



American Legion Post 318 Newsletter



"For God and Country"

November 2018

Commander's Notes:

November is always a busy month for the Post. With color guard events, flag etiquette classes, school visits, fundraisers, and other events, it seems like we celebrate Veterans Day for about 10 days in a row. Now, this may be a slight exaggeration, but we are really involved in a lot of activities and events and it takes a lot of coordination and volunteers to make this happen. If you have a few minutes, we could use your help.

Once again the Post will host the Anderson Township Veterans Day event. This year it will be held on Saturday, November 10th. You'll get a free meal and quality entertainment! All you need to do is sign up.

I also want to reach out and say "*Happy Birthday Marine*" to all my brothers-in-arms. On November 10th, the corps will celebrate 243 years of service to our nation, and of course there will be cake. Another reason to sign-up for the Veterans Day event.

In just a few short days it will be time for you to get out and vote. As veterans, this act of citizenship should be a priority. After all, what other group of Americans has done more to earn this right? Regardless of how you lean, get out and vote.

With the holiday season coming up, keep in mind that there are many people who can use a helping hand. Consider how you can make a difference. If you can't help directly, there are many churches and other organizations that can help through your support.

Just a reminder! Our constitution specifies that all 2019 membership dues be paid by October 20th. If you haven't paid your dues yet, please take a minute right now and write that check. We will begin suspending Post key card access on, or about, November 1st.

Don Bishop

House Update

We have replaced the blacktop drive way and re-sealed and re-lined the parking lot. Come out and see the changes in the Post, make suggestions and support our activities.

Robert Alfieri
House Chairman

Anderson Township Veterans Day Celebration Saturday, November 10, 2018



American Legion - Anderson Post 318

Reservations Required:

- Anderson Township Veterans & 1 Guest
- Seating for 200 – 1st Come / 1st Serve
- For Reservation - Call 688-8421, or email mmohrfield@andertontownship.org

5:00 PM - Cash Bar
6:00 PM - Complimentary Dinner
(Sponsor - Belterra Park)
7:00 PM - Complimentary Dessert
(Sponsor - Mt Washington Care Center)
7:30 PM - Live Entertainment: VocalPalooza
(Sponsor - American Legion Post 318 Charities, Inc.)



6660 Clough Pike - Anderson Township, Ohio 45244

4th District Bowling Tournament

The 4th District will conduct its bowling tournament at Cherry Grove Lanes, Saturday November 24th, beginning at 10:00 am

This is a 5 person event. Entry fee is \$80 per team. All money will be returned as prize money after expenses. Interested contact me by email weasellee@yahoo.com, or phone 513-374-2099.

Randy Lindsey
2nd Vice Commander

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.

As a member you can help raise the money we need to fund our programs in the following manner; 1) make tax deductible contributions to **Charities, Inc.**, 2) attend **Charities, Inc.** fundraisers, 3) volunteer to work **Charities, Inc.** events, and 4) register 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	\$ 764	
Member Donations	\$1,000	
PokerMania	\$ 230	
Kroger Deposit	\$ 186	
Veterans Day Parade		\$ 30
Total	\$ 2,180	\$ 30

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 October, bingo once again pulled us over the finish line. Thanks to everyone who helped make this happen. The following is a summary of where our October revenues came from.

Event	Contribution
Bingo	\$ 4,638
Euchre	\$ 300
Post Dances	\$ 1,006
PokerMania	\$ 209
Rentals	\$ 1,000
Total	\$ 7,153

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.

Wave the Flag

American Legion Post 318 Charities, Inc. will conduct its 3rd “**Wave The Flag**” fundraiser, Saturday, November 10th at the Kroger Anderson Towne Center and Cherry Grove stores, beginning at 10am. All funds raised through this event will be used to support our Veteran and Community programs. Please stop by and donate to this worthy cause.

**AMERICAN LEGION
ANDERSON POST 318**

Veterans Day Program



**Wave The Flag
Support Our Veterans**

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

Reprint from Fidelity Investments

When planning your IRA withdrawal strategy, you may want to consider making charitable donations through a QCD.

A QCD is a direct transfer of funds from your IRA custodian, payable to a qualified charity. QCDs can be counted toward satisfying your required minimum distributions (RMDs) for the year, as long as certain rules are met.

In addition to the benefits of giving to charity, a QCD excludes the amount donated from taxable income, which is unlike regular withdrawals from an IRA. Keeping your taxable income lower may reduce the impact to certain tax credits and deductions, including Social Security and Medicare.

Also, QCD's don't require that you itemize, which due to the recent tax law changes, means you may decide to take advantage of the higher standard deduction, but still use a QCD for charitable giving.

Can I make a QCD?

