

# AMERICAN LEGION POST 373 NEWSLETTER



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**Commander  
Robert "Bob" Brewster**

**Chartered 1996  
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## **COMMANDER'S CORNER**

Congratulations to the 338 members who paid their 2018-2019 dues. You have helped our Post reach 98.25% of our goal for this year. We need 6 more members to join or renew, and we will have an all-time high of 345 Legion members. Two years ago, we lost 38 members to Post Everlasting. Last year, we lost 8 members. This year we have already lost 16 members to Post Everlasting. This is why our membership team spends so much time recruiting new members, and encouraging our current members to renew. We have about 20 members who have not renewed yet, so we should hit our goal again this year. If you are one of the members who have not renewed, and for one reason or another can't afford to do so, please contact me, and we will work something out. Our Auxiliary has reached their 100% goal, and our S.A.L. exceeded their goal for this year.

The American Legion Post 373 has participated in 12 programs for the year 2018-2019. At our last Post meeting on Tuesday, February 26th, we had 2 members of the Ridgeview High School ROTC who attended last year's Boys State program and their Chief Master Sergeant speak to us about the Boys State program and what they got out of it. It was fantastic to see how much they have grown and matured during the past 12 months. I am sorry that many of you could not attend this meeting to witness these kids in action. This year we are sending a young lady from Ridgeview High School ROTC to Girls State. Also, we are setting up a flag retirement program in the very near future with Ridgeview's ROTC unit. This is will be our second flag retirement program with the ROTC. The last time we did it, we retired well over 100 flags utilizing The American Legion ceremony.

Some of our Post members have worked the District 5 Oratorical Contest and also the Northern Area Oratorical Contest. This contest is rated the toughest competition of its kind in our nation. This contest is open to boys and girls of high school age to compete in.

They are given a topic on our U. S. Constitution. At the contest, they are given a 6 to 8 minute window to talk on this selected subject. Then after they give their speech, they are given another part of the Constitution to study and then speak on that portion of the Constitution. We have supported this program for the last 11 years.

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### **COMMANDER'S CORNER** (continued)

Next program that we will be working will be school medals. Last year we worked with 7 schools presenting scholastic and achievement medals to the graduating students who were selected by the schools' administrative staff. We hope to double that number this year, but that depends on how many volunteers we get to help work this program. We are also working with Orange Park High School to secure a grant from Clay Electric to fix up their baseball field. Our American Legion Post 373 team will be utilizing this field. Orange Park High School is the oldest public school in Clay County. They need our help.

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

### **1<sup>st</sup> VICE COMMANDER**

I would like to thank everyone for a wonderful start of 2019. Our January meeting had a large turnout, a guest speaker, and some new faces. Help continue our growth by renewing your membership, sign up a new member, and bring a fellow Vet to our next meeting. A tremendous amount of information that all Vets can benefit from was made available at the February Clay County Veterans Council meeting. Much of this info will be shared at Post 373 meeting this month. All Vets can attend the CCVC meeting so come and learn. Looking forward to fun and fellowship at our monthly meeting, see you all then.

**For God and Country,  
John Roberson, 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander**

### **SERGEANT AT ARMS**

Be aware that when you remove your Legion cap and set it down, you need to make sure that the Legion emblem is facing up. The emblem side is considered "Hallowed Ground" and should be given proper respect. When any Legion meeting is called to order the area between the American flag and Legion flags is considered "Hallowed Ground." No one or nothing should be passed through this area.

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

### **CHAPLAIN'S CORNER**

Greetings Legionaries,

Before I go on, keep our fellow comrade and shipmate Elmer Wine and his family in your prayers. Elmer had open heart surgery, and has had some setbacks to his recovery. He has been a great member of our post, and look forward to his return to us soon. Our God is the Great Physician, and is able to perform miracles, so like I said, lift Elmer up in your prayers in his time of need.

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### CHAPLAIN'S CORNER (Continued)

Well, it is hard to believe that it's March already! I encourage you to take time to read the March American Legion Magazine. The article: "A Second Century of Service Awaits Us" By National Commander Brett P. Reistad," is of particular interest. We have a great tradition and past. The American Legion is 100 years old as of March 15-17, 1919. The founders of The American Legion had no idea what it would become but they knew veterans needed support. The support for our serving comrades and fellow veterans and the concern for American youth are cornerstones of strength in The American Legion. Maybe, we can think of fresh ways to impact our veterans and youth locally. Take time to read the article.

Another historical day fell on March 6<sup>th</sup>, Ash Wednesday. In Jewish and Christian history, ashes were used to express grief, prayer, repentance, fasting and abstinence. Ash Wednesday is the first day of Lent when Christians in various denominations will abstain from some sort of luxury or food item until Easter Sunday. Lent is 40 days before Easter. The American Legion acknowledges God, as our founding Fathers acknowledged God, we individually need to acknowledge God. Whether you practice this tradition or not, I hope you can take time to reflect on the many blessings we all partake in by living in this Country. The American Legion is one of those blessings.

**For God and Country,  
Joe Wright, Chaplain**

### AUXILIARY NEWS

**Membership:** The primary purpose of the Auxiliary's existence is to continue to help active duty, veterans, young and old, and their families in time of need and assisting our Legionnaires. Our success is membership. Keeping that in mind, I want to give a big **THANK YOU** to all our Unit 373 members who have renewed for 2019. We have now reached our 100% goal in membership. With our Unit's portion of the dues, we are able to participate in The American Legion Auxiliary charitable programs and assist our local families if needed.

This year we will be sending a young lady from Ridgeview High School ROTC to Girls State in Tallahassee, Florida. It is a great program for high school juniors to have first hand experience in our state government.

Again, another thank you for all the help the Auxiliary and Legionnaires provide for our monthly meetings and socials afterwards!

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

### BLOOD DONATIONS

I realize that some people can't give blood, but I am speaking to the people who can. This is a job that some of us can afford to do voluntarily, and it would be of great assistance to those who need your blood. Think about it. It could be you or a family member who may be in need of the blood. When you donate blood, make sure that American Legion Post 373 gets credit for it.

**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 **4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday** of each month (**except December**) at the Orange Park Lions Club, 423 McIntosh Avenue, Orange Park, FL 32073.

Our **March** meeting is scheduled for **March 26, 2019** at **7:00 PM**

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

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The **April** District meeting is scheduled for **April 14, 2019** and will be held at **Post 54**, 626 S 3<sup>rd</sup> St, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034 at **2:00 PM**

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Please e-mail your articles for Post 373's May/June newsletter to either Bob Brewster at [mr.bobbrewster@gmail.com](mailto:mr.bobbrewster@gmail.com) or Barb Jonte at [bjonte49@att.net](mailto:bjonte49@att.net) by **April 26, 2019**.

### **American Legion Post 373 Legion Officers 2018-2019**

Commander	Bob Brewster	904-272-1619
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander	John Roberson	904-688-1387
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander	Elmer Wine	904-705-4095
3 <sup>rd</sup> 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](mailto:mr.bobbrewster@gmail.com).\*\*\***