



IN A MILITARY FAMILY, WE ALL SERVE!

SEPTEMBER, 2024

Chapter President's Letter

Dear Everyone,

Happy Autumn to all of you (It was official on 21 September). The weather has been great and not humid which is always a plus!

We had our Late Summer Party (formerly known as the Tailgate Party). The weather cleared up and we had a nice turnout. We did our own food stand as there were so many other events in the area that there were no food trucks to be had. Geoff Hallstead ran the grill and did a great job. The Star of the show was Bobbie Metcalfe who did the legwork, dealt with the vendors, etc. and took care of the advertising. She did a wonderful job, and I am thankful for all her efforts. We saw a lot of old friends and made a lot of new friends, and we did not get blown to Oz even though the wind tried. My thanks to everyone who took time out of their week-end to help make it a success. We are very grateful!

We had elections in September this year and maintained all the usual officers except for a new addition. Peg McCarthy, our long-distance member and Recording Secretary, left her position to spend more time with her family. She is a wonderful friend and Sister, and we will miss her. She said she will still help and stay in touch so that made us happier. Our new Recording Secretary is Joanne Acquilano, a long-time member. She graciously agreed to step in and take over, and the Board is thankful. She even brought her adorable granddaughter, Mia (8 months) to the information session, and we had baby day while Joann learned the ropes.

We are gearing up for the annual Holiday for Heroes. The list has grown, and we look forward to assisting all of the families and mailing all our boxes to our deployed troops. We have also taken on the Vets who live in Eagle Star in Genesee County (which we cover). Most of them are quite poor and in need of help. Our friend, Marianne Sernoffsky, works there now and she got in touch some weeks ago to see if we could help them out.

I hope that you enjoy the newsletter that MaryAgnes puts out. We have a photo taken at Shoot for Soldiers of a soon to be 100-year-old WW2 Vet, James Foy. He is the last surviving soldier of the American troops in the Battle of the Bulge. He has been presented by the French with the Croix de Guerre and wears it proudly.

I hope we will see more of you at our every third Wednesday dinners. We always have a good time and a good meal!

Yours in Service,
Joyce



As of August 25th, there are 24 Moms and 28 associate members in NY#1.

Results from elections held on September 14, 2024

Blue Star Mothers – New York #1 Elected Executive Board for 2024-2025

President – Joyce Mader

1st Vice President – Linda Green

2nd Vice President – Valerie Haynes

Recording Secretary – Joanne Acquilano

Financial Secretary and Membership Chair – Bobbie Metcalfe

Treasurer – Fran Gallahan

The following positions are appointed.

Corresponding Secretary – shared by Jean Burlingame and Bobbie Metcalfe

Chaplain – Jean Burlingame

Historian – Jane Hallstead

Parliamentarian – Peg McCarthy

Patriotic Instructor – Ann Wido

Sgt. At Arms – Becky Nohe



Shootout for Soldiers on July 27-28

We had a very good time at the Shootout for Soldiers. There was a table right up front, a tent cover, and a great breeze. Thanks to Bobbie, Becky, Rosie, Deb Lamphier and Cathy Post for providing a delectable array of baked goods! Thanks to Becky and Rosie for helping at the table. We met two WW2 Vets and a Korean Vet who does ground crew for the Honor Flights because he said he needs the action! Jane and Geoff worked their hearts out as did all the other volunteers. Our deepest thanks go out to them for organizing this event. A most enjoyable day with warm weather!

One of the WW2 Vets was James Foy, who is 99 years old pictured below with Joyce and Rosie. He turns 100 on November 1st and is sharp as a tack! He was presented with the Croix de Guerre fifteen years ago by the French President (War Cross) Which is worn at the neck. He is the last surviving soldier of the Battle of the Bulge in during WW2. It was a great pleasure to meet him. He has been to the D-Day Celebration in France.



National Convention July 29th to August 2nd

Jean Burlingame extends thanks for sending her to the national convention. Jean looks forward to attending the 2025 Convention and hopes many from NY#1 will attend.

On the first day three memorial services were held. One was the national memorial service for our military and Blue Star Mothers. The 2nd memorial service brought attention to the table of Blue Daisys. The Blue Daisys are the Mothers who have passed away since our last convention. There were Photos and a write up on each one. The third ceremony honored Gold Star Mothers who were at the convention. Each branch of the military was represented by a Mother as the flag of her child was brought in and posted. Lastly, our POW/MIA's were honored with the Table for One.

