



# American Legion Post 318 Newsletter



“For God and Country”

January 2018

### Commander’s Notes:

We are in desperate need of your support. To keep our doors open we have to generate \$ 6,000 each month. To fund our programs requires an additional \$ 2,800 each month. Raising this kind of money (\$8,800) is a significant challenge. Trying to do it with about 20 active members, is becoming a little overwhelming for everyone involved!

Those members who work tirelessly are “burning out”, and with the recent wave of resignations and health issues, we are on the verge of heading into a “death spiral”! If we can’t find a solution it will be just a matter of time before we have to close up shop. As someone who takes significant pride in our Post, what we’ve accomplished over the years, and our role in the community, this is not something that I look forward to.

What are the consequences of our demise? The students who attend Anderson High School lose access to our Boys State and Girls State programs, the A&G Testing program, and scholarship money associated with our Oratorical competition. Our local elementary schools lose access to our Flag Etiquette classes. Our scouting units have to find new sponsors to charter them and a new location to meet. Recognition for Anderson Township’s first responders will be reduced, and community Memorial Day services will probably end. There will be fewer scholarships available to the children of local veterans. Fewer visit to our comrades at the VA medical center. Fewer contributions to the Gifts for Yanks program, Fisher House, and Joseph House. The Veteran Community will lose a safety net. The Memorial Day Poppy will vanish from our community and of course, there will be no one providing “Military Rites” to our deceased members. Those are just the obvious losses. There are many more! The question is does any of this matter to you?

Here’s our dilemma! I know we can generate the income necessary to pay our bills and fund our programs. After all, we’ve been doing it for more than 5 years. So if 20 to 30 people have been able to keep us afloat, it seems to me that with a membership of 155 we shouldn’t be in this position. All we need is just a little bit of additional help. In fact, I believe that if we could get everyone to volunteer to do something a couple hours once every 2 months, the majority of our problems would go away. Is that too much to ask? A few hours of your time every 8 weeks!

Our past pleas for help have literally gone unanswered.

Obviously, I don’t know why, but I assume it’s either because you don’t know how you can help, or you have no desire to help. I hope the latter is not true, but regardless the bottom line is if we don’t get your help soon I don’t believe that our Post will survive beyond the end of this year. If this occurs, those of you who care will be left wondering what happened. Those of you who don’t won’t even notice.

*Don Bishop*

### No Manager, No Bingo, No Revenue, No Post

This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> month that we’ve reached out to let you know that we are in need of someone to become Bingo Manager. Ed Sears has indicated that he will be stepping down from this position at the end of the 2018 bingo program year (October 31, 2018).

This position is significantly important to the Post in that it represents approximately 1/3 of our revenue stream (about \$2,000 each month). Revenue that we simply can’t replace. A primary difference between bingo and the way we stumble through the rest of our fundraising events is that without a named manager we can’t even renew our license. This means No Manager, No Bingo, No Revenue, No Post, it’s that simple!

We need a hero, someone to step up and take on this challenge! October seems a long time from now, but it will be here before we know it.

### Fish Fry Leadership Needed

This year’s fish fry season is planned to begin, February 16<sup>th</sup> and will run through March 30<sup>th</sup>. However before we can actually schedule these fish fries, we need to finalize leadership of these events.

Jerry Porter has communicated that he is willing share this responsibility, but will be out of town February 23<sup>rd</sup> and March 2<sup>nd</sup>. So, we’re looking for one or two members willing to partner with him and develop a coverage schedule to insure leadership for each event.

When it’s your turn to lead, the primary tasks that you would need to oversee include; 1) staffing each event, 2) the coordination of serving and kitchen activities, and 3) managing any fish fry related problems or issues that may arise.

If you think this is something you would be willing to do, please contact Commander Bishop as soon as possible.

Visit us at: [www.post318.org](http://www.post318.org)

### ***Fund Raising Update:***

**Bingo** – The Post conducts bingo every Sunday. Doors open at 4:30 PM, preliminary games begin at 6 PM. You can support the Post by either coming out to play, or volunteering to work these events. Contact Bingo Manager, Ed Sears (474-0246) with any questions. For the month of December, bingo gross revenues were \$2,784.75 of which \$ 533 was contributed to **Charities, Inc.**

**Euchre** – Euchre tournaments are conducted every Thursday night in the Club Room. Buy-in is \$10, \$5 going to the Post and \$5 going to prize money. This is a fun evening and is open to both our members and the public. Doors open at 6:45 PM, games begin at 7 PM. Contact Joe Baker (289-9044) with any questions. For the month of December Euchre contributed approximately \$156 to the Post.

