### JANUARY 2016

**VOLUME 2 ISSUE 5** 

### Blue Star Moms of America Inc.



President Judy Dorsey

1st VP Charilyn Damigo

2nd VP Stacy Anders

3rd VP Cyndi Ventura

4th VP Amy O' Campo

Recording Secretary Gloria Cervantes

Financial Secretary Carla Brodacki

Treasurer Brenda Ternullo

### **Inside this issue**

President	Pg 1
Webmaster	Pg 2
BSM Glitter Shirt	Pg 3
On-Line store	Pg 4
Yearbook	Pg 5
Convention Corner	Pg 6
Big Dipper	Pg 7-8
Chapters	Pg 9-15
Blue to Gold	Pg 16-18
VAVS	Pg 18
<b>Editor Page</b>	Pg 19

Welcome to 2016!

What a wonderful start to the new year as our family welcomed our first granddaughter, Scarlett, into the world. As we enjoy our precious little one, I know several of our BSM Sisters are also experiencing the joy of new family members. Congratulations to you all!

Now that the holidays are over, many chapters are working on new projects and I am amazed by all that you do. What a wonderful organization we are part of and it is an honor to work alongside each of you! I encourage each chapter to send in an article for our newsletter with what you are doing this year. Share your fundraisers and your accomplishments. I enjoy seeing what is happening with my Sisters across the nation.

In February, the NEB will have our mid-year meeting in Las Vegas. This face to face meeting with board members gives us the opportunity to work together, as this is the only time outside of convention that we are together for a meeting. Our monthly meetings are held by phone or computer. We have NEB members that live in all different time zones. For East Coast members, we are three hours ahead of our West Coast members, so our meetings stat at 8:30 pm East and 5:30 Pacific.

I will once again be visiting chapters along the way. My drive takes me along I-40 West, so if I am close to you send me a message and time permitting, I would enjoy getting to spend time with as many chapters as possible.

Convention plans are moving along and I would encourage all chapters to be represented. Check your mail for our Convention Chatter and also our newsletter will have important information. Look forward to seeing you there! Dayton is a beautiful city and one you will enjoy.

Remember our Q&A portion that answers questions sent in by the chap-

ters and members. Each question is answered by a NEB officer and posted without names.

Let's make 2016 the best year ever as Blue Star Mothers and Sisters!

Respectfully, Judy Dorsey, BSMA, Inc. President 2015-2016



### Looking for a Webmaster

Just a reminder that our current Webmasters, Dave and Nancy Aubel will be taking their well deserved retirement beginning February 1, 2016.

We are looking for a new Webmaster. If you are interested, please contact

Amy O'Campo

(4vp@bluestarmothers.us).



### Your Blue Star Mother "Glitter Shirt"



Guaranteed Pricing \$35.00
(includes shipping)
If ordered by February 14, 2016
Pricing may increase after 2/14/16

Name:				
Address:				
City:			State:	zip code:
SIZES & QUANTITY	SMALLMEI	DIUM	LARGE	XLARGE
	<b>ADD \$2.00 FOR</b>	2X	& 3X	
Mail your check wit	th this form to:			

BSMA – F.S Carla Brodacki, P/O Box 443, St. Clair, MI 48079

### The On-Line store

The On-Line store has a new bundle for our members!!

For the next month you can order any size Blue Star Mother's pin (large or small), a BSM magnet and any size BSM T-shirt for only \$20, plus shipping charges. You can order these online as well as on the mail-in order form.





We also still have our key chains for sell for 5.00

You could add it to your bundle and save on shipping for this item.

### Yearbook 2016

This year's yearbook staff is:

Stacy Anders Christine Cromeenes Boyd Cathy Raiawater– Crowder Cyndi Bretz Ventura Susan Haskell Rowley

Thank You ladies for accepting my offer to create this years yearbook. I look forward to working with all of you.

We are looking for your chapter photos, family photos, photos of your military children and family members.

