



American Legion Post 318 Newsletter



“For God and Country”

January 2019

Commander’s Notes:

The operation of our Post continues to “limp along” as we struggle to find members willing to take on leadership positions. We continue to suspend projects and programs that provide funding for our operations, add value to our stakeholders, or enhance our visibility within the Anderson Township and Veteran communities. We’re in our 3rd year of limited operations, and although we continue to hope it will get better, this appears to be wishful thinking. It seems like we “take one step forward and two steps back”. There’s so much to be done, and I know that there are many of you looking for things to do! Give us some consideration, we can use your help and it would be well worth your time.

Speaking of “one step forward”, a big “thank you” goes out to Paul Henkel. Paul has agreed to take the lead on this year’s Buckeye Boys State and Girls State programs, keeping these programs viable for another year. I would also like to thank Jerry Porter again for taking on this year’s A&G Testing and Oratorical programs. Now, if we could find someone interested in taking on “HoopsMania”, or our Restaurant Fundraisers!

Don Bishop

Pearl Harbor Day

For 64 years, the American Legion Chambers - Hautman - Budde Post 534 has conducted a Pearl Harbor Ceremony. The day starts with coffee, followed by a flag retirement ceremony, a ceremony on the river, and ends with lunch. Thanks to Ralph, Jerry, Gary and Ed, this year Post 318 provided a color guard for this remembrance ceremony.



Another Christmas Party in the Books

We had a really good turnout, about 90 members and their guests, for our “pot luck” Christmas party. The food was good and a lot of compliments were offered for the dishes that were prepared. A big “thank you” goes out to Randy and Meredith for organizing a wonderful event.

Four Chaplains Memorial Service Sunday February 10, 2019

The annual Four Chaplains Memorial Service will be held at St. Boniface Church, 1750 Chase St., in Northside, on Sunday, February 10, 2019. All veterans’ and military organizations and their auxiliaries are invited to participate by having their unit colors (no rifles) in the school cafeteria by 11:30 AM, for the procession to church. Mass will begin at Noon and will conclude by 1:00 PM. Refreshments will be served in the school cafeteria beginning at 10:30 AM for those who arrive early.

It has become apparent that organizations are having difficulty finding members who are willing and able to stand with their colors during the Service. I am currently contacting area Junior ROTC units and the Young Marines asking them to participate with their colors and also to help out in this area. I am sure we will be able to find someone to carry your unit’s flags if you bring them to the cafeteria before Mass.

Immediately following the service, a reception will be held at Gailey VFW Post located at 8326 Browns way Ln. in North College Hill. Food and drinks will be served.

This service has been held at St. Boniface for more than 40 years and has evolved into a tradition for the Tristate veterans’ community. Originally a project of 40 & 8 Voiture 29; it is now co-sponsored by AMVETS Post 1988, Gailey VFW Post 7340, VFW Post 10380, Halker-Fleige AL Post 69, Catholic War Veterans #1492, Schwab Bailey AL Post 425, Mt Washington AL Post 484, American Legion County Council, DAV Chapter One, Jennings Bryan Yeager AL Post 199 and Chamber-Hautman-Budde AL Post 534.

We hope that your organization will participate this year. We also ask your assistance in publicizing the event by posting the enclosed flyer in a conspicuous place and by including this information in your organization’s newsletter. For additional information or if you would like someone to carry your colors, call Bob Schinaman at 257-5703 (bobschinaman@gmail.com).

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.

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	\$ 456	
Amazon Smiles	\$ 16	
Postage Refund	\$ 30	
Wave the Flag	\$ 2,406	
Veterans Day Celebration		\$ 760
Total	\$ 2,908	\$ 760

Fund Raising Update

The Post needs to raise about \$6,000 each month to continue operations. For December, we cancelled 1 dance and 2 bingo sessions and fell just short of that goal. The shortage will be made up using cash reserves.

Event	Contribution
Bingo	\$ 2,248
Euchre	\$ 240
Dances*	\$ 2,500
Rentals	\$ 905
Total	\$ 5,893

*Includes NYE Estimate

Going forward you can support us by attending, or working, any or all of the funding projects listed below:

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 two (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.

Rentals – We have five (5) primary sources of rental income; hall rentals, kitchen rentals, office rentals, property rentals (Norton Sign), and the beverage sales associated with hall rentals. Members interested in renting the hall for personal use get a 25% discount. Contact Ken Knight (675-5234) for details.

Super Match™ – The Post is participating in this fund raiser for the first time. It's a FootballMania™ program linked to the Super Bowl with \$3.50 of each \$5 ticket purchased goes directly to the Post. If you have any questions, please contact Dennis Sakal at 335-3148.

