

AMERICAN LEGION POST 373

NEWSLETTER



P.O. Box 2212
ORANGE PARK, FLORIDA 32067-2212
Web address: www.alpost373orangepark.com

Commander
Robert "Bob" Brewster

Chartered 1996
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COMMANDER'S CORNER

First thing – I want to wish all of you and your families and friends a very Happy Thanksgiving, followed by a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New Year! You, the members of this Post, regardless if you are heavily involved or just card carrying members, you make this Post what it is. All of our successes, since we revitalized this Post back in October of 2008, are because of you. Last year our Post received "Post of the Year" for the 5th District. There are 19 Posts in the 5th District spread over Nassau, Duval, St. Johns, and Clay County. So this is quite an accomplishment. We also received a "Post Excellence" Award from National Headquarters. Only 16 Posts out of the 300+ Posts in Florida received this honor. Your Sgt. at Arms was awarded the "Best Post Level Sgt. at Arms" in the state of Florida. So you can see, even though we do not have our own Post home at this time, we must be doing things the right way.

Our Post is involved in approximately 1 dozen American Legion Programs each year. When we say "Vets Helping Vets", we mean it. We are also involved in the community working with the county commissioners to see that our veterans are recognized in Clay County. I am also the President of the Clay County Veterans Council. Matt Ruxton is the Sgt. at Arms, John Roberson is the Chaplain, and Joney Haff is the Secretary. So you can see, with a dozen different veteran organizations involved, your Post is well represented. This Veterans Council meets once a month and we work with the county administration.

We played a big part in starting Clay County Veterans Appreciation Day at the county fairgrounds. We had approximately 2,000 veterans and their families attend this event. We are also involved in Stand Downs for homeless vets and other vets and their

COMMANDER'S CORNER (continued)

families who need our help. Every year for Memorial Day, we place flags on veterans' graves at the local cemetery. We have members attend all District meetings, Fall Conference, and Department Convention every year. So if this Post would close, we would surely be missed. Again, I thank all of you for being paid up members.

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



MEMBERSHIP REPORT

On the 4th Tuesday of October 2008-2009, a few of us transferred into this Post to save the Post charter which was being turned into Department for lack of interest. The Area Commander swore us in. We took over to revitalize this Post to make it what it is today and what it will be tomorrow. We managed to keep 67 members, and by the end of the year, we ended up with 123 members, which was an all-time high for this Post that had been in operation for over 12 years and had been going down every year. For the last 8 years, we have had an all-time high in membership each year. At the end of the last membership year, we had 384 members. This year, National and Department of Florida have set our goal at 388 members.

If you have not paid your dues this year, please do so as soon as possible. You can mail a check or money order to our Post Office Box. The address is on the last page of this newsletter. Or you can mail it directly to me, and that address is also on the last page of this newsletter. You can also renew by credit card directly to us or go on line with either the Department of Florida or National Headquarters. That information is on your renewal notices.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT (continued)

We encourage all members and their families to attend our Post monthly meetings which are held on the 4th Tuesday of every month (with the exception of December). Our meeting nights, times, and location are all posted on the last page of the newsletter. You also can contact me directly by phone, email, or by attending one of our monthly meetings.

The catch phrase lately has been – “Let me be clear about this!” No one gets any money or anything of value from this Post, with the exception of the vet families who need our help. None of us get a salary, stipend, and most of us don’t even get our expenses back. We are all unpaid volunteers.

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

AUXILIARY NEWS

TOYS FOR TOTS: We are continuing to collect new, unwrapped toys to donate to the Marine Corps’ Toys For Tots program. If you have not already done so, please bring your toys to the November meeting.



Thank you to all who have already donated, and to those who will be bringing toys to our November meeting. Our **Legion Family** rocks!!!

MEMBERSHIP: Our Unit is now at 65.79%. Great job ladies!!! If you have not already done so, please 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 last monthly meeting this year, which will be held at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, November 22nd. Dues are \$25.00 for senior members and \$5.00 for junior members.

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

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 November meeting is scheduled for November 22, 2016 at 7:00 PM

As always, there is no meeting in December. Merry Christmas!!!

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Sunday, November 13, 2016 at 2:00 PM, 5th District Legion & Auxiliary meetings, will be held at Post 202, 7441 State Road 21, Keystone Heights, FL 32656.

Sunday, December 11, 2016 at 2:00 PM, 5th District Legion & Auxiliary meetings, will be held at Post 129, 1151 S 4th St, Jacksonville Beach, FL 32250.

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

American Legion Post 373 Legion Officers 2016-2017

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
Sgt. at Arms	John Odom	
Historian	Joney 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 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