

AMERICAN LEGION POST 373 NEWSLETTER



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**Commander
Robert "Bob" Brewster**

**Chartered 1996
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Jan/Feb 2018**

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Well, the holidays have come and gone, and I hope all of you had as great a time as we did at our home. We were very fortunate to have all of our kids and grandkids celebrate Christmas at our home. Our membership stands now at 85%. That means we need that last 15% to reach our 100% goal. I will hold off for about 2 weeks and then send out a reminder notice to all those members who have not renewed. A lot of Posts publish the list of members who have not renewed. I will not do this. If any of you have financial problems or other reasons that are stopping you from renewing, please call me at home: 904-2721619 or cell: 904-635-4492. This call will be held in strict confidence. Only you and I will know. It is not the money. It is the membership numbers. We can't let our Post, District, or Department shrink. We are still by far the largest vet organization in the world. We need the numbers to get Congressional attention for the protection of all veterans, young and old, and their families. Our Post has been a 100% plus in membership for 9 of the last 10 years. Membership is a Legion program.

I have been led to believe that our January meeting will be back at the Lions Club. As some of you know, the building suffered over \$240,000 in damages caused by the storm. It will be like a new building to us. Some of our executive board members and I have attended the Lions Club's meetings. We do this so that we know what is going on at the Lions Club. If any of you have any old eye glasses, please bring them to our meetings, and we will get them to the Lions. They clean them up and distribute the glasses to people in need. We have been meeting at the Orange Park Medical Center for the last 2 months, and we can't thank them enough for allowing us to do this. The meeting room is much smaller, and we can't do our social gathering at this facility.

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COMMANDER'S CORNER (continued)

At January's meeting, we will be bringing up and reporting on all of our programs. So if you are a program chairman, please be prepared to give some information about your program. Everything we do is all about one thing . making our Post the best that it can be and taking care of our members, their families, and all of our veterans and their families in our area. Last, but not least, I want to wish all of you a fantastic 2018!

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

WHY YOU AND I SHOULD BELONG TO THE AMERICAN LEGION

Since its inception by Congress in 1919, The American Legion has delivered substantial improvements for veterans, families, and communities. The Legion ushered in the modern V.A. The Legion drafted and drove home the passage of the G.I. Bill and the post 911 G.I. Bill. The Legion has brought into existence dozens of health care benefits for veterans and programs designed to provide civilian careers after discharge. We have a multitude of programs, including employment, veterans education, combatting the backlog of claims at the V.A., help for the homeless veterans, and many other programs. With so little history being taught throughout the 12 years of public education, it is up to the Legion as members to education our kids and all those who are willing to learn the real history of the United States. There is a saying, %if you can read this, thank your teachers,+and %if it is printed in English, thank your veterans.+

One last thing, once I got started in The American Legion, I have set one goal, and that is to leave the Legion in much better shape than I found it. That is the same goal I have set for American Legion Post 373.

May God bless all of you, and let all of us work together to make 2018 the best year ever!

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

AUXILIARY NEWS

TOYS FOR TOTS: A great big %**THANK YOU**+to all the Auxiliary members and Legionnaires who participated in the Toys for Tots Community Program this year.

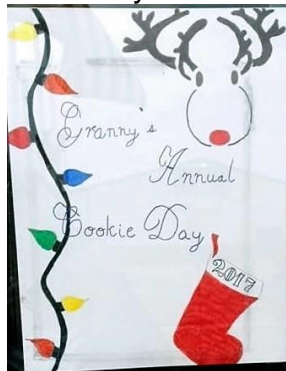
AUXILIARY NEWS (continued)



Above are just some of the toys we were able to donate.

ANNUAL COOKIE DAY!

On November 11, 2017 in Chouteau, Oklahoma, Auxiliary member Lynn Sawyer held her 6th Annual Cookie Day at the senior citizens center. There were 8 ladies and 2 teens making, baking and wrapping approximately 1,900 pieces of candy and cookies. There were 3 men that hauled and moved all the stuff they used and they also helped with the set up and clean up. They started about 7:00 AM and clean-up was completed by 9:00 PM. They mailed goodies to over 150 sailors on two ships and a few veterans and active military guard. All the helpers got to sample the goodies! Lynn has been doing this for many years. **THANK YOU** Lynn for all you do for our military!!!



**For God and Country,
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 **January** meeting is scheduled for **January 23, 2018** at **7:00 PM**

Our **February** meeting is scheduled for **February 27, 2018** at **7:00 PM**

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Sunday, **February 11, 2018** at **2:00 PM**, **5th District Legion & Auxiliary** meetings, will be held at **Post 250**, 3939 County Road 218, Middleburg, FL 32068.
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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 **February 24, 2018**.

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	904-477-2761
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	Al Jonte	904-213-1073
Executive Committee	Bill Walsh	904-657-8177

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

*****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.*****