**Kroger Community Rewards** – If you are a Kroger customer and are not currently supporting a charitable organization through **Kroger Community Rewards**, we would encourage you to do your part! Go on-line and sign up for **Kroger Rewards**, selecting **American Legion Post 318 Charities, Inc.** as your cause. Kroger Rewards contributed \$ 216.97 to our programs this quarter.

**Dances** – Dance revenues continue to make a substantial contribution to our operating funds. For our 2 dances in December (not counting New Year’s Eve), net revenues were \$1,288.81. Our NYE estimate is for an additional \$2,500.

**FootballMania™** – So far this season we have had 2 FootballMania™ winners. However, If you purchased a ticket, your opportunity to win will continue until the end of the regular NLF season.

**HoopsMania™** – Two (2) HoopsMania™ tickets have been distributed to every member. For each ticket purchased the Post get \$14. We ask that you consider buying one (1) and selling one (1), or more. Should you need extra tickets, please contact Roger Wade at [rwade@cintechconstruction.com](mailto:rwade@cintechconstruction.com). All money earned through this fundraiser is used to pay Post operating expenses.

### ***Charitable Giving***

Over the course of each year, American Legion Post 318 Charities, Inc. (**Charities, Inc.**) contributes thousands of dollars to programs and causes important to our membership. The following is a summary of our November 2017 giving:

**Flags for Schools & Community** – Post 318 provided new American Flags for the classrooms at Turpin High School. These flags were purchased by **Charities, Inc.** at a cost of \$174.95

**Joseph House** – Joseph House is a group of homes dedicated to the support of homeless veterans. Post 318 contributes to Joseph House on a regular basis. **Charities, Inc.** made a recent donation of \$ 100.

**Veterans Day Celebration** – **Charities, Inc.** is a primary sponsor of the Veterans Day Celebration hosted by Post 318. This year \$ 1000 was allocated for this event.

### ***Open Mic to Continue in 2018***

“Open Mic” will return to the Post in 2018. Our first scheduled event will be held, Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>. Six dates are currently on the calendar (see flyer below), and more will be added, if interest in the event becomes a little stronger.



**Christina Schnetzer & Friends Present:**  
**“Open Mic”**  
**Family Entertainment**  
**Up-and-Coming Performers**  
**No Admission Fees**  
**Hours 7:30 PM - 11:00 PM**

**Dates:**  
Jan 12  
Jan 26  
Feb 9  
Apr 13  
Apr 27  
May 11

**Cash Bar & Food**

Patriot Center of Cincinnati  
6660 Clough Pike, Cinti., Ohio 45244

We ask that you come out to the Post and see what this is all about! On any given night you will hear music that ranges from the **“Kingston Trio”** to **“Janis Joplin”**. The majority of performances are pretty good, others need a little work, but admission is free and these events are family friendly.

We also have concessions available until 9:30 PM, and beverages; beer, wine and soft drinks can be purchased until 10:30 PM.

### ***At The Flag Pole***

Display your flag days in January.

- New Year’s Day
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

**Ralph Caskey**  
**Sgt.-at-Arms**

Visit us at: [www.post318.org](http://www.post318.org)

### *Dance Themes to be Adopted*

When we kick off our dance schedule in January, we are beginning our 4<sup>th</sup> year of hosting dances. Over this period of time these events have generated approximately \$40,000 in net income. However, there's a sense that we're not maximizing the potential these events offer us. One of the things we've recognized is that when we have had a themed event like Halloween, these events become more of an entertainment experience and we draw larger crowds. So, during year # 4 we are going to do a little experimenting to test this possibility.

For our Spring season we have identified 5 nights, which we'll refer to as theme nights. They are; Valentine's Day, St Patrick's Day, Vegas Night, Cinco De Mayo, and Prom Night. Our goal is to make each event memorable so that our customers will want to come back next year. Plus we hope to peak their interest enough to get them to consider attending the next scheduled event.

To make this work we believe that there are three elements that have to be addressed. First, the band hosting the event has to be engaged in the event. They have to do stuff that support the theme. Second, the venue has to set the theme atmosphere. For example hall decoration and other amenities, like candy on Valentine's Day. And, lastly the customers have to be engaged in the event theme. For example our costumes contest on Halloween.

