



# The Sunset

“PASS IT ON”

Issue 15, September 27, 2015 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 273 Madeira Beach, Florida 33708



## Message from the President

As I prepare this monthly president's message, I am reminded by Google search engine that it is the first day of autumn 2015. Well, I am not convinced of that, it is still very hot outside and I have not seen any leaves that have changed their

color. But I can tell by the traffic that we are getting closer to our very busy season. Of course, Unit 273 did not slow down this summer. Since our last meeting, we managed to enroll many new members, we kept our fund raising going strong by selling tee-shirts and other American Legion Auxiliary brand collectibles, we assisted with the veterans dinner at the post, Sharon Abbotts and I represented our unit at the School of Instruction, and we hosted the Blue Star Mothers who paid special tribute to Gold Star Mothers with a lovely high noon tea.

To all new members and longtime dedicated members I want to introduce some other strong patriotic women who have a lead role in the future success of American Legion Auxiliaries nationwide and in our state.

First let me introduce, a lifetime member and our national president, Sharon Conatser, of Champaign, Illinois who was elected during the organization's 95th National convention in Baltimore, Maryland held August 28-September 23, 2015. Keeping the Promise is the theme of President Conatser has chosen for her term as president. "Keeping the Promise can mean many things," she said during her installation speech. Abraham Lincoln promised our soldiers that they would always be taken care of. We, as an organization, are keeping that promise by remaining a vital organization. Keeping the promise to our values, to our American Legion Family, to each other and most importantly to ourselves will be our priorities." **Meet Sharon Conatser** on Saturday, November 14, 2015 at our Annual Fall Conference, Department of Florida at the Hilton Orlando, Walt Disney, Lake Buena Vista, and Fl.

Our Department of Florida President Pearl McIntyre

installed this year has hit the ground running. She has visited many Units and Post talking about working together. We met our state president at Boot Camp; she has a devoted team of department chairmen who worked diligently putting their Plan of Action for 2015-2016 together for the workshop. Pearl's theme is "From the Service of One Comes the Support of Many," her pin is a palm tree that represents our continued support the ones who served and keep the fronds on our trees growing with membership; and she chose the Fisher Houses as her special project. We look forward to President Pearl's visit to District 16 - January 16-18, 2016.

Many of you know our District 16 President Dee Bell. She conducted our installation and recently attended our last meeting. She brought us news from Department of Florida ALA and reminded us that our symbol is the palm tree and the 16th District is the bottle palm. As our palm tree and membership grows our commitment and dedication to our veterans, active duty, children and communities will grow.

And then there is me, your unit 273 president. As we go forward and welcome a new year I hope to meet as many of you as I can and again ask you to take an active role in our continued success by volunteering to be a committee chairman or sign up to serve on a committee.

Janice Hill  
[president@alaf1273.com](mailto:president@alaf1273.com),  
727-580-5930

**NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:** Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, **October 6, 2015** at 11 am. A Girls State Luncheon will be held directly after the meeting. The price of the lunch will be \$7.00 and the menu will be a Chicken Caesar salad wrap, coleslaw, fruit cup, dessert and tea. RSVP to [katemills@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:katemills@tampabay.rr.com) or call 727-374-5252.

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

## AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY UNIT 273 PRESIDENT JANICE HILL'S FIRST MEETING



NEW ALA Unit President Janice Hill presiding over her first Unit 273 meeting on September 1, 2015 with guest speaker , 16<sup>th</sup> District President Dee Bell, and Jan Hendrick at her side.



Guest speaker, Susan Kaye, District 2 President in Arkansas, and has also been the Poppy Department Chairman for five years as well. Susan had contacted Unit 273 President Janice Hill to purchase some poppies while she was here in Florida and Janice asked Susan if she would be willing to speak at our next meeting and share her experiences as District President in Arkansas.



District 16th President, Dee Bell presenting Unit ALA Unit 273 Past 2014-2015 President Cathy Larkin-Richards with the ALA Unit 273 2014-2015 awards that were presented at the Annual State Department American Auxiliary Convention held, June 25<sup>th</sup> – June 28<sup>th</sup> that Cathy Larkin-Richards was unable to attend.

**WANTED:** Members Wanted to Help Process Renewals, in the Banquet Hall Weekdays between 10am and 12pm. Work in Teams of 2+. Greet Members, Collect Dues, Hand Out Membership Cards. We Will Train You.

Help Your Auxiliary And Your Post And Make New Friends!

