great job in front of so many people. Thanks to the set up crew who put up the tents, those that helped hang stars, and those who cleaned up when we were done. The refreshments were plentiful and warming thanks to Linda and her crew. Lastly, a big thank you to Mother Nature for the nice weather -- a mild winter day was appreciated considering some of the weather in previous years!

There are 56 families that need holiday help. As you know, the Chapter adopts a family every holiday season and asks the members of the Chapter to help with the gifts. The money for the gifts DO NOT come out of Chapter funds. The only thing the Chapter provides is food. On Monday, December 15th, we will be packing the grocery boxes at the Canteen. Then later in the week, everything needs to go to Marianne for distribution.

There are 5 addresses for Christmas boxes. We will provide for the addresses from our Chapter funds and purchase trees from a local nursery. (Note the thank you below recently received.)

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Greetings!

I'm currently deployed to AFG and just received a tremendously generous package from your chapter!! It was so generous in fact that I almost had to solicit help to carry it from the mail room to our office...I instead opted for a couple short breaks :) Thank you so, so much for your support! It's awesome to be able to wander around and share goodies with my co-workers! Although this is my first deployment, many of the folks here are "seasoned veterans" too cool to ask for snacks and goodies from back home. Often many of them don't get packages from home very often, or not at all. We now do a snack parade (our group works in many small shops around camp) whenever we get a tasty box of goodies in!! I visit each section and share the wealth! I'm becoming quite popular!!

I can't wait to start decorating our tree with the ornaments you sent! They're adorable, thoughtful, and are very much appreciated! I plan to distribute the cards during our "holiday mixer" closer to Christmas. I'm sure they'll bring many smiles to the faces of these crusty old warriors!

I'm truly blown away with the support we've received from back home. We love you and thank you so much for taking such good care of us!! Happy Holidays and Merry Christmas!!

P.S. I'll be taking pictures of our group during our holiday get together and will be sure to send them along!

Jennifer E. Britton, TSgt
USAF SOTF

Recent New York State Laws & Initiatives

Several new or changed NYS laws, fees, and initiatives involving Veterans are now in effect or soon to be active. For updated information on the following topics, go to <http://veterans.ny.gov>, <http://nysparks.com>, or <http://ogs.ny.gov>.

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| -- <u>Driver's License Fees</u> | -- <u>Professional Licenses For Military</u> |
| -- <u>Property Tax Exemption</u> . | <u>Spouses/Domestic Partners</u> |
| -- <u>Temporary Hiring List</u> | -- <u>Lifetime Liberty Pass</u> |
| -- <u>Tax "Check-Off" For Homeless Veterans</u> | -- <u>Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Business</u> |
| -- <u>Supplemental Burial Allowance Changes</u> | <u>Act</u> |
| -- <u>In-State Tuition For G.I. Bill Recipients</u> | -- <u>Veteran Liaison Officers</u> |
| | -- <u>No Income Limit For Gold Star Annuitants</u> |

Got coupons?

Pat Witt collects grocery store coupons to send to Troops overseas. Coupons can be expired, but must be expired within the last six months. Pat mails coupons to military personnel in Germany. She also works with her church to share coupons with Marine families in Okinawa, Japan. Mail your unused coupons to Pat at 60 Hendrix Road #122, West Henrietta, NY 14586. For more info, contact Pat.

Address updates

Has your military loved one returned from overseas or been deployed? Please make sure to send an updated address to MaryJean Carlson at maryjeancarlson@aol.com in order for her/him to receive birthday and other greetings from NY#1.

BSMA NY#1 ongoing fundraiser

Keep collecting those used cell phones and printer toner cartridges. We get cash for them! Please contact Bobbie Metcalfe.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



Christmas Dinner at the Canteen for the Vets will be on Friday, December 19th. Linda will be sending out a letter later in the week with all the requests for the meal. Come and join us.

Canteen will be closed for the holidays from December 22nd until January 5th.

FREE holiday dinner hosted by Rotary Club of Canandaigua on December 25th from 12:30 to 2PM at Canandaigua Academy. Everyone is welcome. For more info, call Jodi Kaufman at 396-0486 before December 22nd.

The next BSMA NY#1 meeting is Saturday, January 10, 2015.

The Spaghetti Dinner is scheduled for April 24th.

May 9th is the Pine of Peace Poker Run.

There will be a Blue Star Riders Poker Run in June, 2015.

Third Annual Memorial Poker Run for Danny Metcalfe is scheduled for August 15, 2015.

A Gold Star Monument at White Haven Cemetery in Fairport should be completed and dedicated in September, 2015.

Interested in contributing information for a future newsletter? The next newsletter will be published in March, 2015. Please send MaryAgnes (mother of two Marines) 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.



‘Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone, in a one bedroom house made of plaster and stone.
I had come down the chimney with presents to give, and to see just who in this home did live.
I looked all about, a strange sight I did see, no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree.

No stocking by mantle, just boots filled with sand, and on the wall pictures of far distant lands.
With medals and badges, awards of all kinds, a sobering thought came to my mind.
For this house was different, so dark and so dreary, the home of a soldier, now I could see clearly.

The soldier lay sleeping, silent, alone, curled up on the floor in this one bedroom home.
The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder, not how I pictured a United States soldier.
Was this the hero of whom I’d just read? Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed?

I realized the families that I saw this night, owed their lives to these soldiers who were willing to fight.
Soon round the world, the children would plan and grownups would celebrate a bright Christmas day.
They all enjoyed freedom each month of the year, because of the soldiers, like the one lying here.

I couldn’t help wonder how many lay alone, on a cold Christmas Eve in a land far from home.
The very thought brought a tear to my eye, I dropped to my knee and started to cry.
The soldier awakened and I heard a rough voice, “Santa don’t cry, this life is my choice.

I fight for freedom, I don’t ask for more, my life is my God, my country, my corps.”
The soldier rolled over and soon drifted to sleep, I couldn’t control it, I continued to weep.
I kept watch for hours, so silent and still, and we both shivered from the cold evening’s chill.

I didn’t want to leave on that cold, dark, night, this guardian of honor so willing to fight.
Then the soldier rolled over, with a voice soft and pure, whispered, “Carry on Santa, it’s Christmas day,
all is secure.”
One look at my watch, and I knew he was right. “Merry Christmas, my friend, and to all a good night.”

