



**A GROUP OF WOMEN WITH ONE THING IN COMMON –
ALL HAVE CHILDREN SERVING IN THE MILITARY.
MARCH, 2015**

Chapter President's Letter

Happy Spring to Everyone!

I know that it has been a loooooong winter with lots of snow and cold but, with the rapid rate of melting these last few days, I think we are on the upside! Which brings us to another busy season . . . actually, I don't think we have any other kind, come to think of it. Anyway, we are going to have a clean-up day at the Canteen to spruce it up for the Help Base of the Greater Rochester Area on the 27th of March. April will be used to get ready for the annual Spaghetti Dinner which is going to be held at the Canandaigua Academy Cafeteria on May 15th from 4-8 p.m.

The next day (May 16th) is the Armed Forces Luncheon held at the Diplomat Banquet Hall in Rochester. Marianne Sernoffsky got a compensated table for us. If you would like to attend, please let me know. It is always an interesting time, the Color Guard is wonderful and as is the delicious cake from Wegmans. We will have a table there as well. If you want to help out, we would be most happy to have you.

The canteen is moving along. We had to close it a lot due to the weather this year. I really didn't want anyone having to drive on bad roads after one of our Moms skidded on black ice one night and ended up in a ditch. But, we are back, and the guys are thrilled. There are already plans afoot for our first barbeque of the season. Sounds grand to me!

We have been given an 18.5 foot, in-board, open bow fishing boat by the same gentleman who donated the Jeep last year. We already have people drooling over it. Tickets will soon be for sale (no pun intended), and we should have pictures very soon. As always, if you have a soldier who is deployed, please get us his APO/FPO address, and we will make sure he gets boxes and cards from home.

Now that the weather is better, I hope to see a lot more of you at our events and at the canteen.

Best wishes to all,
Joyce

Blue Star Mothers - 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 Conradt

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 March 14th meeting, there are 61 moms and 41 associate members.

Many military families needed holiday assistance this past year. In December, all 55 of the families asking for help were adopted and received gifts and food. People were generous, incredible, and kind. Thanks to everyone who adopted a family or helped with deliveries. Much of the food for the holiday meals for the 55 families was obtained at Aldi's and the Rochester public market. Bobbie and Angie delivered gifts and food. Two WW2 vets were thrilled to meet Angie Metcalfe in her Army uniform. One older couple in their 80's really struggles. The Chapter adopted them and will make sure they have supplies when needed. Also, we sent trees with party boxes to 6 units overseas.



February cookie sale raised funds for delegate fees for BSMA convention in August. There were plenty of heart shaped cookies for sale. They are made by Sweet Blessings Bakery in Shortsville and were sold for \$2.00 each. We get 75 cents from each cookie sold. Extra cookies will be frozen and sold at the Spaghetti Dinner in May. There are over 600 cookies in the freezer.

At the NY#1 Executive Board Meeting on Wednesday, February 11th, there was a guest speaker named Bob Helmer. He discussed a new project he is coordinating to provide housing and assistance for Vets in the Ontario County area. He is not affiliated with any government agency.

45 Valentine cookie trays delivered to VA offices/departments on February 13th.

A Stand Down for homeless Vets was held on Friday, February 13th. It was a great success. Almost 200 Vets showed up; many are homeless. The bitter cold kept a lot away. There were heaps of foods for them to eat and take home. Vets received goody bags, towels, breakfast, lunch, and snacks. A few Vets

from the Canteen attended. Former Mayor Duffy was also at the Stand Down. He remembered the Black Hawk helicopter at a poker run one year. The Stand Down in Rochester was put together by our Associate Member, Marianne Sernoffsky. Vets appreciated the event extremely.

News from Rochester *Democrat and Chronicle* on February 19th by staff writer, Sarah Taddeo:

Many U.S. memorials honor American service members lost in combat, but fewer focus on the sacrifice of the families left behind. Rochester will now honor those families with a new memorial in White Haven Memorial Park in Pittsford.

Rochester sends many service members into battle with all branches of the U.S. military, and the Gold Star Families Memorial will be a place for all family members to come to grieve or seek solace in the memory of their lost one, said Gary Beikirch, Medal of Honor recipient and chairman of the Gold Star Families Memorial of Greater Rochester committee. "Healing does not come from forgetting, it comes from remembering," Beikirch said, "and being able to trust that there are ... others around us who are there for us."

