

AMERICAN LEGION POST 373 NEWSLETTER



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

**Chartered 1996
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COMMANDER'S CORNER

A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL MEMBERS WHO HAVE RENEWED FOR 2018. WE ALSO WANT TO THANK ALL OF YOU WHO ALREADY HAVE RENEWED FOR 2019. ABOUT 1/3RD OF OUR MEMBERSHIP HAVE ALREADY RENEWED. FANTASTIC!!

Our September Post meeting will be on September 25, 2018, and our October meeting will be on October 23, 2018. Please try to make these meetings. No one is forced to do anything. We want you to hear firsthand as to what we are planning for the future. Our meetings are alcohol and smoke free and only last about an hour. We are looking forward to seeing more of you at these meetings.

For the 8th time in 9 years, our Post was a 100% Post. The Legion, S.A.L, and Auxiliary were awarded Certificates of Appreciation and ribbons to be attached to our various flags. We had a very good year in 2018 with sending 2 boys to Boys State Program and 3 boys/girls to the Florida Highway Patrol/American Legion Cadet Program. We helped 9 vet families who were in need of our assistance, plus our V.S.O.s handled well over 300 claims this year.

3 or 4 of our members have attended every Clay County Veterans Council meeting, which is held the 1st Wednesday of every month at 2:00 P.M. at the Orange Park Medical Center. At the last meeting, Congressman Ted Yoho made an announcement about the opening of a V.A. clinic, which will be located at 400 College Drive, Orange Park, Florida. The clinic should open possibly as early as 2019/2020. This clinic was spearheaded by the Clay County Veterans Council, of which I am President. We will keep you in the loop as soon as there is more updates on this clinic. This clinic had been turned down before because the V.A. management found less than 4,000 veterans registered in Clay County. Mr. Yoho got this information to us, and we in turn got over 4,000 additional veterans to sign up with the V.A. If any of you members have not signed up with

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COMMANDER'S CORNER (continued)

the V.A., whether you need this or not, get signed up. It costs you nothing. By signing up, we will keep our numbers high, and this clinic will be a reality.

I was informed that less than 46% of our veterans in this country bothered to vote. I also was informed that over 100% of our veterans have complaints about everything under the sun. Remember this . If you don't vote, you have voted for the winner. Think about that a while.

This is a very special year. We are 100 years old. Not me, but The American Legion! We were founded in 1919. One of the original founders was a guy named Teddy Roosevelt. He was pressured to become the 1st National Commander. He turned it down. Reason was because he wanted the organization to always remain non-political. The Legion was started for one reason. At the time, there was nothing in the U.S. to help or work with our returning veterans. Today, counting all members of The American Legion family, we are just over 3 million strong. Please remember that there is strength in numbers. We are the leaders of all the vet organizations who band together to force Congress to take care of our veterans and their families. THIS IS WHY YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS SO IMPORTANT TO OUR POST, DISTRICT, AREA, STATE, AND NATIONAL. Not only do we band together to call on our Congress members in D.C., we are now doing the same thing with our politicians in Tallahassee.

Again, thank you very much for being members of American Legion Post 373!

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

A GATHERING IN THE PINES

September 22, 2018, 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM . Cecil Field Conference Center, 13517 Lake Newman Street, Jacksonville, FL 32221

We need as many members as possible to attend this event and to help with our booth at this event. We also need members to walk around and visit other booths and other displays to see what is available for the veterans of Clay County. I am asking for help due to the fact that I will be out of the area while this event is being held. We are paying for a table to attract new members to our Post. We must keep growing, and this is the type of event where we can be seen and heard. Thank you all for helping out our Post at this event.

Contact: John Roberson at 904-688-1387. He will happy to hear from you.

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

GOLF TOURNAMENT

We are co-sponsoring a golf tournament with the Orange Park Athletic Association. The Golf Tournament will be held on Friday, November 30, 2018, at The Eagle Landing Golf Course,

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GOLF TOURNAMENT (continued)

located at 3989 Eagle Landing Parkway, Orange Park, FL 32065. Shotgun start at 1:00 PM. Registration starts at 11:00 AM.

You can form your own foursome or you can be assigned to an existing foursome. It is a best ball scramble with practice balls and prizes galore, with a meal included. Cost is \$90.00 per player. I know we have golfers at our Post, but you do not have to be a good golfer to play in this format. I have played in these tournaments in the past, and it is strictly a huge fun day. Both the OPAA and our Post will benefit from this event.

Any questions or for registration forms, please contact me at 904-272-1619.

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

AUXILIARY NEWS

Membership: I am back from the State Convention and now have our membership cards for 2019 available. You can mail your renewal dues to American Legion Auxiliary Unit 373, P. O. Box 2212, Orange Park, FL 32067. Remember . Our Unit 373 dues are now \$30.00 per year for senior members and still \$5.00 per year for junior members. Thank you members who have already sent in your 2019 dues renewals. At the end of August, our Unit is 35.71% towards our 100% plus 1 goal. We are in 2nd place out of 14 units in District 5.

Our new Florida Department President Michele DeGennaro's theme for 2018-2019 is %We are all in.+ Our 5th District Membership Team is %Hard Rock Casino,+and our membership song is %Miva Auxiliary.+

To obtain our membership goals, we must maintain our current members and recruit new members. Who are eligible? Veterans, wives, daughters, granddaughters. If your brother or sister served, you can join the Auxiliary under them. Our success is based on membership. We need to continue to grow our Unit.

The primary reason for the Auxiliary's existence is to continue to help veterans, young and old, and their families in time of need and assisting our Legionnaires. Here at Post 373, we firmly believe in the American Legion family.

Robbin Walker, who is our 2018-2019 5th District President, also stresses that we are family, and as family members of the American Legion, we are all here for the purpose of %Veterans Helping Veterans.+

Our Unit has been collecting aluminum cans & pop tops to fund our Auxiliary programs, and also have a Secret Door Prize drawing at every monthly meeting. We also help provide refreshments and finger foods after our Legion/Auxiliary meetings.

**United in purpose,
Collette "Collie" Brewster, President**

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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 25, 2018** at **7:00 PM**

Our **October** meeting is scheduled for **October 23, 2018** at **7:00 PM**

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Please e-mail your articles for Post 373's September/October newsletter to either Bob Brewster at mr.bobbrewster@gmail.com or Barb Jonte at bjonte49@att.net by **October 26, 2018**.

American Legion Post 373 Legion Officers 2018-2019

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	Bob Brewster	904-272-1619
V.S.O.	Ed Silva	904-477-2761
V.S.O.	Jeff Pennala	904-297-8914
Chaplain	Joe Wright	904-269-7676
Historian	Johnny Odom	904-215-2901
Sergeant at Arms	Matt Ruxton	904-272-4179
Sergeant at Arms	Steve Valliere	904-625-5930
Executive Committee	Wanda Ruxton	904-272-4179
Executive Committee	Don Jacques	904-945-1905
Executive Committee	Bill Walsh	904-657-8177

American Legion Auxiliary Unit 373 Officers 2018-2019

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	Glenna Roberson	904-688-1387
Executive Committee	Kathie Thomson	904-284-6950
Executive Committee	Tammie Holland	904-728-0091

*****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 mr.bobbrewster@gmail.com*****