

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

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN. IT'S RENEWAL TIME. WE HAVE APPROXIMATELY 150 MEMBERS WHO HAVE ALREADY RENEWED AND THEIR CARDS HAVE BEEN PROCESSED, INCLUDING THE PAID UP FOR LIFE MEMBERS. A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU WHO HAVE RENEWED!!!

As most of you know, we operate financially strictly on the dues that are paid by our members. The dues are \$45.00 per year, but the majority of the money goes on to the State of Florida and National Headquarters. Our share is \$16.00. We keep our overhead down as low as possible. That's why we do most of the paperwork out of my home office. For the last 8 years, we have grown from 67 Legion members to 388 Legion members for the year 2016. We are involved in 11 American Legion Programs. Most of them fall under Children & Youth Programs. In the past, we have sent children to the Florida Highway Patrol Youth Cadet Program, and this year, we will also send 2 boys to Boy's State in Tallahassee, Florida. We also have funds available to help those vets in this area who are in need. No one in this Post gets a dime out of our Post funds. Every member has the right to look at our financials at any time, and as I keep telling you, neither I nor the Executive Board runs this Post. You the members do. Our Post is represented at every District meeting, Department of Florida Fall Conference, and the state convention. The full cost of hotels, meals, transportation, and whatever comes out of our members' pockets.

If any member cannot pay their dues because of financial hardship, please contact me personally at 904-272-1619. It's not the money as much as it's the total number of members that our Post has, Department of Florida has, and that National has. We are the only vet organization that has an office in the Pentagon and in the Capitol. We have a staff of people who are constantly in contact with all members of Congress about veteran issues. These issues affect active duty and all vets, especially now with the V.A. mess. A lot of you may not know that The American Legion wrote the original G.I. Bill. Every year we are constantly working on improving this bill for our veterans. We also created the V.A.

COMMANDER'S CORNER (continued)

So this gives you some idea how your dues money is spent. Out of the \$16.00 we keep, we pay for school medals, Halloween coloring safety books, youth sport programs, hall rental for our meetings, Post newsletters, postage, and various supplies. We don't have a bar to generate income. We do have some raffles and a promissory note program, and that money goes directly into our Post Building Fund. At each meeting, a complete financial report is given. I encourage each and every one to attend these meetings. There is strength in numbers.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

1. On Saturday, September 10, 2016, the 5th District, which our Post belongs to, will be unveiling and donating to the Jacksonville National Cemetery a memorial honoring all those vets who have passed on. The emblems of all our branches of service are on this monument. The ceremony, which will last about an hour, will be held at the Jacksonville National Cemetery and will start at 10:00 AM. Everyone is welcome to attend this ceremony. Directions: I-295 north to Lem Turner. Go left or north on Lem Turner and you will see a big sign on your right, telling you to turn right on Lannie Road. Drive out on Lannie Road and the cemetery will be on your left (4083 Lannie Road, Jacksonville, FL 904-766-5222). Turn into main entrance, and you will be there.
2. On Saturday, September 10, 2016, from 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM, we will be hosting the first ever Clay County Veterans Appreciation Day. This event will be held at the Clay County Fairgrounds located on County Road 16, just west of Green Cove Springs. There will be live entertainment, various food trucks will be there, a car show, and a motorcycle display, military vehicles and equipment, all kinds of crafts, and other exhibits. Various veteran organizations will have information tables, and veteran service officers will be available. This is the first time that we, the veterans of Clay County with the support of the Clay County administration, are having this special day. This idea was generated from the Clay County Veterans Council, which is made up of all veteran organizations in Clay County. I am serving my second year as President of this organization. We, Post 373, will have a 10qx 10qpop up tent set up, so please stop by and see us.

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

AUXILIARY NEWS

MEMBERSHIP: Thank you to all who have renewed your membership for 2017. Our Unit is at 52.63%. 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 next monthly meeting, which will be held at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, September 27th. Dues are \$25.00 for senior members and \$5.00 for junior members.

Unit 373 was one of 16 Units in the State of Florida to receive the 100% American Legion Family Membership banner. Way to go Post 373 and Unit 373 family!!!



Sgt. at Arms Matt Ruxton, Commander Bob Brewster, Unit Secretary-Treasurer Barbara Jonte

SCHOOL OF INSTRUCTION: The District School of Instruction will be held on Saturday, September 17, 2016 at Post 197, 2179 Benedict Road, Jacksonville, FL 32209. The purpose is to educate members on the Auxiliary programs. All members are welcome. Registration begins at 9:30 AM and school begins at 10:00 AM. Please contact Collie Brewster at 272-1619 if you would like to carpool. Hope to see you there!

**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 **September** meeting is scheduled for **September 27, 2016** at **7:00 PM**

Our **October** meeting is scheduled for **October 25, 2016** at **7:00 PM**

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Sunday, **September 11, 2016** at **2:00 PM**, **5th District Legion & Auxiliary** meetings, will be held at **Post 88**, 3662 Spring Park Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32207.

Sunday, **October 9, 2016** at **2:00 PM**, **5th District Legion & Auxiliary** meetings, will be held at **Post 283**, 9459 Fort Caroline Rd, Jacksonville, FL 32225.

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Please e-mail your articles for Post 373's November/December newsletter to either Bob Brewster at brewsterrobert@bellsouth.net or Barb Jonte at bjonte49@att.net by **October 26, 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	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 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.*****