



# American Legion Post 318 Newsletter



*“For God and Country”*

*February 2019*

### **Commander’s Notes:**

As you may know, in November, we started conducting our monthly membership meetings as “Virtual Meetings”. Our goal was to provide a way for members who can’t make it to the Post, to attend our meetings and actively participate in legion business. Our target audience is members who are either home bound, live a distance from the Post, don’t drive at night, or are traveling.

If you have a PC, an iPad, tablet, or smart phone along with internet access, you can join and participate in our monthly meetings. If you join “Virtually” your attendance counts to determine our quorum, your input is heard, and you have voting rights.

Unfortunately, even though we’ve worked out most of the “bugs” associated with these meetings, we’re not generating enough interest in this concept to keep it a viable option. So, our plan is to run this for a couple more months, to see if we can get others interested. If not, then we’ll end the program.

If you would have an interest in trying this meeting option, please let us know. We will help you get the application loaded and working. If you have the required equipment there is no charge to join and use the “Virtual Meeting” service.

I hate to sound like a “broken record” but we’re not getting the membership support we need for our events. For example, at our last dance we had 14 members from Post 72 buy tickets and attended. There was 1 member from Post 318. We recruited 9 volunteers to work the dance, 2 were non-members. Bingo and Euchre are the same story. Soon we’ll be sending out HoopsMania™ tickets asking your participation and support. More than 50% of you will either ignore the mailing, or return unsold tickets. What’s wrong with this picture? We don’t get a free ride because we’re veterans. We have bills to pay and programs to fund. To meet our obligations, we need your participation.

Last month our Adjutant communicated that he’ll be stepping down at the end of this term. It’s also time to elect a new Commander! Both positions have to be filled to maintain our American Legion charter. I can’t speak for Dan, but I don’t have the health, or energy, to lead this Post another year. You all need to start thinking about who is going to step up!

**Don Bishop**

### **Gallon Jugs Please!**

We are planning to do something a little different for our FHSD Poppy Day campaign. We are creating a four (4) day contest to generate “Poppy” donations.

The rationale for using this approach is that when the campaign only runs for one day, many of the students forget to bring their contributions to school. If they are able to make contributions over a couple of days there is a greater chance that they will participate. By running the campaign over several days, it can also become a competition both between classes, within a building, and between schools.

So, the plan is to have collection containers for each classroom for days 1, 2, and 3. On day 4, during the lunch hour, Post 318 members will be at each school to pass out “Poppies” and collect the gallon containers. The class that makes the largest contribution will win a pizza party.

To conduct this contest we need to collect and label 42, 1-gallon, jugs with covers. You can help with the collection, by dropping off any containers you may have at the Post.

### **Buckeye Boys State & Girls State**

A big “thank you” goes out to Paul Henkel for taking the lead on this year’s Post 318 Buckeye Boys State and Girls State programs. Charities, Inc. has committed to fund six (6) students to attend these programs and Paul has already started the interview process to fill our slots.

These are wonderful programs and our goal is to send as many qualified applicants as possible. Our only limitations are the number of applicants we get and the available budget. The cost to send one (1) student to this program is \$300. In past years, our budget has been expanded by donations. If you wish to make a donation, contact Charities, Inc. Finance Officer, Walt Geil at 232-4048.

### **AARP Income Tax Preparation**

Just a reminder! Beginning February 5<sup>th</sup> and every Tuesday thereafter through April 9<sup>th</sup> (except February 26<sup>th</sup>) there will be an AARP team available at the Post to help you prepare your income taxes. This service is available to most tax filers at no charge, from 11am to 4pm.

It should be noted that in the spirit of community service, Post 318 is providing 21 days of access and use of our rental hall, in support of this tax preparation service.

**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.

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](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 income received and programs recently funded by *Charities, Inc.*:

	Income	Expenses
<b>Bingo</b>	\$ 1,235	
<b>Kroger Rewards</b>	\$ 210	
<b>Donations</b>	\$ 2,000	
<b>Rent (6 months)</b>		\$ 1,800
<b>Volunteer Raffle</b>		\$ 50
<b>Purchase Poppies</b>		\$ 1,569
<b>Memberships (WWII &amp; hardships)</b>		\$ 360
<b>Veterans Christmas Party</b>		\$ 554
<b>Active Duty Gift Packages</b>		\$ 67
<b>VAVS Visit</b>		\$ 56
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 3,445</b>	<b>\$ 4,456</b>

### *Fund Raising Update*

The Post needs to raise about \$6,000 each month to continue operations. For January, we conducted 3 dances, 3 bingo sessions, 5 euchre sessions, and obtained some rental income earning approximately \$ 7,925. This covers our requirements and allows us to build a little surplus as we enter February.

