



American Legion Post 318 Newsletter



“For God and Country”

December 2017

Commander’s Notes:

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving Day with family, friends and a memorable feast. I know I enjoyed the day and ate way too much! As we look ahead to the Christmas holiday, let’s not forget about our homeless veterans, and those less fortunate than ourselves. As a reminder, one way you can reach out is to participate in our annual collection of new underwear and socks for distribution to *Joseph House*. You can drop your contribution off at the Post anytime up to meeting night, December 13th. All contributions are appreciated.

I’m looking forward to seeing everyone at our Christmas party, Friday December 8th. If you’re a new member you may not have gotten on distribution before our invitations went out. We’re sorry if that happened, but I’m asking you to make the effort to come out and join us. It would be a good opportunity to meet our members and find out a little bit more about us. Simply call Matt at 617-8351, and he’ll take your reservation. If you can’t make it out for our party we hope to see you soon and wish you all a Merry Christmas.

Don Bishop

Post Christmas Party

The Post Christmas Party has been scheduled for Friday December 8th. As always there is no charge for this event. Hors d’oeuvres beginning at 5:30 PM, dinner at 6:30 PM. We are planning for a pot luck dinner with the Post providing the meats, beverages and dessert. Those attending should bring a salad or dish to pass. We will also be seeking door prizes. Should you have something to contribute communicate that to Matt.

If you did not receive an invitation, but plan to attend, please contact Matt Lilly at 617-8351, or via email at matt.lilly@cchmc.org. Questions and late RSVP’s can also be referred to Matt.

Still Seeking Bingo Manager

Bingo Manager, Ed Sears, has indicated that he will be stepping down as Bingo Manager 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). Without bingo, it’s highly probable that Post operations will come to an end.

Running bingo is not an easy task! It requires about 20 hours of your time each week, and it is an every week thing.

We need a hero, someone to step up and take on this challenge! If it’s something that you would consider, please make your self known.

Ken Knight Named Event Coordinator

Effective December 10th, Ken Knight will take over as the Post 318 Event Coordinator. To take on these new responsibilities, Ken will vacate his current position as Fund Raising Chairman.

As Event Coordinator, Ken will be responsible for generating approximately 1/3 of our operating revenues (about \$2,000 each month). His primary responsibilities will become; 1) taking ownership of the Patriot Center calendar, 2) negotiating individual contracts and the booking our rental hall, 3) managing all financials associated with alcoholic beverage purchases and the usage of the Patriot Center, 4) developing event floor plans and seating charts, 5) participating as a member of the Marketing Committee, and 6) coordinating all ShowClix activities.

Jimmy Bussey has been our Event Coordinator for many years and is actually responsible for defining this position within Post 318. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Jimmy for his years of service to our Post.

Post to Collaborate on Marketing Activities

Recognizing that the Post has limited resources and very little experience, we are in discussion with Anderson High School to enlist the support of their marketing students to help us develop marketing programs to support bingo and our dance events.

For bingo, our project goals are to retain existing customers and to grow our customer base. For our dances, we plan to create themes for each event. To be successful, we will have to figure out how to effectively market and promote these events.

We see this as a win-win for everyone. The students gain expertise by working on real world projects, while the Post benefits from their understanding of marketing fundamentals, best practices, and the application of social media.

Visit us at: 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 November, bingo gross revenues were \$2,724 and \$ 532 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 November, Euchre contributed approximately \$ 425 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 contributed \$ 216.97 to our programs this quarter.

Open Mic – Our next “Open Mic” will be held December 1st. Program goals are to; 1) bring people into the Post, 2) promote Post events, and 3) generate operating income. To date crowds have been small but building, and we’re generating about \$ 60 in net income for each event.

Dances – Dance revenues continue to make a substantial contribution to our operating funds. For our 2 dances in November we earned \$ 1,034.33.

Wave the Flag – Charities, Inc. conducted its *Wave the Flag* fundraiser, November 12th. \$2,253,60 was raised to support our Veterans Programs. Thanks to all who came out to work this fundraising project.