Please send all photos JPEG and with names of all that are in the photos. If you are sending a group photo please just put the units name.

### PLEASE DO NOT PUT BASES OR PLACE THEY ARE STATIONED

We would love to see what all of our chapters are doing and what you have done. We are not allowed to pull photos off your FB pages, so please send them in with all names and chapter name and number to 2vp@bluestarmothers.us

We are using Tree Ring again this year so you will all have the opportunity to have the first 2 pages of your yearbook made of what ever you want. Its fast and easy. You buy straight from Tree Ring and they send you your book. It only shows in your book. More information still to come.

### Convention corner Faq's

### I want to register at the hotel. Can I do it now?

You sure can!! Just call the hotel at (937) 346-8368. Don't call the toll free number. Let them know you want to register for the Blue Star Mother's convention in August and be sure they give you our reduced rate of \$139 per room.

### I want to register for convention. Can I do it now?

Not at present. We have set the registration fee at \$130 per attendee – member or associate. The convention registration form will come out at a later date. Look for information in future BSM newsletters.

### Can non-members attend the convention daily sessions?

Only members and associates can attend the daily sessions.

### Can non-members attend the luncheon and/or banquet?

Yes they can. We welcome them to our "social" portions of the convention. There is an additional meal charge for "guest" meals. We will have those additional prices listed on the convention registration forms.

### I want to bring a friend/spouse etc. to the Dayton Dragons Game. Can I do that?

You sure can!! We invite EVERYONE who want to come to the game to join us. Tickets are \$20 per person, which gets you admission to the game, special seating, a souvenir baseball hat and \$5 in Dragon Bucks to purchase food and beverages of your choice. Forms to sign up and purchase tickets will be out in the next month or so. Look for information in the BSM newsletter.

### I have other questions. How can I reach you?

Just email me at <u>convention@bluestarmothers.us</u>. I'll get back to you as soon as I can.

Anita Wagner 2016 Blue Star Mothers Convention Chair



### BLUE STAR MOTHERS OF AMERICA, INC

### NATIONAL BIG DIPPER AUXILIARY



### President's Corner

The holidays are over and if you are in the Midwest like me, you are already getting tired of the cold and snow. Why not break up the monotony and have a chapter fundraiser for the Josephine Calenda Educational Assistance Fund? Ideas: a craft-in day, vendor show, spaghetti or pancake supper, the ideas are endless. If each chapter would commit to one fundraiser and donate the proceeds to Big Dipper, we would easily reach and surpass our goal of \$10,000! More and more of our service members and their families are going to school and need your help. Help us to give even more awards out at National Convention this August in Dayton!

<u>Send</u> me a photo of your fundraiser and I will post it on our Facebook page. Remember, the chapter who sends the largest donation will take home the Golden Dipper Award at convention. Who will it be this year?!

The Big Dipper Executive Board and the future recipients thank you in advance for helping us to reach our goal.

Lori Thueme President, Big Dipper Auxiliary Blue Star Mothers of America Inc. www.bluestarmothers.us Facebook



### 2015-2016 Membership Letters

To reduce expenses, the Big Dipper will mail Membership Letters, instead of cards. The letter will have your name & chapter along with helpful information regarding the Big Dipper Auxiliary.

If you would like a card, please send a request to 1VP Kade at 1vp@bluestarmothers.us

### Josephine Calendar 2014-2015 Award Recipients

A reminder of the Educational Assistance results. With your fund raising help and support, 14 applicants were selected to receive an award. Congratulations to all our winners

### Veterans

Kallie Koontz Joseph Jaskowiak Torie L DeLair Roberto Garcia Jacob Reed

### Children/Grandchildren

Carley Bond
Elena Martin
Devin Rettke
Katlyn Young
Rachel Moos
Noah Cotterman
Leslie Kain
Ashley Smithkey
Sandra Passwaters