While many IRAs are eligible for QCDs—Traditional, Rollover, Inherited, SEP (inactive plans only), and SIMPLE (inactive plans only)* —there are requirements:

- You must be 70½ or older to be eligible to make a QCD.
- QCDs are limited to the amount that would otherwise be taxed as ordinary income. This excludes non-deductible contributions.
- The maximum annual amount that can qualify for a QCD is \$100,000. This applies to the sum of QCDs made to one or more charities in a calendar year. (If, however, you file taxes jointly, your spouse can also make a QCD from his or her own IRA within the same tax year for up to \$100,000.)
- For a QCD to count towards your current year's RMD, the funds must come out of your IRA by your RMD deadline, generally December 31.

Any amount donated above your RMD does not count toward satisfying a future year's RMD.

Funds distributed directly to you, the IRA owner, and which you then give to charity do not qualify as a QCD.

Under certain circumstances, a QCD may be made from a Roth IRA. Roth IRAs are not subject to RMDs during your lifetime, and distributions are generally tax-free. Consult a tax advisor to determine if making a QCD from a Roth is appropriate for your situation.

What kind of charities qualify?

The charity must be a 501(c)(3) organization, eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions.

Some charities do not qualify for QCDs:

- Private foundations
- Supporting organizations: i.e., charities carrying out exempt purposes by supporting other exempt organizations, usually other public charities
- Donor-advised funds, which public charities manage on behalf of organizations, families, or individuals

Tax reporting

A QCD is reported as a normal distribution on IRS Form 1099-R for any non-Inherited IRAs. For Inherited IRAs or Inherited Roth IRAs, the QCD will be reported as a death distribution. Itemization is not required to make a QCD. While the QCD amount is not taxed, you may not then claim the distribution as a charitable tax deduction.

A QCD is not subject to withholding. State tax rules may vary, so for guidance, consult a tax advisor.

When making a QCD, you must receive the same type of acknowledgement of the donation that you would need to claim a deduction for a charitable contribution. A tax advisor can help you determine if both your IRA and charity qualify for QCDs.

Editor's Note: American Legion Post 318 Charities, Inc. (Charities, Inc.) is a qualified 501 (c) 3, and this strategy has been used by Post members to make contributions in support Post projects and programs administered by Charities, Inc.

Post to Host AARP Tax Counseling

Post 318 will provide AARP complimentary use of our rental hall every Tuesday from 11a to 5p, except February 26th, beginning February 5th through April 9th. This use will be to provide free tax counseling for the elderly and low and middle income tax payers.



During the month of January AARP will also be using the rental hall to train their tax preparers.

Finance Officer Ron Yersky will be overseeing these sessions.

You may qualify for this service if you have a routine tax return and no extenuating circumstances.

November Dance Schedule

For November, we have two (2) dances scheduled; *Six Pac* will bring a little bit of “Country” to the Patriot Center November 3rd.



The Remains will follow up with “Classic Rock” and “Pop” music November 17th. Both groups provide a really good entertainment experience.



Tickets for all events 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>.

Membership Update

We are trending significantly below where we've been at this point in time as compared to the past 4 years (75% - 80%). We picked up 8 renewals for the month of October. Here are our current stats:

2019 Membership Scoreboard

<i>Paid as of 10/31/18</i>	109
<i>2019 Goal</i>	165
<i>% Goal</i>	66.10
<i>2019 Quota</i>	159
<i>% Quota</i>	68.60
<i>Still Needed</i>	50
<i>Projected Shortfall</i>	6

To make up this shortfall we still need to recruit 6 new members and have the remainder of our members that haven't renewed to date (**50**), please do so. If you hear of someone interested in joining our Post, please send them my way and I will be glad to follow up.

Each Post is offered monetary rewards for hitting different percentage goals of quota by various dates. Therefore, we really need your support in order for our Post to receive these monetary incentives.

Robert Kamman
1st Vice Commander

Still Collecting Service Photo's

Over the last couple of years we have been building a collection of Legion and service photo's. They have been placed in a slide show that we use for Veterans Day and other events. We would like to add more photo's to this collection. If you have any photo's to share, please contact Don Bishop. We would prefer receiving them in a JPEG format. However, if you have original photos to submit we will scan and return them.



High School Diploma?

If you or someone you know is a veteran that never received a high school diploma because you dropped out to fight a war, please let me know. Princeton High School wants to provide a graduation ceremony and diploma. Princeton High School has been doing this for the past 10 years or so and it's a really nice ceremony that is held on Veterans Day. Col. Dean Smittle will be the guest speaker.

Mark Riesenburg
513-623-7213
Riesenberg.mark@gmail.com
American Legion 4th District. Department of Ohio

Chaplain's Report

November is upon us with chilly winds, shorter days, and less active times. The work of the Legion goes on. October was successful with three dances, a couple rentals and the old stand-by, bingo. These activities bring in the cash to keep us afloat. These all take bodies to operate and be successful. Ask anyone who worked one of these events that they are fun and don't take a lot of your time.