Santa Makes Dance Appearance

To ring in the holiday season and to collect canned goods for Fisher House, Santa made an appearance at our Christmas dance. It was well received and we want to thank Ed Ruffenach for making this happen.



Visit us at: www.post318.org

TRICARE Dental Plan

Enrollees in the TRICARE Retiree Dental Program are required to sign up for FEDVIP if they wish to maintain dental insurance. FEDVIP provides 10 choices for dental coverage. As of early December, only 600,000 beneficiaries had signed up for FEDVIP, leaving an estimated 1.2 million retirees at risk of losing coverage January 1. Though Open Season was not formally extended, the present grace period is undoubtedly aimed at those 1.2 million people.

It is not just about dental. Vision coverage is also offered, through four carriers. FEDVIP vision plans help pay for routine vision appointments and frames, lens and contacts.

The process is separate from TRICARE's Open Season. TRICARE beneficiaries can make changes until December 31.

In addition to the web site, you may call BENEFEDS, Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 9 PM Eastern, at 1-877-888-3337. The phone line, while noting the December 19 deadline, also was fielding enrollment request as of December 11.

Blue Water Navy Bill Stalls in Senate

By: Amanda Dolasinski

Representatives of Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) and other veterans service organizations gathered alongside senators Tuesday to express continued support for legislation that would extend benefits to Vietnam-era Blue Water Navy veterans after a single senator blocked a vote on the measure the night before.

The bill would allow those who served aboard ships off the coast of Vietnam to claim presumptive exposure to Agent Orange, which is connected to a variety of cancers and other long-term illnesses. It passed the House without a single "nay" vote; it went before the Senate on Monday for a unanimous consent vote, which can be stopped by a single senator's dissension.

Sen. Mike Enzi, R-Wyo., objected, citing funding concerns. Fellow Republican Steve Daines of Montana stood with Democrats Sens. Jon Tester and Kirsten Gillibrand on Tuesday to encourage the full Senate to pass the legislation.

Republicans and Democrats "see the world a little differently at times, but on this issue, it's very clear," Daines said. "I'm very disappointed to see this bill stalled... I urge my colleagues to support this. Let's get it done before the end of the year."

This bill must pass through the Senate, and onto

President Trump's desk, before the end of the 115th Congress -- Jan 3, 2019 -- or the process will have to start all over again with the new Congress next year.

"We are closer than we've ever been at getting Congress to pass this legislation," said Ly. Col. Aniela Szymanski. MOAA's director of government relations for VA benefits. "We will continue the fight to ensure the bill gets passed, but if it doesn't get passed this year, it may be two or more years that Congress takes up this legislation again. That type of delay just is not acceptable for our Vietnam veterans."

Gillibrand said she will continue requesting a motion for unanimous consent.

Earlier this year, VA Secretary Robert Wilkie questioned the scientific evidence and objected to the cost projections behind the proposal. He requested senators put a hold on the legislation until the completion of an ongoing VA study comparing the health of Vietnam War veterans with those of a similar age who did not deploy, which could be done in late 2019. Along with Enzi, Sen. Mike Lee, R-Utah, voiced opposition to the bill, saying he wanted to wait for the study to be completed.

MOAA, in a letter from the Military Coalition, recently addressed that study and pointed out that it will not provide any answers regarding Agent Orange exposures in Vietnam.

The cost of providing care to affected veterans has been estimated at more than \$1 billion. Funding would be covered through an increased fee on VA home loans.

In a fiery speech, Gillibrand said Tuesday that she has been working on this legislation for more than 10 years. She called out the VA for not lending its support to the legislation.

"Do your job." Said Gillibrand, who submitted the legislation for the unanimous consent vote. "Your job is to protect and to speak for these veterans, not deny the basic health care that they have already earned."

Tester, who serves as the ranking member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, said the legislation is long overdue. The Montana Democrat said it is the government's responsibility to care for veterans when they return from service.

"If we're not willing to take care of our veterans when they get back home, we should not send them to places in this world where they might be exposed to toxins or get shot," Tester said. "This is serious business...our veterans are too important."

Amanda Dolasinski is MOAA's staff writer. She can be reached at amandad@moaa.org. Follow her on Twitter @AmandaMOAA.

Visit us at: www.post318.org

January Dance Schedule

With the start of the new year, we begin our 5th year of hosting live music dances. We have a great line up of bands and theme events scheduled for this spring. All we need is for you to come out and join in on the fun and entertainment to help us make this the best season ever.

We start the year, January 12th, with *Six Pac*. This top notch Cincinnati band plays a combination of Country & Rockin' oldies. You'll enjoy the show and go home clicking your heels!

