



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

Blue Star Mothers  
of America, Inc.  
NY #1  
March, 2014

## Chapter President's Letter

Happy Spring!! It has been a quiet winter for most of us, much of which we spent recovering from various maladies, I expect. Hopefully, the weather will begin to moderate soon and we will have brief whiffs of spring-like air. The planning for the Spaghetti Dinner is well underway and the Valentine Cookie sale is now yesterday's news. We did very well out of the cookie sale. It is such a generous thing for the owner of Sweet Blessings bakery to do for us, and I know that we are most grateful. The cookies ordered for the troops from the sale total about 148 and will be made fresh and decorated by Sweet Blessings. We will ship them to the British/American Hospital in Afghanistan as a treat for the wounded soldiers. Thanks to all who participated and especially to Donna Schertl who had the original idea.

I hope that everyone is working to get donations for the raffle at the Spaghetti Dinner. That is always a big draw so we need some really cool stuff. Bobbie will have some tickets for the Opening Game,

which is always Military Appreciation Day, at the Red Wings Season Opener. Please contact her if you are interested. It is great fun even if the weather doesn't cooperate!

I want to thank everyone for all the effort they have put into everything this past fall. It means a lot to our soldiers and veterans. We will be talking to the VA about lease renewal for the Canteen very soon. Hopefully, they will be doing some exterior projects on the building before they begin working on the new vet housing going in down Rt. 332, breaking ground in September.

We have had great fortune this year from Pat Witt and her fellow Church members, the sad part being that they need to close down their place of worship. We can take care of the canteen, thanks to them, which is nice to know. We are grateful to everyone who donates, no matter what they give. It all goes to good use and helps us to help others.

I want to thank MaryAgnes for putting out such a lovely newsletter. She does a fantastic job.

See you all at the next meeting!

Joyce

## **Blue Star Mother New York #1 Elected Executive Board for 2013-14**

President – Joyce Mader

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President - Bonny Beck

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Carol Adamowicz

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President – Val Haines

4<sup>th</sup> Vice President – Linda Green

Recording Secretary – Fran Gallahan

Financial Secretary/Membership Chair - Bobbie Metcalfe

Treasurer - Kathy Conratt

The following positions are appointed.

Chaplain - Sally Burgess

Historian - Beth Olson

Patriotic Instructor and Parliamentarian - Kathy Zeigler

Correspondence Committee - Mary Jean Carlson

Yearbook - Becky Nohe

Volunteer Coordinator - Mary Jean Carlson

WebMaster - Brian Mader

As of the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, there are 61 moms and 42 associate members.

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From an email sent January, 2014

I received care packages you sent, and I just wanted to say thank you. I shared much of the goodies with many of the other Soldiers that are here with me. They asked me to extend a thank you on their behalf as well. We are all looking forward to returning to our family, friends, and country that we love.

Thank you again,

Staff Sergeant Adam Marlatt

US Army

**Thank You!** The Wayne County BOCES School held a Penny Drive to raise money to supply goods to the troops. It was amazingly successful! They collected over \$600.00, went shopping for our troops, and packaged it all up. There was still money left over for mailing. The clothing for the clothing drive is roaring along. The BOCES group got involved with the recent clothing drive, and they are going to collect for Summer For Soldiers.

Valentine cookie trays were again distributed to various departments at the VA. Many cookies were baked and donated. Ladies met on Thursday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, at the Canteen to organize. Delivery was on Friday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, Valentine's Day. The cookies trays are a thank you for all the help we get throughout the year and especially this year since the VA staff has been plowing us out on Mondays and Fridays!

**Cadence Square** Veterans Housing Project recently hosted an Open House on February 7<sup>th</sup> in Canandaigua. This project provides safe housing and a full continuum of care and support services in partnership with the Canandaigua VA Medical Center. Visitors to the open house had the opportunity to meet staff and tour the facilities.

**From an email dated 2/11/14**

Some time ago, member Pat Witt asked Joyce what we would do if we got a gift of money for the Chapter. Joyce stated we would most likely use it for the Canteen. Last night (2/10/14), at the Canteen, Pat, who has been unable to come as she no longer drives, suddenly appeared with a delightful couple from her Church, Richard and Nancy. (Richard is a British forces Veteran.) Everyone was buzzing around, washing dishes and visiting, etc., when Pat asked us to come into the living room. Pat reminded Joyce of the previous conversation about what we would do with a windfall. Then Pat said her Church was dissolving due to the age of the parishioners, people moving out of area, deaths, etc., and they were dividing up the treasury and donating to various causes. Nancy and Richard were in charge of deciding who got what, and they decided to make us one of the larger bequests. With that said Pat handed Joyce an envelope. Joyce nearly fell off the chair

when she saw it contained a check for \$32,500.00!! Everyone in attendance was in a state of shock.

