

AMERICAN LEGION POST 373 NEWSLETTER



**P.O. Box 2212
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**Commander
Robert "Bob" Brewster**

**Chartered 1996
Volume 6 Issue 3
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COMMANDER'S CORNER

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL 387 MEMBERS WHO ARE CARD-CARRYING MEMBERS FOR 2016. Because of you our Post has hit our 8th straight all-time high in membership. Membership makes the Post, not the officers. Without you, we could not be involved in the 10 Legion programs that we are involved in. Because of you, we are involved in several Children and Youth Programs, Blood Drives, placing flags on veterans graves, doing many other services for the veterans in our area. This year we are participating in schools medals. We are more involved with the ROTC Program at Ridgeview High School; our Post has more members participating the Clay County Veterans Council than any other Post in Clay County. Our Post has been represented at every District meeting, and for your information, District 5 has 19 Posts in it. For the second year in a row, we will be receiving another Post Excellence Award. That means the Legion, the Auxiliary, and the SAL have all exceeded their 100% goal in membership. I also want to acknowledge and thank the 56 members who have transferred into our Post this year. Most, if not all, had already paid their 2016 membership dues to their old Post. Now this coming year, when they pay their dues directly to our Post, their membership will count towards our 2017 goal.

Again, I want to thank each and every one of you for being members of American Legion Post 373, because without you, we are nothing.

This year 2016, we have added some new programs that we are participating in - Legion Baseball and the Florida Highway Patrol Cadet/American Legion Program. We are sponsoring 2 young men for this program. We could use some volunteers to help us with presenting school medals to local schools in our area. We have a short script set up to help you with the presentation. This is a great program. On May 27, 2016, at 3:00 PM, we could use your help along with some members of the Ridgeview High School ROTC Program in placing American flags on the veterans graves in Peoria Cemetery off College Drive in Orange Park. You can call me at 904-272-1619 for more details or other information.

COMMANDER'S CORNER (continued)

Our Post has never missed being represented at District 5 monthly meetings. At these meetings, we turn in a list of our activities. Also, in the last 4 years, we have had anywhere from 1 to 5 members attend the Clay County Veterans Council meetings. We have representation at the Fall Conference and Summer Convention put on by the Department of Florida. A little over a year ago, we started attending the Veterans 4 Veterans meetings held at Jacksonville Veterans Memorial Arena.

We have a decent to good turnout at our monthly meetings. This is where you can learn a lot about your veterans benefits, what your Post is doing to help veterans, and hear from a variety of qualified speakers about events and hearing about what the VA is really doing. You will have opportunities to speak to our Veterans Service Officer, who attends just about all of our meetings. At these meetings you are encouraged to bring up anything that you care about and get personal attention. Once more, our meetings are alcohol and smoke free, and all topics are discussed in a normal tone of voice. No one is pressured to do anything they don't want to do. A lot of very useful information is shared at these meetings. Our monthly meeting dates, time, and location can be found on the last page of this newsletter.

THE SUCCESS OF OUR POST COMES FROM THE MEMBERS WHO ATTEND OUR MEETINGS AND WHO COMMUNICATE. A SURE WAY TO DESTROY A POST IS MEMBERS NOT ATTENDING POST MEETINGS.

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

Congratulations to our newly elected officers:

American Legion Post 373 Legion Officers 2016-2017

Commander	Bob Brewster
1 st Vice Commander	Al Jonte
2 nd Vice Commander	Elmer Wine
3 rd Vice Commander	Godson Obiagwu
Finance Officer	Charlie Leister
Adjutant	Frank W. Gianino
Sgt. at Arms	Matt Ruxton
Historian	Joanie Haff
Chaplain	Joe Wright
Executive Committee	Wanda Ruxton
Executive Committee	Bob Forsythe
Executive Committee	John Roberson

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 373 Officers 2016-2017

President	Ramona Horn
Vice President	Collette Brewster
Secretary-Treasurer	Barbara Jonte
Sgt. at Arms	Joyce Forsythe
Chaplain	Shirley Wright
Historian	Ramonita Silva
Executive Committee	Elsie Fifer
Executive Committee	Glenna Roberson
Executive Committee	Sarah Davis

AUXILIARY NEWS

Thank you to all the new members who have joined the Auxiliary this year, and to all current members who have renewed your membership. Our membership now stands at 100%. Way to go ladies!!!

We are continuing to collect Labels for Education and Box Tops for Education. Please bring them with you when you come to our monthly meetings.

You all have worked very hard to make a difference in our community and throughout Clay County. Thank you for all that you do!

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

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Every Memorial Day, across our land the U.S. flag is quickly raised to the tops of flagpoles, slowly lowered to half-mast, and then raised again to full height at noon. The time at half-mast is meant to honor the million-plus fallen U.S. soldiers, sailors and airmen who have died for their country, yes OUR Country over the years. Re-raising the flag is meant to symbolize the resolve of the living to carry on the fight for Freedom so that the nation's heroes, many of whom we knew and called comrades will not have died in vain.

Our Post will again visit the Peoria Cemetery, particularly military veterans' graves and honor their service. It is at this time of year we decorate the graves with small American flags, placed by the tombstones of those who had military service.

Take the time this Memorial Day to thank God for this great country that we live in, and to thank Him for the sacrifice our comrades have made that we, as Americans, have led the cause of Freedom around the world. Pray for Peace, and the future of this our country.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER (continued)

Freedom isn't free. Freedom has a taste for those of us who have fought for it that the protected will never know. May God continue to Bless America.

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

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 **May** meeting is scheduled for **May 24, 2016** at **7:00 PM**

Our **June** meeting is scheduled for **June 28, 2016** at **7:00 PM**

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Sunday, **June 5, 2016** at **9:00 AM**, **5th District Constitutional Conference**, will be held at **Post 137**, 5443 San Juan Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32223. Registration begins at **8:30 AM**.

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Please e-mail your articles for Post 373's July/August newsletter to either Bob Brewster at brewsterrobert@bellsouth.net or Barb Jonte at bjonte49@att.net by **June 28, 2016**.

American Legion Post 373 Legion Officers 2015-2016

Commander	Bob Brewster	904-272-1619
1 st Vice Commander	Al Jonte	904-213-1073
2 nd Vice Commander	Elmer Wine	904-705-4095
3 rd 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
Historian	Joanie Haff	904-444-0760
Chaplain	Joe Wright	904-269-7676
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 2015-2016

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.*****