



The Sunset

“PASS IT ON”

Issue 14, July/August, 2015

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 273 Madeira Beach, Florida 33708



Message from the President

It gives me great pleasure in writing my first message from the president for The Sunset "PASS IT ON" since it marks the start of my new role. I am honored and humbled to have been

elected your president. The election of the officers, appointment of your secretary and committee chairman is extremely important to the success of our American Legion Auxiliary Unit 273 and I appreciate their patience and commitment. I am confident we have the right team in place to continue and build on our unit for the future. Thank you to our District 16 leaders, Dee Bell, President, Cheryl Adams, Sgt. at Arms and Lee Whalen, Asst. Sgt. at Arms for the inspiring installation of officers' ceremony held at our post on June 29, 2015.

I do need *your skills to help and spirit to care*, to create an internal culture of goodwill to build and enhance participation by leading and serving on a committee. My short term goal is to match you with a service activity you will enjoy. We have a broad range of programs, please visit our website, www.alaf1273.com to learn about the many opportunities available and contact me to sign up for a committee.

This is our summer break but activities are ongoing. We are at the post on Saturday mornings at 10:00 AM to cut coupons to send to the troops overseas, we had merchandize sales over the July 4th, members are working from home creating afghans, lap robes or blankets; First Vice President Katie Gabehart and Wendy Donnelly Membership Chairman and the entire membership team have been working Monday through Friday from 10:00 am to noon in the banquet room ready to accept new members and membership renewals. The

team sorts mail and answers questions from ladies who inquire about our auxiliary.

We attended the American Legion Department of Florida 97th Convention in Orlando (Dee Bell will be at our October 6, 2015 to share her report on the successes of the Districts and Units) and Pat Thoman and her husband Craig Thoman, Theresa Penrod and I attended the USO training and shadow program at the Tampa Airport USO center. A very busy summer break!

If we have not met, I look forward to meeting you at our meeting, Tuesday, September 1, 2015.

Our new ALA Department President Pearl McIntyre's theme for the 2015-2016 year is "From the Service of One Comes the Support of Many" she has selected the palm tree and we have been assigned the "Bottle Palm." Stay tuned as we learn more about our role.

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

EVENTS

AUG. 16th Sunday, Riders Pancake Breakfast, 9am
SEPT. 4th/5th Labor Day T-shirt Sale, 1-5pm daily.
SEPT. 21st Sunday, Riders Pancake Breakfast, 9am

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. To send what you would like to have published or for more information please contact Pat Thoman at moimaid2@aol.com .

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: No meeting will be held in August; our next meeting will be Tuesday, **September 1, 2015** at 11 am.

2015-2016 INSTALLATION OF AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 273 OFFICERS



Top from left to right, Cheryl Adams, 16th Sgt. at Arms; 2nd Vice President, Mary Lou Kohler; 1st Vice President Katie Gabehart; Post 273 Commander, Jim White; Unit 273 President, Janice Hill; Dist. 16 President, Dee Bell; Historian, Kate Mills-Baldi; and Margaret Burke, 3yr Member at Large.. Bottom from left to right, 1st year Member at Large; Anita Krzeski; Secretary, Pat Thoman; Chaplain, Janet Hendrick; Sgt. at Arms, Laura Abram; 2nd year Member at Large, Sharon Abbotts; and 16th Dist. Asst. Sgt. at Arms, Lee Whalen.

POST 273 VOLUNTEERS COMPLETE USO ORIENTATION AND TRAINING



Unit 273 member Theresa Penrod, President Janice Hill, Craig Thoman (Pat Thoman's husband) and Secretary, Pat Thoman all completed their USO orientation on June 16th and shadow training in July and are ready to volunteer when needed for the USO.

HELP WANTED

WANTED WANTED WANTED

Members Wanted to Help Process Renewals, in the Banquet Hall Weekdays.

Greet Members, Collect Dues, Hand Out Membership Cards.

We Really Need Your Help For Thursdays Especially But Need Additional Staff For Every Weekday. Work in Teams of 2+. We Will Train You.

Help Your Auxiliary And Your Post And Make New Friends!

Interested or Want More Information? Call 727-317-3974 or email: membership@alaf1273.com

100% Volunteers Working for Our Veterans and Active Military

Help Us Give Back to Those Who Gave So Much!

NEWS BRIEFS



A new plan of action for this year is now in place, and because of the threat of terrorism in our own country, we now have another item under Homeland Security, in the FEMA Program, called "Project Impact" which includes Crime Prevention, Neighborhood Watch, and supporting our Police and Fire Depts. More than ever we have to be alert and aware of things happening around us.