Kathy Conradt said, "OH! I won't be able to do the short form for taxes this year!" We were overwhelmed and giddy. Pat said that she loves our Chapter and the Blue Star Mothers. She talked about us at Church and what we do. Nancy and Richard decided that we would get more than others since they were very taken by how we help vets and soldiers and how hard we worked. It was an incredible moment.

Be sure to remember Pat, Nancy, and Richard and the other members of their Church, in your prayers!!

At the March 8<sup>th</sup> meeting, it was announced that this donation will be used exclusively for the Canteen. A committee was formed to investigate how best to invest this windfall. Recommendations from the committee will be announced at the April 12<sup>th</sup> BSMA NY#1 meeting.

**Cookie sale in February to support the Troops.** Donna Schertl and Sweet Blessings Bakery are going to do this again this year. Last year this sale earned NY#1 over \$800.00. This year's sale already showed donations of over \$1400. The large heart-shaped cookies sold for \$2.00 each. A final tally is yet to be finalized as cookies are still being sold!

**Another email letter of thanks dated February 28, 2014**

Hi Everyone,

You all have made such a difference in a lot of people's lives (including myself). It touches my heart to know that there are such feeling, kind, caring, selfless, and thoughtful (in an unconditional way) people around me.

May God look over all of our Brothers and Sisters that are in the Armed Forces.

Most of all, let us pray for our enemies, they need forgiveness so desperately that it is beyond all comprehension.

Peace and love,

Corrie

## **Veterans of the Armed Services of the United States of America**

***...you are invited!***

You are invited to join your friends at Harris Seeds for a complimentary breakfast and a free seed starting seminar on **Saturday, March 15th, 2014**. We will proudly fill you up with a nice warm breakfast and then gather to learn what is new in the world of vegetable and flower seeds. We will cover best ways to start your seeds indoors and field your gardening questions. We generally have a terrific time and get to catch up with our good friends who have proudly served. Now it is our time to serve you...

**Date:** Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup>

**Location:** 355 Paul Road – right behind the Rochester airport.

**Time:** 9 AM until noon.

### **Reservation required**

**RSVP by Thursday, March 13<sup>th</sup> to Amber (935-7019) or Jennifer (935-7028)**

*Spouses, friends, children and grandchildren are welcome.*

## **Important information from Army Strong (which helps all regardless of military service branch)**

All recent Vets were exposed to burn pits in Iraq and Afghanistan and could be experiencing lasting health problems. Marianne Sernoffsky can help with problems applying for disability and college issues. She is reached at 585-528-2006. All Vets need to be sure that DD-214 forms are documented with all physical treatments and meetings with doctors to insure eligibility for VA disability benefits.

Marianne also has free Rochester Red Wing tickets for Opening Day on Saturday, April 5th. Gates open at 12:30pm, festivities begin around 1:30pm, and first pitch is at 2:05pm. Please call MARIANNE 585.528.2006 to reserve your tickets or leave a message on voice mail. First come, first serve.

**Be careful of a new scam!!**

A woman sends a friend request on Facebook. The Facebook page contains a fake-looking picture and there are NO other friends. Please remove the request. There are safety concerns here especially regarding our service members.

## **Meals at the Canteen**

There is a small core of people who bring in meals on Monday and Friday. The meals are always delicious, and the vets really appreciate them. However, after doing this for several years, it does become expensive for the few who cook the meals.

There are many members in this chapter. Our hope is always that everyone will help and support the chapter in our endeavors. Some cannot be with us for various events due to distance or time. This is understandable. However, it would be wonderful if more could help out on the meal front. If unable to make it to the canteen either Monday or Friday nights because of the aforementioned reasons, please consider occasionally sending in at least ten dollars to help with the cost of fresh food for these evening meals. Also, a group could make a meal together. Arrangements can be made to pick it up.

The regular ladies who do the meals have been picking up the cost, and it tends to get a bit pricey after a while. In some cases, money is tight. If everyone sent in a small sum, to go into a special fund, we can supplement the meals each week.

Please do think about this and, if you decide to help, please send a check to 4<sup>th</sup> Vice President, Linda Green, who is in charge of Hospitality. Mark the check on the memo line as a donation for meals and send it to the address below. This would be a charitable donation and is tax deductible.

