

AMERICAN LEGION POST 373

NEWSLETTER



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Commander
Robert "Bob" Brewster

Chartered 1996
Volume 8 Issue 6
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COMMANDER'S CORNER

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL MEMBERS WHO HAVE RENEWED FOR 2019. WE ALSO WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE BEEN SUPPORTING OUR POST FROM THE DAY THAT YOU JOINED. ABOUT 60% OF OUR MEMBERSHIP HAVE RENEWED FOR 2019. WE NOW NEED 40% ALSO TO RENEW. FOR 8 OF OUR EXISTING 9 YEARS WE HAVE HIT OUR MEMBERSHIP ASSIGNMENT. FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT RENEWED, PLEASE RENEW ASAP. WHY THE PRESSURE NOW? WE ARE VERY CLOSE TO THE HOLIDAY SEASON, AND YOUR THOUGHTS WILL BE ABOUT EVERYTHING EXCEPT MEMBERSHIP. THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HAVE SUPPORTED US OVER THE YEARS BECAUSE WITHOUT YOU WE CANNOT SUCCEED.

FROM ALL OF US AT POST 373, WE WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY THANKSGIVING, A MERRY CHRISTMAS, AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

COMMANDER'S CORNER (continued)

What has our Post and its officers done for you? Answer: We represent you at all District 5 meetings, Department Fall Conferences and Summer Convention, and we chair and work about 11 Legion programs at Post level. We also have members who are on Department staff. Staff officers represent our Florida Department which has approximately 295 Posts. We try to attend the National Conventions if possible. They are expensive to attend as they are all over the country, and they take up 7 to 9 days of travel and living expenses. Our Veteran Service Officers (3) pay their own way to attend a 2-day training session in Orlando so that they can remain certified for helping our vets with their claims. As stated many times in the past, you don't have to do anything other than keeping your dues current. Also, remember when you need help, we are there for you.

We had a fantastic fiscal year 2017-2018 with succeeding in 10 Legion programs. Our Post has handled well over 300 V.A. cases during the 2017-2018 fiscal year. Our Post members and officers represented our Post at approximately 24 Veterans funeral services. Our Executive members have attended every District 5 meeting, the Fall Conference, and the State Convention. Most of this has been done at these members own expense. Our Auxiliary members have done a great job doing their programs and also helping with all the Post programs. Legion and Auxiliary officers have taken on being key note speakers at many Veteran events. This group also helps with placing flags on Veterans graves on Memorial Day. Our members have been involved with both the District and Area oratorical contests and the Florida Highway Patrol/American Legion Cadet program which sends 16 to 18 year olds to Tallahassee for a week to train alongside the incoming men and women who are training to become Florida Highway Patrol officers. Our officers visit the members who are sick at home or in hospitals. We offer to help any veteran and his or her family when needed. Our Post has become well known throughout the state of Florida and well beyond.

These are some of the things we do and why it is so important to have all of our members continue to pay their yearly dues. Thank you for all who support our Post every year, for without you we cannot succeed.

**For God and Country,
Bob Brewster, Commander**

AUXILIARY NEWS

Membership: You can mail your 2019 renewal dues to American Legion Auxiliary Unit 373, P. O. Box 2212, Orange Park, FL 32067. Remember . Our Unit 373 dues are now \$30.00 per year for senior members and still \$5.00 per year for junior members. Thank you members who have already sent in your 2019 dues renewals. Have just mailed 10 more 2019 renewals to Department which will bring our membership goal percentage from 35.71% to 59.52%. Keep the renewals coming!

To obtain our membership goals, we must maintain our current members and recruit new members. Who are eligible? Veterans wives, daughters, granddaughters. If your brother or sister served, you can join the Auxiliary under them. Our success is based on membership. We need to continue to grow our Unit.

The primary reason for the Auxiliary's existence is to continue to help veterans, young and old, and their families in time of need and assisting our Legionnaires. Here at Post 373, we firmly believe in the American Legion family.

Florida Department President Michele DeGennaro's charity for 2018-2019 is Final Salute (assisting homeless women veterans & their families). Our unit will be donating miscellaneous baby onesies, pampers, wipes, bottles, etc. for their wish list. If you want to participate, you can bring items to our Post/Unit 373 meeting on Tuesday, November 27, 2018, 7:00 PM, at the Lions Club. Ft. Caroline Unit 283 is hosting a baby shower in support of Final Salute on Saturday, December 8th from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Hoping to take any donated items to that event. Any questions, please call me at 904-272-1619.

Our Chaplain Shirley Wright has been sending out cards to our ill members wishing them a speedy recovery from us all.

Our Unit also has been collecting aluminum cans & pop tops to fund our Auxiliary programs, along with a Secret Door Prize drawing at every monthly meeting. We also help provide refreshments and finger foods after our Legion/Auxiliary meetings.

**United in purpose,
Collette "Collie" Brewster, President**

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The Post Chaplain is charged with the spiritual welfare of the post. As Chaplain, my duties include offering divine but non-sectarian services to post members, visiting the sick at home, in the hospital or nursing home, comforting members and their families, when sick or in the event of loss.