Convention spent 3 days on the governing documents and governing documents for the Big Dipper. Jean attended most of the governing document sessions. It was awesome to hear many chapter delegates step up to the microphone to debate document proposals. Most proposals were re-worded to accommodate the variety of intelligent reasons for or against. Past National Presidents sat at a head table along with Department Presidents. Jean enjoyed listening as they considered proposals and the effect each would have on departments.

Jean met Colonel Abigail Ruscetta, Commander 72nd Air Base Wing, Tinker Air Force Base. Brilliant speaker! She compared today to 1939, explaining about the readiness of our Air Force during today's unstable times.

National Officers were elected. National elected and appointed officers were duly installed. National Big Dipper Officers were elected and installed. National Big Dipper elected and appointed officers were duly installed.

Gavel Club Officers were elected after the convention in September. Gavel Club elected and appointed officers were duly installed. Gavel Club membership is for PNP's.

Tailgate fundraiser on September 7th

Though a windy day at the Canteen, Geoff H cooked burgers and hots instead of everyone eating from food trucks which increased BSMA NY#1 revenue for the day. There were about 60 awesome raffle baskets with contents ranging from miscellaneous Bills paraphernalia to coffee to children's toys to a suitcase, and even an autographed Bills photo! About a dozen vendors on the side parking lot selling candles, baked goods, lots of homemade items, and tons of military stuff! The baked goods contest saw many delicious entries! Unfortunately, the chili contest had only one entry made by Bobbie, but the chili was sold for \$1 a cup to rave reviews as it sold out!

There were great judges in the Mayor of Canandaigua City Bob Palumbo, Bob Green and Brian Mader. Geoff handled the grill like a pro, making up hot dogs, hamburgers and hamburgers with cheese. Cliff Wiley was on hand to lend assistance as needed and Josh Allen floated gently on the front lawn!

Thanks to Bobbie, Dick Metcalfe, Brian Mader, Stephen Mader, Becky, Rosie, Fran and her very sweet cousin, Cliff, Carol Adamowicz, MaryAgnes and her friend Bob, Geoff and Jane Hallstead, Wesley, Linda and Bob Green. We pulled it off in spite of the competition of other events. Thanks for all the generous donations of baskets. We had some wonderful gifts for the baskets and everyone who won something was very happy.

Many, many thanks to Bobbie Metcalfe for all her hard work organizing and getting the party to fruition! She did a stellar job and it was a spectacular party!!!

Check out the pictures below!



Vendor tents



Chef Goeff and the Baked Goods Contest



Raffle baskets!

On September 21, NY#1 had a table at the Support Our Veterans 60 for 60 held on Mohawk Run road in Cicero, NY.



Canteen News

Canteen is in need of belts for the Vets and always needs volunteers for cleaning and organizing! State Assemblyman for our District, Jeff Gallahan, awarded us a grant, at his discretion, of Fifty Thousand Dollars for repairs to the Canteen. We will know more this coming month. In the meantime, Veterans Contractor Services is donating new windows with installation to the house and a brand-new roof! The dumpster company they use is even donating the dumpster. This should happen next week all in one day. Also, Curtis Shuttleworth and his associates have given us a beautiful new driveway that only cost 6 of Bobbie's apple pies!

Important Upcoming Dates

Gold Star Mother's Day is September 29th.

October 16th – Dinner at the Canteen for the Veterans!

On November 20th, we serve our Veterans a Thanksgiving meal! Many side dishes are needed. Call Linda G to help with either meal!

Farmington Am Vets hosting 2 dinners for women Veterans. The first was July 10th and the second is November 13th. Both will be at Mertensia Lodge in Farmington.

Date for next year's Chicken BBQ fundraiser is already set for May 17, 2025 at a new location on County Road 7! The plan is for pre-sale meal tickets.

Fundraiser and Craft Fair is scheduled for May 31, 2025 with a new location as well. This will not be a "tailgate" fundraiser, but will include raffle baskets!

BSMA NY#1 Ongoing Fundraisers

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.

Interested in contributing information for a future newsletter? The next newsletter will be published in December, 2024; 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.