Event	Contribution
<b>Bingo</b>	\$ 3,679
<b>Euchre</b>	\$ 320
<b>Dances</b>	\$ 2,844
<b>Rentals</b>	\$ 1,085
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 7,925</b>

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 our hall for personal use get a 25% discount. Contact Ken Knight (675-5234) for details.

**HoopsMania™** – The Post will once again participate in this fundraiser. Two (2) tickets are being mailed to each member. They are \$ 20 each, with \$ 14 going directly to the Post. We are asking that you buy one (1) and sell one (1).

This program is linked to the NCAA Men's Basketball tournament, so please return your ticket stubs by March 1<sup>st</sup>. If you have any questions, please contact Dennis Sakal at 335-3148, or email him at: [dennis.sakal@gmail.com](mailto:dennis.sakal@gmail.com).

### *American Legion Oratorical Contest*

Post 318 continues its support of the American Legion High School Oratorical Contest.

Luke Hughes, a Sophomore at Anderson High School, was this year's winner of the Post 318 competition. He will advance to the county competition, to be held February 3<sup>rd</sup> in Reading.

For his efforts, Luke has earned \$ 250 in scholarship money from the Post.

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

**VA**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs***VA, Health and Human Services announce  
Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide***

**VA News Release**— The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) and the Department of Health and Human Services' (HHS) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) will convene for the inaugural Governor's Challenge to Prevent Suicide among Service Members, Veterans and their Families (SMVF) on Feb. 6, in Washington, D.C.

Through data analysis and their current suicide prevention initiatives, 10 states were formally invited to participate in the Governor's Challenge, of which seven accepted, to include, Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Montana, New Hampshire, Texas and Virginia.

State leaders will meet to develop a plan to implement the National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide, which provides a framework for identifying priorities, organizing efforts and contributing to a national focus on Veteran suicide prevention.

The collaboration between the agencies is an example of VA Secretary Wilkie's aim to partner with organizations who share the same goal of preventing suicide among the nation's Veteran population.

"Preventing Veteran suicide is our number one clinical priority," said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. "This is a national problem that demands a nationwide response -- the Mayor's Challenge and the Governor's Challenge provide a roadmap to develop that national focus of effort."

In March 2018, VA and SAMHSA initiated the Mayor's Challenge with a local community-level focus. The Governor's Challenge takes this effort to the state level, incorporating existing community strategic plans within respective states and supporting the initiative with state-level influence and resources.

Earlier this week, Secretary Wilkie mentioned the importance of the Mayor's challenge and Governor's challenge as part of an Op-Ed outlining VA's progress on suicide prevention for Veterans, which is the department's top clinical priority.

VA and HHS will leverage technical expertise from both agencies to ensure the work is codified, evaluated for effectiveness and shared with municipalities to optimize the collective efforts of all partners invested in preventing suicide across the SMVF demographic group.

For more information on VA's suicide prevention campaign, visit <http://www.veteranscrisisline.net/bethere>. For information on SAMHSA's suicide prevention efforts, visit <https://www.samhsa.gov/suicide-prevention/samhsas-efforts>.

Veterans in crisis or having thoughts of suicide — and those who know a Veteran in crisis — can call the Veterans Crisis Line for confidential support 24 hours a day, seven days a week, and 365 days a year. Call 800-273-8255 and press 1, chat online at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat, or text to 838255.

Reporters covering Veteran mental health can visit ReportingOnSuicide.org for important guidance on how to communicate about suicide.

***Thought for the Day:***

Good judgment comes from experience, and a lot of that comes from bad judgment. ----- *Unknown*

**Post 318 Chili Bowl**

Tuesday, February 19, 2019

5:30 set up

6:00 serve

Come join our first ever chili bowl with celebrity guest judge: Chief Rick Martin from Anderson Township Fire Department

RSVP your participation in the contest to Randy by Feb 15 at 513-374-2099 or [weasellee@yahoo.com](mailto:weasellee@yahoo.com)

*Participants must bring at least 1 gallon of chili, serving utensils plus your fixings.*

Legion will supply bowls, spoons, crackers.

