

AMERICAN LEGION POST 373 NEWSLETTER



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

Chartered 1996
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COMMANDER'S CORNER

AMERICAN LEGION DUES INCREASE – As you all should know by now, the Department of Florida and National will be raising their dues starting January 1, 2016. As of that date, we will have to send \$29.00 to Department for every member paying after December 31, 2015. Currently, and for the last 7 years, we have been paying \$21.00 per member. At the Post level we have no control over this. A few months back at a regular convened meeting of Post 373-Orange Park, FL, members wanted to raise our dues to \$50.00 per year. I was able to persuade them to back it up to \$45.00 per year, which puts our yearly dues less than most of the other veteran organizations. Our Post dues should hold at \$45.00 per year for at least 6 to 10 years. If for any reason whatsoever you have a problem with this, please give me a call at 904-272-1619 and let's discuss.

Also, attached to the newsletter, you will see a form regarding our Building Fund raffle. You do not have to come to the meeting to purchase tickets. Just get in touch with me somehow, and I will get your name on as many tickets that you want. A lot of you have expressed a desire to have our own Post home. We have been building this fund through Promissory Notes and 2 to 3 fund raisers like this per year.

If you have a financial problem and can't afford our dues, get in touch with me. We need the members much more than we need the money, and that means whether you are active in the Post or just a member of the Post. Each and every member is important to the Post, State, and National when dealing with congress and fighting for veterans' benefits. There is strength in numbers as you know. Our Post is represented the 5th District, and we are also a member of the Clay County Veterans Council. We also are members of the Vets 4 Vets, which includes all veteran posts in the southeast Georgia and northeast Florida areas. Members of our Post are involved in leadership roles in these other vet organizations. Our Post leaders have had personnel contact with our state senators and congress members. We are out there working for our veterans and their benefits and solving their problems.

COMMANDER'S CORNER (continued)

We are now into November, and this is our Post's most active month for recruiting and retaining members. We will be out and about Clay County with information tables to encourage veterans to join our Post and to help them with any VA problems that they have. Even though you are already a member, please stop by these tables and say hello. Also try to get your family members and friends, neighbors to join our Post, whether it is as Legion members, Auxiliary members, Sons of the Legion, and if they belong to one of these three groups, they can also join our Riders.

Our Post is involved in the school systems with Children & Youth Programs. We furnish safety coloring books to the pre-school, kindergarten, 1st & 2nd graders. We are interviewing candidates for the Boy's State Program, for the new American Legion Highway Patrol Cadet Program, Oratorical Contest, and we are sponsoring Shooting Sports, and ROTC Programs. We are also involved with Special Olympics. Our Post also, for the last 7 years, has helped numerous active duty and all veterans and their families with putting food on the table, paying bills, and finding employment. I am spelling all this out to show you that the portion of your dues that stays in this Post is used to help veterans and their families in this area.

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

AUXILIARY NEWS

MEMBERSHIP: Thank you to all the members who have already renewed your membership. Our Unit is moving up the membership palm tree!!! We are now at 77.78%. If you have not yet renewed, please plan on paying your dues at our next monthly meeting which will be held at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, November 24th, at the Orange Park Lion's Club, 423 McIntosh Avenue, Orange Park, FL 32073. If you are unable to attend this meeting, please mail your renewal check to:



American Legion Auxiliary Unit 373
P. O. Box 2212
Orange Park, FL 32067-2212



TOYS FOR TOTS: A big **THANK YOU** to everyone who brought toys to our September and October meetings. If you have not had a chance to bring toys for the **TOYS FOR TOTS** program, you still have time!!! Please bring your new, unwrapped toys to our November meeting on November 24th at the Orange Park Lion's Club. The meeting will start at 7:00 PM.

AUXILIARY NEWS (continued)

W.E. CHERRY ELEMENTARY – On Monday, October 12th, Auxiliary members delivered boxes of school supplies, Halloween Safety coloring books, and other items to W. E. Cherry Elementary School.



Above are some of the items that were generously donated by our Legionnaires and Auxiliary members.

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

IMPORTANT INFORMATION – PLEASE READ

To all veterans and their families who are having any type of problem with the VA. Keep a written document on your calls to the VA, whether they answer or not, on scheduling your appointments, on their cancellation of your appointments, or any other problems. We need the date and time of your calls, the date and time of your scheduled appointments, and the result of such. Write down the names and titles of the people who you talked to. We are collecting this information from all veterans who are served by the Jacksonville Clinic, the Gainesville Hospital, and any other facility that you are dealing with.

All this information is being gathered to be presented to the members of congress. With your help, we will fix the VA. This was done in St. Johns County, and suddenly their VA clinic is being built. The American Legion was the only veteran organization to demand a change in the top leadership of the VA, and that was done a few months ago. Then we got information that the Under Secretary was a problem, and just recently she resigned. So what I am trying to tell you very clearly is that when veterans get together with documented details, we can get things fixed. Please work with me on this project.

**Bob Brewster
Commander, Post 373**

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 24, 2015 at 7:00 PM

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Sunday, November 8, 2015 at 2:00 PM, 5th District Legion & Auxiliary meetings, will be held at Post 137, 5443 San Juan Ave, Jacksonville, FL 32210.

Sunday, December 6, 2015 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 22, 2015.

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.



Post 373, Orange Park, Florida

Shotgun Raffle!



**The prize is a Mossberg 12 Gauge Pump Action Shotgun with
and Accu Choke set for all hunting conditions.**

**Drawing will be held at our monthly meeting, Tuesday,
November 24, 2015 at 7PM.**

**The winner need not be present to win, but must be legally
able to possess a firearm. 1 ticket per \$5 donation, 5 tickets
per \$20 donation.**

**All proceeds benefit the Post 373, Orange Park, Florida,
Building Fund.**

Contact Bob Brewster, 272-1619, to make a donation.