



# American Legion Post 318 Newsletter



*“For God and Country”*

*June 2018*

### **Commander’s Notes:**

On June 13 I will begin my 8<sup>th</sup> term as your Commander, a role and commitment I’m very proud of. However, because I did not run and was not elected Commander, the terms of my service are a little different this time around.

To maintain our charter, I’ve agreed to abide by our constitution and continue to serve for as long as I can, or until I’m replaced. So, here I am until my next hospital visit, or I find that I just can’t continue. At that time, I will resign my position, and our next Commander will be determined according to our succession plan. Should those in line to succeed me decline their appointment our charter would have to be surrendered. In other words, to secure our charter we probably have about one year to either appoint or elect a new Commander!

Knowing that there is no one in our membership aspiring to be Commander, and knowing that my tenure could quickly come to an end, it’s time to begin a serious conversation about where our next Commander is going to come from. My thoughts are if there are no internal candidates, then seeking an external candidate may be our only option. What that means is we may have to consider merging with another Hamilton County Post. A Post that has members willing to lead. This option has been introduced to the E.C. I’ve also asked our leadership team to define other viable options.

In the interim, I want you all to understand I need help. Specifically, I need all the Post leadership positions filled and when I ask for help I need to get support on my first request, not my 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup>. In the past, I’ve tried to suspend projects and programs that didn’t have leadership support. What I’ve learned is you just can’t stop doing stuff simply because no one will take ownership. These tasks simply end up on my desk, and I can’t continue spending 20 hours each week chasing volunteers and doing non-Commander things. I need that time to rest. So, if things remain the same, my resignation will come sooner, rather than later. Your call!

*Don Bishop*

### **Post Officers**

At the May 9, 2018 Post Meeting, Anderson Post 318 elected the following Post Officers for the 2018 – 2019 business year:

Commander	<b>(OPEN)</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> Vice Commander	Bob Kamman
2 <sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander	Randy Lindsey
Adjutant	Dan Wolfangel
Finance Officer	Ron Yersky
Chaplain	Jerry Porter
Sgt.-At-Arms	Ralph Caskey

These newly elected officers will be installed at the June 13, 2018 Post Meeting, and will assume their respective offices / duties following the installation.

### **The Anderson Township Duo**

There are two Anderson Township residents who spent their first Memorial Day on Active duty as officers in the United States Army. Second Lieutenant Jack Ehemann, and Second Lieutenant Ted Mayer have been friends since Second Grade. They both attended and played football together at Immaculate Heart of Mary, followed by four years as football teammates at McNicholas High school.



Graduation couldn’t separate these two friends, as they moved onto the University of Cincinnati as roommates, and as teammates in the ROTC Corp of Cadets.

With college behind them, Lieutenant Ehemann is currently stationed at Fort Benning Georgia as an Armor Officer, and Lieutenant Mayer is with his Brigade in South Korea as an Artillery Officer. They are both a long way from Anderson Township and are missed by family and friends.

Lieutenant Mayer is a former Post 318 Veteran Scholarship recipient.

**Visit us at: [www.post318.org](http://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. To cover this philanthropy, on average, ***Charities, Inc.*** has to raise approximately \$2,200 each month.

You can help with this effort by; 1) volunteering to work ***Charities, Inc.*** fund raising projects, 2) making tax deductible donations to ***Charities, Inc.*** and 3) by registering with both Kroger and Amazon to participate in their corporate charitable giving programs. An overview of these programs is listed below:

**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 to [www.kroger.com](http://www.kroger.com), and register for the Kroger Community Rewards program and select ***American Legion Post 318 Charities, Inc.*** as your cause.

**Amazon Smiles** – ***American Legion Post 318 Charities Inc.*** is now registered with Amazon Smiles. So, if you shop at Amazon and select ***American Legion Post 318 Charities, Inc.*** as your charity, Amazon donates 0.5% of all eligible purchases. To maximize our revenue opportunities please share this information with family and friends.

The following provides a summary of the programs recently funded by ***Charities, Inc.***:

**Special Olympics** – ***Charities, Inc.***, contributes \$ 1 per member to the Department of Ohio Special Olympics fund.

**VAVS** – On a quarterly basis the Post sends a delegation to the Veterans Hospital to entertain the patients and provide a snack. ***Charities, Inc.*** funds this outing.

**Memorial Day Foundation** – This organization provides wreaths for the graves of American Service members buried in foreign countries. ***Charities, Inc.*** makes a contribution to this cause.

**Anderson High School Band Boosters** – ***Charities, Inc.*** provides financial support to the Anderson High School band.