### Big Dipper Membership Drive

Have you joined the Big Dipper Auxiliary yet? Now's the time! For \$5.00 you can support our Veterans, Blue Star Mothers, Children & Grandchildren with Educational Assistance. Please encourage your fellow chapter sisters to join. We would like to issue a challenge for 100% participation from all our Blue Star Mother chapters. Download your application today. Big Dipper Auxiliary Application

### Save the Date

Blue Star Mothers National Convention will be held in Dayton, Ohio August 2nd-6th. FUND Night will be held on Thursday, August 4th. Planning for the event will begin after the holidays. Thanks to all who provided feedback on last year's successful FUND Night. We look forward to incorporating your ideas. Stay tuned for future updates.

### **Educational Assistance Goal**

Thanks to our Big Dipper Auxiliary supporters, the Josephine Calenda Educational Assistance fund has seen phenomenal growth in the past few years. We are grateful to announce the 2014-\$5,000 & 2015-\$7,500 goals were met or exceeded. We couldn't be successful without you. For 2015-2016, the Big Dipper Auxiliary has set the Educational Assistance Fund goal to \$10,000.

The more money raised allows the Big Dipper to give more and larger awards. Thanks for your continued support.

### **Blue Star Earrings**

The Big Dipper Auxiliary is offering these beautiful earrings as a fundraiser for the **Josephine Calenda Educational Assistance Fund.** 

The earrings are \$15 a pair (Dime not included)

- Shipping and handling on orders of 5 or less items is \$4 per order
- Shipping and handling on orders of 6-10 items is \$5 per order
- Shipping and handling on orders of 10 or more items of is \$7 per order
- You can pick up your order at Convention and save shipping costs

QUANTITIES ARE LIMITED, SO ORDER YOURS TODAY at Blue Star Earrings

### **Amazon Smile**

We are excited to announce another opportunity to support Educational Assistance. Each time you shop on Amazon, your purchases could support Big Dipper Auxiliary. Simply click on this <u>link</u> and set Big Dipper Auxiliary, Blue Star Mothers of America as your charitable organization.

Please share with your family and friends so they can help too!

### Giving Bean

What a way to support the Big Dipper. Place your order today for your favorite flavor of coffee or tea. We encourage you to share the link on your FB page too! Remember all proceeds will go to the Josephine Calenda Educational Assistance Fund. ONLINE fundraising - You can also sell and raise funds by sending an appeal to your friends via email. Send them this link. Just copy and paste it in an email. It will allow them to order direct from GivingBean.com and support us. Have you seen the Coffee Club Autoship Program? Choose your frequency and never worry about running out of your favorite flavor coffee!

### Big Dipper Pendant

These keepsake pendants are a fundraiser for the Josephine Calenda Educational Assistance Program. The pendant comes with a 24 inch chain but can also be used as a zipper pull and/or key chain with shorter chains by simply snipping the chain. Don't miss out, these are Limited Edition! Order now. Pendants will be available for purchase at National Convention if still available.

THE PENDANTS ARE \$10 EACH (including chain)

Order forms are available by clicking <u>here</u>, mail completed forms to <u>BD Financial Secretary</u>. Don't miss out on your piece of history.

## Texas Blue Star Mothers ~ Waco

Jana Teakell and her husband Larry representing Heart of Texas Blue Star Mothers in the Veteran's Day parade in Waco, Texas.









We packed 51 boxes to send to our sons and daughters who are serving overseas. We want to thank VFW Post 2148 for helping

Pictured: Patty Reneau, Mary Dewalt, Liz Crump, Lisa Hunt, and Martha Fehlman

## Blue Star Mothers H.O.M.E. CA30

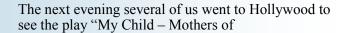
Our Financial Secretary Lorraine Camire is pictured (r) with Medal of Honor Recipient

(KIA) Michael Monsoor's mother Sally at our annual Mother's Day event for Gold and

Blue Star Mothers on April 25th.



