

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 179

San Anselmo, CA
August 2012 Newsletter
Volume 9



Time truly does fly by when having fun while doing good! Looking back over the last three months, we're happy to say that it's been a busy and very successful time. We elected a new board and have continued to add to our general membership. With summer in full bloom, let's enjoy the lazy days, and in September resume our events in support of our troops and veterans with our usual passion and enthusiasm. Here's a recap of our recent accomplishments!



CARE PACKAGE COLLECTIONS

Two collection days, in April and June, let us know again just how supportive the Marin County community can be. At the April 28th collection at the Strawberry Village Safeway, shoppers donated enough items to fill 158 care packages, along with donations for Hugs from Home and postage.



On the day of the collection, the United Market stores had large patriotic displays of the items for the care packages. The shoppers could not resist stopping at the display and selecting an item or two for the troops. Shoppers donated enough items to fill 133 care packages, along with almost \$1,700 to help offset the cost of postage.



Prior to the June 9th collection at United Markets in San Rafael and San Anselmo, the weekly United Markets full-page ad contained a great photo of Meg and Tom promoting our care package collection.



A very special thanks to our own Sandra Terzian-Feliz who donated \$1,200 for 60 Hugs from Home toiletry bags.

PACKING PARTIES

To make sure all those food and toiletry items collected got to the troops, members along with friends and family and other volunteers gave up a Saturday or Sunday afternoon, and with lots of care and love, packed the boxes and got them ready for shipping. On April 29, volunteers from the Rotary Clubs of Ignacio, San Rafael, and Ross Valley, Safeway shoppers met at the collection the day before, and folks from Gannett Fleming, Inc. in Mill Valley joined members at the Log Cabin in packing 158 boxes.

Later that day, Sandy Mixsell and Ellen Boesner helped pack another 15 care packages with a youth group from Christ Presbyterian Church in San Rafael. On June 23, 133 boxes containing food and toiletry items were packed and prepared for shipping to the troops in Afghanistan. The members selected the recipients of the care packages from the website www.anysoldier.com. If you have never visited this website, we encourage you to do so and read the stories posted by our troops. Our total number of care packages shipped since our unit was formed is 1,330!



GIRL SCOUT COOKIES

Through the Gift of Caring program, the Girl Scouts of Northern California have entrusted our Unit with approximately 750 cases of cookies for distribution to military personnel. The cookies were all purchased by individuals for members of the military (active duty or veterans). Bill Mixsell, Lou Shehi, Jan Darmody and Dale Kelly picked up 350 cases in Santa Rosa. Luckily, 400 cases were delivered. Betty and Keith Angerman and Chris and Kevin Hughes have generously given garage space to store them, while members have been busy delivering the cookies.



Ellen and Rosmarie Gordon made two trips to the USO lounge at SFO; the cookies are a hit with traveling service members and their families. Meg Tarantino, Chris Hughes, Sandy and Bill Mixsell, and Ellen Boesner delivered cookies to the USO at Travis Air Force Base

(some of the cookies will be distributed to the USO at the San Jose airport). Jan Darmody and Sophi and Lou Shehi made deliveries to The Pathway Home in Yountville. Christa Colardo went to the Veterans Hospital in Yountville with a carload of cookies, and Lauren Shields filled her car with cookies for Mather AFB. Jan took a few cases to Veteran's Affairs Supportive Housing (VASH) in Novato for veterans residing at that facility and homeless veterans. Lisa and Ted Wight, friends of Ellen, filled their truck with cookies and delivered them to the VA Hospital in San Francisco. We get lots of smiles when we pull up with vehicles loaded with Girl Scout cookies!



COOLING SCARVES

Summer in Afghanistan can be brutally hot! A cooling scarf can bring a small amount of comfort to a service member out on patrol in that climate. We keep that in mind when we get together to sew cooling scarves and, although Jan insists that each sewing party is not a competition against the previous one, everyone is always anxious to find out how many we completed that day. Well, on June 2, we beat the record with 150 cooling scarves! On May 19, we completed 123 scarves and 134 scarves on July 22. Some of the cooling scarves will be available in return for a donation at San Anselmo Country Fair Day in September. Sandra Terzian-Feliz helps by sewing scarves at home. We appreciate that very much, thank you Sandra!



Pathway Home/Veteran's Hospital/VASH

Veterans at the Veteran's Hospital and The Pathway Home, both in Yountville, need our support and members have been very generous by cooking, and baking to show them that we care.

On April 22, unit members delivered lasagna, casseroles, chili, soup, pasta salad and cookies to The Pathway Home and filled their refrigerator. With 16 young vets there, we don't think any of it stayed in the fridge for very long. That same day, we participated in the Spring Fling at the Veterans Hospital in Yountville. We brought sandwiches, snacks and cookies and served the patients. We sat at the tables and talked with the patients and had a wonderful time.

