



**A group of women with one thing in common –
all have children serving in the military.
DECEMBER, 2015**

Chapter President's Letter

Dear Everyone,

Merry Christmas to all! It has been a blur lately as our Holiday for Heroes annual project is finally starting to wind down. We had 65 families adopted this year. Our Chapter supplied the food for the families and that was a major undertaking! We shopped at Aldi's again this year, and they were most cooperative. Bobbie called in the order. The manager at the Aldi's on Five and Twenty here in Canandaigua responded beautifully. She and her crew pulled all the items, called, and went over the list again to make sure they had everything, loaded it onto flat carts then muscled it into our vehicles and away we went! Our deepest thanks to the staff at Aldi's for their wonderful assistance.

Of course, it was raining heavily on delivery day. Brian and Paul, a Blue Star Rider who luckily had a trailer, unloaded the boxes into the back door of the Canteen where Bobbie, myself, Nancy Bardeen and her two incredible grandchildren, Max and Sadie, as well as Joanne Acquilano and Linda Green, formed a fire line and stacked it all in the living room. Then we lined up the boxes out on the porch and sorted all the goods into the boxes. Nobody was doing anything strenuous after that little adventure! Bobbie went to get produce at the Public Market while Brian and I picked up the perishable stuff at Aldi's. Joanne co-opted her brother, Doug, and two of his three boys, plus Nancy and Max, once again, to sort 500 pounds of potatoes, 250 pounds of carrots, onions, celery, bananas, and squash into bags to help fill the boxes. We delivered to the old 98th Armory on N. Goodman Street later that day where Marianne Sernoffsky took it to the next phase which was delivery.

We have now collected nearly all the bags of gifts for the various families and they will be delivered on Sunday, December 14th, also to Goodman Street. It is possible we can then sit down. Tim Parks, our Vet extraordinaire, is working to get the Vets Club at St. John Fisher to help at both ends because some of us are not as young as we were once upon a time!

The Light of Love Annual Christmas Tree Event went off well this year. Val and her committee did a wonderful job and we have gotten some very positive comments. We had a few glitches, but those will be addressed in January when we review our procedures. Thanks to all who made it happen. Plus, the weather cooperated wonderfully well!! That is a rare event in and of itself.

On Saturday, December 12th, Chaplain Jean Burlingame and I are going to help at the ceremony to place wreaths at the Sampson Cemetery in Bath, New York. Wreaths Across America will be placing them on the final resting places of our Veterans who are gone but not forgotten. The weather promises to be mild which we appreciate.

On December 30th we will have a Potluck Dinner, organized by Linda Green and Carol Adamowicz, at the Canteen for our Moms and Dads. It is going to be a ham dinner with many delicious contributions (of course, Cheesy Potatoes are figuring largely in this!) It is a quiet, evening get together; a breather for all of us to enjoy each other's company after the rush of autumn events. I hope we see you there.

My thanks to all of you, each and everyone, for all that you do to help our deployed soldiers, our Veterans, and the families on the home front. We do AMAZING things for our troops past and present. Hopefully, 2016 will be a success as well.

Happy New Year to all and to all, a goodnight!

Joyce

Blue Star Mothers - New York #1 Elected Executive Board for 2015-16

President – Joyce Mader

1st Vice President – Nancy Bardeen

2nd Vice President – Carol Adamowicz

3rd Vice President – Valerie Haynes

4th Vice President – Linda Green

Recording Secretary – Katy Bracy

Financial Secretary/Membership Chair - Bobbie Metcalfe

Treasurer/Budget - Kathy Conradt

The following positions are appointed.

Chaplain – Jean Burlingame

Corresponding Secretary – MaryJean Carlson

Historian - Beth Olson

Parliamentarian - Kathy Zeigler

Patriotic Instructor – Becky Nohe

Sgt. At Arms – Linda Green

Publicity – Dorothy Egan

WebMaster – Brian Mader

As of December 11th , there are 38 moms and 43 associate members.

Canteen News

We are continuing with only serving dinner to the Vets on Wednesday nights. Most of the Vets like this as it breaks up the week for them; it is also easier for us! As an extra, there are more volunteers to help with a single night instead of two.

On Wednesday, November 18th, a wonderful Thanksgiving dinner took place for our Vets. Forty Vets were expected and about 50 showed up. Lots of great food was served! The event was amazing, and very much appreciated by everyone there. The Veterans loved all the food and a few even took to go containers to get another piece of Turkey, stuffing, or another piece of pie.

We work well together, and it was wonderful to start the holiday season taking care of our Veterans! Thank you for the hard work and delicious food that you contributed to make this the best Thanksgiving for our Veterans.

Note of thanks!

You're all amazing! A special shout-out to Rebecca (Mom) Nohe for her love and support. I received the Christmas Tree and additional enormous box filled with kindness and generosity! I appreciate it, the Soldiers appreciate it...God Bless You All!

MAJ Shepard, EN, US Army
Becky Nohe's son, Greg



[Vermont Adaptive Ski & Sports](#) is a 501c3 nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of people with disabilities through access and instruction to recreational sports opportunities. This winter Vermont Adaptive is offering skiing, snowboarding, Nordic skiing, and snowshoeing lessons to Veterans with disabilities free of charge thanks to grant funding. This can be a lesson for someone who has never participated in winter sports, someone who is interested in a refresher, or simply a ski buddy. Lessons are structured to meet the needs of those with PTSD, Traumatic Brain Injuries, Muscle Weakness, Amputations, Visual Impairments, Spinal Cord Injuries, Burns, and any other disability as classified by the VA. The injury could have happened before, during, or after service. Groups of Veterans are welcome and Vermont Adaptive will help support the costs of food, lodging, and transportation. Contact us for help coordinating lodging and transportation for a weekend or long weekend visit. We can facilitate a variety of activities including yoga, swimming, Nordic skiing, snow shoeing, and indoor rock climbing.

Vermont Adaptive has programs at three locations: Pico Mountain, Sugarbush Resort, and Bolton Valley Resort. Please feel free to call 802-353-3178 if you have any questions.

Kelly Walsh
Northern Program Coordinator
Vermont Adaptive Ski & Sports



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

In order to receive birthday and other greetings from NY#1, please send an updated address for your military loved one to MaryJean Carlson, at maryjeancarlson@aol.com. If MaryJean does not have the information, she cannot send a card! Please include rank/title and the month and date (not the year) of your loved ones special day.

BSMA NY#1 ongoing fundraiser

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

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

The first ever Blue Star Pot Luck Dinner at the Canteen is on December 30th at 5:30PM. Contact Carol as to what you would like to bring. Her email is caroladam23@gmail.com.

The next BSMA NY#1 meeting is Saturday, January 9th at 9AM at the usual place!

Interested in contributing information for a future newsletter? The next newsletter will be published in March, 2016. 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.