Six Pac

Saturday, January 12, 2019



For Tickets: Go to WWW.ShowClix.com or Call 1-888-718-4253, Option 1 and ask About Patriot Center of Cincinnati Events

Doors Open at 7:00PM
Band Performs from 8:00 to 11:00 PM

On January 26th, the Patriot Center welcomes back *The Remains*. The Remains have performed thousands of shows that guarantee fun for every age! They play an eclectic mix of music spanning from the '60s all the way to what's on the radio now. This is your chance to listen to a great local group playing the songs you want to hear.

The Remains

Saturday, January 26, 2019



For Tickets: Go to WWW.ShowClix.com or Call 1-888-718-4253, Option 1 and ask About Patriot Center of Cincinnati Events

Doors Open at 7:00PM
Band Performs from 8:00 to 11:00 PM

Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$10 by going to the Post web site www.post138.org, click on the **Special Events Tab**, then "click-on" **CLICK HERE TO SEE OUR FULL LIST OF UPCOMING SHOWS**, or you can call the ShowClix box office at 1-888-718-4253,

Option 1, and ask about Patriot Center of Cincinnati Events. On Saturday, box office hours are from 12p to 5p. However, advanced sales end at 12:00p on the day of the event. Tickets purchased at the door are \$12.50.

New Dance Floor Being Considered

At the most recent EC meeting, Commander Bishop communicated that "we are receiving a lot of complaints about the condition of our dance floor." Specifically, moisture, and humidity are causing our vinyl dance floor to become tacky and difficult to dance on. As a result, we have lost several customers and others are suggesting that they're not going to continue supporting us, if something isn't done to make improvements." These concerns are significant because our dances have generated \$50,000 in net revenues over the last 4 years and we need this revenue to continue operation."

The EC discussed several options and agreed that a new dance floor is probably the best alternative. However, it's not going to be cheap. So our next challenges are to determine 1) does a new floor make sense, and 2) how do we pay for it? House Chairman Bob Alfieri, in conjunction with the E.C, is formulating a plan to address these questions.

OUTLAW TURKEY SHOOT!



AMERICAN LEGION 4TH DISTRICT
SPONSORED BY POST 237
HOSTED BY VFW POST 3954
4070 GREENBRIAR RD
BATAVIA OHIO 45103

12 GAUGE
MUST USE THE 12 GAUGE
STORE BOUGHT SHELL WE SUPPLY.
BRING WHAT YOU GOT - BRING WHAT YOU BUILT
NO CHOKE WILL BE REFUSED AS LONG AS IT IS SAFE.
ONCE AGAIN 12 GAUGE ONLY PLEASE

SATURDAY JANUARY 19TH
12 NOON TILL - DONE
CASH PAYOUT TO BOTH 1ST AND 2ND PLACE
FOR EACH ROUND MINUS EXPENSE'S
COME ON OUT HAVE A GOOD TIME

WE WILL HAVE 3, 5 AND 10-DOLLAR ROUNDS
WE WOULD LIKE AT LEAST 16 SHOOTERS PER
ROUND AND GO 14 ROUNDS
SPLIT THE POT
FOOD, RAFFLES, AND MORE.

EXPENSE'S WILL BE POSTED AT EACH ROUND
MINIMUM \$10
PLEASE CALL WITH ANY QUESTIONS

STEVE FOSTER 513-827-2514
JERRY E PERRY 513-319-5024

(No Turkeys will be Harmed)

Visit us at: www.post318.org

FootballMania™ Produces More Winners

This year's *FootballMania™* program has produced three (3) more winners; Post member Zenon Bilwin won \$ 200 for the 2nd time this year and bingo regulars Mary Ann Proll (\$50) and Crystal Helton (\$25) were also winners. Besides our actual winners, 9 unsold tickets would have would have paid out \$25 each. With two (2) more weeks before this year's contest comes to an end, there is plenty of time for additional winners.

In Search of Post Adjutant

It seems timely, as we are moving forward to a new year, that we begin thinking about election of Post officers for the 2019/2020 term of office. The election, to be held in May 2019, will be here before we know it.

In my forty years of Post 318 membership, I have had the pleasure of serving as your Adjutant over a third of that time, since July of 2004. However, after serving fifteen continuous years, I feel it is now time for someone else to take over the Adjutant responsibilities. I had noted when I agreed to stand for election for Adjutant this current year, that it would be my last. I had suggested, and included into the Post Business Plan several years ago, the position of Assistant Adjutant, with hopes for a future transition of that individual to the Adjutant's responsibilities. As has been the problem with several Post Officers positions, and Committee Chairs no one stepped forward, nor displayed any interest in that assistant role.