POPPIES

May 13-19 was Poppy Week. The Unit ordered 500 poppies, hand-made by disabled veterans in Yountville. The poppies provide a small stipend to the veterans plus a physical therapy opportunity. Many members distributed poppies to co-workers, family and friends. Members handed out poppies in front of the San Anselmo post office and library. They also delivered them to the city administration, librarians, and management and staff of the post office. All were gratefully received and, as Lauren Shields put it, "All poppies were deployed." Diane Soshnik and Meg Tarantino received a warm reception in front of the post office and library. Thanks to all members for their contributions. Special kudos to Deb for bringing in \$515! Our total for the V.A.R. was \$800.



YARD SALE

The Second Annual Community Yard Sale was June 30 at the Log Cabin. Ellen worked diligently, with help from Meg Tarantino, Sandy Mixsell, Nancy Oswald, Sahra Gordon and Stacey Atchley, covering



most of San Anselmo with flyers, making sure ads got in the newspaper and rented 38 tables/spaces to sellers. Meg was always available to help with the many tasks involved with this event. Many unit members and their friends cleared their garages and closets and filled the side room of the log cabin and several tables with items for sale, with the proceeds donated to our unit. Our members transformed a pile of donated items into the American Legion Auxiliary Boutique. Everyone enjoyed the baked goods and grilled hot dogs and sausages. A lot of work by many of our members contributed to a very successful day and an

enjoyable community event. The total of over \$2,000 made that day will pay for many care packages for our troops in Afghanistan this fall and winter.

MEMORIAL DAY

On Memorial Day, May 28, some unit members attended the Memorial Day service at the Marin County Civic Center and, with Commander Steve Bartley of San Anselmo Post 179, presented a wreath in front of the memorials. Other members were at the Log Cabin early to decorate and help set up for the Post barbecue. Our Unit managed the bake sale, displayed samples of our care packages, accepted donations for postage and Hugs from Home toiletry bags for the troops, and encouraged guests to write notes to the troops.

BLOOD DRIVE

On July 7, American Legion Post 179 held a blood drive and invited the Auxiliary to give blood and help serve a pancake breakfast to the donors. It was a success; 39 people volunteered to donate and the blood bank accepted 23 donations. All of the blood bank's requirements were met and they were very pleased with the results.



GRAND OPENING OF THE USO AT TRAVIS AFB

On August 1, four members of Unit 179 attended the dedication and grand opening of the new USO center at Travis Air Force Base in Fairfield. At 2,860 square feet, the new center is more than twice as big as the former location, and will better serve the 10,000 active duty military and their 9,000 family members based at Travis. During the dedication ceremony, Col. Dwight D. Sones, Commander of the 60th Air Mobility Wing, spoke about the importance of USO centers throughout the world, and the great comfort that they provide to members of the military and their families. Jennifer Castillo, manager of the Travis USO center, thanked the community for their support and welcomed everyone into the center for a buffet lunch and a tour of the beautiful new facility. And our unit made its contribution by delivering cases of Girl Scout cookies, which several Airmen gladly helped unload from Chris's car!



Acknowledgements

We wish to thank the following for their contributions and support. We couldn't do it without you!

American Legion Post 179
Benedetto Cico of The San Anselmo Inn
Bill Daniels of United Markets
Bobbie Snyder
Girl Scouts of Northern California
Jessica Mullins of the San Anselmo Fairfax Patch
Joe Wolfcale at Marinscope
Marin Independent Journal
Nancy L. Morgan of the Grand Hyatt San Francisco
Rotary Club of Ignacio
Safeway
San Anselmo Chamber of Commerce

And a really BIG thank you to the spouses of our members, who have helped us, supported us, and put up with us! We know it hasn't always been easy!

Facebook

For those of you on Facebook, please visit our page and "Like" us so you can stay current on the news and see pictures of all the unit's events. We have 45 people following ALA179 and would love more! Spread the word.



Here is a link to our page. Check it out! <http://www.facebook.com/ALA179>

Upcoming Meetings & Events

August 26 - sewing party
September 5 - unit meeting
September 8 - care package collection at the Mill Valley Safeway
September 13 - Boys and Girls State dinner
September 16 - packing party
September 17 - board meeting
September 30 - San Anselmo County Fair Day
October 3 - unit meeting
October 15 - board meeting
October 21 - Ride2Recovery
October 27 - collection at Scotty's Market in Terra Linda
November 3 - care package collection at San Anselmo Safeway

2012-2013 Board

President – Ellen Boesner

1st VP – Betty Angerman

2nd VP – Sandy Mixsell

Secretary – Chris Hughes

Treasurer – Jan Darmody

Exec. Committeewoman – Deb Gutierrez

Historian – Ann Murphy

Chaplain – Lauren Shields

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 179 – Log Cabin San Anselmo – www.alaunit179.org