

AMERICAN LEGION POST 373 NEWSLETTER



**P.O. Box 2212
ORANGE PARK, FLORIDA 32067-2212
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**Commander
Robert "Bob" Brewster**

**Chartered 1996
Volume 7 Issue 3
May/June 2017**

COMMANDER'S CORNER

It's hard to believe that another American Legion fiscal year is almost over. This fiscal year ends June 30, 2017. It is a little confusing since your membership card is good until December 31st. At our most recent April meeting, we had our second and last call for the names of those members who wish to run for office for the coming year. By the rules of The American Legion, we have to open up nominations at two membership meetings so that everyone will have an equal chance to become an officer of this Post. After the second nomination process is closed, we then vote on the new officers for the coming year. On the second page of this newsletter, you will find the names and titles of the new officers, plus their phone numbers so you can contact them with anything you wish to talk to them about.

All this information is covered in our Post By-Laws which have been approved by the Department of Florida. By Legion rules, we must submit these By-Laws for re-evaluation and approval by the Department Judge Advocate and Department Commander. Even the years that we do not have any changes in our By-Laws, we still have to submit them for re-evaluation. Every member of our Post has the right to have their own copy of our Post By-Laws, and I believe they should do this. You can get a copy at any of our Post meetings. For those who do not come to the meetings, contact me and I will make sure you will receive a copy. We do encourage all members to read the By-Laws and make suggested changes to the By-Laws. This must be done in writing and read at two regular Post meetings and then voted on at that time.

For the current year 2016-2017, our Post has had a banner year in everything with the exception of membership. We, the membership team, have worked very hard to clean up our membership, and believe me, we are ready for future growth. To all you members out there, if you have a member of your family who is a qualified veteran, get them to join our Post. They do not have to live in this area to belong to our Post. Help us grow. Also, sign up your children and your children's children for the following programs: Boys, no matter what age, can become Sons of the American Legion. Girls and women of any age can join the American Legion Auxiliary.

COMMANDER'S CORNER (continued)

While we have discussed membership in our various programs, let me make this clear. Members of the Legion, Auxiliary, and Sons of the Legion can become members of our Legion Rider program. If you or any member of your family is a motorcycle enthusiast, please contact us about our Rider program. The Riders get involved with various charity rides to aid our local veterans who are in need, and they raise funds for our various programs that our Post is involved with. This program is not a motorcycle club or gang. One last thing, you do not have to own a motorcycle to belong to the Riders in Florida. For your information, I am a Rider member as well, and I do not have a motorcycle.

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

Congratulations to our newly elected officers:

American Legion Post 373 Legion Officers 2017-2018

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	Frank W. Gianino	904-276-5921
Service Officer	Edgardo Silva	904-874-1718
Chaplain	Joe Wright	904-269-7676
Historian	Johnny Odom	904-215-2901
Executive Committee	Wanda Ruxton	904-272-4179
Executive Committee	Al Jonte	904-213-1073
Executive Committee	Bill Walsh	904-657-8177
Sergeant at Arms	Matt Ruxton	904-272-4179
Sergeant at Arms	Steve Valliere	904-625-5930

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 373 Officers 2017-2018

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	Elsie Fifer	904-272-2008
Executive Committee	Glenna Roberson	904-688-1387
Executive Committee	Sarah Davis	904-272-9046

POST FACTS

Many times over the years, I have been asked this question by members who don't come to our Post meetings. The question is: "Why should I belong to this Post?" We don't have a Post home. We don't have a bar. We don't have weekend parties and so on. All of this is true. Here is what we do:

Our officers handle and process over 300 veteran claims per year.

We have a certified Veteran Service Officer.

Blood drives

Sponsor an R.O.T.C. Program and also the Florida Highway Patrol/American Legion Cadet Program.

We help sponsor American Legion Baseball and many other programs for the youth.

We maintain a website and email for the Post.

Our Post is mentioned on TV and in newspaper articles every year.

We participate in over 2 dozen veteran funerals each year.

We have an Employment Chair person.

We participate in several Career Fairs.

We provide transportation for veterans in this area, and many are not American Legion members.

We promote "Get out and vote", but not who to vote for.

We are involved in Memorial Day celebrations.

We are involved in youth activities, including school medals for elementary and middle schools.

We work with the Department of Florida to provide temporary financial assistance for vets and their families who are in need.

We provide a bi-monthly newsletter to keep our members informed as to what we are doing.

We have members in key roles on the Clay County Veterans Council who, in turn, report to the Clay County Commissioners.

We stay in communication with our City, County, State, and National politicians about veterans' issues.

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

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 23, 2017** at **7:00 PM**

Our **June** meeting is scheduled for **June 27, 2017** at **7:00 PM**

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Sunday, **May 14, 2017**, **5th District Constitutional Conference**, will be held at **Post 137**, 5443 San Juan Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32223. Registration begins at 8:00 AM, Post Everlasting at 8:30 AM, Meeting begins at 9:00 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, 2017**.

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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
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

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*****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.*****