It is important to take note that, of all the administrative positions within the American Legion, a Post is required to have a "Post Commander" and "Post Adjutant" to maintain their Post Charter. As you should already be aware of, we currently do not have an "elected" Post Commander, and we are only maintaining our charter at this time by virtue of Commander Bishop's acceptance of, and agreement to continue serving so far this year under a provision of the Post By-Laws that states "Present officers shall serve until the newly elected officers are installed". I, and we, should be appreciative of his doing so, to the benefit of our maintaining our Post. However, I digress from the issue of the Adjutant elected officer position. I have noted below the excerpt from the Post Business Plan, which describes the primary responsibilities of the Adjutant.

"The Adjutant shall have charge of and keep a full and correct record of all proceedings of all meetings, keep such records as the Department and National Organizations may require, render reports of membership annually or when called upon at a meeting, and under direction of the Commander handle all correspondences of the Post. Other responsibilities of

the Adjutant include, but are not limited to:

- Chairs the Internal / External Communications Committee (see Standing Committee Responsibilities)
- Maintains membership records in cooperation with membership Chairperson
- Records and maintains meeting minutes
- Publishes and posts official orders, announcements, instructions, and various articles of correspondence as necessary.
- Maintains custody of all Post records.
- Maintain a copy of the Post Adjutant's Manual.
- Has primary access to the Post mailboxes."

I am hoping there is someone within our membership, that will be willing to step up to run for the elected Post Adjutant officer position of Adjutant, and assume the responsibilities of the position, and help assure that American Legion – Anderson Post 318 will continue in existence to serve our veteran and our community.

I will be happy to discuss the Adjutant responsibilities with any members interested in serving Post 318 in the position.

Dan Wolfangel
Post Adjutant

Membership Update

We are running well behind on our renewals from where we have in the past at this time. For the past 3 years we have been in the mid-90% by now. Several factors have attributed to this: 1) We have 17 individuals that have yet to new for 2019, 2) We've had a couple of deaths, and 3) Our goal was increased by 2 over previous years.

2019 Membership Scoreboard

<i>Paid as of 12/31/18</i>	<i>137</i>
<i>2019 Goal</i>	<i>165</i>
<i>% Goal</i>	<i>83.03</i>
<i>2019 Quota</i>	<i>159</i>
<i>% Quota</i>	<i>86.16</i>
<i>Still Needed</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>Projected Shortfall</i>	<i>8</i>

As indicated above we have a potential shortfall of 8 individuals; therefore, if you know of anyone please, please send them my way and I will follow up. For those that still haven't renewed please consider doing so as soon as possible to help your Post and the Legion.

Robert Kamman
1st Vice Commander

Chaplain's Report

Our American Legion has been blessed for many years with good housing, ample members, and hard working people who had the Post as a priority in their lives. As we grow older and our membership grows older we find ourselves in a crisis for members who are able or willing to step up and continue to make our Post function and continue to contribute to our community. It is my hope and continual prayer that everyone look deep into their hearts and find more time to give to the Post.

I want to thank all our members who already have stepped up and filled positions to keep our Post running. Dan Wolfangel has been our adjutant for fifteen years. He has done so much for the Post above and beyond what his regular duties involved. I know we have good men who could step up and fill his position, and if they don't, we have to shut down. Don Bishop, has been our Commander for many years, and right now is holding that position because no one else would step up. His leadership has kept us afloat, and a big thank you must go out to him. Most of the other men in elected positions have done so for a long period of time, and they need a big thank you also.

This month we have had some great activities and fun times. We did get some new faces out for the Christmas Party. There have been only a few reported illnesses, but no major problems brought to my attention and I am happy for that.

I hope and pray that all of you have a great Christmas Season and a blessed New Year. May good health continue to follow you. I will continue to pray that some of you will open your hearts and step up and help keep our Post open and functioning.

God Bless Everyone,

Jerry Porter
Chaplain

At The Flag Pole

Display flag Days:

- New Year's Day 1-1-19
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day 1-21-19

Color Guard Details

- January 19 - AHS vs THS BB games
- January 25 - AHS vs THS BB games

Other Special Days:

- February 10 - Four Chaplin's Memorial Service. Any member or members who would be interested in attending this service please contact SAA R. Caskey at 470 6588 for more details

Ralph Caskey
SAA

VA Hospital Visit

A few members of the Post joined Chaplain Jerry Porter and conducted a patient visit at the Cincinnati VA Hospital. 32 patients participated in this event. Games were played and a snack of hot dogs, chips and soft drinks was provided and served, by the Post. As usual, everyone had a good time.

The Post schedules one of these trips each quarter. If you would like to participate in a future visit, please make Chaplain Porter aware of these wishes.

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.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM, Wednesday, January 9th. 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:

“Blessed are those who can give without remembering and take without forgetting”..... ***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