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.  
New York Chapter #1  
P.O. Box 426  
Bloomfield, NY 14469.  
ATTENTION: Linda Green

**Veteran Tickets Foundation** AKA **Vet Tix (CFC# 44909)** is a nationally recognized 501c3 Veterans Support Organization whose mission is to "give something to those who gave." Vet Tix teams up with major sports teams, leagues, promoters, organizations, companies, venues, and event ticket holders to provide free (and discounted) tickets to the more than 26 million active Military, Veterans and their families.

**WHAT WE DO** – We support our Active Duty Military, Veterans and their Families with entertainment, lasting memories, and reintegration opportunities by providing **FREE** event tickets to sporting events, concerts, and family activities.

**WHY WE DO THIS** – When Active Military and Veterans go to an event for FREE we want them to feel a collective “**Thank You**” from all of us to all of them.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE AND HOW TO GET VERIFIED** - Vet Tix believes that every person who honorably served our great country should be thanked for their service. Visit the sign up link below for full details

- Currently Serving Military, Honorably Discharged Veterans, PNOG of KIA
- Use this link to sign up <http://www.vettix.org/ref/167415>

**Got old VHS TAPES?** (contributed by MaryJean Carlson)

Now that DVD's have taken over, do you have a pile of VHS tapes collecting dust? Keep them out of the landfills! Alternative Community Training is a non-profit Missouri company that provides jobs to people with disabilities. Workers erase the tapes, resell those in good shape, and recycle the plastic parts of the rest. Mail tapes (at the USPS media mail rate) to:

ACT

2200 BURLINGTON

COLUMBIA, MO 65202

**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](mailto: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! Give to Bobbie Metcalfe.*

**Got coupons?**

Pat Witt is collecting grocery store coupons to send to the Troops overseas. Coupons can be expired, but the expiration date must not be more than six months ago. Mail your unused coupons to Pat at 60 Hendrix Road, West Henrietta, NY 14586.

**Do you help out with BSMA NY#1 fundraisers and other events?**

Live too far away to drop off baked goods, make a casserole, or actively participate in programs? Please consider sending a check or gift card to assist with offsetting costs of running the events.

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**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**

A Vietnam Vets Sock Hop Appreciation Day is planned for Sunday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> from 3-8PM at the Golden Ponds Restaurant. For tickets, call 585-260-0585 or 585-227-2741.

A job skills training for military personnel, Veterans, and families will be held on April 9-10 in Newark. Pre-registration is required. Call 315-331-3783 or send an email to

[james.love@redcross.org](mailto:james.love@redcross.org)

Spaghetti Dinner is Friday, April 25, 2014, at Canandaigua Academy again. Dinners served from 4-8PM. This is also the kick-off of Summer For Soldiers. Please plan to help starting at 2:30PM.

Military Kid Day at the Strong Museum is Saturday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$11 per child with parent or guardian admitted free. Call Erin Fulton at 315-788-8450 to register.

There is a Job Fair at the Palmyra VFW on May 2<sup>nd</sup> starting at 9AM.

On Saturday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, there is an Armed Forces Day luncheon at the Diplomat Party House. Tickets are \$25 a person. For information call 1-800- 845-2412.

June 7<sup>th</sup> is packing day at the Canteen for Summer For Soldiers.

American Veterans Traveling Tribute Cost of Freedom Tribute and The Traveling Wall are coming to Pembroke, NY, on June 11<sup>th</sup> and will be on display until June 15<sup>th</sup>. This event is sponsored by Oakfield-Alabama American Legion Post 626. For more information, email [oaopost626wall@gmail.com](mailto:oaopost626wall@gmail.com)

June 20-21 is our next-to-new sale at the Canteen. Save your items, but no clothing, no old electronics, and no stuffed animals accepted.

Second annual Memorial Poker Run for Danny Metcalfe is July 12, 2014 at the Moose Lodge in Palmyra, NY.

BSMA NY#1 will not attend the 2014 national convention in August. The convention will again be held at the Marine Memorial Hotel in San Francisco.

The air show is returning to the Rochester Airport on August 16-17. Look for the BSMA NY#1 table.

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The next newsletter will be published in June, 2014. Interested in contributing information for a future newsletter? Please send MaryAgnes an email at [mamcavoy@aol.com](mailto:mamcavoy@aol.com) Please do check our website [www.bluestarmothersny1.org](http://www.bluestarmothersny1.org) for additional information, photos, and more.

