



# *AMERICAN LEGION POST 373*

## *NEWSLETTER*



**P.O. Box 2212**  
**ORANGE PARK, FLORIDA 32067-2212**  
**Web address: [alpost373orangepark.com](http://alpost373orangepark.com)**

**Commander**  
**Robert "Bob" Brewster**

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

I want to thank all the members who attend our meetings each month on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday at 7:00 PM at the Lions Club, 423 McIntosh Avenue, Orange Park, FL 32073. Each month some of us go down to the hall early to get the hall ready for our meeting. For the last few months, we have been setting up an extra table or two each time. Thanks to you, we needed them. While many Posts in our District have seen a decline in membership attending their meetings, we are going in the right direction. At each meeting, I remind everyone that neither I nor the Executive Board runs our Post. You, the members, make all the decisions on what we do, and you are doing a very good job.

As you read this newsletter, you will find a couple articles about our fund raisers. Please read them to see if you want to participate. The money raised goes into a separate account called our Building Fund, and that fund can only be used when we find the right situation and the members vote that we should move forward.

A reminder to all, our meetings are completely smoke free and alcohol free, with no boorish behavior allowed. If you haven't been to one of our meetings, you should come and see for yourself what a great membership we have and all the good things we do for the vets and the community.

I would like to thank all of you for, once again, our Post 373 has an all-time high in membership. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> straight year since a small group of us revitalized this Post and kept the Post charter alive. We still have a few members who have not renewed for 2014. To those few, I ask you to renew asap so that I can enter your membership into Department and National headquarters before March 17<sup>th</sup>, the cutoff date for National to reprint your new cards for 2015. With 2-1/2 million cards to print, National starts this process early. If for some reason you are ill or financially unable, lost interest, or whatever, call me at 904-272-1619, and let's discuss this situation. Our conversation will be very private between you and me and no one else. Our main purpose in The American Legion is very simple . VETERANS HELPING VETERANS.

**COMMANDER'S CORNER** (continued)

A special note to all our Legion male members, our American Legion Auxiliary needs your help. Get our message out to your wives, mothers, daughters, granddaughters, etc. and get them to join our Post Auxiliary. These ladies are doing a fabulous job working their programs and helping us with ours. They sure could use a few more members.

At this month's meeting on Tuesday, March 25<sup>th</sup>, we must move forward on two fronts - starting up our Sons of the American Legion (SAL) Program and our Rider Program. We need members to join both groups. I cannot personally handle all of this. By being a Legion member or an Auxiliary member, you can join the Riders, even if you don't ride or have a motorcycle. However, we do need at least 5 members with motorcycles to get started. For the SAL, we need 10 members, who can be your sons, grandsons, etc. and Legion members in good standing who will be dual members. Please come to the meeting and help us get these two programs started.

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

**POST 373 FUND RAISER**

Post 373 is raffling off a Ruger American Rifle 243 caliber with a scope and carrying case. This has a value of approximately \$500.00. Tickets are either \$5.00 per ticket or 5 tickets for \$20.00 donation. Drawing will be held at our May 2014 meeting. Winner does not have to be present, but they will have to be able to legally own a firearm. All proceeds go directly into our Building Fund. We are asking all members to participate in either donating funds to purchase a ticket or more and to help distribute tickets to others. If we all get behind this, we will make a big difference in our Building Fund.



We want to remind you that daylight savings time begins on Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup>, so please remember to set your clocks forward one hour. We would also like to wish you a safe and happy St. Patrick's Day on March 17<sup>th</sup>, and a very blessed and happy Easter on April 20<sup>th</sup>!

## AUXILIARY NEWS

**Just a reminder** - Ladies, please remember to bring any lap blankets, large type crossword puzzle and/or large type word search puzzle books you may have to our next meeting, which will be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2014, at 7:00 PM. We will be also be e-mailing you a %wish list+for the Clyde E. Lassen State VeteransqNursing Home in St. Augustine. Wish list donations may also be brought to our March meeting.

I also want to remind everyone that our next 5<sup>th</sup> District Auxiliary meeting will be held on Sunday, April 13, 2014, at 2:00 PM. The meeting will be held at Post 54, 626 South Third St, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034. A lot of important and useful information is obtained at these meetings. It is also a chance to hear what other units in the 5<sup>th</sup> District are doing for our veterans. If you have never attended a meeting, now is the time!

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

## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Through life, God has a plan and purpose for each of us. So many of us go through life without giving it much thought, but our lack of awareness really doesn't change anything. We aren't here by accident. We are here because God put us here that we might come to know him personally and live in such a way to bring glory to his name. The most important thing we can do this year is to resolve not wander through this life without purpose or direction, but to pray for guidance to seek God's will and learn to follow His plan for us. %God is waiting in the silence as the world goes rushing by. The rainbow is God's promise of hope. No matter what the circumstance, God always has a way of bringing out the rainbow on a dark and cloudy day. So, trust in his great promise for the hope to see you through, and know you're in the hearts and prayers of those who care for you.

*Prayer for the ill or shut in:* **O God, we ask that you give strength to those of us who are weak and that You comfort those who are suffering. We pray that You will accept our prayer on behalf of our comrades and our loved ones who are ill or shut in. We know not what is best for them, but you know. Grant them peace, patience and relief from pain and suffering, and if it be Your will, and the blessing of a swift recovery. In Your holy name we pray, Amen.**

If you are in need of prayer for yourself, or know of a comrade in need, call on your chaplain (904) 269-7676, and let me know who needs to be ministered to.

**For God and Country,  
Joe Wright, Post 373 Chaplain  
Shirley Wright, Unit 373 Chaplain**

**\*\*\*NOTICE\*\*\* – Please Read!**

Each year a few members will contact me upset because they got a renewal notice which comes from National, not me. What happens is this - a member renews on line or through our Post by mail. Within 72 hours of receipt of this renewal, I send it down to the Department of Florida. It could be a week or two weeks before Florida sends it to National. Then when National gets it, it could be another week or so until they send this information across town to a company who handles all our mailings. I have no idea what they do exactly. Please, if you have a card in your possession signed by me, and if you receive anything after that, throw it away. If you can't find a current card, contact me directly at 904-272-1619 and I will check our records. Our records are kept on the computer, in our official roster, and in each of your personal files. When in doubt, contact me. Also, you get a lot of requests to pay for things that the Legion sends you. I wish we could stop this, but I can't. If you feel you want to donate, do it; however, you are not obligated to do this. I get a lot more than you do.

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

**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 25, 2014** at **7:00 PM**

Our **April** meeting is scheduled for **April 22, 2014** at **7:00 PM**

The next 5<sup>th</sup> District **Legion** meeting is scheduled for Sunday, March 9, 2014 at 2:00 PM. The meeting will be held at Post 197, 2179 Benedict Road, Jacksonville, FL 32209.

On Sunday, April 13, 2014, at 2:00 PM, the 5<sup>th</sup> District **Legion and Auxiliary** meetings will be held at Post 54, 626 South Third St, Fernandina Beach, FL 32034.

**\*\*Please Note\*\*** The 5<sup>th</sup> District **Legion and Auxiliary Constitutional Conference** will be held on Sunday, April 27, 2014. The meeting will be held at Post 316, 1127 Atlantic Boulevard, Atlantic Beach, FL 32233, and begins at 9:00 AM. Registration begins at 8:00 AM.

Please e-mail your articles for Post 373's 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 **April 25, 2014**.