Gift cards awarded to the top 3 places

*2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Chairman  
Randy Lindsey*

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

## February Dance Schedule

February should be a fun time at the “old dance hall”. We only have two (2) events scheduled, but both dances have a theme. On February 2, The Cincy Rockers will host our “*Super Bowl Warm-up*” party. This highly talented and versatile group is one of Cincinnati’s premier bands playing the music you want to hear. So, whether you like to dance, or simply sit back and listen to their music, you will be entertained.



But wait, there’s more! To get into the spirit of Super Bowl LIII, we will conduct some special activities. There will be a trivia contest and a football toss. We will also do something a little different with our snack table, to give it a “tailgate flavor”. As always, you’re welcome to bring in your own appetizers to make it a great “tailgate” experience. Suggested attire for the evening is to dress in the colors of the team you’ll be cheering for on Super Bowl Sunday, or your favorite NFL team. So, come out and join in on the party! You’ll get an evening of dancing and entertainment, all for the price of a single admission.

We will conduct our “Valentines Day Dance”, February 16<sup>th</sup>. This is one of our more popular dances and it will be hosted this year by *The Wild Rice Musical Review*.

**Patriot Center Presents:  
Valentine’s Day Dance  
Saturday, February 16, 2019  
Featuring: Wild Rice Musical Revue**



*Wild Rice* is another great band. It’s made up of Cincinnati musical legends and has become an audience favorite. For this dance, we decorate the hall, set up our “kissing booth” and a small box of candy is provided to each customer.

Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$10 by going to the Post web site [www.post138.org](http://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.

## Hillcrest Cemetery Update

Hillcrest Cemetery is the final resting place for about 1400 veterans. Most of them are indigent African Americans, with no family connections. However, as veterans, they deserve our respect.

The cemetery was abandoned many years ago, and has no perpetual funds allowing it to fall into disrepair. The “Coalition to Save Hillcrest” was formed and assumed responsibility for the cemetery. Over the last 10 years, using volunteers, several projects have been undertaken to restore it, but there is so much work to be done!

Currently, there are two (2) projects in progress intended to care for the interred veterans. The first project is to straitening about 450 headstones, and was funded by a grant from the American Legion, Department of Ohio. The second is to clean the headstones and is being funded through donations. There are other projects waiting for funds, and volunteers, to get the work done.

To gain funding that will allow Hillcrest project work to continue, the Coalition has created a “Go Fund Me” account. If you would like to contribute to this cause go to <https://www.gofundme.com/citizens-for-russ-jackson>.

The Hillcrest board has also decided to schedule additional work days this spring and fall, to speed up the completion of our current projects. If you would like to participate in any of these work parties, please let me know and I’ll put you on our volunteer list and contact you once these dates are established.

Also, you can follow the activities going on at Hillcrest. Simply go to Facebook and like *Friends of Hillcrest Cemetery*.

**Don Bishop**  
*Hillcrest Board Member*

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

**VA**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs

### ***VA partners with DHS to expand Veteran suicide prevention efforts***

**VA News Release**—The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) recently announced its partnership with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to bolster Veteran suicide prevention initiatives.

VA and DHS, the third-largest federal employer of Veterans in the U.S., with Veterans representing approximately 28 percent of its workforce, share the goals of improving Veterans’ health and well-being and increasing Veterans’ access to mental health services and support where needed.

The two agencies will work together to spread awareness of mental health and VA suicide prevention resources among DHS Veteran employees and to explore innovative ways to enroll DHS-employed Veterans in VA care. These opportunities include highlighting VA programs and resources in DHS newsletters or emails, or leveraging the nationwide network of VA Suicide Prevention Coordinators to encourage outreach to local and regional DHS offices.

“Under President Trump’s leadership, we are extremely proud to be working with DHS to prevent Veteran suicide,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “Our two agencies are committed to ensuring that Veterans receive the care they need, and this landmark partnership will allow us to leverage the strengths of both organizations to reach more Veterans and save more lives.”