BSMoms (l-r) Joey Banales, Julia Grenier, Veronica Wheeler and Geni Kromberg enjoying Mother's Day with our chapter.



War". Again our beautiful Lorraine is pictured with one of the stars of the play Frances Fisher.





On May 20 we attended the Chick-Fil-et evening "Cards for the Troops". Pictured are L-

R Sandra Horst, 1st VP Moira Fisher, 2nd VP Mary Ann Sherman, an extraordinary WWII

veteran, President Veronica Wheeler , Michelle Haskin and Bridgett Welch

## Green County BSM



While many others were getting ready for the Christmas holiday, Greene County Region NY13 Blue Star Mothers were busy bringing holiday cheer to others. The events actually began on Friday, November 27, when the BSM joined with Toys for Tots and collected toys at the Catskill Wal-Mart. A few days later, the employees of Ducommun in Coxsackie made a generous donation for Toys for Tots.

The following week, on December 6, they hosted their first Operation Christmas. At that time, they sponsored a delicious lunch courtesy of the Rip Van Winkle Golf Course in Palenville mixed with raffles and music, as well as collecting items for care packages for the troops and more toy donations. During the week following, they were joined by members from St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Greenville, and the local Boys and Girl Scouts, to fill the care packages & prepare for mailing.





On Saturday, December 12, BSM met with members of the American Legion in Catskill to honor our deceased veterans in the annual Wreaths Across America ceremony. Later that same day, they went to The Elliot in Catskill to bring some holiday cheer to the residents and a small gift to all veterans residing there. The following day, they went to The Pines in Catskill and again shared some holiday joy.



## BSIVC NIVI 6

In December, the Blue Star Mothers of Valencia County assisted Mr. Ronnie Torres, director of one of Valencia County's historical treasures, the Belen Harvey House, in the 2nd Annual display of the Bugg (Family's) Lights. It is a huge project, requiring months to set up the more than 200,000 lights, holiday decorations, indoor decorated trees, and historical presentations. The Harvey House is open to the public each evening for three weeks, and several local charitable organizations were offered not only the opportunity to guide and share information with visitors but also to receive a portion of the donations on the evening(s) the groups are represented. This year, the Blue Star Mothers of Valencia County enjoyed "working" two nights. We always have such a terrific time, and Mr. Torres brought out some new "OLD" decorations from the Belen area. It is such fun to see, in addition to the lights, the sunflower tree, the nutcracker tree, the beauty salon tree, etc. Of course, the best tree was our own Blue Star Mothers' tree--with ornaments that had the names of our supporters as well as our military loved ones. This is just a win-win-win event---for the Harvey House, for the community, and for the organizations! Funds the BSMVC raised at this year's event will be used to help defray the costs of shipping packages to the troops and also to help the Henderson House for Homeless Women Veterans in Albuquerque.



## MI 180 BSM

### **BLUE STAR MOTHERS**

Blue Water Chapter MI180

January 2016

Margaret Mead is credited with saying, "Never believe that a few caring people can't change the world. For, indeed, that's all who ever have." The Blue Water Chapter MI180 brought those words to life during the 2015 holiday season. On December 12, Blue Water MI180 partnered with the Thumb Chapter MI178 to honor the fallen of the Great Lakes State. One hundred wreaths from Wreaths Across America were laid at Great Lakes National Cemetery in Holly, Michigan. This well-attended event was a tribute to those who gave all in the service of our country. Fifty residents of the VA Domiciliary in Detroit are outfitted to face the harsh Michigan winter with new coats, hats,

Fifty residents of the VA Domiciliary in Detroit are outfitted to face the harsh Michigan winter with new coats, hats, gloves, and quilts. Through "Operation Rudolph", Santa's Blue Star helpers were able to bring these welcome gifts to the Dom's holiday party on December 19. It was difficult to say who felt more blessed, the gift givers or receivers. The spirit of giving continued when gift baskets of treats were delivered to local Blue Water area recruiters and the Coast Guard station. And acting as Santa's sleigh for us, the USPS transported boxes filled with sweatshirts, hats, gloves and kitchen supplies to Iron Mountain VA Medical Center in Michigan's Upper Peninsula.

