

AMERICAN LEGION POST 373 NEWSLETTER



**P.O. Box 2212
ORANGE PARK, FLORIDA 32067-2212
Web address: www.alpost373orangepark.com
Facebook: American Legion Post 373 Orange Park, FL**

**Commander
Robert "Bob" Brewster**

**Chartered 1996
Volume 10 Issue 1
Jan/Feb 2020**

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Hoping that all of you have had the best Christmas and New Year's holidays ever. Our Post membership stands at the following: Legion . 75%, Auxiliary . 60%, and S.A.L. . 90%. Please check your cards, and if you have the 2020 card, congratulations and thank you! If you do not have the 2020 cards yet, please renew as soon as possible. All 3 groups can go on line and renew their memberships via credit card. For the Legion and S.A.L. go to www.legion.org/renew. At our Post, we cannot process credit cards. You can also renew at our monthly meetings which are held on the 4th Tuesday of every month except in December. You can also renew by mail to American Legion Post 373, P. O. Box 2212, Orange Park, FL 32067, or you can mail your check to Bob Brewster, 2872 Circle Ridge Drive, Orange Park, FL 32065. Our Legion dues are still \$45.00 per year. Our Auxiliary dues are \$30.00 per year. Junior Auxiliary dues are \$5.00 per year. S.A.L. dues are \$25.00 per year. Make all checks payable to American Legion Post 373 for the Legion, American Legion Auxiliary Unit 373, or American Legion S.A.L. PLEASE DO NOT MAKE YOUR CHECK OUT TO ME PERSONALLY. If there is a health or financial reason that you cannot renew at this time, give me a call at 904-272-1619.

Our membership figures this year are renewing at the same percentage rate as the last 3 years. Our total membership has grown every year except one year in the last 10 years. Without each and every one of you, we cannot succeed. We are a team. The one question always asked is, "If your Post closed down, would you be missed by the local community?" Our answer from this Post is, yes, we would definitely be missed. For an example, for those of you who have children or grandchildren attending elementary, Jr. and Sr. high, they would not be able to participate in school medals, Boy's State, Girl's State, Oratorical, shooting sports, etc. Our Post also is involved with families in need in this area. Our Commander, on numerous occasions, has been asked to visit families who have asked for financial assistance from the Department of Florida or National offices. He has done this for the last 17 years. We have a couple of very good Veterans Service Officers at our Post who are trained to help our members with their V.A. claims. Our members participate in communication with our political leaders on subjects such as V.A. benefits of all

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COMMANDER'S CORNER (continued)

kinds of things. Just recently, our members were involved with a rehab facility that was not up to code. We were able to get our Congressman Ted Yoho to visit a rehab facility with Bob Brewster, our Post Commander, unannounced. We were notified by one of our members who had to stay at this facility about how bad it was. This facility now is much better and cleaner than it had been.

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

1st VICE COMMANDER

I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and are off to a wonderful start of 2020. Our January meeting will have a large turnout, a guest speaker, and hopefully some new faces. Your Post is continuing to grow and you can help continue that growth by renewing your membership, signing up a new member, and bring a fellow Vet to our next meeting. A tremendous amount of information that all Vets can benefit from will be presented at our next meeting, as well as all meetings. Looking forward to being with everyone for news, fun and fellowship at our monthly meeting, see you all then.

**For God and Country,
John Roberson, 1st Vice Commander**

SERGEANT AT ARMS

The Wearing of the American Legion Cap, Uniform and Regalia

Female members of the American Legion should wear their caps in the manner prescribed for female personnel of the armed forces.

Legionnaires wishing to attach decorations and other official insignia to their caps:

- a. Consecutive membership insignia, membership stars and/or decorations (authorized American Legion or military services) must be attached to the right side of the cap. Fraternal or civil organization insignia cannot be used on American Legion caps.
- b. Names or nicknames of individual members cannot be used on caps.

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

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AUXILIARY NEWS

Here's hoping that everyone had a wonderful Christmas and New Year's holiday. I wish to thank all of our unit members for their support in helping our Legion members with all their programs.

Just to let you know, our Historian Ramonita Silva is recuperating from brain surgery which she had undergone on December 17, 2019, at Mayo. She is doing fine and is staying at her daughter's home for a while which is near Mayo. Our prayers are with her for a quick recovery!

As of January 10, 2020, our membership renewals for 2020 have reached the 60% goal. Thank you for all the renewals so far! But remember, you need to renew your membership for 2020 as soon as possible, since your 2019 card has expired. Reminder: Auxiliary Unit 373's annual dues are \$30.00 and can be mailed to Auxiliary Unit 373, P. O. Box 2212, Orange Park, FL 32067.

Again, thank you Legionnaires and Auxiliary, for all the help and donations of food for our monthly meetings and social time afterwards. Looking forward to seeing you at our joint meetings in 2020!

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

BLOOD DONATIONS

New Year's has come and gone. How about a New Year's resolution to give life to those who may not see next New Year's? Bet they would be thankful for it. Any questions call me (904)272-4179. If I do not answer, please leave your name and number and I will get back to you.

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

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

As we have now started a new year, we have in front of us a time that we will have new opportunities and challenges. As we look forward, we hope you had a good holiday season and are anticipating a great new year that we have now begun.

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, hospital, or nursing home, comforting members and their families, when sick in the event of loss.

In order to serve to the members 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. Let us know when you have needs of which we can be of service to you.

**For God and Country,
Joe Wright, Chaplain, Post 373 - Home 904 269-7676, Cell 904 228-5491
Shirley Wright, Chaplain, Unit 373 - Home 904 269-7676, Cell 904 614-2860**

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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 **January** meeting is scheduled for **January 28, 2020** at **7:00 PM**

Our **February** meeting is scheduled for **February 25, 2020** at **7:00 PM**

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The **January** District meeting is scheduled for **January 12, 2020** and will be held at **Post 401**, 37405 Henry Smith Rd., Hilliard, FL 32046 at **2:00 PM**

The **February** District meeting is scheduled for **February 9, 2020** and will be held at **Post 250**, 3939 County Road 218, Middleburg, FL 32068 at **2:00 PM**

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Please e-mail your articles for Post 373's March/April newsletter to either Bob Brewster at mr.bobbrewster@gmail.com or Barb Jonte at bjonte49@att.net by **February 26, 2020**.

American Legion Post 373 Legion Officers 2019-2020

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	Al Jonte	904-213-1073
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 2019-2020

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	904-814-5205
Executive Committee	Debbie Rives	904-868-8284

*****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.*****