



American Legion Post 318 Newsletter



“For God and Country”

September 2018

Commander’s Notes:

We create and distribute the monthly newsletter to let you know what’s going on at the Post, and within the veteran community. It also provides updates on our projects and programs, and highlights the support we need to keep the Post operating efficiently..

After the July newsletter was distributed, we downloaded a report from our email service provider that indicated 75 members (or 48.4 % of our membership) didn’t open the email that provides the linking to our newsletter. The conclusion we reached is if the email is not being opened, than it’s highly likely that our newsletter was not being read by those members.

We tried to verify this information in August by asking each of you to either send me a simple email message, or call, if you read the newsletter. Of the 155 members, who were sent the newsletter, in one form or another, we heard from 14 members! Thank you if you took the time to respond. However, if there are only 14 of you, we have a bigger problem than we initially envisioned.

Above and beyond those who responded, a few people mentioned to me that they read the newsletter, but couldn’t “click-on” the link to respond. I’m not sure why, but it must be a software compatibility issue on the devices being used. I tested the link embedded in the newsletter on three (3) different devices, and it worked every time.

I took this survey hoping that we could confirm that at least 50% of our membership looked at our newsletter each month. However, the results suggest that readership is more like 10 to 15%. Obviously, our survey was not scientific, but the question is do we believe that readership is really this low? I don’t know! If it were 20 or 30 points higher, does that make a difference? Probably not! So, if we’re using the newsletter to communicate and no one is reading it, what do we do next? Another question I don’t know the answer to!

Don Bishop

Virtual Meeting

Post 318 conducted its first Virtual Meeting. The goal of this project is to provide a way for members to join our monthly membership meetings even if they’re home bound, don’t drive at night, have no transportation, or simply can’t attend for one reason or another.

We experienced a few “glitches”, with both our audio and video capabilities, but it was a positive learning experience and our participating veteran is ready to join next month’s meeting. With our technical problems resolved, our biggest challenge is going to be overcoming meeting protocol issues (i.e. using a microphone, identifying yourself, etc.), but it’s believed this will get better with experience.

Going forward our plan is to have the virtual capability a part of all our monthly meetings. For our next meeting, we expect at least two members to participate. However, we are capable of supporting an unlimited number. If you would have internet access, and either a laptop, desk PC, iPad, or smart phone and would like to join our “virtual meetings”, please contact 1st Vice, Bob Kamman, at 513-474-5237 or via email at kamman.rc@gmail.com. We will make arrangements to visit you, download the necessary software, and demonstrate how the service works. There are no charges to participate and we encourage you to give it try!

Post Secures Commercial Loan

Post 318 has applied for and has been offered a commercial mortgage from **First Financial**, located in Anderson Township. To obtain the loan, because of federal lending rules, we first had to find and secure enough flood insurance to cover the loan principle, at a cost we could afford. Mission accomplished! We have a limited flood insurance policy underwritten by **Lloyd’s of London** at a cost of approximately \$100/month.

The new loan of approximately \$188,000 will be provided as an adjustable 5 year mortgage at an interest rate of 5%, amortized over 15 years. This is 1% less than we currently are paying and will result in monthly mortgage payments in the range of \$1,490. Considering the flood insurance, we should see an overall mortgage reduction of about \$90 each month, or \$5,400 over the duration of the 5 year loan.

A secondary benefit of this financial arrangement is it provides the Post a level of security we haven’t had in the past. For example, the mortgage is guaranteed to renew at the end of the 5 year loan period, at an interest rate that’s tied to CPI. We don’t have a renewal commitment with our current mortgage.

Our plan is to transition to the new mortgage in the Mid-September – Mid-October timeframe.

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.

Unfortunately, due to lack of support and other factors, revenue projections for the 2019 Charities, Inc. budget have been reduced by \$10,000. This will impact many of programs including Boys/Girls State, Military and Family assistance, Veterans Support projects and others.