The stone memorial, which will form an open shape of a saluting service member, will signify the loss and sacrifice of military families. A portion of the memorial will list names of Rochester service members and their families from 1991 to the present. "This will serve as a remembrance that freedom is not free — it comes at a very precious price," he said.

Rochester resident Avamaria Glende, whose son Theodore M. Glende was killed in Afghanistan in 2012, said the memorial project

shines a light on just how many Rochester families have lost service members. "As a parent having lost a son, it's a devastating thing," said Glende, whose son is buried in White Haven. "You kind of disappear into the woodwork ... but this brings awareness to those families."

The monument will be adjacent to the park's All Season's Chapel, which will hopefully offer high visibility to those visiting graves or other memorials, like the Korean War memorial, in the park, said Vietnam veteran John White.

The memorial will cost around \$90,000 — part of which has already been raised by Rochester community members and veterans, White said. Construction is scheduled to begin in the spring, he said.

The Gold Star Families Memorial project was started by Medal of Honor recipient Hershel "Woody" Williams, who felt that soldiers' families should not be forgotten. The first Gold Star memorial was erected in West Virginia in 2013, and since then, a handful have popped up across the country.

To donate to the Gold Star Memorial project, send checks made out to the "Rochester Area Community Foundation" with a "Gold Star Families Memorial" memo to 500 East Avenue in Rochester.

The following was published in the February, 2015, BSMA National newsletter.

The Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. NY1 would like to make everyone aware of the honor paid to our Canandaigua Veterans Administration Hospital. Some time ago, Ellen Goosenberg Kent came to our Canandaigua VA Hospital to film the National Crisis Hotline. The Hotline went live in 2007 and has had an incredible response. One of our Mothers, Beth Olsen, who is, by profession, a Psychiatric nurse, has worked on the hotline since its inception. She was extensively interviewed by the film crew for this documentary. The work done by the people who staff this hotline is nothing short of astounding. The Hotline is staffed 24/7. We also have a Homeless Hotline, and veterans can email and text to both if they do not wish to be on the phone. Having this film win the Oscar for the best Documentary Short Film is a miracle. It will give the Hotline more visibility and hopefully attract more in-crisis veterans to call and get help. I sincerely hope that you will put this into the regular newsletter to let all our mothers

and supporters know about the hotline. We are very proud of Beth and her co-workers for the job they do and the lives that they save.

By Joyce E. Mader, President, Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. New York #1

Submitted by Carol Adamowicz - My son Sgt. Frank Adamowicz was Honorably Discharged after 6 years in the Army. He came home to Rochester, on Wednesday, March 11th. We're thrilled to have him back home. Frank was stationed in Vilseck, Germany and served with the Security Force Assistance Team in Afghanistan.



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, PNOC of KIA

Use this link to sign up <http://www.vettix.org/ref/167415>

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. Each member logs in to the page with a unique password of her/his own choosing. Members are able to edit her/his contact information securely. Membership renewals for 2015/16 will be completed online on the website. If you cannot access the “Members” page, please contact Brian at bmadder@rochester.rr.com .



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 toner cartridges from your printers. We get cash for them! Please contact Bobbie Metcalfe.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

Next meeting is Saturday, **April 11th** at 9AM at Veterans Park in E. Bloomfield.

The Spaghetti Dinner is scheduled for **May 15th** at Canandaigua Academy. Lots of help is needed for this fundraising event. Raffle items are needed as well.

May 9th is the Pine of Peace Poker Run. Sides and desserts needed as contributions from BSMA NY#1. There will be a donation jar benefitting us at this poker run. It starts at 12 noon at American Legion Post #428 in Ontario.

Armed Forces Day luncheon at the Diplomat Party House is **May 16th**.

A Garage Sale at the Canteen is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, **June 5th and June 6th**. No mattresses or computer items will be accepted for re-sale. Clothing and books are big sellers.

There will be a Blue Star Riders Poker Run on **June 14th**.

June 20th is the Hannibal American Legion Poker Run.

Blue Star Mother National Convention is **August 4-8th** in Cleveland. At this time, we may have 5 delegates.

The Third Annual Memorial Poker Run for Danny Metcalfe is scheduled for **August 15, 2015**. Winning ticket drawn for the donated 18.5 foot boat. Stay tuned for updates.

The Blue Star Rider Fall Poker Run will be **September 20th**.

The Gold Star Family Memorial at White Haven Cemetery should be completed and dedicated in September. At the March meeting, NY#1 decided and voted to make a donation to this memorial. Please read article on page 3.

Interested in contributing information for a future newsletter? The next newsletter will be published in June, 2015. 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.