**Greater Anderson Betterment Committee** - ***Charities, Inc.*** provides funds to pay the annual entry fee for the Post to participate in the Anderson Township July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade.

**HCC C&P Dinner** – The Hamilton County Council hosts a dinner each year to recognize the American Legion County Commander and Auxiliary President. ***Charities, Inc.*** contributes to this event.

**Past Commanders Pin – 4<sup>th</sup> District** – To recognize the contributions made by the outgoing 4<sup>th</sup> District Commander, he/she is presented a Commanders Pin. ***Charities, Inc.*** makes a contribution on behalf of Post 318.

**Operation Home Front** – This program provides financial support to Veterans and their families for minor expenses. ***Charities, Inc.*** contributes to this cause.

**New Member Dues** – In support of new member recruiting, the Post pays the 1st years dues for all new American Legion members. ***Charities, Inc.*** reimburses the Post for these costs.

**Joseph House Golf Outing** – Joseph House is a facility for homeless Veterans. ***Charities, Inc.*** supports this cause in many ways, including a hole sponsorship for their annual golf outing (fund raiser).

**Forest-Airs Women's Chorus** – ***Charities, Inc.*** purchased an advertisement, on behalf of Post 318, in a recent performance program.

The following is a summary of recent ***Charities, Inc.*** Inc. income and expenses.

	Income	Expenses
<b>Bingo</b>	\$ 965	
<b>Vegas Night</b>	\$ 637	\$ 50
<b>Special Olympics</b>		\$ 155
<b>VAVS</b>		\$ 60
<b>Memorial Day Foundation</b>		\$ 25
<b>Anderson HS Band</b>		\$ 75
<b>Greater And. Betterment</b>		\$ 125
<b>HCC C&amp;P</b>		\$ 100
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Dist. Past Comm. Pin</b>		\$ 25
<b>Operation Home Front</b>		\$ 25
<b>New Member Dues</b>		\$ 40
<b>Joseph House</b>		\$ 100
<b>Forest-Airs</b>		\$ 60
<b>Monthly Rent</b>		\$ 300
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 1,602</b>	<b>\$ 1,149</b>

## ***PokerMania***

In support of Charities, Inc. fundraising, ***PokerMania II*** is being planned for October 13<sup>th</sup>. This is a charitable gaming event that will offer; Blackjack, 7 Card Stud and Texas Hold'Em.

To actually hold this event, we need to recruit, or train, about 11 dealers. If you have ever played either 7 Card or Blackjack, you are a candidate for dealing. Please join us in the Club Room, Wednesday June 20<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 7:00 PM and see how easy it can be. Worst case scenario is you may be entertained for the evening!

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

### ***Help Wanted***

This “*Help Wanted*” column was intended to become a regular feature in our monthly newsletter. We hoped that by communicating the kind of support needed we could spark some interest and get some volunteers. Wrong again! So far, we’ve only heard from 1 member and he volunteered to fill two (2) positions. Therefore, there are still many opportunities available. If you’re interested, please contact Commander Bishop.

- **Bingo Manager** (member)
- **Fundraising Chairman** (member)
- **Community Support Chairman** (member)
- **Graphics Arts Support** (member/non-member)
- **Bingo Volunteers** (member/non-member)
- **Dance Volunteers** (member/non-member)
- **Post Personal Shopper** (member/non-member)

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

The Post has to raise about \$6,000 each month to continue operations. You can support our fund raising efforts by either attending, or working, our various events. For May, we did not meet the \$ 6000 threshold. With summer coming on, this will become the rule, not the exception. The following is a summary of our May revenue contributions.

<b>Event</b>	<b>Contribution</b>
<b>Bingo</b>	\$ 3,227
<b>Dances</b>	\$ 1,092
<b>Euchre</b>	\$ 250
<b>Rentals</b>	\$ 1,200
<b>Total</b>	\$ 5,769

**Bingo** –We conduct bingo every Sunday. Doors open at 4:30p games begin at 6:00p. If you’re willing to help out, contact Bingo Manager, Ed Sears at 474-0246.

**Post Dances** – We attempt to schedule 2 dances each month. They are open to the public. Doors open at 7p. The bands perform from 8p to 11p. Volunteers are always needed for these events, if you’re willing to help out, please contact Don Bishop at 474-4194.

**Euchre** – Euchre is scheduled every Thursday night and is open to the public. Buy-in is \$5. Doors open at 6:45p, games begin at 7p. Contact Euchre Manager, Joe Baker (289-9044), with any questions.