You can help us turn this around by; 1) either working or attending *Charities, Inc.* events, 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 (see 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, 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 income received and programs recently funded by *Charities, Inc.*:

	Income	Expenses
Bingo	\$ 819	
Awards Program		\$ 451
Oracle Scholarships		\$ 400
Veteran Scholarships		\$ 1,500
VAVS		\$ 38
Volunteer Raffle		\$ 50
Insurance Payment		\$ 376
Total	\$ 819	\$ 2,815

Fund Raising Update:

The Post has to raise \$6,000 each month to continue operations. You can support our fund raising efforts by attending, or working, our various events. For August, bingo pulled us over the finish line. Thanks to everyone who helped make this happen. The following is a summary of our August revenue contributions

Event	Contribution
Bingo	\$ 4,147
Euchre	\$ 264
Open Mic	\$ 300
Dances	\$ 707
Rentals	\$ 1,950
Total	\$ 7,368

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.

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.

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. We also encourage you to come out and enjoy these events. If you're willing to help out, please contact Don Bishop at 474-4194.

Open Mic – Because we could not make this event work financially, it has been discontinued.

PokerMania

In support of *Charities, Inc.* fundraising, *PokerMania II* is being planned for October 13th. This is a charitable gaming event that will offer; Blackjack, 7 Card Stud, Texas Hold'em, and a "Big 6" wheel. There will also be a cash bar available.

It's really important that this event be successful, and we ask you to consider coming out to support both *Charities, Inc.* and *Post 318*. We also ask that you share this event information with family and friends and encourage them to attend.

Clip the ad below and bring it with you for a \$5 Blackjack table credit.

American Legion Post 318 Charities, Inc. Presents:

PokerMania



A Charitable Gaming Event

October 13th – 7p to 12a

6660 Clough Pike – Anderson Township

Cash Bar

Blackjack
7 Card Stud
Texas Hold'em
Big 6 Wheel

Clip This Ad and
Present for a \$5
Blackjack Table Credit
(Limit 1 per Customer)

Visit us at: www.post318.org

Mentoring Opportunity

I have met with the Assistant Principal at Turpin High School, Camey Eberhard, and she would love to have some good men and women act as mentors this school year. They have a need for 5 to 10 people who would be interested in building a relationship with a struggling high school student. This can be life changing on both sides. Meeting times are flexible and last less than an hour. If you would like to help out let me know.

Randy Lindsey
2nd Vice Commander

Six Pac Makes Patriot Center Debut

On September 22, The Patriot Center welcomes *Six Pac* to its line-up of great Cincinnati bands. This group provides a professional concert with a personal touch. Their music includes a combination of Country & Rockin' oldies. Their goal is to please you and each of our guests.



Tickets Can be purchased in advance for \$10 at ShowClix, by following the link below, or by calling their box office at 1-888-718-4253, Option 1 and ask about ***Patriot Center of Cincinnati*** events. Advance sales end at 12:00 PM on the day of the event. Tickets purchased at the door are \$12.50. For tickets go to: <https://www.showclix.com/event/SixpacSep222018>

At The Flag Pole

Fly the Flag Days:

- Sept 2, 1945 V-J Day Japan signed formal surrender
- Sept 11, Patriot Day National Day of Remembrance
- Sept 17, U.S. Constitution approved (1787)
- Sept 18, U.S. Air Force Established
- Sept 20, POW/MIA Recognition Day
- Sept 29, VFW Day Established (1899)

Ralph Caskey
SAA

Membership Update

Our membership campaign was off to a big roar for the month of July, with our Post leading both Hamilton county and District 4. For the month of August we've slipped down a few notches but are still moving forward.....SLOWLY! Here are our current standings:

2019 Membership Scoreboard

<i>Paid as of 8/31/18</i>	90
<i>2019 Goal</i>	165
<i>% Goal</i>	36.36
<i>2019 Quota</i>	159
<i>% Quota</i>	56.60
<i>Still Needed</i>	69
<i>Projected Shortfall</i>	9

From this you can see that we are about 57% of our quota; but when consider the potential of our current membership, we can only reach 155 (a shortfall of 4 members). Of this 155 members we usually lose an additional 4-5 each year for various reasons; therefore, our total shortfall, to reach quota, is going to be 8-9 members. We can't make quota unless we fill this gap! If you know of anyone that would be interested in joining our Post, please send them my way and I will be glad to follow up with them.