The partnership, which was launched in November, will allow VA to reach more Veterans outside VA care — before they reach a crisis point — and form a vital part of VA’s National Strategy for Preventing Veteran Suicide.

This is not the first time VA and DHS have joined forces to prevent Veteran suicide. The two agencies have been working together with the U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) through President Trump’s Executive Order to improve mental health resources for Veterans transitioning from active duty to civilian life. Research has shown that service members transitioning to Veteran status are at increased risk for suicide. To combat this risk, DoD, VA and DHS are working to ensure that new Veterans receive access to VA mental health care and other services from the moment they transition from the military.

Veterans who are in crisis or having thoughts of suicide, and those who know a Veteran in crisis, can call the Veteran and Military Crisis Line for confidential support 24 hours a day at 800-273-8255, and press 1; send a text message to 838255; or chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat).

Reporters covering Veteran mental health issues are strongly encouraged to visit [www.ReportingOnSuicide.org](http://www.ReportingOnSuicide.org) for important guidance on how to communicate about suicide.

### ***Membership Update***

We are still significantly below where we’ve been at this point in time as compared to the past 4 years. We zero renewals for the month of January; but did add one new member, Frank Miller. Here are our current stats:

#### **2019 Membership Scoreboard**

<b><i>Paid as of 1/31/19</i></b>	<b>139</b>
<b><i>2019 Goal</i></b>	<b>165</b>
<b><i>% Goal</i></b>	<b>84.2</b>
<b><i>2019 Quota</i></b>	<b>159</b>
<b><i>% Quota</i></b>	<b>87.4</b>
<b><i>Still Needed</i></b>	<b>20</b>
<b><i>Projected Shortfall</i></b>	<b>10</b>

We still have the 16 of our existing members that haven’t renewed to date. If you are one of these, please do so soon. 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***  
***1<sup>st</sup> Vice Commander***

### ***Virtual Meetings***

Last month we had no one able to join; therefore, we didn’t set up to broadcast our Members Meeting. We are still in beta testing and currently could use some additional members to assist with this testing. 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 help get you set up. The process is very simple and painless, I promise.

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

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

### ***Chaplain's Report***

By the time this note is published things might change, but I hope not. So far this month we lost a day of Bingo, and weather affected one of our dances, but we are still functioning. The oratorical contest was held with only one Contestant, and he did a good job and now moves on to the County Competition on February 3<sup>rd</sup>.

No one has called in sick or having major problems, but we do have quite a number of members with colds and sinus infections.

Don McLaughlin came out to assist us at the Oratorical contest, and it was nice to see him get out of the New England Club after all of his physical therapy. Keith Musselman, who is staying at the Anderson, has a new speaking device and he seems to be improving. He enjoys visitors.

Beginning in March the Fish Fry suppers will begin. In the past few years we have had a lot of help and will hope to get good help this year. Be looking for sign up sheets, and put in request for your preferred positions. Hopefully, we can get a couple of members to take charge for one of the nights. Fish Fry Dinners can be fun. There is a lot of interaction between members and patrons. If you are not in the kitchen, most jobs are fairly easy. Not that the kitchen is that hard, but it does take a little training to fry or bake, all of the different items. If you do not plan on working, plan on eating a good meal. Invite your friends, and church members. A few of our older members always put it on their calendars.

We need to thank the Marketing Committee, who meet on Tuesday nights, for coming up with ways to keep us afloat. It was nice to see some new people coming out to help with different areas like Joe Dubois, Ed Ruffennach, Paul Henkel, and Bob Williams. Still need more.

Boys and Girls State is coming up soon, and we will have to pay to send our students. If you have donated to this program in the past, I hope you will consider doing it again. It cost us \$300 to send each child, and we budget to send 3 boys and 3 girls. It is nice to have additional funds so we can send more students to this great Legion program.

Be safe out there.

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

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

#### **Display flag Days:**

- Presidents Day: 2/18/19

#### **Post Jacket:**

- I have 1 lite weight Post Jacket (X-Large) for sale, for \$47.50. If interested, please contact me!

#### **Other Special Days:**

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

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

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### ***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](mailto:ccleves1@fuse.net).

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### ***Next Meeting***

Our next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM, Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. 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.

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

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