**Open Mic** – Open Mic provides local artists an opportunity to perform in front of an audience. There are no admission fees and children are welcome. The Post provides beverage and concession services for the event. If you have questions, please contact Don Bishop at 474-4194.

### ***June Dance Schedule***

June wraps up our spring dance schedule, and we’ll end this season on a high note.

June 2<sup>nd</sup> is ***Prom Night*** at the Patriot Center. We’ll start things off by taking “***Prom Pictures***” from 7:00 to 8:30 PM. These pictures will then be posted on our web site for download. Throughout the evening you’ll enjoy and dance to the music of the ***Cincy Rockers***, one of Cincinnati’s premier bands. After intermission, there will be a “***Red Carpet***” walk which will end with the audience selecting a “***King and Queen***”. The couple selected will each receive \$25 in cash.



On June 16<sup>th</sup>, ***The Remains*** return to the Patriot Center to host “Loyalty Night”. So, besides having a great band playing the songs you want to hear, everyone turning in their “Loyalty Cards” will receive one raffle ticket for every punch on their card. Four tickets will then be drawn and each winner will get a \$25 cash prize.



Tickets to all of our dance 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 purchased in advance are \$10. Advance ticket sales end at 12:00 PM on the day of the event. Tickets purchased at the door are \$12.50.

### ***Nagel Citizenship Awards Presented***

Once again Post 318 in collaboration with Nagel Middle school handed out "Citizenship Awards" to twenty (20) students.

The Citizenship Award is given to students for caring and responsible behavior at school and in the community. The recipients must demonstrate excellence in character, patriotism, responsibility and service. As an individual, each student has to show a high degree of interest and enthusiasm for our national history, and a genuine respect for the Constitution of the United States. These students also worked towards the common good, both at school and in the community, by their words and daily example. The Citizenship Award is presented to those who best exemplify what it means to be an American Citizen. For 2018 these awards were presented to:

- Ryan Armstrong
- Zach Brophy
- William Clayton
- Brayden Dostal
- Olivia Geiger
- Macy Hornsby
- Rhett Johnson
- Wyatt Klug
- Ben McGrew
- Mae Reed
- Eva Yuellig
- Gehrig Baldauf
- Biggie Campbell
- Joey Cron
- Kate Frey
- Ashley Grassman
- Corey Hurlburt
- Katherine Jones
- Nick Massaro
- Emmy Pippenger
- Cora Seybold

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

Thank God, Spring is finally here. At times it does feel like we are in the tropics and it is monsoon season with all the rain. When it dries up we will probably complain it is too dry.

One thing May did have for the Legion was two good dances and three weeks of bingo. Bingo keeps our lights on followed by the dances. A lot of hard work goes into both these fund raisers and we have Ed Sears and Don Bishop for taking the lead, plus the helpers that come out. Too bad the leads still have to plead for help. In a perfect world that would not be the case, but we are getting a couple of new workers. Hopefully and prayerfully we will get additional help.

Memorial Day activities will end the May season. The big breakfast at the Post should be a great on Memorial Day. We will have our tenant who rents the kitchen doing all the cooking starting at 6:30. We will then travel to nine cemeteries and end up at the Anderson Center Bell ceremony.

Of course, we also have the poppy Days at Kroger, Belterra, and all the Forest Hills schools. People in the

community look forward to these poppy "give always" and we earn a lot of money for all of our Veteran programs. Two hours of your time is all that is needed. Our funds are low in the 501c3 so hopefully this program is successful.

We have not had any real health emergencies that have come to my attention. We are thankful for that. Please let me know if I can be of any assistance in an emergency or other health problem. We hope to see our good friend Don McLaughlin up and about after his long recovery from a leg and hip injury. Leo Turner seems to be getting over his procedure and I know he is ready to get back to bar tending and working the "Joes" table at bingo. He is in his nineties and still volunteers.

Have a good Summer and when the opportunities arise, please step up and help.

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

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### ***Membership Update***

Well folks, we are almost finished with the 2018 membership drive and thanks to many individuals, we made quota (156) again this year. Thanks to everyone for renewing their membership in a timely manner and for helping to bring in many new members.

Also, I would like to again welcome all of our new and transferred members to Post 318. We look forward to seeing you at our general meetings that are held on the 2nd Wednesday of every month. Please try to attend, as our Post is only as good as its member's participation. We have numerous activities and events throughout the year that help raise funds to support our local veterans, veteran organizations and local community programs. I hope that each of us takes some time out of our busy schedules to provide some support for these diverse activities. Welcome to another busy year for Post 318

#### **2018 Membership Scoreboard**

<b><i>2017-2018 Quota</i></b>	<b><i>155</i></b>
<b><i>Paid as of 5/30/18</i></b>	<b><i>156</i></b>
<b><i>% Quota</i></b>	<b><i>101.30</i></b>
<b><i>Goal</i></b>	<b><i>165</i></b>
<b><i>Still Needed (Goal)</i></b>	<b><i>9</i></b>

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

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### ***Quota Post***

Thanks for your support in making us a "Quota Post"! By obtaining this milestone, we now have made quote for 11 straight years. An accomplishment we should all be proud of. Let's make 2019 quota year # 12.

