



The Sunset "PASS IT ON"

Issue 17, November 17, 2015 American Legion Auxiliary Unit 273 Madeira Beach, Florida 33708



Message from the President

We often speak of membership as if we are discussing membership in any civic club. However, membership in the American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) is much more than that. As ALA members it is our duty to further the

objectives of the ALA. These objectives include, among other things, fostering loyalty to the ALA. Fostering loyalty is not as simple as espousing our mission, vision, and principles of the ALA. This is because membership in ALA is more a creature of personal relationships than of ideology. While the National platform may be a vehicle to attract new members, and ultimately a set of principles that bind us together, our strength is in the relationships and networks that we build. In that vein, lasting relationships and networks are generally built between individuals who share the same values. In the spirit of the holiday season, let us rally behind our shared values as we continue to service our American Legion, our military, and their families as the premier service organization.

Our members do incredible work in the spirit of Service, Not self. Thank you.

Happy Thanksgiving.

Janice B Hill

From The Service Of One Comes The Support Of Many

We are the largest American Legion Family Membership in the world!

president@alaf1273.com ,
727-580-5930

Share Your Story. Share Your Power. Save Lives.

BLOOD DRIVE

Katie
Cresview,
Florida

"There are no words to say how we feel about blood donors because Katie wouldn't be here if it wasn't for them."
- Katie's Parents

To watch Katie's story or to share your story visit at omOneBlood.org

THE PERFECT GIFT. THE GIFT OF LIFE.

American Legion 273
Saturday, November 21, 2015
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

All donors will receive a FREE Long Sleeve T-Shirt and wellness check up including blood pressure, temperature, iron count and cholesterol screening.

Help us better serve you! Make an appointment online at www.oneblooddonor.org and use sponsor code #11690

1.888.9.DONATE (1.888.936.6283)
oneblood.org

ID Required Share your power.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: Next meeting will be held on Tuesday, **December 1, 2015** at 11 am. Officers do not have to wear uniforms and dress in something to celebrate Christmas. Guest speaker will be Navy, HM2 Stephen P. Matthews to share his experiences working with Disaster Recovery, his deployment on the Hospital Ship the Mercy and his recent deployment to Afghanistan.

Women Veterans' Christmas Tea Luncheon to be held after our meeting.

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 .

..

CHILDRENS' HALLOWEEN PARTY HOSTED BY ALA UNIT 273 OCTOBER 31st



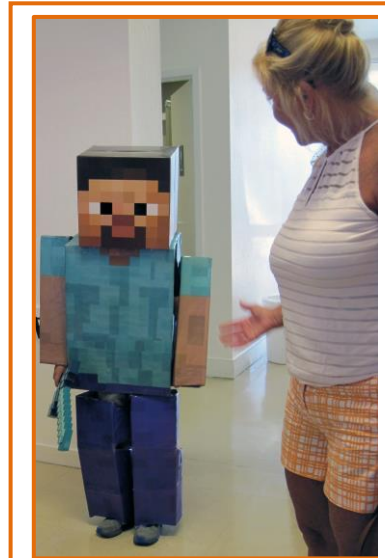
Some of the Halloween Party volunteer staff from left to right: Jr. Member, Sidney Brotchi; Chairman, Sharon Abbotts; Unit 273 President, Janice Hill; 1st Vice President, Katie Gabehart; Marilyn Murphy; Nancy Byler; and Linda Newkirk.



Post 273 Bartenders AKA Super Heros Michael and Josh along with their hero buddy Ironman Eddie.



Jackie and Veronica Hunter.



Steve showing off his great Minecraft costume as his Nana looks on.



Six year old Jolie dressed as a very pretty Southern Belle.



2015 Children's Halloween Party

ALA Unit 273 Hosted a Children's Halloween Party on October 31 for over 30 children. All had loads of fun playing games, doing crafts, parade, contests, along with plenty of food and treats instead of tricks.

TAMPA BAY TROOP SUPPORT PACKING EVENT HELD ON NOVEMBER 7TH



Boxes being packed with a thank you letter signed by members of Tampa Bay Troop Support reading "From All of Us, to All of you, Thank You!" as well as non-perishable items and to be sent to the troops overseas.



From Left to Right are: President, Dave Dabney; Unit 273 National Security Chairman Rhonda Brailey-Maurer presenting the \$500 check; Secretary, Sharon Porter Korcia; and Carter Dabney.

Packing for our troops overseas event was held on November 7, 2015, by Tampa Bay Troop Support at the Seminole Lanes Bowl. A big THANK YOU was given to American Legion Auxiliary Unit 273, Madeira Beach, for the donation of \$500.00 and the 'pocket flags that were included in the boxes packed for the troops.'

EVENTS

NOVEMBER

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

SATURDAY, November 21st – **BLOOD DRIVE**

SUNDAY, November 22nd, Riders Pancake Breakfast, 9am

THURSDAY, November 26th, Special Thanksgiving Menu, Noon-7pm, \$11.00 per person

DECEMBER

MONDAY, December 7th, Pearl Harbor Day.

SUNDAY, December 13th, Breakfast Buffet, 8:30 to 11:15am.

SUNDAY, December 13th, Seminole Christmas Parade.

SUNDAY, December 20th, Riders Pancake Breakfast, 9am.

SATURDAY, December 19th, Children's Christmas Party.

THURSDAY, December 24th, Amateur Celebrity Bartenders, Post Kitchen Closed.

FRIDAY, December 25th, Veterans Christmas Dinner, 11am-1:30pm

THURSDAY, December 31st, New Years Eve Party.