December Dances

There are three (3) dance events scheduled for December. We start the month, December 2nd, with a Christmas show featuring *The Last Caballeros*. They will celebrate the holiday season by performing some of your favorites Christmas classics. To add to this holiday experience, there will be special guest appearances by Tri-State favorite Bev Blair (*The Avenues*) and newcomer Ann Chambers. This will be a fun evening, so get into the Christmas spirit and come out and join us!

Patriot Center of Cincinnati Presents:

December 2nd – 8:00 PM



With Guest Performances by: Bev Blair and Ann Chambers

On December 16th, *The Remains* return to the Patriot Center. This group has a strong following and always plays the music that makes you want to get up on your feet.



We’ll close out December, and 2017, on New Year’s Eve with the *Cincy Rockers*. This event has become a tradition at the Patriot Center and always sells out. There are only 200 tickets available, so if you plan to attend now’s the time to purchase your tickets. Tickets are \$25 per person. Doors open at 8pm. The band performs from 9pm to 1am.

***Sunday, December 31, 2017 – New Year’s Eve Dance
Cincy Rockers'***



Tickets for all of our events can be purchased by going to our web site www.post318.org and clicking on the “Special Events” tab. Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$10 (\$25 NYE). Tickets purchased at the door are \$12.50 (\$25 NYE), if available.

Visit us at: www.post318.org

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 October 2017 giving:

A&G Testing – Each year Post 318 supports the American Legion Americanism & Government Testing Program (A&G Testing). Standard tests are administered to Anderson High School students in grades 10, 11, and 12. The highest scoring boy and girl in each class is recognized with an A&G Pin and are also entered into consideration for the Hamilton County competition. Test papers and pins were purchased by ***Charities, Inc.*** at a cost of \$40.19.

Post Bibles – Post 318 presents a bible to the family of our deceased members. ***Charities, Inc.*** restocked our inventory at a cost of \$136.95.

Young Marines – Post 318 allocated \$25 to support a fund raising effort by the Young Marines of Northern Kentucky. This contribution was funded by ***Charities, Inc.***

Membership Update

We are currently at 82% of goal and have fallen well behind where we were at this point in time in the past two years. We still have 31 existing members that have not renewed their 2018 membership. If we can get these members to step up, we will meet our quota. So far this year, we have brought in 4 new members and had 8 transfers in and no transfers out.

We had 5 new members join our ranks in November. Please join me in welcoming Dr. Stephen Feagins (USAF), Phillip Holt (USMC), Robert Lucke (USA), Zenon Bilwin (USA), and Edward Ruffennach (USA).

If you know anyone that is either interested in joining our Post or considering a transfer, please send them my way. Here's our current stats:

2018 Membership Scoreboard

<i>2017-2018 Quota</i>	<i>155</i>
<i>Paid as of 11/30/17</i>	<i>127</i>
<i>% Quota</i>	<i>81.90</i>
<i>Still Needed (Quota)</i>	<i>28</i>
<i>Membership Goal</i>	<i>165</i>
<i>Still Needed (Goal)</i>	<i>38</i>

Robert Kamman
1st Vice Commander

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.

Life Member Recognition Restored

When we were located at Forest Road, there was a wall that honored our "Life Members". When we moved we brought the plaques with us, but they sat in storage for a very long time. Well, thanks to the efforts of Ralph Caskey, Walt Geil, and Dan Wolfangel our Life Member Wall of Recognition has been restored. It's located in the back hallway and it turned out very nice. The next time you're at the Post stop by and check it out!



Claude and Charlie would be proud!



Open Mic

Our last “Open Mic” event for this year is scheduled for Friday, December 1st. This is your opportunity to come out and listen to some of our local performers. On any given night you will hear music that ranges from the “*Kingston Trio*” to “*Janis Joplin*”. Admission is free and these events are family friendly. Concessions are available until 9:30 PM, and beverages can be purchased until 10:30 PM.

We have decided to continue our “Open Mic” events into the new year. These events will be held on Friday night. We will provide a schedule for the 2018 events in the January newsletter.

Township Donates Photograph

At the Veterans Day Celebration, Anderson Township Trustees Andrew Pappas and Dee Stone presented the Post a framed picture of the recently dedicated Anderson Township Veterans Memorial. This photograph was presented as a “thank you” for our collective contributions to the establishment of the memorial. It has been placed in the Club Room for all to enjoy.



