



The Sunset "PASS IT ON"

Issue 19, FEB./MAR./APRIL 2016

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 273 Madeira Beach, Florida 33708



Message from the President

"WHY WE MATTER"

The 2015 estimated value of one hour of volunteer service is \$23.56, according to the Independent Sector, a coalition of charities, foundations, and

corporations that publishes research important to the non-profit sector. Volunteers provide many intangibles that cannot be easily quantified. For example, volunteers demonstrate the amount of support an organization has within a community, provide work for short periods of time, and provide support on a wide range of projects. ALA Unit 273 members have volunteered more than 10,922 hours for a collective value of service to our veterans, service members, their families, and our communities of more than \$257,322.32 during 2015-2016. That is quite a powerful number that accentuates who we are, what we do, and why we matter. You are willing to do what it takes to get the job done. Being a volunteer can be a demanding proposition because it requires a lot of face time and people management. This can eat into your personal life; but you have shown by your commitment that you are willing to make the sacrifice for our veterans and families. Members of American Legion Auxiliary Unit 273 you do incredible work.

There is a difference:

Armed Forces Day - The third Saturday of each May - Honors those **servicing**.

Memorial Day originally called Decoration Day- The last Monday of each May. Remembering those who **died while servicing**.

Veterans Day- The 11th Day of each November- Honors those who **served**.

Thank you,

Janice B Hill
president@alaf1273.com ,
727-580-5930

FISHER HOUSE RECEIVES CHECK IN MEMORY OF UNIT 273 PAST PRESIDENT CATHERINE LARKIN-RICHARDS



Present American Legion Auxiliary Unit 273 President Janice Hill presents a check for \$500 to Fisher House Manager Lana Toenjes in Memory of Catherine Larkin-Richards to be ear-marked for the new construction of the "New Fisher House.". Lana Toenjes was also the Guest Speaker for the March meeting.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, **June 7th** at 11 am.

GUEST SPEAKER SUE SELBIN HUGE SUCCESS AT FEBRUARY MEETING



Sue Selbin made sure that no one in the room left without a smile and a more positive outlook on life. From the moment she walked into the room, you just heard laughter. She gave us all inspiration, motivated some and absolutely made everyone happy. If anyone would like to reach Sue they can call her at 715-338-2051 or email at sues053@yahoo.com. She is available for presentations in Florida from November until April.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY BAKE SALE AND RAFFLE HELD MARCH 11TH AND 12TH WAS A SUCCESS



Catherine Torregrossa, 2nd Vice Mary Lou Kohler and Committee Chairman Sharon Abbotts take a break during the St. Patrick's Day Bake Sale and Raffle.



American Legion Auxiliary 2nd Vice President presents 1st place St. Patrick's Day Raffle Winner Pat Guesspie with the Gift Certificate to the Madeira Beach Marriott.

St. Patrick's Day Bake Sale/Raffle Chairman Sharon Abbotts explained that even though we had less bakers and volunteers this year, the Bake Sale/Raffle was a success with a total \$1,134.50 in proceeds.

AMERICAN LEGION NATIONAL COMMANDER DALE BARNETT VISITS POST 273 ON EASTER SUNDAY MARCH 27TH



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 273 Treasurer, Linda Newkirk; VA&R Chairman, Anna Reynolds; American Legion National Commander, Dale Barnett; American Legion Auxiliary Unit 273 President Janice Hill; and 2nd Vice President Mary Lou Kohler share a Kodak moment for all our members to share and remember.

APRIL 2nd STAND DOWN HELPED OVER 366 HOMELESS VETERANS



Volunteers Brian Delaney, Cindy Neeley and Linda Delaney passing out items to the veterans.



Linda McElroy and Mary Cariello greet Veterans with huge smiles.



Piles of wash cloths, shaving cream, razors, etc. ready.



Theresa Penrod, Linda Keach and Jean Flood help a veteran get what he needs.



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 273 President Janice Hill and Veteran Affairs and Rehabilitation Chairman Anna Reynolds discuss plans for next year's Stand Down.

Linda McElroy reported for Chairman Anna Reynolds concerning the Stand Down held on Saturday, April 2nd at Bay Pines. She announced that the Stand Down was a tremendous success and that all the veterans were very thankful for all that they received. She explained that Unit 273 did a survey during the Stand Down and did a complete inventory so that next year we will know exactly what to buy and bring to next years Stand Down. This year the favorite things the veterans likes were: flashlights, washcloths, socks, pre-stamped envelopes that included pens and paper as well.