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

### ***Hillcrest Project Underway***

The “Headstone Alignment” project at Hillcrest Cemetery is underway. A group of seven volunteers representing General Electric, Duke Energy, First Financial, Anderson Township, and Post 318 joined together to begin the task of aligning 450 Veteran Headstones.

Our first goal was to identify the processes and work effort necessary to actually complete the project. So, work began by selecting a row of five (5) headstones. Then using a process developed by a group in Louisiana, a chalk line was set up, and the headstones were re-set, leveled and aligned.

By the end of the day, what we learned was; 1) this project is both labor intensive and time consuming. It takes about 20 minutes per headstone, 2) the initial process had to be modified to accommodate the Hillcrest terrain, 3) our initial list of tools, equipment and supplies, to perform the work needed a little tweak, 4) at least two (2) headstones in the same row can be aligned concurrently, and 5) the ideal team make up would consist of eight (8) volunteers; (2) - 3 man teams to actually align the headstones and (1) - 2 man team to provide support by moving sand and gravel from the staging area to the grave sites.

The pictures that follow provide a before and after comparison. It’s clear that the finished product is a significant improvement over what currently exists. If you have any doubt, take a ride over to Hillcrest. You’ll easily find the row that was restored.



With the number of headstones targeted for alignment, it is estimated that this project will take 2 to 3 years to complete. The plan to complete this project, within the stated time frame, is to form multiple teams so that work can continue on a regular basis.

Obviously, with 450 headstones to align, this is a significant community service project. Yet, its mission, “restoring the dignity of the deceased Veterans interred at Hillcrest”, justifies the work and effort it’s going to take.

You can follow the progress of this project on Facebook. Simply search “***Friends of Hillcrest Cemetery***” Should you wish to become part of this effort, please contact Commander Bishop.

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### ***At Your Service NOW Catering***

Happy Summer everyone. I am Tammy McCauley and I own At Your Service NOW Catering. I operate out of the Post 318 kitchen. I am a full service caterer that brings the party to you. I am honored to be the preferred caterer of many local businesses which include 7 Hills School, Springer School, Anderson Center, the Hamilton County Sheriff’s, and of course Post 318.

I am very reasonably priced and offer items that meet all your needs. If I can be At Your Service NOW, please contact me directly. I can be reached at 513-628-8940 or at [aysntammy@gmail.com](mailto:aysntammy@gmail.com).

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

### ***Veteran Honor Program***

Ohio Senator Steve Wilson (7<sup>th</sup> District), was a guest speaker at our May General Membership meeting. His reason for attending was to make several presentations as part of his Veteran Honors Program.

To Commander Bishop, he presented to the Post an American flag that was flown over the Ohio Statehouse in honor of four Post 318 deceased members who passed away in 2017. With the flag he also presented a Certificate of Authenticity which documented the event and listed the names of the deceased (John Justice / Frank Kamman / John Privity / Ralph Sinks).



Senator Wilson also had individual certificates of the event for members of the four deceased member's families. He presented 1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander Kamman with Frank Kamman's certificate, and Mike Stringer with Ralph Sinks' certificate. The remaining two were given to Commander Bishop for presentation to the respective families of John Justice and John Privity.

### ***What Do You Do With Expired "Poppies"?***

What do you do with several hundred expired "Poppies"? Well, if you're a Post Commander, you may convince your wife that she should make a Memorial Day wreath. If you do, this is what the final product would look like. Great job Mary!



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

Flag Display days;

June 14<sup>th</sup> - Flag Day

June 17<sup>th</sup> - Father's Day

**SAA,**  
**Ralph Caskey**

### ***Next Meeting***

Our next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM, Wednesday, June 13<sup>th</sup>. Besides our committee reports, we will install our 2018-2019 officers. Come out and show support for these men.

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

### ***Need Help?***

If you're a veteran and need help obtaining any of your entitled benefits, please contact our Service Officer, Charlie Cleves. Charlie can be reached at (513) 232-7767, or via email at: [clevles1@fuse.net](mailto:clevles1@fuse.net).

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

Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year. . ----- **Unknown**

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

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