In order to be of service to the comrades of our post and their families, it is important that the Chaplain is advised of a need or situation when the time arises. We are here to serve.

As Veterans, we all served to protect the freedoms we enjoy as Americans - Remember to VOTE.

Looking forward, we hope you have a good Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day this next month.

**For God and Country,
Joe Wright, Chaplain
American Legion Post 373 – 904-269-7676
and
Shirley Wright, Chaplain
American Legion Auxiliary Unit 373 – 904-269-7676**

GOLF TOURNAMENT

We are co-sponsoring a golf tournament with the Orange Park Athletic Association. The Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, November 30, 2018, at The Eagle Landing Golf Course, located at 3989 Eagle Landing Parkway, Orange Park, FL 32065. Shotgun start at 1:00 PM. Registration starts at 11:00 AM.

You can form your own foursome or you can be assigned to an existing foursome. It is a best ball scramble with practice balls and prizes galore, with a meal included. Cost is \$90.00 per player. I know we have golfers at our Post, but you do not have to be a good golfer to play in this format. I have

GOLF TOURNAMENT (continued)

played in these tournaments in the past, and it is strictly a huge fun day. We are looking for Hole Sponsors . Cost is \$100.00. These can be sponsored by individuals or businesses. Each Hole Sponsor will have their information on a sign placed on one of the 18 holes. Both the OPPA and our Post will benefit from this event.

Any questions or for registration forms, please contact me at 904-272-1619.

**For God and Country,
Bob Brewster, Commander**

CLAY COUNTY VETERANS COUNCIL

Your Commander Bob Brewster is also the president of this Council. Our Sgt at Arms Matt Ruxton, one of our Veteran Service Officers Ed Silva, and our 1st Vice Cdr John Roberson are also leaders in the CCVC. The CCVC is made up of all the veteran organizations in Clay County (11). We spearheaded working with Congressman Ted Yoho in getting a V.A. Clinic right here in Clay County. This will save a lot of the veterans from driving long distances to see a doctor. If you are a veteran and are not signed up with the V.A., please get signed up. Maybe you are like me, and you have great health insurance and do not need the V.A. system, please still sign up with the V.A. We must maintain 8,000 plus V.A. signees to get and keep a clinic here in Clay County. The only requirement for you after you sign up is that once a year you go have a physical at the clinic at no cost. Also, remember that you now can receive free prescription glasses and dental care. Again, if you have questions about this, come to a Post meeting or give an officer a call. This clinic should be open sometime in late 2019, and it will be located at 400 College Park Drive, Orange Park, FL . very easily accessible.

**For God and Country,
Bob Brewster, Commander**

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IMPORTANT MEETING DATES TO REMEMBER

Post/Unit 373 meetings are held the **4th Tuesday** of each month (**except December**) at the Orange Park Lions Club, 423 McIntosh Avenue, Orange Park, FL 32073.

Our **November** meeting is scheduled for **November 27, 2018** at **7:00 PM**

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The **November** District meeting is scheduled for **November 4, 2018** and will be held at **Post 202**, 7441 State Road 21, Keystone Heights, FL 32656 at **2:00 PM**

The **December** District meeting is scheduled for **December 9, 2018** and will be held at **Post 129**, 1151 4th Street South, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250 at **2:00 PM**
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Please e-mail your articles for Post 373's November/December newsletter to either Bob Brewster at mr.bobbrewster@gmail.com or Barb Jonte at bjonte49@att.net by **December 26, 2018**.

American Legion Post 373 Legion Officers 2018-2019

Commander	Bob Brewster	904-272-1619
1 st Vice Commander	John Roberson	904-688-1387
2 nd Vice Commander	Elmer Wine	904-705-4095
3 rd Vice Commander	Godson Obiagwu	904-343-5770
Financial Officer	Charlie Leister	904-272-8410
Adjutant	Bob Brewster	904-272-1619
V.S.O.	Ed Silva	904-477-2761
V.S.O.	Jeff Pennala	904-297-8914
Chaplain	Joe Wright	904-269-7676
Historian	Johnny Odom	904-215-2901
Sergeant at Arms	Matt Ruxton	904-272-4179
Sergeant at Arms	Steve Valliere	904-625-5930
Executive Committee	Wanda Ruxton	904-272-4179
Executive Committee	Don Jacques	904-945-1905
Executive Committee	Bill Walsh	904-657-8177

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 373 Officers 2018-2019

President	Collette Brewster	904-272-1619
Vice President	Ramona Horn	904-318-0313
Secretary-Treasurer	Barbara Jonte	904-213-1073
Sgt. at Arms	Joyce Forsythe	904-272-5204
Chaplain	Shirley Wright	904-269-7676
Historian	Ramonita Silva	904-276-2378
Executive Committee	Glenna Roberson	904-688-1387
Executive Committee	Kathie Thomson	904-284-6950
Executive Committee	Tammie Holland	904-728-0091

*****If you are receiving this newsletter by snail mail and have an e-mail address, please provide your e-mail address to Bob Brewster at mr.bobbrewster@gmail.com.*****