



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

Chapter President's Letter

Dear Everyone,

Welcome to September! It has been a very busy summer and I know everyone is looking forward to the quietness of Autumn.....maybe.

Our September Chapter meeting will be the Third week of September as many could not make the second week. In October we will go back to the second Saturday of the month. We will be meeting at the usual place which is the Veterans Park building at 6910 Routes 5 and 20 in Bloomfield, New York, from 9-11AM. Lunch at Eric's Office will follow the meeting. I hope to see everyone there.

We are hosting a brunch for the Blue Star Riders on September 20th at the Canteen. Linda will be notifying everyone about what we need to feed the crowd. The Riders are expecting about 100 bikes so it will be a big one. We can use all the help we can get! Come and participate. It is always a good time, plus you get to try Linda's Cheesy Potatoes if there are any leftover.

Things get quieter after that -- the next major event will be the Light of Love Christmas Event. Val can always use help planning and setting up so please let her know if you would like to be on the committee. This is always held the Sunday afternoon of Thanksgiving weekend.

We will be doing Holidays for Heroes again this year so, if you have any addresses of deployed soldiers, please make sure that Bobbie gets them. We will also be doing family adoptions, and I am hopeful that the newspaper will actually publish our letter this year. We ended up doing 55 families last year just by word of mouth and a mighty thank you to everyone who participated! We had a blast doing it.

In the midst of all these events and doings, we need to remember all our troops who are deployed. The wars may be out of the newspaper for the time being, but our children are still being deployed to danger zones and need our backup. Our Veterans need our support as they struggle to readapt to everyday living. We have new families who are experiencing, for the very first time, a child who has chosen to go into service to their country and what that entails. Keep all of them in your prayers and in your hearts, please. I thank each and every one of you for all that you do to help give our troops the love and support they need as they serve our great nation.

Happy Halloween in advance,

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 Haynes

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 September 19th meeting, there are 61 moms and 44 associate members.

Canteen News

During past summers, it was difficult to get people to sign up for meals and to get volunteers to serve those meals. Starting with the first week of July, we went to Wednesday nights only. The plan was to revert back to the regular schedule Monday and Friday schedule when September arrives.

Newsflash! For the foreseeable future, the Canteen will only be open on Wednesdays. It is harder and harder to find people to commit to making meals plus having different crews on Mondays and Fridays was disruptive. We are one Chapter. Being open one day a week draws us together, simplifies the meals, and allows us to regain closeness with each other. Most of the Vets are happy with this decision; it gives them something to look forward to and breaks up the week. A few are having a harder time with it but, hopefully, they will adjust.

Lastly, if you volunteer for a shift at the Canteen and you cannot be there, you must find someone to replace you. Also, if you get clothing for the Vets, please leave the clothing rooms neat and orderly!

Convention

Blue Star Mother National Convention was **August 4-8th** in Cleveland. This year was a great convention, and we had a wonderful time. A lot of business was transacted. Judy Dorsey was re-elected President. Cindy McCain, wife of Senator McCain, was the guest speaker, as she is our National Spokesperson as well as a Blue Star Mom of two. One of her sons suffers from PTSD. We gave her a cookbook and invited her to come to visit the Canteen when she is free (she is booked till November). She is a warm, friendly person and interested in the Crisis Hotline. We invited her to visit the Crisis Hotline center. Hopefully, the goodwill that came out at this convention will prove to be a long lasting effect, and the whole organization will benefit from it. The NY#1 sale table did well.

Poker Run on August 15th at the Palmyra Moose Lodge

Lots of BBQ hamburgers were premade, reheated in ovens, and put on hamburger rolls. (Rolls donated by Joanne and Jim Acquilano from DiPaolo's Bakery). Large quantities of sides, fresh fruits and veggies, and lastly, desserts all contributed to yet another wonderful meal for which BSMA NY#1 is known. Unfortunately, there were several other Poker Runs this day resulting in low attendance and low earnings for our cause. Money from this Poker Run goes into the holiday for hero fund to help with Christmas for needy families. Bobbie Metcalfe is especially appreciative for all the help as this annual Poker Run honors her nephew killed in the line of duty overseas.

Pictured below is Frank Adamowicz, Carol's son. He received a Quilt of Gratitude from the Veterans Day Ceremony at the New York State Fair on Thursday, September 3, 2015.



Blue Star Rider Poker Run on September 20th

This was very well attended; they ate like heroes!! Linda did a fantastic job, as usual. Nearly all the pizzas were gone as was the fruit, French toast, sausages, and potatoes. We had plenty of bagels, mini-muffins, Tim bits and homemade cookies. Juice, water, soda, and coffee rounded everything out. A good time was had by all. Set up and clean up went smoothly. Our tip jar garnered 65.00 for the general fund.



Canandaigua VA Hospital rep needed and found!

We were looking for a BSMA NY#1 member to become our VAVS representative at the Canandaigua VA Hospital. The VAVS rep volunteers time and attends Veterans Advisory Board meetings at the VA. This rep also needs to be accredited by our National VAVS Rep. Anne Parker, BSM from South Carolina. Our former VAVS rep, Ann Wido, served for many years, but she was never accredited and is no longer available due to illness. The need for VAVS

accreditation was discovered at convention. Our Chapter member, Ellie Ramsey of California, is currently a California VAVS Rep for two years now. Our new VAVS rep is Nancy Bardeen. Thank you, Ann, for past service. Thank you, Nancy, for expressing interest in this opportunity. We are now the only Chapter with bi-coastal representatives! By the way, anyone can volunteer to visit VA patients and send cards.

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 or your military loved one to Correspondence Secretary, MaryJean Carlson, at maryjeancarlson@aol.com. If MaryJean does not have the information, she cannot send a card! From January through August, 2015, MaryJean sent only 36 greetings which is a small number for a Chapter of our size! 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!

Help homeless in the Buffalo area!

On Tuesday, September 22nd, from 10AM to 4PM at the Buffalo Niagara Convention Center, a wide range of free services will be offered including haircuts, medical and dental services, legal services, housing opportunities, and employment services. Free lunch, giveaways, and personal care bags are also offered. Spread the word!

Sportsman's Raffle sponsored by Ontario American Legion Post 428

October 3rd at 6180 Knickerbocker Road in Ontario from 1-4 PM – call 315-524-9542 for more details.

The next NY#1 Chapter meeting is Saturday, October 10th. It will be at the Veterans Park building, where we always meet, at 9-11AM with lunch to follow at Eric's Office. Elections will be held at this meeting. Please do try to attend!

Military Family Information Day is November 7th from 10AM to 2PM. This event will be held at I-Square located at 400 Bakers Park in Rochester. RSVP by calling 585-350-7272. It is sponsored by BSMA NY#8.

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