The FEMA/CERT course (IS-317), which includes 6 modules:

1. CERT Basics
2. Fire Safety
3. Hazardous Materials & Terrorist Incidents
4. Disaster Medical Operations
5. Search and Rescue
6. Course Summary

I challenge each and every member to complete this and be the upmost prepared in case of an emergency, you just never know when you will be tested.

Congrats to: Janice Hill, Theresa Penrod, Pat Thoman and Craig Thoman for completing their USO training, welcome aboard to all.

The next two dates for the USO Central Florida Orientations are:

- Sunday, 8/16 1-3pm
- Sunday, 9/13 1-3pm

National Security cont'd on page 3

If anyone else would like to attend an orientation, please let me know.

PLEASE HELP SUPPORT THE USO CENTRAL FLORIDA 2015 WAWA CAMPAIGN

From June 29 through August 30, the USO will be partnering with Wawa Convenient Stores to launch in-store coin canisters and tear off sheet campaigns. We are expecting this to be a very successful promotion in 2015 and with your help we can continue to expand this relationship with Wawa for many years to come. If you live within a reasonable distance from a Wawa store, please feel free to stop in and offer a thank you to the Wawa employees who are helping make this promotion a success! Thank you in advance for your efforts and your continued dedication to lifting the spirits of our troops and their families.

Coupon Cutters Monthly Totals:

June: \$68,173.73 Hours: 743

July: \$58,410.10 Hours: 636

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

Just like our military, we are at work each and every day even throughout the summer, helping to make a difference and ease the worries of our active duty and their families. How can you help?

- One way is to sign up to mentor a military spouse at www.milspousementor.org, you never know what connection and support you can offer. It takes very little time and you are only contacted by email or phone, your preference.
- Lastly, under Homeland Security: Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) & Community Emergency Response Training (CERT). Let's make this a summer project, let's get as many members to get the first part done, just by taking the independent study course (IS-317), which you do in the comfort of your own home. We will have hands-on training sometime in the fall/winter months.

Please let me know of any programs you are doing under National Security so that I can add it to my monthly and yearly report. Again, thank you, thank you, thank you, for all that you continue to do.

Rhonda Brailey-Maurer
National Security Chairman
rjbm@hotmail.com
603-455-3868



GIRLS STATE: Chairman, Kate Mills-Baldi announced that we have sent eight young ladies to Girls State. We were very proud to sponsor them because

they are "our future," not only for the Auxiliary, but for our country. They will spend an intensive week of education on how our government works, breaking up into cities, districts, counties, electing officials from each, including Mayors House of Delegates, Senators, Supreme Court Justices, and a Governor teaching them all the voting processes. They will learn how bills are passed and enacted. This education will allow them to test and receive college credit for the education they received during this week. The Girls State delegates will be hosted at a luncheon at our first meeting in October where they will speak about their Girls State experiences.

MEMBERSHIP: ATTENTION UNIT 273 AUXILIARY MEMBERS... TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

2016 Membership Cards are Now Available, Good for all of 2016.

Take Advantage of our Convenient Member Services: Monday – Friday, 10:00 a.m. – Noon in the Post Banquet Hall. Pay Your Dues and Take Your Card. Lamination service is also available for \$1.00.

Dues are \$25.00, Payable by Cash or Check.

NEEDED:

WANTED
WANTED
WANTED

HUGS FROM MOM!



**Unit #273 Ladies Auxiliary
FUND RAISER
Support our Vets
All Proceeds go toward an
Event for Female Veterans**

If You Knit, Crochet, Sew or Quilt
Please Choose a Project, Any Color, Any Size to Donate
We Will Raffle them in **November**
During a Fun-Filled Weekend at our Beautiful Post

Please Call or Email: Wendy (920-629-2101) unit273aux@gmail.com
You Don't Have to be a Member of the Auxiliary to Participate!

Please Help Us Celebrate Our Female Heros!

COMMUNITY SERVICE: Chairman Sharon Abbotts has requested members to bring in school supplies (pencils, paper, scissors, notebooks, crayons, markers, etc.) throughout August to help the students at the 74th Street Elementary School. There will be a box to drop off donated school supplies on top of our T-shirt display case. For more information you can Contact Sharon at 727-343-5405 or email gaga1700@yahoo.com .

ORLANDO CONVENTION IN PHOTOS



Introduction of Dept. of Florida President Erna Schwabe.



New Dept. of Florida President, Pearl McIntyre is escorted to the podium by her husband.



Southern Division Vice President Sue Hall speaks at Convention.



16th District's Michelle DeGernaro is installed as Dept. of Florida 3rd Vice President. That's one big smile.



At right, 16th District President, Dee Bell was installed for a 2nd term as President.



As is tradition President Erna Schwabe was inducted into the "Old Gray Mares" club and escorted out to lunch.