If interested call 727-317-3974 or email:  
[membership@alaf1273.com](mailto:membership@alaf1273.com)

**MEMBERSHIP: ATTENTION UNIT 273  
AUXILIARY MEMBERS...IT'S TIME TO RENEW  
YOUR MEMBERSHIP!**

2016 Membership Cards are Now Available, Good for all of 2016. Dues are \$25.00, Payable by Cash or Check.

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.

**ABC SCHOOL AUXILIARY BASIC CONCEPT  
SCHOOL**

October 24th at 10:00AM (9 AM registration) Andy Anderson, Post 125, 6440 5th Ave. S., St. Petersburg, FL. We encourage all Auxiliary members to attend. This is an excellent learning opportunity. Lunch available for \$5.00 Italian Hoagie, chips and pickle. RSVP by Oct. 20th to [valeriebuckner@hotmail.com](mailto:valeriebuckner@hotmail.com)

## UNIT 273 PURCHASED, COLLECTED AND DELIVERED SCHOOL SUPPLIES FOR 74<sup>TH</sup> STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL STUDENTS



ALA Unit 273 President Janice Hill, Treasurer, Linda Newkirk, , and Committee Chairman, Sharon Abbotts shopping for school supplies.



ALA Unit 273 President Janice Hill, Treasurer, Linda Newkirk, 74<sup>th</sup> Street Elementary Principal, Carrie Johnson, and Committee Chairman, Sharon Abbotts standing in back of piles of school supplies delivered to the school.

On the 74<sup>th</sup> Street web site: "74<sup>th</sup> Street would like to say a big thank you to **Unit 273 Madeira Beach of the American Legion Auxiliary** for their generous donation of school supplies! We appreciate all that you've done to help our students and staff get our school year off to a successful start!"

## 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](mailto:unit273aux@gmail.com)  
You Don't Have to be a Member of the Auxiliary to Participate!

Please Help Us Celebrate Our Female Heros!

## EVENTS

### OCTOBER

**FRI., SAT. & SUN. October 2-4<sup>th</sup>**, Pasco County Stand Down.

**TUESDAY, October 6<sup>th</sup>** – Unit 273 Auxiliary Meeting 11am, followed by **Girls' State Luncheon at Noon.**

**SATURDAY, October 10<sup>th</sup>**, Kid's Fishing Tournament (S.A.L.) 8:30am

**SUNDAY, October 11<sup>th</sup>**, Breakfast Buffet, 8:30am-11:15pm.

**SUNDAY, October 18<sup>th</sup>**, Riders Pancake Breakfast, 9am

**FRIDAY, October 30<sup>th</sup>**, Kids Halloween Party

### NOVEMBER

**SATURDAY, November 7<sup>th</sup>**, Veterans Boat Parade

**WEDNESDAY, November 11<sup>th</sup>**, Veterans Day, Ceremony at 1pm

**SUNDAY, November, 15<sup>th</sup>**, Breakfast Buffet, 8:30am-11:15pm.

**FRI., SAT. & SUN NOVEMBER 20-22** – Riders Bake Sale

**SAT. & SUN., NOVEMBER 21-22**, "HUGS" Quilt Raffle tickets will be sold, drawing, 5pm on Sunday.

**SATURDAY, November 21<sup>st</sup>** – **BLOOD DRIVE**

**SUNDAY, November 22<sup>nd</sup>**, Riders Pancake Breakfast, 9am

**THURSDAY, November 26<sup>th</sup>**, Special Thanksgiving Menu, Noon-7pm, \$11.00 per person

**4<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GOLD STAR MOTHERS REMEMBRANCE TEA HOSTED BY THE GREATER TAMPA BAY BLUE STAR MOTHERS AND ALA UNIT 273 SEPTEMBER 19, 2015**



Gold Star Mothers releasing their Remembrance Balloons directly outside of Post 273.



The Tea Pots waiting to be filled with hot water.



Table place settings; with china plates, tea cup, saucers, silverware, and gift bags, with an assortment of teas, honey, lemons, sugar and cream.



Sharon Abbotts welcoming Herminda Winkoff (middle) to her very first Gold Star Mothers Remembrance Tea Event. Herminda is the oldest Gold Start Mother attending the event who had just celebrated her 94<sup>th</sup> birthday.



Sharon Abbotts who worked non-stop to make this a successful event as well as Unit 273 President Janice Hill showing off the beautiful assortment of food for the event.

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