It's safe to say that the members of Blue Water Chapter MI180 walked away from 2015 with profound happiness by changing our corner of the world.



# BSM Rochester NY 8

"Know what it is like to feel alive and have the spirit of energy and clarity of mind."

Dr. Gary Young



## M 195 CEREAL CIT

On October 16,2015, the Cereal City M.O.M.M.A.S. celebrated their 1st Anniversary. From October 16, 2015, we have served our time doing volunteer work with other sister chapters. (Kalamazoo, Allegan and Paw Paw.) We have helped out with boxes for troops events, volunteering at the Battle Creek VA blanket bingo & spending time with the veterans there. We have also participated in spending our time doing fundraiser events. Cereal City Breakfast table, Cereal City parade. Along with putting our time in at Post 298, Fort Custer National Cemetery (Memorial Day, Veterans Day and Wreathes across America) This past August, we also set up a booth at Calhoun county fairgrounds.,

September we also had a booth at our local Harley Davidson Fall event. In October, we held our first craft fair/Bazaar, working as a team sisterhood in support of our military family. We have also gained a few more sisters in 2015. We have also attended School of Instruction and Blue Star Mothers State Convention. As a chapter, we have also received recognition with our city's newspaper and local shopper. A few of our chapter ladies have been busy making marshmallow blaster's, fleece blankets, selling military bracelets and a few other items. For our 2016 Spring Event, we are doing "boxes for our troops". (still in process of putting this together). We are looking at a prosperous new year filled with much support volunteering in our community and hope to be growing more with our Chapter.

Your sister in service.







### Blue to Gold Guidelines

Submitted By: National 3VP Cyndi Ventura

After the September 11 terrorist attack on American soil and impending War on the horizon, fear and sorrow entered the hearts of Blue Star Mothers. Memories of the Vietnam War surfaced. Determined to not let our Nation mar the sacrifice of the Warrior or the family left behind, the Blue to Gold program was borne out of honor, love and respect.

In military tradition, when a man or woman enters the Armed Forces of the United States of America, pledging to defend America with their life a Blue Star Banner may be displayed by their family.

The Red border of the Banner represents the blood shed by past Warriors in defending our Nation. The field of White symbolizes the purity of Spirit – the price of Peace that only a Warrior understands. The Blue Star signifies loyalty, honor and duty entrusted in our Defenders.

If Fate causes the death of a defender, a smaller Gold Star for Valor and Sacrifice is placed over the Blue Star. The border of Blue is a constant reminder the Warrior and family will always be remembered and honored by the brothers and sisters who lived to tell the tale. We, the **Blue Star Mothers** stand beside our children in this legacy.

The presentation of the **Gold Star Banner** is a solemn obligation of comfort and love to another parent and spouse. The decision to receive and how to receive the Gold Star Banner is always the decision of the family. It may not be possible for a member to present the banner. Options are the CAO, another organization, i.e, TAPS, Patriot Guard, etc. Under rare circumstances the Gold Star Banner may be mailed.

Chapters should designate a **Blue to Gold Liaison**. The office of Chaplain would be a good choice. If Chapters overlap the general area, it is encouraged that they work together and share the honor of the presentation. Occasionally, there is a personal relationship between members which are outside of the designated boundaries. Much compassion and understanding should be given in these circumstances to allow relationship to take precedence. Remember this is not about the chapter but about the survivors of the deceased defender.

It is also very important to remember, the organization has been entrusted with the honor of the presenting the Gold Star Banner. Privacy of information must always be protected.

A data base will be kept of Blue to Gold Liaisons. This list will be distributed within the organization. If you wish your name and contact information to be included on the distributed list, written authorization must be submitted to the National Third Vice President.

