



American Legion Post 318 Newsletter



“For God and Country”

March 2019

Commander’s Notes:

It’s time that we all get serious about helping our membership chairman, Bob Kaman, reach quota. We are in jeopardy of breaking our string of making membership quota, which stands at 11 consecutive years. There is no other Post in the County, or District, with a better record and we should all be very proud of this accomplishment. We’re very close to extending our record to 12 years, but we’re also running out of time. We need to recruit 11 more members before the end of May. Please reach out to your eligible friends and family members, and help us reach quota.

March 8th will mark the start of our fish fries. We will conduct our fish fries for 7 consecutive weeks. They generate a fair amount of revenue, but we need approximately 20 volunteers each week to staff these events. If you’re interested in helping, contact Jerry Porter at gerryporter7952@gmail.com. You can also support us by attending these events. The food is good and the pricing is reasonable.

March also begins the annual process of Post elections. The process contains the following steps; 1) we name a nominating committee at our March General Membership meeting, 2) the committee formulates a slate of officers and presents them at our April meeting, 3) at our May meeting we elect our 2019-2020 officers, and 4) at our June meeting our new officers are installed. If you would be interested in being a member of the nominating committee, or if you are interested in serving as an officer for our next program year, please make yourself known. As we go through this process, remember that neither Dan, nor I are planning to continue in our current positions, so we will need to nominate and elect a Commander and an Adjutant to maintain our American Legion charter.

Don Bishop

At The Flag Pole

Display the Flag days:

- March 29th National Vietnam War Veterans Day

Ralph Caskey
SAA

Chili Bowl I

The Post conducted its First Chili Bowl for February’s Post Activity. About 24 people came out to sample 6 different batches of chili. What we learned is that chili recipes vary greatly, based on individual tastes. The options presented ranged from mild to spicy hot. Toppings also varied to complement each chili offered. The end result was that everyone was fed well, a good time was had by all, and everyone is looking forward to next month’s activity.

A big thank you goes out to our 2nd Vice, Randy Lindsey, for his hard work and a great event.



Let the Fish Fries Begin

March 8th begins our fish fry season. We will conduct a fish fry every Friday from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM through Good Friday, April 19th.

Our 2019 menu will remain the same as last year. We’re offering 4 meals; fried fish, baked fish, shrimp and chicken nuggets, a fish sandwich, your favorite sides, and a selection of desserts. The only change that we are planning is to increase the size of our baked fish from 6 oz. to 8 oz.

Dinner pricing remains the same, fried fish (\$7.50), baked fish (\$ 8.00) shrimp (\$8.50), and chicken nuggets (\$5.00). However, there is a price increase for a 2nd piece of fish (\$3.00 each) and mac and cheese as an additional side (\$2.00).

We encourage your support and participation. A complete menu can be found on our web site, www.post318.org. “Click-on” *Special Events* and *Fish Fry!*

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	\$ 399	
Donations	\$ 2,000	
Network for Good	\$ 125	
Rent		\$ 300
Volunteer Raffle		\$ 100
Insurance		\$ 376
Holiday Wreath Donation		\$ 25
New Members		\$ 40
Total	\$ 2,524	\$ 841

Fund Raising Update

The Post needs to raise about \$6,000 each month to continue operations. For February, we fell short of this bench mark by \$ 1,800. This will require us to use surplus funds to meet our March obligations. Hopefully, we will get back on track this month.

The following provides a summary of where our revenues came from in February.

Event	Contribution
Bingo	\$ 2,158
Euchre	\$ 229
Dances	\$ 807
Rentals	\$ 1,010
Total	\$ 4,204

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 were 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. Tickets have to be activated before the 1st game. To insure activation, please return your ticket stubs by March 15th. If you have any questions, please contact Dennis Sakal at 335-3148, or email him at: dennis.sakal@gmail.com.

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM, Wednesday, March 13th. 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.

March Dance Schedule

Our average dance attendance continues to rise. Currently, we host an average of 111 guests per event. However, attendance at 3 of our last 4 was over 125. Looking ahead to March this trend should continue.



For March we have 2 events scheduled. *Six Pac* will kick-off the month and the *Cincy Rockers* will host our St Patrick's Day dance.



Mix a little country with some good old rock & roll and what you get is *Six Pack!* This top notch Cincinnati band returns to the *Patriot Center*, March 2nd, for your listening enjoyment. Put on your boots, grab your hat, and come out and enjoy the evening!



