



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

Chapter President's Letter

Dear Everyone,

Happy summer! It has been a busy one so far but things should settle down soon. We have had a very successful garage sale even with the rain. It is amazing what kind of stuff floats! We can now walk in the cellar of the Canteen....something we have not been able to do for nearly two years!

This Sunday we are having the Blue Star Riders Poker Run to lunch. They asked for lunch so that they could spend more time with the Blue Star Mothers! They are very generous to us and we are immensely grateful to them for all they do for our soldiers and vets.

The good news is that our Poker Run in August is still on. There was a glitch in uploading the flyer and the accidental cancellation of the run but, rest assured, it is still going to happen on August 15th, 2015 at the Palmyra Moose Lodge. Linda Green will let everyone know what food is needed, and I hope we will have a great turnout.

Then, other than the usual Mondays and Fridays at the Canteen, things should be relatively quiet till September when we will resume our regular Chapter meetings. A new project is going to be discussed as well as a presentation and explanation of a by-law change by our Maryland member, Peg McCarthy.

Till then, enjoy your summer vacation and the wonderful weather. Keep our soldiers and veterans in your prayers. Each and every day they pay the dues to keep our Nation independent. Their sacrifices show us that the cost of Freedom is very high but all agree that it is a worthwhile cause. Our love and thanks to them.

Yours in Service,

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 Conratt

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 April 11th meeting, there are 62 moms and 47 associate members.

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.* Renewals should be completed by August 31st for all members and associates. If you cannot access the "Members" page, please contact Brian at bmadder@rochester.rr.com.

Meals needed for our Vets at the Canteen. If you can help make a meal for a Monday or Friday, please contact Linda Green.

In case you missed the April National BSMA issue, please see below!

Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc., New York Chapter # 1 –“ Pride of Ontario County” would like to give you a brief overview of the Blue Star Canteen and what we do to aid our soldiers and veterans in New York State. The Blue Star Canteen is now seven years old. It is located on the grounds of the Canandaigua, New York, Veterans Administration Hospital outside of Rochester, New York in the Finger Lakes Region. It is the only canteen in the nation since the end of the Korean War and we are very proud of it. We lease the 130 year old white farmhouse from the VA. We had to go to the Director of Veterans Affairs in Washington, D.C. to get permission to do this but our VA Director, Craig Howard, believed in our idea and got us all the support that we needed. Our Grand Opening was in September of 2007. More recently, we had a full scale redo of the house by The Home Depot, nearly all of whom were veterans. It looks incredible and we are very proud of it. We finally have a weather safe front porch and a very unique mural over the inside front door. We bring in a hot meal twice a week for the vets and we also bring in food for the Poker Runs that are held by various motorcycle groups who, in turn, support our endeavors. As a result, we figure we serve about 4500 meals in the course of a year. We also run a clothing closet with newer used clothing, shoes, etc. We were able to support 200 homeless veterans recently at a Military Stand Down, in the city of Rochester, with clothing, two meals, snack bags and comfort bags. We were recently able to supply an additional 70 comfort bags for the Veterans Outreach Center Homeless Program. We also have a food pantry. This is for vets who are moving out on their own and need some food to tide them over till they get their financial support and food stamps to get their own groceries. Our Chapter is proud to do all this and more for our military past and present. This is Mama's house.

May 9th was the Pines of Peace Poker Run at American Legion Post #428 in Ontario. In spite of the heat that day, we had a great time. The food, as always, was fabulous. There was enough leftover food for the Pines of Peace patients. The Riders generously donated \$200.00 to BSMA NY#1 for their help. Over \$1,000 was donated to Pines of Peace from the American Legion Post.

I just want the Blue Star Mothers, Chapter #1, to know how amazing I think you are. The food provided was some of the best I have ever had and the DESSERTS were awesome!!!
The support given to the Ontario Legion was very much appreciated and it helped their first poker run be a huge success. Again, thank you from Pines of Peace!

Sherry Verstraete, Executive Director
Pines of Peace Comfort Care Home

The Spaghetti Dinner on **May 15th** was not well attended event. 97 dinners were sold. There were wonderful baskets and amazing raffle prizes. The Bake Sale table was loaded with delicious goods and heart cookies, but customers were lacking. The sauce and meatballs were delicious. My thanks especially the Lions Club who were fantastic and greatly appreciated! Having the Spaghetti Dinner this late in the season worked against us as we competed with many festivals and sporting events. In September, we should discuss a possible change in venue and menu. Leftover food was donated to Richards House, via Marianne Sernoffsky; the Vets living there could enjoy dinner. Congratulations to all who won baskets. Jerry and Nancy Lamb won the 50-50; they donated it back to us; heartfelt thanks to them for their kindness. Thanks to everybody who helped and made things go smoothly.

A local Girl Scout Troop, Jill Smith from the VA is the leader, donated a Serenity Garden for the Canteen. This is very generous of them and will be used to honor all our Veterans, past and present. The bench and garden was installed the evening of Wednesday, **May 27th**. There are planter pots which have two miniature pine trees in them. The Girl Scouts also planted annuals in our stars next to the bench as well as placed paving stones that they made for us.

Bench Project



Our Garage Sale was June 5-6 at the Canteen with set up on June 4th. The large tents set up in case of rain and to cover the stuff at night were wonderful! The rain was very WET, but we carried on! Partial estates from both Kathy Conradt and Rosie Asproules were included in the sale. We had a good crowd and sold a lot of stuff. All leftover items are going for scrap, being recycled, or packed up for the St. Mary's sale in August. Thank-you everyone for making the sale great and especially for all who helped set up and take down. It was a huge amount of work and Bobbie Metcalfe, Chairperson, did a wonderful job. Dorothy did an excellent job of getting the word out. THE FRONT PORCH IS NEARLY CLEANED OFF AGAIN AND THE BASEMENT IS EMPTY!

On June 8th, we had a small Farewell for the retiring Craig Howard who is the former Director of the VA. Craig is the man responsible for making our dream come true seven years ago by allowing us to create the Canteen.

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!

There is a Job Fair on **June 13th** at the American Legion/VFW on Rt. 31 in Palmyra. BSMA NY#1 will have a table there.

Valor Day Rochester on Saturday, 13 JUNE 2015

9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Monroe Community College

Warshoff Conference Center and Empire Room

A FREE event for ALL Veterans, Active Duty or Reserve Service Members and Immediate Family

- Website: <https://sites.google.com/site/rocvalorday/>
- Email: RocValorDay@gmail.com
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/437624749757451/>
- Twitter: <https://twitter.com/RocValorDay>

There will be a Blue Star Riders Poker Run on **June 14th**. Lunch will be served. Donations of desserts and salads needed. About 100 riders are expected. We will serve hot dogs and hamburgers. If you can help, please email Linda at lkgreen@frontier.com.

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 6 delegates plus Joyce Mader and Jean Burlingame.

The Third Annual Memorial Poker Run for Danny Metcalfe is scheduled for **August 15, 2015**. Stay tuned for updates.

Next meeting is the 2nd Saturday of **September** at 9AM at Veterans Park in E. Bloomfield.

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.

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