Charities, Inc. 2018 Budget and Business Plan Adopted

At the American Legion Post 318 Charities, Inc. Board meeting, November 20th, the Charities, Inc. 2018 operating budget and business plan were adopted. For the plan year, revenues are projected to be \$34,175, with expenses of \$34,253. This anticipates a budget deficit of \$ 78, so to keep the budget balanced adjustments will have to be made during the program year.

2018 funding additions are: 1) Department of Ohio

Convention Sponsorship, 2) Holiday Wreath Campaign, 3) Ohio Veterans Home Golf Sponsorship, and 4) Anderson Band Boosters.

Relative to revenue generation, Charities, Inc. will continue Poppy Days, Wave the Flag, PokerMania, and The Kroger Rewards Program as our primary fund raisers. However, our funding also depends heavily on the continuation of “bingo”, which provides about 25% of the Charities, Inc. operating revenues.

Should you have any questions about the Charities, Inc. 2018 budget, or business plan, please contact Don Bishop at 474-4194, or via email at dabishop@fuse.net.

Post Receives Art Donations

Jim and Molly Mohrfield recently donated two (2) paintings that hang in our foyer. One is of an Eagle and Flag and the other is a painting of the U.S.S. George H.W. Bush Aircraft Carrier. The latter is autographed by President Bush.

The Post would like to take this opportunity to thank the Mohrfields’s for their thoughtful contributions.

The next time you’re at the Post take time to check out the most recent additions to our Arts collection.



Chaplin's Report

This year is quickly coming to a close, but not the Legion Year. Our year has been one of many successes and some failures. Remember how ominous it sounded at the beginning, but some people stepped up, and took on responsibilities out of their comfort zones.

We started with the fish fries seven weeks before Easter. They were successful because of people came forth and gave us two hours of their time. Bingo had to be turned over to Ed Sears, with Dennis as support, and with his leadership and begging each Sunday for help we made it through another Bingo year, which ended in October. Ed is going to give us one more year, and then we will be looking for a new person to run things. It is the highest money event we have for the Legion so I hope someone steps up and fills his shoes.

Dances continue to make money and we average two a month. They need ten people to run these dances.

When it came time to fill the Executive Committee we ended up with a full slate, but Don Bishop became Commander again, and his reign will be over this year. Hopefully someone will be looking forward and can see their role and step forward. Bob Kamman, our First Vice Commander, stepped forward to fill the Commander's role for over a month while Don was ill. Ron Yersky had his work set out in front of him as treasurer and did a great job keeping us out of poor house. Now if only someone could hit the lottery and get rid of our \$200,000 mortgage, we would not have to work so hard to stay out of the Red.

Jim Bussey who has been our rental and special events person in charge has done a great job, even though many times, he did not get the credit for all his work. He moved to College Hill area but still spends many days and hours meeting people who were interesting in renting. He drew up plans, ordered whatever was needed for a rental, and was at each rental to open the doors and many times to stay until closing. His expertise on the marketing committee helped making all special events profitable. He is stepping down in December.

Matt Lilly is still working a regular job but has found time to set up Legion activities as Second Vice and we are sure glad he is with us.

In many areas our prayers have been answered. Our Legionnaires were pretty healthy this year with only a few people who had major health concerns. We lost a couple of members who were called home, but they had good long lives.

What we need is for those members who have not paid their dues to pay up. Others need to see the worth of the

Legion to the community, and give us some time.

We know there is a lot of talent out there who are looking for things to do. We have things that need done. Hopefully you will find the time so that the Legion year, which ends in July, will be part of your plan.

Jerry Porter
Chaplain

Veterans Day Celebration a Growing Success

In collaboration with Anderson Township, the Anderson Township Park District and the Forest Hills School District, Post 318 hosted the Veterans Day Celebration for the 2nd time.



This turned out to be a really nice event, with about 160 people (local veterans and their guests) in attendance. A significant increase over last year's attendance. The Post also derived some benefits by hosting this event. We got a whole lot of people in to see our Post. We recruited 2 new members, and will be transferring a 3rd member in the very near future. We also generated \$450 in bar revenues. Not a bad night!

