



A GROUP OF WOMEN WITH ONE THING IN COMMON —
ALL HAVE CHILDREN SERVING IN THE MILITARY.
MARCH, 2021

Chapter President's Letter

Dear Everyone,

Things seem to be looking up from a vaccine point of view. I hope that you have been able to acquire appointments. It's nice to look forward to a semi normal existence once again.

In spite of the pandemic, we have been carrying on the mission as best we could. We have been doing a weekly meal for Cadence Square, a once-a-month sub meal for Eagle Star and a holiday meal for Liberty Village. Terrence does the distribution for us at Cadence, and he also cooks once a month with supplies from our storage. Thus, reducing the number of meals that someone else has to cook. From 4 or 5 to two or three. Please do let Linda Green know if you can make a meal. It would be a blessing to all of us. It breaks down into two 9 x13 casserole pans, should you make a casserole, and the same with dessert. We are feeding 20 people at Cadence. Please consider doing this and helping out. Go together with a friend where one cooks the meal and one makes the dessert. Bobbie and I do this and it will lighten the load.

We are hoping to get Keith Metcalfe to finish up the upstairs room at the canteen so we can get our clothing organized and we still need to have a cleaning of the whole downstairs. We are awaiting word from the state as to when we can re-open. I am hoping at least June. Please keep your fingers crossed.

There is not much to say. It has been very quiet but I would bet that many closets got cleaned as well as basements and garages. So, we have to open soon as there is nothing left to straighten up.

Enjoy our currently beautiful weather. Spring is on the way. The deer are already checking out how to nibble our crocuses and early tulips. The more things change, the more they stay the same!

Happy Spring,

Joyce



Results from elections held on October 12, 2019

Blue Star Mothers - New York #1 Elected Executive Board for 2019-2021

Due to Covid-19, no elections held for 2020-2021. All Board members serve a 2nd year.

President – Joyce Mader

1st Vice President – Nancy Bardeen

2nd Vice President – Sally Fritz

3rd Vice President – Valerie Haynes

4th Vice President – Linda Green

Recording Secretary – Jean Burlingame

Financial Secretary/Membership Chair - Bobbie Metcalfe

Treasurer/Budget – Beth Olson

The following positions are appointed.

Corresponding Secretary – shared by Jean Burlingame and Bobbie Metcalfe

Chaplain – Nancy Bardeen

Historian – OPEN

Parliamentarian - OPEN

Patriotic Instructor – OPEN

Sgt. at Arms – Donna Strelow

WebMaster – Brian Mader

As of March 12, 2021, there are 37 moms and 39 associate members.

Please keep in your prayers all those with COVID-19 and all those who care for them.

Thank you to all essential workers for your service during this time. Many belong to Blue Star Mothers NY #1 and many have children who are essential! A BIG THANK YOU!

Due to Covid, in person chapter meetings were put on hold in December. Our Board now meets by text and our chapter is brought up to date by the recording secretary in emails and USPS mail. We are even able to have the chapter vote on motions by email so we can continue our mission.

We did some housekeeping by going through several boxes of years of documentation on our chapter's history. NY 1's Financial Secretary scanned all of the information to memory cards. Then NY 1's Recording Secretary copied the data from the memory cards to flash drives. This

enables us to save our chapter history with back-up. The chapter financial secretary, will keep the memory cards and the chapter recording secretary will keep the back-up flash drives. This has enabled us to be rid of boxes of paperwork and retain our records in a safe electronic manner.

We make an effort to get Veterans without transportation to grocery stores. We donated all the turkeys and trimmings for the Veterans at Eagle Star, Liberty Village and Cadence Square, as well as the Community Living Center, for Thanksgiving and Christmas. We aided a Veteran with 5 children with food from the canteen supplies.

NY Chapter 1 supplies the Veterans at the Community Living Center with personal products in conjunction with the Senior Chaplain at the VA. We have also supplied some of their new residents with clothing. NY1 was able to supply the Veterans at Cadence Square with brand new Polartec blankets and we have supplied winter coats, boots, scarves, gloves and hats to Veterans in need.

NY1 sent gift bags, trees, and packages to 13 units in Baghdad. We have taken care of a female Veteran and her 2 year old son, who have now moved into Cadence Square, with clothing, food, furniture, and bedding. We gave the Female Veterans and the few Veteran wives, a Valentine's basket, supplied by one of our Mothers, filled with Mary Kay items.

We managed to get a sled for the children of Veterans, who live at Cadence Square, so they could enjoy the snow this winter. We gave Christmas gifts from the Chapter to all the Veterans in Eagle Star, Liberty Village and Cadence Square. One of our Moms works with Toys for Tots and they gave the children in Cadence Square and Liberty Village toys for Christmas.

We gave grocery cards to 69 Veteran families for Christmas. We found people in our community to adopt 38 families in need and supply them with Christmas gifts and a gift card to buy either a ham or a turkey for the holidays. NY Chapter 1 adopted a family of 4 for Christmas.