If these themed events produce the intended results, we have a list of event themes for our Fall schedule, and we would probably add additional themes next Spring.

Our biggest challenge in creating these themes is it will take additional work and a little more promotional money. We will also need to come up with decorating and other ideas to engage our customers. Yet, if we can create an entertainment experience that's more than a dance, we will be able to differentiate our events from those being held at other venues. Should you have an interest in helping us create these events, please contact Commander Bishop.

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### *January Dance Schedule*

Our dance events will continue to be a primary source of income in 2018. You can help make these events successful in one of three (3) ways; buy tickets, promote these events to family and friends, or volunteer to work a few events. Any of these options provide support to the Post.

We start off our Spring schedule, January 13<sup>th</sup>, with ***The Remains***. This high energy group is a fan favorite and always put on a good show. If you haven't had the opportunity to hear this group, consider coming out for this event.



***The Last Caballeros*** make their 2018 debut, January 27<sup>th</sup>. This group fuses, molds and packages the contemporary music styles of Rock, Country, Latin Swing and Tex-Mex creating their own engaging and addictive rendition of the Americana genre. Because of their unique sound, ***TLC*** is becoming the tri-states' most sought after performing group for major events, private parties, community and city organizations. If you haven't seen ***TLC*** perform, you're missing something special!



Tickets for all of our events can be purchased by going to our web site, [www.post318.org](http://www.post318.org), and clicking on the "Special Events" tab. Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$10. Tickets purchased at the door are \$12.50, if available.

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### *Need Help?*

If you're a veteran and need help obtaining any of your entitled benefits, or are in need of a "helping hand", please contact our Service Officer, Charlie Cleves. Charlie can be reached at (513) 232-7767, or via email at: [ccleves1@fuse.net](mailto:ccleves1@fuse.net).

Visit us at: [www.post318.org](http://www.post318.org)



### ***New Policies Adopted***

The Executive Committee proposed, and the Post membership has adopted, 2 policies that define both the intended and permitted use of Post facilities. The following provides an overview of each:

#### **Post 318 Clubroom Utilization Policy**

##### **A. Policy Purpose:**

The following policies have been established to define the permitted use of the Post 318 Clubroom.

##### **B. The Post 318 Club Room:**

- 1) Is available for the exclusive use by Post 318 Members.
- 2) Is available 24/7 to all Post 318 Members in good standing.
- 3) Can be used for any **Post sponsored** activity, meeting, or event authorized by the Post Executive Committee.
- 4) Can be utilized by any guests invited by a Post 318 member.
- 5) Can be utilized by invited guests for bar/beverage service in conjunction with a Post Sponsored Activity or Event being held in the Patriot Center.
- 6) Cannot be rented for any purpose.
- 7) Cannot be used by anyone to the exclusion of other Post 318 Member.
- 8) Cannot be utilized in conjunction with a Private Party rental of the Patriot Center.
- 9) Operates using an "honor system". Members are expected to dispensing, properly recording, and pay for all beverages and concessions they personally consume.
- 10) Access and use of the Club Room includes "kitchen" privileges, but members must comply with the ***"Patriot Center and Kitchen Utilization Policy"***.

##### **C. Invited Guests are Permitted:**

- 1) If you provide Club Room access to any non-member, he/she is your invited guests.
- 2) When bringing invited guests into the Club Room, each member is responsible for the conduct of those invited guests.
- 3) Invited guests are not permitted to dispense beverages, or concessions.
- 4) Invited guests are not permitted to use the kitchen.

##### **D. Beverages and Concessions:**

- 1) Members are responsible for dispensing, properly recording, and insuring payment of all beverages and concessions consumed by themselves, and their invited guests.

- 2) All alcoholic beverages must be purchased from the Post. No BYOB!
- 3) No open alcoholic beverage containers are permitted to leave the Post / Patriot Center building.

#### **Patriot Center and Kitchen Utilization Policy**

##### **A. Policy Purpose:**

The following policies have been established to define the permitted use of the Patriot Center and Post 318 Kitchen.

