

# AMERICAN LEGION POST 373 NEWSLETTER



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

**Commander  
Robert "Bob" Brewster**

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

First thing . I want to wish everyone a belated Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! About 8 years ago, we saved this Post by revitalizing it. We have come a long way together. We started out with nothing, and with 67 actual members. Last year we ended up with 388 members, which gave this Post 8 straight years of all-time highs in membership. We need all of you, who have not renewed this year, to renew as soon as possible. Without numbers, our congress members will not pay attention to us and correct the wrong doings at the V.A. and at other problems that the vets face. As you may not know, there are 55 Departments in The American Legion. One for each state and the others are overseas. Remember that we, the members of The American Legion, wrote and got congress to pass the G.I. Bill. We are the oldest and largest vet organization in the world. We must turn the tide and start growing The American Legion worldwide. We are the only organization to have a fully staffed office in both the Capitol and the Pentagon. In 2 years, The American Legion will be 100 years old.

Now, let's talk about our Post. Our Post was started in 1996 for all the wrong reasons, and that is why it failed. As I have mentioned, we have had constant new growth, and that is a good thing. Eight years ago we participated in 3 programs. This year we will participate in 11 programs. Our new program this year is Boy's State. Last year we added the Florida Highway Patrol/American Legion Cadet Program. I am the District 5 and Department Chairman of the Cadet Program. For 8 straight years we have been recognized and given awards by National and the Department of Florida. A couple months ago, we were awarded the best Post in District 5 out of 19 Posts. Like every Post, we have about 10% to 15% of our members doing all the work. Even if you never attend any of our meetings or get involved in any of our programs, you are still an important member of Post 373.

**COMMANDER'S CORNER** (continued)

We would like all of our members to attend a meeting once in a while. That way each of you can see firsthand all the good that we do, such as just before Christmas this past year, we helped a family get caught up with their bills and not be homeless for Christmas. Helping veterans in need has been our number 1 program that we have been involved in. By attending a meeting, you will hear what we are doing and get a clear vision of our finances. I want to make this very clear that no one in our Post is getting any part of your dues. A lot of us kick in extra money just to see that no vet is without. You may call me at home or on my cell at any time with any questions you may have.

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

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 373 BUILDING FUND RAFFLE**

The prize is an Anderson AR-15, 5.56 mm, 1 magazine, iron sights and carrying case. Only 300 tickets will be issued. The winner will be drawn at our monthly meeting following the 300<sup>th</sup> ticket donation.

The winner need not be present to win, but must be legally able to possess a firearm. 1 ticket per \$10.00 donation. All proceeds will benefit the American Legion Post 373 Orange Park, Florida Building Fund.

Contact Bob Brewster . Home: 904-272-1619; Cell: 904-635-4492 to make a donation.

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

**AUXILIARY NEWS**

**MEMBERSHIP:** Ladies, I want to thank everyone who has already renewed your membership for 2017 and to also thank our new members who have joined this year. Our Unit is now at 102.63%. Outstanding job ladies!!!

You can still mail your renewal check to American Legion Auxiliary Unit 373, P. O. Box 2212, Orange Park, FL 32067-2212; or you can pay your dues at our next monthly meeting, which will be held at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, January 24<sup>th</sup>. Dues are \$25.00 for senior members and \$5.00 for junior members. I look forward to seeing you at our meeting.

**AUXILIARY NEWS** (continued)

**TOYS FOR TOTS:** A great big **THANK YOU** to all the Auxiliary members and Legionnaires who participated in the Toys for Tots Community Program this year. Through your generosity, we were able to fill 4 boxes this year!!!



Above are just some of the toys we were able to donate.

**For God and Country,  
Ramona Horn, President**

**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 **January** meeting is scheduled for **January 24, 2017** at **7:00 PM**

Our **February** meeting is scheduled for **February 28, 2017** at **7:00 PM**

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Sunday, **January 8, 2017** at **2:00 PM**, **5th District Legion & Auxiliary** meetings, will be held at **Post 250**, 3939 County Road 218, Middleburg, FL 32068.

Sunday, **February 12, 2017** at **2:00 PM**, **5th District Legion & Auxiliary** meetings, will be held at **Post 233**, 560 N Wilderness Trail, Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082.

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Please e-mail your articles for Post 373's March/April newsletter to either Bob Brewster at [brewsterrobert@bellsouth.net](mailto:brewsterrobert@bellsouth.net) or Barb Jonte at [bjonte49@att.net](mailto:bjonte49@att.net) by **February 24, 2017**.

**American Legion Post 373 Legion Officers 2016-2017**

Commander	Bob Brewster	904-272-1619
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander	Al Jonte	904-213-1073
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander	Elmer Wine	904-705-4095
3 <sup>rd</sup> Vice Commander	Godson Obiagwu	904-343-5770
Finance Officer	Charlie Leister	904-272-8410
Adjutant	Frank W. Gianino	904-276-5921
Sgt. at Arms	Matt Ruxton	904-272-4179
Sgt. at Arms	John Odom	
Historian	Joney Haff	904-444-0760
Chaplain	Joe Wright	904-269-7676
Service Officer	Edgardo L. Silva	904-477-2761
Executive Committee	Wanda Ruxton	904-272-4179
Executive Committee	Bob Forsythe	904-272-5204
Executive Committee	John Roberson	904-688-1387

**American Legion Auxiliary Unit 373 Officers 2016-2017**

President	Ramona Horn	904-318-0313
Vice President	Collette Brewster	904-272-1619
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	Elsie Fifer	904-272-2008
Executive Committee	Glenna Roberson	904-688-1387
Executive Committee	Sarah Davis	904-272-9046

**\*\*\*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 [brewsterrobert@bellsouth.net](mailto:brewsterrobert@bellsouth.net).\*\*\***