A nearby military family lost their Father in a helicopter crash in Mendon during a training exercise. Two other single, National Guardsmen also lost their lives in the crash. NY1 made a donation for the married serviceman's family in a fund set up for them. We gave each of the 4 children a Build-a-Bear military teddy dressed in fatigues and a blanket especially made for the children by a chapter member. Our chapter also sent condolences to all three families and the National Guard Unit.



It was a difficult year for us to find a new home for the only Blue Star Canteen in the nation. We are still waiting on a closing date on the house on Foster Street. NY Chapter 1, managed to keep on working on behalf of our Troops, Veterans, and Gold Star Families, the best they could manage during hard times and a worldwide pandemic.

The Big Dipper is an auxiliary, on the national, department, and chapter level of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. A portion of department & chapter Big Dipper dues go to the national Big Dipper annually just as a portion of our membership fees go to national. Each year at the national convention, the Big Dipper does a silent auction fundraiser, and then award educational scholarships to our military, veterans, and their families through applications. When the 2020 convention was canceled, Big Dipper lost their fundraising opportunity. They came up with a new fundraiser. They put a notice in the national newsletter asking people to

purchase signature squares for two quilts that will be auctioned off at the next national convention. One quilt has a red, white, and blue theme, while the other has a purple, green, and yellow theme. Members of the Big Dipper will assemble the squares and finish the quilts. They will earn \$20 for each square plus the amount raised when they auction the quilts off. Our CEB felt it important to support the Big Dipper's efforts to offer educational assistance and voted to purchase a red, white, and blue square to represent our chapter. Instead of writing a chapter name on the square, Jean Burlingame cross-stitched the chapter name and the date.

Another auxiliary of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., is the Gavel Club. Membership in the Gavel Club is limited to Past National Presidents (PNPs) and is a tradition that goes back decades. The oldest member is 95 and lives in Michigan. The Gavel Club supports a chosen charity each year by bringing small items to the national convention, wrapped in brown paper, to sell as "parcel post" items at \$2 each. The convention attendees love this sale and the fun of picking one of the packages to discover what they bought. The Gavel Club also has a silent auction at the national

convention banquet. They usually take in around \$300 for the parcel post and \$1500 at the auction. The entire amount contributed is sent to that year's chosen charity. In the past, the Gavel Club has supported Folds of Honor, Scents for Soldiers, and Paws of War. It is tradition that PNPs continue the work they did when national presidents with a project they champion. The Gavel Club helps PNPs continue to carry on the finest traditions of Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. Thanks to Jean Burlingame for this information as a PNP!

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.

As of February, 2021, the furniture pick-up and delivery teams of Dick Metcalfe and Brian Mader have made their last run. They will no longer pick-up or deliver any furniture. If a Vet requests furniture, they can contact the Salvation Army and will need to make their own arrangements for delivery. **Thank you**, Dick and Brian, for your selfless service to New York Chapter 1 through the years.

Recently, Canandaigua National Bank, where Linda Green, our Hospitality VP works had a dress down day. Employees paid \$5 so they could wear jeans to work. They raised \$505; all donated to the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc. New York #1!!! Many, many thanks to CNB personnel for their generosity!!

Please change your email account for Linda Green. She can no longer receive emails at her work account so please send them to lkgreen@frontier.com

UPCOMING EVENTS

Next meeting is scheduled for the second Saturday of the month (to be determined!) at Veterans Park at 9AM!

Spring, 2021, a chicken BBQ fundraiser is planned. Date to be determined.

Another BBQ fundraiser is in the works as well. We hope to have Sticky Lips provide the food and are looking into this.



Ongoing BSMA NY#1 Fundraisers

New RED (Remember Everyone Deployed) t-shirts available. Design is on the back.

Window car clings are available for all military branches.

Contact Bobbie at 585-200-0121 for more information on other items and to order.

Keep collecting those used cell phones and toner cartridges from your printers. Also, any scrap metal, wire, old stoves, refrigerators, or other metal items are needed. We get cash for them! Please contact Bobbie Metcalfe.

Buy a Brick Fundraiser was introduced by Joanne at the January, 2016, meeting. Bricks cost \$50 and a duplicate brick is \$35. Bricks will be placed in the Patriot Garden around the flag poles at the Blue Star Canteen. The 4" by 8" brick in Regimental Red is etched through a laser process.

Got questions? Contact Sally at salfriz.2@gmail.com. Information on this fundraiser is available at <http://thatsmybrick.com/bluestarmothersny1>.

Interested in contributing information for a future newsletter? The next newsletter will be published in June, 2021; the deadline is the 15th of the month. 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. This newsletter is also available on the website address noted above under the "About Us" menu tab.



Be an active member, the kind that would be missed;
Don't just be contented that your name is on the list.
Do attend the meetings and mingle with the crowd;
Don't stay at home and crab both long and loud.
Don't leave the work for just a few and gripe about the clique.
Do take time out to visit a member who is sick.
There is quite a program scheduled that means success, if done,
And it can be accomplished with the help of everyone.
So attend the meetings regularly and help with hand and heart;
Be an active member and take an active part.
Think this over, member; are we right or are we wrong?
Be an active member, please, don't just belong.