### **CHAPTER LIAISON GUIDELINES**

- Commit to abiding by the wishes of the family and the instructions of the Casualty Assistance Officer (CAO) Note: More than one CAO may be assigned to the family make sure to coordinate.
- Commit to follow the guidelines of the Blue Star Mothers of America, Inc.
- Commit to work with the National Third Vice President, Chapter members and all chapters within the State
- Commit to send timely notices and involve state members in the presentation
- Commit to a standardization of presentations within the State
- Commit to ensure that all arrangements and details are finalized
- Commit to the privacy of the family

- Remember that not every Gold Star Banner has to be given at the wake or the funeral service. Make a date with the family and present it then, when the service is over. The meaning of your gesture of kindness will be so much more appreciated.
- It is best to order the Gold Star Banner when you have a presentation date.
- Remember the criterion set forth by Service Flags (Casualty must have occurred within a 30 day window for a free ban-ner ONLY IF ORDERED THROUGH NATIONAL) to receive the FREE Gold Star Banner through the Service Flags program. After 30 days banners are at a discounted price and paid for by the chapters. All chapters are responsible for the shipping costs, so after your banner is approved by the National 3 VP you will be instructed how to pay. No more phone calls to ser-vice flags a special website has been set up.

### **CHAPTER PRESENTIONS GUIDELINES**

- Contact the National Third Vice President for instruction
- Contact the CAO. The duty of the CAO is to protect and honor the family. The CAO answers to the family and the DOD.
- If you are not able contact the CAO ask the funeral director for assistance to make the contact.
- After contact has been made with the CAO provide your contact information and information on the Blue to Gold Pro-gram.
   This will be relayed to the family. Information on family contact will be given to you by the CAO
- Coordinate the presentation with the CAO.
- When there is no CAO, use your best judgement Always be respectful of the families to whom you are presenting.

### **ELIGIBILITY FOR GOLD STAR BANNER**

• The Parents and the Spouse of **all Active Duty personnel** who have died while in service to the United States of America are eligible to receive a Gold Star Banner. This is the Department of Defense 's definition of a GOLD STAR.

### **ORDERING A GOLD STAR BANNER**

- All Banner requests must go through the Third VP via the BSMA Official Website (www.bluestarmothers.us)
- You must be logged in to the website.
- To the left click forms and reports on the next page click Gold Star Banner Request
- Complete form—being careful to check the accuracy of all information.
- The name of the fallen should be listed as it is in the DOD listing or as the parents or spouse have requested. Note: If name is different from DOD listing, explain on form citing reason for change.
- The Third VP will receive the request via website.
- After checking the information for correctness, she will forward to Service Flags. Banner request comes directly from the website to the National Third VP to check for errors, additions, etc. She then forwards to Service Flags for processing.
- Service Flags consider Banner requests a top priority. However, if you have a short turn around you may request over-night delivery with the chapter or individual ordering responsible for the payment of this service.
- All chapters are responsible for Gold Star Banners older than 30 days of casualty date as well as shipping costs. Chapters will always pay shipping costs.

### INFORMATION THAT MUST BE COMPLETED ON THE BANNER REQUEST FORM

- Name of service person.
- Branch of service
- Spouse's name and address
- Names of parents and their address. If divorced, both sets of names and addresses, each will get their own banner in this circumstance. If so, add this information on the banner request form.
- Your name, address and telephone number, as well as which BSM chapter you belong to.
- Address to where Banners are to be sent.
- Time frame in which Banners are needed.
- Any special instructions (overnight shipping, names spelling, etc.)
- Be precise. If banner is wrong, you are responsible for the replacement costs.

