



**A group of women with one thing in common –  
all have children serving in the military.  
DECEMBER, 2019/JANUARY, 2020**

***Chapter President's Letter***

Dear Everyone,

Happy New Year! I hope all had a good holiday season. As usual, The Chapter season was very busy with our Holiday for Heroes project. This year we were able to assist 62 families with incredible help from our Community, Toys for Tots, etc. Everyone working together was amazing!! Thank you to everyone.

We are moving into the winter now and hoping for some quiet time. We should have word on the cookie events shortly. Our VA cookie delivery has grown almost too big to handle and so we are looking at how to proceed in the future. The good news is that the VA has added so many new departments to care for our Veterans but that creates a larger entity for us to thank. I should have some information soon on how to proceed.

Our front porch is relatively clean now since some of us took time to sort through EVERYTHING on the porch. We have a great number of bags for Marianne Sernoffsky to give out to her female veterans and their children. We just have to get them to her in Rochester. Cliff is taking all the goods that cannot be used by us to the migrant shelter and Catholic Charities in Wayne County. This way we are able to help other people in need. We now have to find a home for everything in the upstairs of the Canteen. Everything is sorted and marked as to size so we just need people to help straighten up.

Linda and Sally, between them, have meals for the Canteen sourced until March. If you would like to make a meal or help make a meal, call either one of them or e-mail. Sally is currently recovering from knee replacement surgery but is still able to take calls.

We now have a small bookshelf for new and used books for the vets to borrow or take and it has become popular. Some of them are very avid readers and find it a blessing.

Amy Peek, the Mother of a female Veteran, has donated an incredible number of handmade hats, with scarves and gloves, for us to hand out. This was very generous of her. They are

bagged up and in the big containers in the living room. We have gotten more coats but are in need of boots in the 10, 10 ½, 11, and 11 1/2 size range. If you have any please consider donating them to us.

I hope that we will have a wonderful year. As always, I ask that you keep our active duty troops in your prayers until they are safely back with us. Pray for our veterans who are struggling to return to a normal life and for the military families that wait for all.

Joyce

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### **Results from elections held on October 12, 2019**

#### **Blue Star Mothers - New York #1 Elected Executive Board for 2019-2020**

President – Joyce Mader

1<sup>st</sup> Vice President – Nancy Bardeen

2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President – Sally Fritz

3<sup>rd</sup> Vice President – Valerie Haynes

4<sup>th</sup> 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 January 12, 2020, there are 34 moms and 31 associate members.

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Bowling for Veterans held on Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at Roseland Bowl. Raffles, food, bowling, fun! Deb Lamphier worked hard on our final Bowling For Vets. Deb did an amazing job and had fabulous prizes plus raffles! Thank you, Deb, to you and your family for organizing the event and also bowling. Damien Metcalfe was the family representative for the memorial SFC. Dan Metcalfe bowling party.

The annual Thanksgiving dinner at the Canteen on Wednesday, 11/20, was an amazing success! One young Vet said it was the best ever! Thanks to everyone (cooks, clean up, bakers, servers, set up, dish washers, and organizers) from all the Veterans for a delicious meal! There were 43 people in attendance and many take outs.

Light of Love on Sunday, December 1, 2019, was cancelled due to bad weather. Light of Love for 2020 is already scheduled for December 6<sup>th</sup> of this year at the VA in Canandaigua; mark your calendar!

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The December meeting was cancelled in order that members could assist with wreath laying on Veterans graves at Sampson military cemetery with Wreaths Across America. Joyce Mader, Beth Olson, and Jean Burlingame were going to attend, but were unable to participate due to the bad weather. Since only three were willing to attend the ceremony, there was no cause to cancel the December meeting.



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At the end of January, 2020, Jean Burlingame and Beth Olson will represent BSMA and meet with Congressman Tom Reed in Naples Town Meeting regarding a three-digit number for the Veterans Suicide Hotline.

If you ordered a BSMA NY#1 shirt and have not received it yet, please contact Bobbie Metcalfe. If you have not paid for your shirt, please make payment to the chapter, and send it immediately to Bobbie.

Recently there was a potentially dangerous situation involving a civilian at the Canteen. Please do not confront people involved in unsafe situations while at the Canteen. If a situation arises at the Canteen, dial 394-2000, tell the operator you need the VA police, and you will be connected. The VA Police will handle the situation.

During the meeting on January 11<sup>th</sup>, PNP Jean Burlingame spoke about Project Linus. This involves making handmade blankets for children in need. There are many patterns for sewn, knitted, crocheted, & quilted blankets on the Project Linus website as well as several places to take the blankets for distribution. You can even bring blankets to a NY#1 chapter meeting! Jean hopes that you find this project as heartwarming as she does. For more info, please contact Jean.

**Heart/Valentine** cookie sale again this year! The cookies will be coming on February 4<sup>th</sup> (for the first 500) and then the second batch on the following Monday which is February 10<sup>th</sup>. If anyone is able to come to the Canteen and help, we will be wrapping cookies in baggies at 10AM on both days for delivery purposes



#### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Next meeting is February 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020, at Veterans Park at 9AM.**

Date already set! December 6, 2020 is the Light of Love at the Canandaigua VA.

#### 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](mailto:salfriz.2@gmail.com). Information on this fundraiser is available at <http://thatsmybrick.com/bluestarmothersny1>.

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Interested in contributing information for a future newsletter? The next newsletter will be published in March, 2020; the deadline is the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Please send MaryAgnes (mother of two Marines and godmother of a Soldier) an email at [mamcavoy@aol.com](mailto:mamcavoy@aol.com) should you wish to submit information. Please do check our website [www.bluestarmothersny1.org](http://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.