##### **B. The Patriot Center:**

- 1) May be used for any Post 318 activity or event.
- 2) May be used by Post 318 sponsored organizations, under the terms set forth by the Post 318 Executive Committee.
- 3) May be utilized for any private party, under an approved rental agreement, subject to the following restrictions and provisions:
  - Subject to all terms and provisions of the signed rental agreement;
  - All bar, beverage, and concession or food service, in conjunction with rental, shall be conducted within the hall rental area;
  - No access to Post Club Room shall be permitted.
  - Bar, beverage and concession services in conjunction with rental agreement shall be in accordance with Post 318's Bar / Beverage / Concession Worker Compensation Policy.
  - All alcoholic beverages must be purchased from Post 318. No BYOB!
- 4) Can be rented to any Post 318 member at a discount of 25% off published rates.
- 5) All uses of the Patriot Center must be coordinated and scheduled through the Post Event Coordinator.

##### **C. Use of The Post 318 Kitchen:**

- 1) Must be agreed to under the terms and conditions of the approved rental agreement.
- 2) Must be supervised by a Hamilton County Public Health Department "Certified Food Handler".
- 3) Must be approved by the Executive Committee, if a long term agreement is desired.

##### **D. Exceptions or Questions:**

- 1) Any non-traditional use of the rental hall, or issues not covered by this policy, shall be presented to the Post 318's Executive Committee for determination.

## ***Township Veterans Memorial Added To Legion Database/Website***



Across the country and around the world, U.S. war, military and veterans memorials stand to honor those who served in uniform and the battles they fought to protect our nation's freedoms. As an element of the upcoming Centennial Celebration, The American Legion is establishing a database to identify the locations, document histories and share photographs of our nation's monuments and memorials to those who have served.

We're pleased to communicate that the Anderson Township Veterans Memorial has been added to this database.

You can view this memorial, and others already identified, by going to the following website: <https://www.legion.org/memorials?location=OH&submit=View>

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### ***Membership Update***

It is with heavy heart that I have to share with you that our membership enrollment has fallen well behind where we were at this time last year. Now that the drama part is out there here are the facts. Last year at this time we were at 97% of quota; this year we are at only 84% with 138 paid memberships. We still need 17 members to reach our quota (155) and 27 members to reach our goal (165). On the bright side we have 22 members that haven't yet renewed their memberships; therefore, if you are one of these 22 and are reading this, would you please send in your membership renewal fee. This year's fee is still \$40 and can be paid by mailing it to the Post at: American Legion Post 318, P.O. Box 54390, Cincinnati, OH 45254-0390 or one can pay by credit card by using this web link: [www.legion.org/renew](http://www.legion.org/renew). If this sounds like I'm begging, I'm, please, please, please send in you membership renewals.

Some more good news; our Post is growing with new members this year. To date we've had 5 new members join and 8 transfers in. For the month of November we had Steve Feagins, Phil Holt, Robert Lucke and Ed Ruffennach join our Post. For the month of December

we had Joseph Dubois join us. When you see these folks around the Post or around town, please be sure you wish them well and extend a hand in friendship.

In January we will be holding a new member orientation and join up; more information forth coming.

### ***2018 Membership Scoreboard***

<i>2017-2018 Quota</i>	<i>155</i>
<i>Paid as of 12/31/17</i>	<i>138</i>
<i>% Quota</i>	<i>89.03</i>
<i>Still Needed (Quota)</i>	<i>17</i>
<i>Membership Goal</i>	<i>165</i>
<i>Still Needed (Goal)</i>	<i>27</i>

***Robert Kamman***  
***1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander***

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### ***Next Meeting***

Our next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM, Wednesday, January 10<sup>th</sup>. This is your opportunity to get firsthand information regarding what's going on at the Post, project and program updates, and to meet and interact with the Post leadership team and other members.

Our success depends on your support, so feel free to bring a friend and come find out what's going on! As always there will be a light snack after the meeting.

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### ***Fundraising Chair Needed***

We've just completed the Post 318 version of musical chairs; you know moving members of our leadership team around from one position to another. Well, now that the dust has settled we have a vacancy on our leadership team that we need to fill. Specifically, we're looking for someone to become our Fundraising Chairman.

The primary responsibilities of this position are 1) to oversee fundraising activities that contribute about \$2,000 each month to our operating revenues, 2) to develop new revenue opportunities, 3) to participate as a primary member of the Marketing Committee, and 4) to report on fundraising activities at both our monthly Membership and EC meetings.

