

AMERICAN LEGION POST 373 NEWSLETTER



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**Commander
Robert "Bob" Brewster**

**Chartered 1996
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July/August 2019**

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Well, we are back. I am very surprised that I did not receive a single phone call, e-mail, or any other kind of communication over the past two months asking a simple question. "Where is my copy of the current newsletter?" We were not able to produce a newsletter for the last two months, June & July, due to the fact that 95% of our staff was sick, or being operated on very various hip replacements, plus the fact that some of our key officers were having open heart surgery. During this time, myself and a few key officers were very busy taking care of family members who were going through these procedures. Now, the good news! We seem to be getting everyone back on their feet so we can have another great new year. The American Legion operates basically on a fiscal year. Our year starts on July 1st and ends on June 30th while your membership cards expire on December 31st. Our state convention starts on June 27, 2019 through July 1, 2019. Our national convention starts on August 23, 2019 through August 29, 2019. Our national membership meeting is held on August 9th & 10th. I have to attend all three of these events this year. These are not fun trips. These are working trips, and most of the time, it's very early in the morning to very late at night. One change you will see is that I will be wearing a white cap this year. This is because I am again a Department officer. Our post has been doing quite well, working the programs of The American Legion. The programs we work are mostly Children & Youth and helping veterans in our area. Our post for the last ten years has done some very good work in these programs. Some of our post members have had kids involved in various programs that we support such as ROTC, Baseball, Shooting Sports, Boys State, Girls State, Oratorical, to name a few. We could use some members to

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COMMANDER'S CORNER (continued)

help with these programs. Also, if your kids and grandkids are involved in any of these programs, please let us know who they are and what they are doing. We will be installing our new officers (Legion, SAL, Auxiliary) at the July 23, 2019 meeting here at our post. These officers must have their 2019/2020 membership card at that time. Also, we ask all incoming Legion & SAL officers to wear shirt and tie for this installation meeting. At this time, I want to thank all of you members who have renewed your membership for the 2018/2019 fiscal year. Without you, our post would not succeed year after year in membership, and without membership, we could not be a successful post in Orange Park, Florida. You have all played a role in moving this post forward. Post 373 Orange Park has come from 60 members in the Legion to 355 members. Each and every year we have grown. This has enabled us to do more for our vets each and every year. Not only has our Legion grown, but also our great Auxiliary has grown, and I want to thank them for all that they do. I wish all of you Legion members would encourage your mothers, wives, daughters, and granddaughters, etc. to join the Auxiliary. In closing, I want to say how much of an honor it is for me to be your post Commander. Without you, I cannot succeed. My success is your success.

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

SERGEANT AT ARMS

It has come to my attention that some of our general instructions are not always adhered to, so I will convey them as written in the Sergeant at Arms Manual:

The ceremonial services of The American Legion must be conducted with the solemnity befitting the dignity of this organization.

No one shall be admitted during opening, initiation, or closing ceremonies of an American Legion meeting.

Comrades shall be careful never to pass between flags ~~and~~ Hallowed Ground+ and the station of the Commander.

A member entering the hall after the meeting has begun shall advance to the center of the room, salute the colors and be seated.

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SERGEANT AT ARMS (continued)

Any member desiring to be excused from the hall while the meeting is in progress, except during prayer, the obligation, or during a period of silence, shall advance to the center of the room, salute the colors and then leave.

**For God and Country,
Matt Ruxton, Sgt. at Arms**

AUXILIARY NEWS

Personal Note: Sorry we missed our Post 373's newsletter for May-June 2019. I had my first hip replacement the end of April and our Secretary/Treasurer, Barb Jonte, had her 2nd hip replacement the end of May. She is doing fantastic! I am scheduled for my 2nd hip replacement on August 12, 2019 (not looking forward to that again so soon!). Enough of the above news. Again, I want to thank all of you for renewing your 2019 membership dues which brought our Unit to our 100% goal. With our Unit's dues portion, we are able to contribute to some of The American Legion Auxiliary's charitable programs and assist our local veteran families when needed. Note: The American Legion's fiscal year ends on June 30th and the new fiscal year begins on July 1st, which means that National will be sending 2020 renewal membership cards in July to all the Auxiliary Units. Unit 373's annual dues are \$30.00 and can be mailed to Auxiliary Unit 373, P. O. Box 2212, Orange Park, FL 32067. With the help of our Legionnaires, our Unit was able to send a delegate from Allan D. Nease High School (JRROTC) to Girls State in Tallahassee, FL from June 5th to June 13th. We received a beautiful and informative thank you card from delegate Lindy Gostage which was read at our joint meeting with the Legion on June 25, 2019. Thank you also, Legionnaires and Auxiliary, for the help and donations of food for our monthly meetings and social time afterwards!

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

BLOOD DONATIONS

If you are donating any blood products, again I wish to say please call 904-272-4179. If no answer, please leave a message. The post is counting on this information for the end of the year reports.

**For God and Country,
Matt Ruxton, Blood Donor Chairman**

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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 **July** meeting is scheduled for **July 23, 2019** at **7:00 PM**

Our **August** meeting is scheduled for **August 27, 2019** at **7:00 PM**

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Please e-mail your articles for Post 373's September/October newsletter to either Bob Brewster at mr.bobbrewster@gmail.com or Barb Jonte at bjonte49@att.net by **August 28, 2019**.

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.	Johnny Odom	904-215-2901
Chaplain	Joe Wright	904-269-7676
Historian	Elmer Wine	904-705-4095
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.*****