Join the *Cincy Rockers* as we celebrate St. Patrick's Day, March 16th. You're going to see a great band, playing the music you want to hear, and also create a few memories.

We are bringing back the **"Wearing of the Green Contest"**. Get into the spirit of the evening by coming in your best St. Patrick's Day apparel. \$50 will go to the person, or couple, selected by the audience as the best Irishman in disguise. The 2nd and 3rd place runners up will receive tickets to a future dance. If that's not enough you may also find a **"Blarney Stone"** you can lock your lips around.

Tickets for either event can be purchased in advance for \$10 at ShowClix. Simply go to our web site and select the *Special Events* tab then "click on" dances and follow that link to the March 16th dance, or by calling the ShowClix 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.

A "Swing Band" is in our Future

Another genre is being added to our dance line-up. On April 27th, *The Monday Night Big Band*, will make their Patriot Center debut. This 18 piece band specializes in contemporary style "swing music". Their library includes the Dorsey Brothers, Rosemary Clooney and others. It should be a real treat!



Thought for the Day:

Eventually you will reach a point when you stop lying about your age and start bragging about it. --- *Unknown*

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.

Chaplain's Report

The Post continues to operate as usual with the same people doing most of the work. Many of our members live out of town, or at the age, that manual labor is not on their bucket list. Others are still working and getting away in the day time is not easy. As the members who have been to the Post know, we have one of the cleanest, well run Post in Southern Ohio. This happens because we have officers who care and want the Post to succeed. A crisis is about to occur unless someone steps up and fills the offices of Commander and Adjutant. Our Commander, Don Bishop and Adjutant, Dan Wolfangel, are stepping down after both serving over ten years. If we do not have either of these offices filled, according our Charter, we can no longer operate as a Post and will have to close our doors. We hope and pray that between now and May we can find some members who care enough to keep us open by stepping up and taking one of these offices.

We lost another member, Glen Kendall, this past month, and we had a good send off with our church service held at Mt. Moriah United Methodist Church. He was 89. Walt Geil is getting over foot surgery, and should be back amongst us in a month or so. Leo Turner had some complications from surgery and is unable to drive. He is getting "in home" services, and would like visitors. Keith Musselman is still at the "Anderson", and is doing better. If in the neighborhood, look him up. Ralph Caskey mother passed after many great years out in Batavia. Our prayers go out to that family.

We still have 11 World War II members in our Post. We would love to see some of them get out and visit with us at the Post. Bill King, Ken Wright, and Leo Turner have been to our Post. If you have the time, call one and see if they might need a ride to the Post.

Fish Fry's start at the Post on March 8th, between 5 and 7 pm, for the following Six Friday nights. Hope you can come and bring some friends and church members.

If anyone knows of some veterans in their neighborhood who need a group to join, invite them to join our Legion.

May a God continue to Bless you and your families.

Jerry Porter
Chaplain

Membership Update

We are making slow but steady progress towards our membership quota (159); but, are still down eleven (11) with our membership standing at 148. For February we added six (7) to our roster:

- Three (3) renewals – Glen Bussey, Mike Hartzler, & Josh Richardson
- Two (2) new members – Kevin Ackerman & Joshua Zortman
- One (1) 0888 transfer – Dan Ticotsky
- One (1) 0484 transfer – Eric Franz

Here are our current stats:

2019 Membership Scoreboard

<i>Paid as of 2/28/19</i>	<i>148</i>
<i>2019 Goal</i>	<i>165</i>
<i>% Goal</i>	<i>89.7</i>
<i>2019 Quota</i>	<i>159</i>
<i>% Quota</i>	<i>93.1</i>
<i>Still Needed</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Projected Shortfall</i>	<i>8</i>

We still have the 11 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.

I would like to personally welcome our 4 new members: Kevin Ackerman, Eric Franz, Dan Ticotsky and Joshua Zortman to Post 318. Kevin is a Persian Gulf vet and currently resides in Newtown. Eric is currently working for the Cincinnati Police department, a Lebanon/Grenada vet and an Anderson Township resident. Dan is a Vietnam vet, currently assisting with the AARP tax preparation group working at our Post and resides in the Hyde Park area. Joshua Zortman is a Persian Gulf vet residing in Amelia. When you see these individuals around please give them a big welcome.

Robert Kamman
1st Vice Commander

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

Visit us at: www.post318.org