



IN A MILITARY FAMILY, WE ALL SERVE!

MARCH, 2025

Chapter President's Letter

Happy March to all of you! We've celebrated St. David's Day (wear a leek or a daffodil), St. Patrick's Day (Four Leaf clovers are a must!), International Women's Day (YAY), as well as the Ides of March, the less said about that, the better. (I am sure Julius Caesar would frown.)

It is also Brian finished the canteen kitchen day!! It looks amazing and is so bright! The new countertops were installed with a new sink and tap. You have to come and see for yourself! For those who can't, I will take pictures for the newsletter.

Our Grant is slowly wending its way through the State of New York channels. I believe we may be on the third level of those who need to give us an okay. The rest of the changes will have to wait till all is settled. We do have everything lined up but it's like wading through mud to get the official OK.

Bobbie's nephew, Bill Metcalfe, is a professional painter and belongs to the Painters Union in Rochester. They have decided to do a community service project. We have applied to be considered. They would paint the Canteen at the end of April/ first part of May. The house will be a deep blue. Keith Metcalfe will take care of the few repairs on the house. We are also waiting to hear on a grant from the Canandaigua Lions Club for an attempt to get some new blinds and decent chairs. Fingers crossed, please!

We have Henry, an aspiring Eagle Scout, who is taking on the flower beds around the house. His Aunt and Uncle were the last owners of the Canteen before the house was sold to the Vets Club!! It's a very small world sometimes. We are hoping to have him embed the memorial bricks into a bed so that they can finally be seen. The driveway continues to be a thing of joy and beauty!

We are going to need volunteers to help make up 150 gift bags for three female Veterans health events. We also will need volunteers to help make up 91 Easter bags for the CLC and other residential units at the VA hospital. All the components are gathered for both events, we just need willing hands to help put it all together. Please give us some of your spare time.

The canteen has been cleaned within an inch of its life (okay, fine, not the upstairs yet.) The drapes and sheers have been washed, all the pictures have been washed as have the windows. The food pantry has been cleaned (every bottle and can!). All the totes have been moved to the renovated cubby which was once the personal products room. That has been combined in the food pantry. The dining room rug, which was really nasty, is a thing of the past. The chairs in the big room and the carpet there have all been cleaned courtesy of Bobbie's Hoover scrubber. All the floors mopped. Big thanks to Bobbie, Becky, and Donna Strelow.

I think we can say we have done our Spring Cleaning! We got pictures of our unit, from Fort Drum, relaxing with some of the goodies in the boxes that we sent. They are totally thrilled with everything. This is what our mission is for both active duty and veterans. Please keep all of them in your heart and prayers. I also ask for prayers for our PNP Stacy. She is in Intensive Care and the family has gathered. (Editor: Stacy passed away on March 10th.) We are also asking for cards and prayers for our vet, Cole, down in Texas. He is struggling and has had a heart attack as well as two strokes while he was in cardiac care unit. He is on the waiting list for an appointment at his VA Hospital, which is one and a half hours from where he lives, when they can get a free doctor. Really, truly, pray. We know it can move mountains and right now we have to do so for our Veterans.

Yours in Service,
Joyce

As of October 1st, there are 25 Moms and 25 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 (on leave), Pro Tem is Carol Adamowicz as of 11/9/24

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

Mary Kay representative, Lauren Coe, again donated beautiful gift baskets to NY#1 for Valentine's Day. These were distributed at the February meeting which was held at the lovely home of Joyce and Brian Mader. The Canteen was a mess due to renovations! Lauren Coe also represents "One Soldier at a Time" which supports Veterans and their families.

At the February meeting, it was decided to again attend the summer Veteran's Women's Health Event, to provide gift bags for attendees, and to provide lunch. Dates are below:
April 30th, Wednesday, from 2PM to 6PM on Calkins Road, Rochester
July 17th, Tuesday, from 10AM to 2PM in Bath, NY
August 12th, Tuesday, from 10AM to 2PM in Canandaigua



Troops overseas from Fort Drum opening Easter care packages. They had lots of fun with the Easter bunny ring toss game!

Remember - NY#1 is here to support our deployed soldiers and to support our veterans as well as the military families on the home front. We need to be active and responsive to all of this and to keep the Community informed so that they too can help us achieve our goals. Keep our troops in your heart and pray for their safety. Be mindful of veterans who are struggling, sick, depressed, and lonely. Thanks to everybody who put forth the effort in 2024 to help us and our military, and do come back and continue the support so that all may flourish in 2025, our 21st year of service as Blue Star Mothers!



Canteen News

We are waiting approval of a \$50K grant from NYS for updates and renovations to the Canteen. Brian Mader started demolition in mid-January and the kitchen is looking sooo much better! The kitchen and small downstairs powder room are slated for part of this Grant from NYS. An application for a Grant from the Lions Club for additional updates is in the works. The new countertop, sink and light were installed on Monday, March 10th. Please see picture below.

Bobbie informed Joyce on Wednesday, 3/12, that she received a letter from the Painters Union in Rochester. They decided we will be their community project this year. They have the color of paint, courtesy of the paint can lid with the name and color from Keith Metcalfe, and will be ready to paint in the Spring/early summer!!! Another goal achieved!!!





Important Upcoming Dates

Next NY#1 meeting is Saturday, April 12th, 2025 at the Canteen at 9AM. Hope to see everyone there!

BSMA NY#1 Stars and Stripes Fundraiser is scheduled for May 31, 2025 with a new location at Veterans Park on Rt 5&20 in Bloomfield. This will also include a Chicken BBQ with pre-sale tickets available for the meal! We plan on a craft sale, raffle baskets, bake sale. Ricci Shuttleworth is in charge of organizing this event. Letters asking for Vendors and donations for raffle baskets have gone out. All members are asked to help in the donation process for this fundraiser!

BSMA National Convention for 2025 will be in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

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 June, 2025; the deadline is usually 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.