We want to take this opportunity to thank our event sponsors. Belterra Park Gaming provided the meal, Mt. Washington Care Center provided dessert, and American Legion Post 318 Charities, Inc. provided the entertainment.

Thank You Joe!

Joe Sauter, owner of *Finishing Touches*, recently had the landscaping redone on the back portion of our property, at his expense. It really looks nice and we want to thank Joe for doing this.

Should you have a need for hardwood flooring, new or restored, keep Joe in mind. He has been a very good neighbor.

Visit us at: www.post318.org

Wenstrup, Brownley Introduce Bipartisan Bill to Fight Veteran Homelessness

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Congressman Brad Wenstrup (R-OH) and Congresswoman Julia Brownley (D-CA), the Chairman and Ranking Member of the House Veterans Affairs Subcommittee on Health, introduced the Homeless Veterans’ Reintegration Program Improvement Act of 2017 to fight veteran homelessness by strengthening job training programs for our warfighters who have returned home.

Currently, homeless veterans are eligible for job training and placement services under the Homeless Veterans’ Reintegration Program (HVRP). However, if a veteran is also eligible for assistance under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program, Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), or Native American Housing Assistance, the VA considers them to be no longer “homeless”, thereby restricting access to HVRP. In doing so, a veteran is denied access to a program that will help them re-enter the workforce and get them back on their feet.

The Homeless Veterans’ Reintegration Program Improvement Act would clarify that veterans eligible for the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program, Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF), or Native American Housing Assistance are also eligible for HVRP assistance. This legislation would also reauthorize the HVRP program for five years, along with programs that are designed for female homeless veterans and homeless veterans with children.

“Too often, when our men and women in uniform return home after their service to this country, finding a job and assimilating back into civilian life proves fraught with challenges,” **said Congressman Wenstrup.** “Strengthening job training programs to empower our veterans with career and job opportunities that provide similar comradery and meaning as their service provided them is the least we can do, after all they have done for us.”

“Veterans have served our nation with honor and distinction, and we must do more to help them re-enter the workforce and thrive when they transition back to civilian life,” **said Congresswoman Brownley.** “To break the cycle of veteran homelessness, veterans must have the tools they need to support themselves and their families. I am honored to join Congressman Wenstrup to introduce this legislation to strengthen job training programs for homeless and recently homeless veterans, and to help those who have struggled to find employment get back on their feet.”

At The Flag Pole

Display your flag days in December.

- National Pearl Harbor Day (half-staff) December 7th
- Christmas Day December 25th

A big thank you goes out to those members who stepped up for Color Guard and classes during the week of Veteran's Day; Randy L., Bob A, Walt G, Jack S, Ed S, Leo T, Dan W, Bob K, Gary G, Mike G, Jerry P, Ron Y, and Bob C a job well done.

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

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM, Wednesday, December 13th. 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.

Thought for the Day:

I want my children to have all the things I couldn't afford. Then I want to move in with them.... Unknown

Post Officers & Committee Chairs:

<i>Commander:</i>	Don Bishop	513-474-4194
<i>1st Vice:</i>	Bob Kamman	513-474-5237
<i>2nd Vice:</i>	Matt Lilly	513- 617-8351
<i>Adjutant:</i>	Dan Wolfangel	513-474-9577
<i>Finance Officer:</i>	Ron Yersky	513-232-2591
<i>Chaplain:</i>	Jerry Porter	513-528-1557
<i>Sgt.-at-Arms:</i>	Ralph Caskey	513-470-6588
<i>Americanism:</i>	Randy Lindsey	513-374-2099
<i>Bingo:</i>	Ed Sears	513-474-0246
<i>Community Support:</i>	Doug Rogers	513-602-5007
<i>Event Coordination:</i>	Jimmy Bussey	513-616-3215
<i>Fundraising:</i>	Ken Knight	513-675-5234
<i>House:</i>	Bob Alfieri	513-232-0309
<i>Service Officer:</i>	Charlie Cleves	513-232-7767