### PLEASE MAKE SURE THE MOTHERS NAME AND ADDRESS ARE ON THE FORM, THIS INFORMATION GOES TO OUR

### NATIONAL CHAPLAIN FOR THE GOLD STAR MOTHER MAILING

- Do the parents have any other children currently serving in the Military? (A combination Gold Star & Blue Star banner is ordered in this circumstance.) If so, add this information on the banner request form.
- Your name, address and telephone number, as well as which BSM chapter you belong to.
- Address to where Banners are to be sent.
- Time frame in which Banners are needed.
- Any special instructions (overnight shipping, names spelling, etc.)
- Be precise. If banner is wrong, you are responsible for the replacement costs.

### **GUIDELINES FOR PRESENTATION**

- Always check with the CAO as to the wishes of the family—if they would like a Banner, when where and how they would like
  to receive it.
- The banner is shipped with a letter from Service Flags and a Cling—either the CAO or the funeral director will give to family after the funeral, or you may choose to present.
- It is preferred that the "official" Blue Star Mothers uniform (white blouse, Navy jacket, pants or skirt). National Officers and Past National President wear dress whites. Jewelry should be limited to the BSMA official pin and your child's service pin, if presenting outside the Funeral home or at the cemetery. If you are presenting at the funeral home or cemetery, suit-able funeral attire should be worn. **NEVER WEAR YOUR HAT** Remember, you are there for the family. We do not want to bring attention to ourselves.

When attending a wake or funeral to do a presentation members should wear WAKE/FUNERAL attire (NO HATS) you may wear your pin.

When presenting at a Families home your uniform (Navy pants or skirt and white blouse) please NO FLIP FLOPS, SHORTS, or YOGA PANTS. **Dress appropriately, you are representing our National organization**.

• When presenting the Banner, white gloves should be worn. Hold the Banner with the Star facing the family.

The felt banners are included in the free banners if the casualty is within 30 days –After 30 days felt banners are \$18.95 plus your choice of shipping. Satin banners are \$10.00 if casualty is within 30 days and after \$28.95.







**GOLD & BLUE STAR FELT BANNER** 



**SATIN GOLD STAR BANNER** 



I am asked a lot what the duties of Representatives and Deputies are. I have done a little research and these guidelines are from the VA.

Each VA medical facility has a Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service (VAVS) Committee made up of organizations whose members participate in the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Voluntary Service program for the benefit of veteran patients.

According to VA guidelines, the VAVS representative must:

- have a sincere interest in the welfare of the patients and a desire to help them.
- be able to work effectively with members of Blue Star Mothers of American, with fellow Representatives from other organizations on the VAVS committee, and with VA staff to the end that best serves the interest of the patients.
- have the organization's full support and respect; be able to organize, promote, and coordinate programs and to recruit volunteers to serve as needed in the facility program.
- be able to attend committee meetings regularly. If neither the representative or deputy is at three consecutive committee meetings..
- know the purposes, policies, operating procedures, resources, and capabilities of Blue Star Mothers and must be able to explain them to VA staff and other representatives on the committee.

the representative if the representative is absent. The Deputy attends all meetings of the VAVS committee; participates in committee discussions; assists in the completion of the Annual Joint Review; and serves on sub-committees as requested by the chairman of the VAVS committee. The Deputy does not have a vote on the committee unless she is acting for and in the absence of the representative who has the vote.

I hope this information is helpful and will allow other chapters to have a REP and a DEP at every facility.

### LET'S RUN A CONTEST - PLEASE EMAIL ME THE NUMBER

OF VALENTINES YOUR CHAPTER HAS DELIVERED (OR MAILED) TO VA FACILITIES.

Anne Parker BSMA, VAVS Representative vavs@bluestarmothers.us

843-504-0032



### Editor's Page

The dead line for all submissions is the 15th of each month. Late submissions will appear in a future newsletter.

If you would like to add anything about your chapter to the newsletter please send in all pictures as a jpig format, and all Articles in a word document. Please send as attachment not in the body of the email please.

If I can not open it I will send it back.

Send it to: 2vp@bluestarmothers.us

Stacy Anders National 2VP