**IN REMEMBRANCE OF OUR PAST
AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
UNIT 273 PRESIDENT
CATHERINE LARKIN-RICHARDS**

It is with great sadness that we must inform every one of the passing of one of our past Presidents.

On Friday, February 26th our Past President Cathy Larkin-Richards passed away suddenly and unexpectedly. She left behind a legacy of helping others that many will never forget.

Cathy Larkin-Richards served as President of the American Legion Auxiliary Unit 273, Madeira Beach, FL for three consecutive years. She also volunteered for years helping our veterans, active duty military and their families at Bay Pines Veterans Hospital and served in many other voluntary services throughout her life.

Her family held a "Celebration of Life Ceremony" on April 2nd. In lieu of flowers, her family would like donations to be given to the Bay Pines Fisher House: [Bay Pines Fisher House Donation](#) check "this donation is a tribute" in the "your donation" section, pick in "memory of" and enter Catharine Larkin-Richards and under "Make this Donation" a Tribute and send announcement to her sister: Jane Larkin, 3482 101st Terrace N, Pinellas Park, FL 33782.

Cathy was a tireless advocate for veterans and their families. She will be greatly missed by all who knew her. RIP Cathy "For God and Country."

NATIONAL SECURITY:

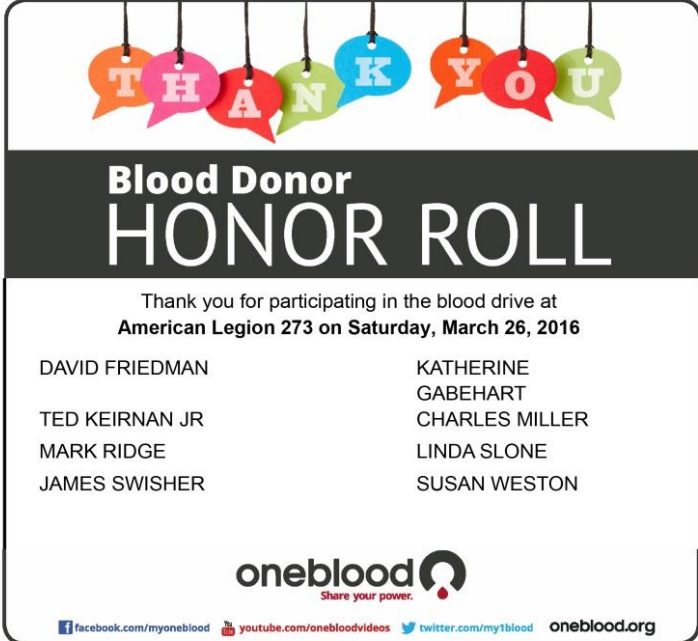
Coupon Cutters Monthly Totals:

February: \$48,047.12, Vol Hrs: 522
March: \$90,021.74 Vol Hrs: 978

We have an open invitation for anyone interested in joining this fabulous group of devoted cutters, every Saturday 11am-1pm, in the main post hall.

T-Shirt Sales: Chairman, Pat Thoman reported T-Shirt Sales for:


February: \$5,083 Vol. Hrs. 154
March: \$5,005 Vol. Hrs. 136
April: \$6,694 Vol. Hrs. 188



**Blood Donor
HONOR ROLL**

Thank you for participating in the blood drive at
American Legion 273 on Saturday, March 26, 2016

DAVID FRIEDMAN	KATHERINE GABEHART
TED KEIRNAN JR	CHARLES MILLER
MARK RIDGE	LINDA SLONE
JAMES SWISHER	SUSAN WESTON

oneblood 
Share your power.

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EVENTS

MAY

Saturday, May 21st, Blood Drive at American Legion, 273, 11:00am – 2:00pm.

Saturday, May 21st, Armed Forces Day

Sunday, May 22nd, Riders Pancake Breakfast

Monday, May 30th, Memorial Day

JUNE

Tuesday, June 14th, Flag Day

Thursday June 16th – June 19th Florida Department Convention, Orlando.

Sunday, June 19th, Father's Day

Monday, June 20th, Post 273/Unit 273 Officer Installation, 5pm.

JULY

Monday, July 4th, Independence Day

CHECKOUT THE NEW ALA UNIT 273

WEB SITE: www.alaf1273.com/

Updates made weekly.

THE SUNSET NEWSLETTER: If you would like to publish an event, article, photo, etc. in the newsletter the deadline is the **10th** of every month. Please send what you would like to have published to Pat Thoman at moimaid2@aol.com