

Blue Star Mothers Monthly Meeting Minutes – Sunday, January 17, 2016

Attendance – 16 members

Meeting called to order – 2:07 pm

Pledge of Allegiance – Janet Moran

Preamble – Laurie Rivera

Blessing – Vicki Hoshko

Refreshments – Vicki Hoshko and Stephanie Stewart

Following introductions, approval of November minutes – Laurie Rivera motioned, Helen Barber seconded. 16 in favor, none opposed, none abstained.

Karen FF gave treasurer's report in Lisa's absence. Savings account: November: \$10,503.09; December: \$10,503.98. Checking account: November: \$7,261.46; December: \$7,080.81.

Membership as of November at 54; currently around 65 (Karen Curtis will have current membership statistics for February meeting).

Donna Vickery reported that the Gold Star Mothers Luncheon will be Saturday, September 24th, at the Zaloga Post. She gave a brief overview of the luncheon for new members present. More information will be forthcoming.

Donna Vickery reported that the Blue Jean Ball will be on Saturday evening, April 9th. She encouraged membership to start thinking of items for the Silent Auction. Again, a brief overview of the BJB was given for new members present. Karen Vecchione reported that we will be having a preliminary meeting with Robin Johnson, BJB Chair, Tuesday evening and more information will follow.

Janet Moran reported on Wreaths Across America on December 12th. 2,600 wreaths were placed at the Saratoga National Cemetery.

The holiday luncheon at Wheatfields in Clifton Park was a great success and was attended by 23 people. All enjoyed great food and conversation and gift exchange. Thanks to Karen Curtis for handling this wonderful afternoon!

Candace Mowrey reported that the Stratton Air National Guard wants to send 150 freedom boxes to Antarctica and New Zealand and needs the boxes next week. She reported that we have enough donations at the office to fulfill the request. There are 95 boxes prepacked from our November drive. Candace announced she wants to have a packing at the office Saturday morning, January 23rd, at 9AM.

Karen FF reported that we have received many additional donations for freedom boxes from various churches and schools. Karen also reported that she attended the Alpha Phi Omega convention and they are having a coin drop Friday and Saturday with the proceeds going to BSM.

Karen FF announced that February's meeting will be on Sunday, the 21st. March meeting will be on Tuesday evening, the 22nd at 7PM. (Note: Board will meet at 6 PM).

Karen FF also announced that Robin Johnson has stepped down as newsletter editor as of December. Anyone interested in handling the newsletter please advise Karen.

Karen also announced that starting in August Laura Scriven will no longer serve as Financial Secretary. Anyone interested in serving as Financial Secretary please let Karen FF know as soon as possible. Laura has agreed to have the new person shadow her to learn the position. Karen emphasized to the membership that, per National rules, the chapter must have a financial secretary to be in compliance or the chapter could be suspended.

Donna Vickery reported that the 2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off sponsored by the I-Care students at Colonie Central High School will be on Friday, January 22nd, from 4-8PM at the Village of Colonie Recreation Center, 2 Thunder Road, Albany, NY. All Colonie firehouses will be participating and the proceeds will be split between BSM and Soldier On. Donna reported that BSM will have an information table and encouraged BSM to attend to show support to the I-Care students for what they are doing to support our troops and veterans.

Karen FF reported that Patriot Flight will be having 2 honor flights – May 14th and May 28th. The May 14th flight is an "all women" flight and three of our Gold Star Moms – Marie L, Dorothea and Carrie Farley have been invited. The flights depart Albany around 8:40 AM and arrive back in Albany around 10 PM. Anyone interested in being a guardian for the honor flights – cost is \$350 pp – please let Karen FF know.

Karen FF reiterated that she sent a flyer out regarding Saratoga War Horse – there will be a comedy show on April 22nd at the Saratoga-Wilton Elks with proceeds to benefit Saratoga War Horse. Cost is \$15 advance purchase or \$20 at the door.

Karen FF announced that the National Convention will be in Dayton, Ohio from August 2-6th. 2 members go at 100% reimbursement; next 2 go at 50% reimbursement. Must submit your request to attend to Karen FF.

Donna Vickery reported that the Fourth Annual Freeze Out will be held at the Sheehy Palmer Post 6776, Delaware Avenue, Albany NY January 30-31st. She explained that the event is to bring awareness of the many homeless veterans in our area. There is a pancake breakfast the following morning for \$10 pp. Anyone wishing to donate used or new clothing for the veterans were encouraged to drop them off. Donna explained that there are many donations from the community and anyone wanting to sort the clothing can come sort. You don't need to spend the night in the cold if you don't want to.

Raffle winners were: (First name ? Rosato?) – 2 coins of her choice;

Vicki Hoshko - \$24 in the 50/50

The meeting was adjourned at 2:57 PM

Meeting was followed by speakers from Leatherstocking Honor Flight Greg Furlong and Sharon Stesack (?) Leatherstocking flights will be May 7th and June 4th.