



AMERICAN LEGION POST 373 NEWSLETTER



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**Commander
Robert "Bob" Brewster**

**Chartered 1996
Volume 4 Issue 4
July/August 2014**

COMMANDER'S CORNER

A big thank you to all 343 members who paid their dues for 2014. Again, we set an all-time high. Our membership is growing, and because of that, we are becoming a force to be reckoned with, not only in the 5th District, but the entire state. I am constantly being asked, *How do we do it?*+and *How do we get so many of our members to come to our Post meetings?*+ We are one of the top 5 Posts in District 5 for members attending Post meetings. I want to encourage more of you to attend these meetings where you will gain knowledge of the American Legion and its programs and also learn just what we do in our community.

We are scheduled to host a District meeting on Sunday, November 16, 2014. Meeting starts at 2:00 PM and lasts about 1-1/2 hours. Members will be coming into this meeting from all 17 Posts in District 5, not counting ours. WE NEED HELP! Cooking, set up and tear down of the hall, and just being there to greet members of other Posts who will be visiting. This meeting will be smoke free and alcohol free, and we will be serving lunch and desserts afterwards. After the meeting during lunch, we will also serve the usual non-alcoholic beverages, plus beer.

We have just about settled on our Post shirts for Legion, Auxiliary, and SAL, plus Riders. At this next meeting we hope to be able to do all the paperwork to get the SAL up and running. For all of you with sons, grandsons, great grandsons, please enter them into this program. The cost is \$20.00 membership fee per year. If you are a Legion member already and wish to join the Sons of the American Legion, your dues will cost \$15.00 per year. Your kids do not have to live in this area to belong. No one will be pressured into doing anything for this program that they do not wish to do. We need to get the SAL and the Rider Programs up and running. These programs will not be a major part of our Post for some time, but we need to get these programs established so we have a full Post family for the future.

On June 24, 2014 at our regularly scheduled meeting, the District Legion and Auxiliary staff installed our Post 373 newly elected officers for the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

At our regularly scheduled meeting in May, we had our drawing for the Ruger hunting rifle, and one of our Legion members, Kathy Barrios, was the winner. We had her on cell phone, using the speaker, and I told her the good news was that she won the rifle, but the bad news was

COMMANDER'S CORNER (continued)

that she wasn't present to win it. We had approximately 60 people in the room at that time and no one made a sound so they could hear the conversation. She was heartbroken until I told her the truth that she did not have to be present to win. All of our members at the meeting really enjoyed the conversation. And more good news, we raised over \$1,800 profit on the venture for the Post building fund. Our Adjutant, Frank Gianino, did a fabulous job on this project. We all owe him a big thank you! I also want to thank all of you for coming to our meetings, and for all you who haven't attended a meeting yet or recently, please attend. This will keep our Post from being run by a small cliché for their own benefit. As I have stated numerous times, I nor the Executive Board runs this Post. You, the members, must vote on everything we do.

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

2nd VICE COMMANDER REPORT

Congratulations to our very own Post Commander, Bob Brewster, who was elected as the first ever 3rd Vice Commander, Department of Florida. Well done Commander!!!

**For God and Country,
Gary Bronken**

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

As we are near upon our celebration of Independence Day, let us stand in silence, in memory and in honor of the soldiers of the Revolutionary War and those after them who have fought that liberty might forever endure.+

Father God, as we enjoy the months of summer, let us as members of American Legion Post 373, keep our paths and deeds such that they be honoring in Your sight.

Be with our Comrades both at home and abroad who are in harm's way; keep your protective hand upon them until they return to our midst.

We thank You for the bountiful supply of everything we enjoy as free people in the United States of America, may we forever continue to enjoy the blessings of Freedom.

We pray that You keep us safe until we meet again. AMEN

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER (continued)

If you or one of our other members is sick or hospitalized, let your Chaplain know. Name, hospital & room, address and phone numbers are most helpful.

For God and Country,
Joe Wright, Post 373 Chaplain
(904) 269-7676 -- jhwrightsr@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP, MEMBERSHIP, MEMBERSHIP

As we all know, membership is the life blood of our organization. In the very near future, all members of the Legion and Auxiliary will be getting renewal notices for 2015 calendar year from our National offices. Our Legion operates solely on our dues and reserve account, and this year, we are starting out with a couple hundred dollars left over from the previous year. In the past several years, we had to solicit funds from our Post officers to pay such things as the building rent for our meetings, printing supplies, such as ink, paper, file folders, envelopes, stamps, etc. This last year, we did not have to use much of the officers money due to the fact that our membership has been increasing. Out of the Legion \$35.00 dues, we only keep \$14.00. The rest goes to Department of Florida and National headquarters. We want to thank all of our members for their renewals, and please let us get the renewals for 2015 paid into us as soon as possible. By doing this, we are able to hit the membership goals set by Department and National. This year for hitting our various goals, we will be awarded so many BZ tickets. The more BZ tickets we have, the better chance of our Post winning a cash prize from Department at the end of the year. First place is \$3,500. Second place is \$1,500. Third place is \$1,000. Fourth & Fifth place is \$500.00 each. As membership increases throughout the Department, these prizes will be adjusted upwards. There are 300 Posts in the Department of Florida, so the more tickets we can win increases our winning a cash prize which will go into our building fund. At our last meeting, I encouraged all members to bring in a new member to our Post. As you know, there is strength in numbers.

For God and Country,
Bob Brewster, Commander

*****BLOOD DONATIONS*****

Did you know that one pint of blood can save 3 lives?

When you donate, please be sure to let the Blood Alliance know that you are donating on behalf of Post 373 and give them our **group number 5371**. The Blood Alliance is located at 2153 Kingsley Avenue, Orange Park, FL 32073.

*****5th DISTRICT MEETING*****

Post 373 has been selected to host our first District meeting on Sunday, November 16, 2014. The meeting will begin at 2:00 PM. Please see additional details in the Commander's Corner.

*****BUILDING FUND*****

Our building fund continues to grow due to our Promissory Note program. If you are interested in learning more about this program, please contact our Commander, Bob Brewster.

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 22, 2014** at **7:00 PM**

Our **August** meeting is scheduled for **August 26, 2014** at **7:00 PM**

Sunday, **August 10, 2014** at **2:00 PM**, **5th District Legion & Auxiliary** meetings, will be held at **Post 316**, 1127 Atlantic Blvd, Atlantic Beach, FL 32223.

Please e-mail your articles for Post 373's September/October newsletter to either Bob Brewster at brewsterrobert@bellsouth.net or Barb Jonte at bjonte49@att.net by **August 27, 2014**.