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 273
Annual Female Veteran's Christmas Party

Hats Off to Our Heroes

*

We're hosting 30 female veterans from Bay Pines Hospital, our annual Christmas party in their honor.

This year it's a Tea Party and all the lady veterans will make hats to wear at this fun and festive event.

We Need donations of ladies hats and everything that will make them special: Ribbon, silk flowers, jewelry or other craft items.

Drop off your donation in the Banquet Hall at the Legion, Mon-Fri between 10 a.m.—noon.

Deadline: November 25th. Questions? Call Wendy Donnelly, 920-629-2101

COMMUNITY SERVICE:

NEEDED: FOOD TO FEED FAMILIES FOR THANKSGIVING

Please bring in food to our November meeting or to our drop off box on top of the T-Shirt display case at the Post to help us feed our less fortunate families for Thanksgiving. Suggested needed items: Cranberries, canned vegetables, stuffing, boxed mashed potatoes, canned sweet potatoes, turkey gravy, cake mixes, and frosting. Every little bit helps feed a family for Thanksgiving. For more information on this upcoming event, please contact Sharon Abbotts at 727-343-5405 or Email her at gaga1700@yahoo.com. **There will be another food drive for families again for Christmas so be on the watch for more information.**

“Marilyn Murphy Angel Tree” Look for our Angels on the Christmas tree that will be put up in the Legion Lobby. Please take an Angel and make that child’s wishes come true for Christmas. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer your help, call Chairman Sharon Abbotts at 727-343-5405 or Email her at gaga1700@yahoo.com.

JANUARY 15th & 16th BAKE SALE AND

RAFFLE: Members, please start bringing in bottles of wine and or any liquor you would like to donate to our December and January meetings. We need to start working on our “Baskets of Cheer” to Raffle. Any gift donations that anyone can get to fill our baskets would be very much appreciated as well. Also if anyone would like to put together a basket to raffle off can do that as well. Thank you, Chairman Sharon Abbotts. Any questions you can call me at 727-343-5405 or email gaga1700@yahoo.com.

WAYS & MEANS:

T-Shirt Sales: Chairman, Pat Thoman reported October Sales were \$4,561 with a total of 232 hours. The new merchandise is here, so come and take a look at the new bottle koozies, tumblers, zip-up sweatshirts, men’s shirts and hats.

Soda Machine: Chairman, Katie Gabehart reported deposits made for October in the amount of \$1,100.

CHECKOUT THE NEW ALA UNIT 273 WEB SITE
www.alaf1273.com/ Updates made weekly.

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

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

NATIONAL SECURITY:

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

Blue Star & Gold Star Mother

1. We honor our members with a banner of service; the banner represents active duty members currently serving and service members that were killed in the line of duty. Members that qualify under AL are: the immediate family, mothers, grandmothers, steps-mothers, foster-mothers
2. We also support our local Blue Star and Gold Star Mother Organizations.

USO Central Florida

To qualify to volunteers for this program, members need to be orientated and trained.

Contact: Carrie Harper @
charper@usocentralflorida.org

Orientation Dates are:

Sunday 11/15 1-3

Sunday 12/13 1-3

1. There are many opportunity, such as the welcome center (3 4-hr shifts, 8-12, 12-4, 4-8 open 7 days a week), they are always in need of help.
2. We attend Welcome Home Events @ TIA
3. Outside projects are: Operation Stuff-A-Stocking, Christmas Gift-Wrapping (12/1-12/24), No-Doughs, Tailgate for the Troops, and We Want Brew! (2/6/16).
4. I plan on doing the Christmas Gift Wrapping at Westshore Plaza, 3 days a week in Dec.

Operation Homefront

To qualify to volunteers for this program, members need to be orientated and trained.

www.operationhomefront.net

1. We are in the Southeast Region (AL, FL & GA), and we provide emergency financial and other assistance to the families of our service members and wounded heroes.
2. On 11/23 & 11/24 8-4, I will be the Morale Project Manager for "Thanks for Giving" at Suncoast YMCA, Palm Harbor, I'm also looking into the "Take a Hero Fishing" program.
3. I would like to plan a unit project or event to support many other programs they have.

Troopons aka Coupons

Coupon Cutters Monthly Totals:

October: \$96,031.34 Hours: 1,044

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.

American Red Cross

1. Holiday mail for Hero's
2. Blood Drives w/OneBlood, 11/21 & 1/23 11-2, please pass the word around so that we can help save lives, if you can't give blood yourself, ask someone else if they can.
3. Packing for the Troops, we are supporting the "Tampa Bay Troop Support Group", Sat 11/7 @ 9am at Seminole Bowl to get packages ready to send overseas in time for Christmas.

The Yellow Ribbon Reintegration

This is a program to promote the well-being of the National Guard and Reserve members, their family and the community. I will be looking into this program.

Family to Family/Family Readiness Group

1. We support the Military Spouse eMentor Program, it is all done on line, so if you have skills then this is an easy program for you, go to www.milspousementor.org and JOIN today
2. Helping active duty members that are facing hardships. If anyone knows of a military family, please let us know.
3. Getting information to service members and veterans as to where they can find help and assistance.

FEMA/CERT

This is for all members, take the on-line course: IS-317: Introduction to Community Emergency Response Teams, it will take approximately 8-10 hours to finish, once that is done, we will have a hand-on training and get our certificate of completion. We should all be somewhat prepared for an emergency regardless.

ROTC/JROTC

Working with the high school counselors that have students or cadets in this program, and finding ways for them to gain experience in the community and our Unit.

We have Admiral Farragut Academy, Keswick Christian & Northside Christian. If anyone has ideas on what they can do, I would love to hear them.