Robert Kamman
1st Vice Commander

Charities, Inc. Update

Lisa Banks, President, Lisa Banks CPA, has joined the ***Charities, Inc.*** Board of Directors. She assumes the seat previously held by Vicky Earhart, who stepped down due to personal reasons. As a CPA, Lisa brings a lot of insight and experience, to the board. As a member of the board, her primary responsibility will be to oversee fundraising, and we look forward to the contributions she will make to ***Charities, Inc.*** and the Post.

Vicky Earhart, Anderson Township Administrator, was a charter member of the board and we thank her for the many contributions she has made over the years.

At its annual meeting, the ***Charities, Inc.*** board elected the following people to 2 year terms; Don Bishop, President, Dan Wolfangel, Vice President, Walt Geil, Treasurer, Donna Prues, Secretary and Lisa Banks, Fundraising Chairman.

Chaplain's Report

This year has been a healthy year overall with only a couple individuals with big health issues. Vita and Keith Musselman are still fighting their battles and at this time Keith is still at the Anderson. This is his second hip replacement and now wears a brace. Keep them in our prayers.

Don McLaughlin would love to get back to moving around better and is still doing therapy. Bill King gets out and about but still has his weak moments. We hope the best for both of these good men. Hugo Vontz received his longevity pin and Dan Wolfangel delivered it to him. I believe he is our oldest living member and still has his wits about him according to Dan. He is a very interesting man and a WWII vet who is displayed on our History Wall.

Many people give money to charities and nonprofit organizations. The American Legion is has a nonprofit 501-3-C fund from where we give out the scholarships to Buckeye Boys and Girls State, High School College Scholarships to Veterans children, and other community activities we are involved. Because of the fewer days that we give out Poppies, and no longer able to involved with Anderson Days, funds have dropped off to support these activities. If you would like to contribute to this fund, like some of our members are doing, it would greatly help us continue these programs. Giving up some of your time is important also so that our activities can continue but this is just another way to show your support.

The Ice Cream social and the cookout that our new Second Vice, Randy Lindsey, put on were well attended and fun plus they were free. Keep an eye out for more of these activities.

We need our member's support so hopefully you can find ways to help our Legion.

Jerry Porter
Chaplain

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: ccleves1@fuse.net.

September 16th Open House

In conjunction with the Anderson Township Historical Society history walk on September 16th, I will hold an open house to show off our facilities. The activities go from 1 – 4, and include tours of all the historical buildings around us. We have agreed to provide free parking, but in addition my wife and I will be selling waters and individually wrapped baked goods at the Post. We will conduct tours of our Post and provide information on our dances and activities. If you would like to donate some baked goods let me know. If you want to hang with Meredith and I we would welcome you.

Randy Lindsey
2nd Vice Commander

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM, Wednesday, September 12th. As usual we will go through our committee reports, updating our projects and programs.

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.

Thought for the Day:

We are born naked, wet and hungry. Then things get worse. ----- ***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>	Randy Lindsey	513-374-2099
<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>	VACANT	
<i>Bingo:</i>	Ed Sears	513-474-0246
<i>Community Support:</i>	VACANT	
<i>Event Coordination:</i>	Ken Knight	513-675-5234
<i>Fundraising:</i>	VACANT	
<i>House:</i>	Bob Alfieri	513-232-0309
<i>Service Officer:</i>	Charlie Cleves	513-232-7767