Veteran activities dot this month with Honor Guards, dinners, VA visit, flag give aways at Kroger and more dances. Hopefully you will find time to check these activities out.

Our building has new asphalt on part of our driveway, and the front lot has been sealed and reclined. Thanks to Bob Alfieri and his trusted crew of volunteers our Post is a showcase of Legion buildings in SW Ohio. With Don's leadership we have maintained our position in District 4, and have stayed out of debt. Many of you have joined the Post and have never been in the Post or taken advantage of our activities. On October 23rd, there was a hot dog and S'mores party for all members and their guest put on by our Second Vice, Randy Lindsey. It was not well attended but those who came had fun and the food was great.

Your key gets you into the Club room, but not many people take advantage. Beautiful bar but not used like it was intended. There are also two dances scheduled for this month, and the bands are very good, even if you don't dance, you can sit, watch and listen.

The following people are still need our prayers so they can get better and get back to Post activities: Keith Musselman, John Smith, Don McGlaughlin, and Bill King.

Don't forget to put December 7th, on your calendar because that evening is the free Christmas party at the Legion. Watch for more information. If possible, check our website regularly for updates: www.Post318.Com.

***Jerry Porter
Chaplain***

Mentoring Opportunity

I have begun mentoring a student at Nagel Middle School. This is a very worthwhile endeavor. I urge you to think about doing the same. There are opportunities in all the Middle and High Schools with very flexible schedules. If you have an hour a week you could change a life. Call me (513-374-2099) for information.

***Randy Lindsey
2nd Vice Commander***

American Legion Represented at Tristate Veterans Community Alliance (TVCA) Wellness Expo

Reprinted from 4th District Newsletter:

Legionnaire's Don Bishop (318), Aaron Cunningham (631), Greg Elsbernd (199) along with Auxiliary member Judi Maupin (450) represented the American Legion at the inaugural TVCA Veteran Wellness Expo.



This expo was intended for connecting Tri-state veterans and families with partners that promote career, financial, social, physical and community wellness. The thought behind the expo was that wellness goes beyond physical health, it incorporates career success, financial stability, social well-being and being active in the community.

Contact was made with several veterans who showed interest in the American Legion, as well as with several organizations who serve veterans and are interested in collaborating with the American Legion in joint efforts to reach our transitioning and struggling veterans in the area. TVCV has already begun planning next year's expo to which I am sure the American Legion will be invited.

***Ken Ellis
District Chairman***

Virtual Meetings

Last month we had to suspend our Virtual Meeting; but, we will be back online for the November meeting. We are still in beta testing and currently have two (2) members assisting with this testing. However, we could use a couple more to help us work out any bugs. If you might be interested in interacting or monitoring our monthly meetings via a laptop, notebook, tablet or smartphone, please contact me and I will get you set up. The process is very simple and painless, I promise.

***Robert Kamman
1st Vice Commander***

At The Flag Pole

Fly the Flag Days:

- November 11 – Veterans Day (Signing of WWI Armistice [1918])
- November 22 – Thanksgiving Day

Other special days:

- November 10 – Marine Corps Birthday (1775)

Sherwood Day: If you would like to participate in the November 12 Veterans Day Classes at Sherwood Elementary please (call 513-470-6588) or text or (email caskewrw@gmail.com), Ralph Caskey and I'll put you on the schedule. This event will take place before our next meeting.

Gifts for Yanks: This year's program is under way and if you would like to contribute see Ralph Caskey or you could make a check out to the Post for *Gift to Yanks* fund. This fund raises money for Christmas gifts for Veterans in the local hospitals.

Color Guard Details: I will send out reminders to those who are doing details a week detail. Those of you who ordered Jackets I hope to have them by the next meeting on November 14th.

Pearl Harbor Ceremony: The Post is planning to participate in the annual Pearl Harbor Ceremony, December 2nd, hosted by Post 534. We are hoping to provide a Color Guard and some participating members. This ceremony is a really nice event open to all Legionnaires and their families. Doors open at 9:00 AM for coffee and donuts. There is a flag retirement ceremony at 10:30 AM, with the Pearl Harbor ceremony on the river at 11:55 AM. After the ceremony a hot lunch is provided. Coffee, donuts and lunch are complimentary. If you would like to either participate in the Color Guard, or just attend the ceremony, please let me know.

Thanks,

**SAA,
Ralph Caskey**

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM, Wednesday, November 14th. We will present our committee reports and discuss the issues most important to the Post.

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.

Post Christmas Party Scheduled

Just a reminder! Mark December 7th on your calendar. This is the date for this year's Post Christmas party. As always, it will be a family event with a "Pot Luck" dinner. The Post will provide the meats, and adult beverages. Specific details will be provided in a mailing that will be sent out soon.



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.

Thought for the Day:

Every morning is the dawn of a new error.... *Unknown*

Post Officers & Committee Chairs:

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