The projects/program that are currently part of the fundraising domain include; dances, fish fries, Eucher, the Mania programs, restaurant fundraisers, and Open Mic. The good news is most of these programs have project managers. As such, your role would simply be one of support and back-up.

If you're willing to become our next Fundraising Chairman, please contact Commander Bishop.

**Visit us at: [www.post318.org](http://www.post318.org)**

### ***Chaplin's Report***

Are we ready for the new Calendar year? We are almost at quota with people paying their dues and new people signing up. It would be so much easier if Legionnaires paid right away instead of waiting until the end of the year, but I guess people have their reasons. The number of emails, phone calls, and letters take up a lot of time for the First Vice Commander who is responsible for membership.

As a chaplain, I have the responsibility of looking out for all members. I look at making ones role easier also can be part of my duty. If we can make the job of our officers easier, then maybe we could get more people to step forward and try an office. If our house chairperson had more assistance with set up and clean ups, the job would go faster and be less of a challenge. Dances have been successful money makers along with our big money maker, Bingo, but they could be even better if we had more people signing up to help. Just a couple hours once in a while, would help. Well this seems to be the common theme of newsletters and editorials, so I hope you will find a little time, and help get this cry for help off the agendas.

Our members seem to be fairly healthy lately, and those members who have gone through some serious help problems, like Keith Musselman and Robert Calder, their surgeries seem to be making a big difference in their lives. There are a couple members who will be going in for hip replacements, and we pray that those surgeries go well also. Jack Storm is still at Salem Woods nursing facility and would like visitors. Don McLaughlin is doing better at the New England Club with all the therapy from his broken femur.

Well I hope for all of you that you had a blessed and healthful holiday season. If my position can help you in anyway, please give me a call or email.

***Jerry Porter***  
***Chaplain***

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### ***Post Oratorical Contest Scheduled***

The American Legion Oratorical Contest exists to develop deeper knowledge and appreciation for the U.S. Constitution among high school students. Since 1938, the program has presented participants with an academic speaking challenge that teaches important leadership qualities, the history of our nation's laws, the ability to think and speak clearly, and an understanding of the duties, responsibilities, rights and privileges of American citizenship. The program has featured numerous politicians and prominent contestants over the

years, including former president candidate Alan Keyes and Fox News anchor Lou Dobbs.

Post 318 will conduct its entry level contest, Saturday, January 13<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 11:30 AM. Currently, we are expecting three (3) Anderson High School students to compete for \$500 in scholarship money and the opportunity to advance to the Hamilton County competition. The County winner advances to District, the District winner advances to State, and the State winner advances to National. There is scholarship money to be earned along the way and the top 3 finishers in the National competition will earn scholarships of \$14,000, \$16,000 and \$18,000.

This contest is open to the public and we encourage members of our Post to come out and support these students. However, you have to arrive and be seated before the 11:30 AM start time. Once a speaker is introduced to the audience, no one will be permitted to enter the contest room.

We also will need Post members to act as officials for this contest. If you're interested in helping out, please contact Americanism Chair, Randy Lindsey at 374-2099, or via email at [weasellee@yahoo.com](mailto:weasellee@yahoo.com).

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### ***Thought for the Day:***

If life were fair, Elvis would still be alive today and all the impersonators would be dead.....***Johnny Carson***

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### ***Post Officers & Committee Chairs:***

<b><i>Commander:</i></b>	Don Bishop	513-474-4194
<b><i>1st Vice:</i></b>	Bob Kamman	513-474-5237
<b><i>2nd Vice:</i></b>	Matt Lilly	513- 617-8351
<b><i>Adjutant:</i></b>	Dan Wolfangel	513-474-9577
<b><i>Finance Officer:</i></b>	Ron Yersky	513-232-2591
<b><i>Chaplain:</i></b>	Jerry Porter	513-528-1557
<b><i>Sgt.-at-Arms:</i></b>	Ralph Caskey	513-470-6588
<b><i>Americanism:</i></b>	Randy Lindsey	513-374-2099
<b><i>Bingo:</i></b>	Ed Sears	513-474-0246
<b><i>Community Support:</i></b>	Doug Rogers	513-602-5007
<b><i>Event Coordination:</i></b>	Ken Knight	513-675-5234
<b><i>Fundraising:</i></b>	VACANT	
<b><i>House:</i></b>	Bob Alfieri	513-232-0309
<b><i>Service Officer:</i></b>	Charlie Cleves	513-232-7767