



American Legion Post 318 Newsletter



“For God and Country”

June 2019

Commander’s Notes:

As I put my last newsletter together, I want to thank Joe Dubois for taking on the challenge of becoming our next Commander. I wish him the best in his new role. Please reach out to Joe, and provide him the support necessary to keep Post 318 strong and growing.

It’s been my privilege to serve as your Commander. Over the years we’ve had some challenges, but I feel that we’re in a better situation now than when I began my 1st term in 2008. What I’m most proud of are; 1) the facility we call our Post, 2) our financial stability, 3) our record of attaining quota, and 4) the visibility of our Post within the Anderson Township community. Claudie always used to tell people that Post 318 is “*the best little Post in Ohio*”. I don’t believe that we fall under the classification of little anymore, but I think he would be pleased that the Post is viable and still contributing to the Anderson Township Community.

Thanks to all of you for your support!

Don Bishop

Thank You Dan

With our elections behind us, I want to take this opportunity to thank Dan Wolfangel for his 15 years of service as our Adjutant. Dan’s duties have touched all of us over the years, but he’s been so efficient at what he does, that many of us simply take what he does for granted. Whether it be meeting notes, the annual CPR, or some other deliverable, his work is always prepared in a timely and professional manner. As Commander, I have sought his council over the years, and he has always found time to help me. Please reach out to Dan and thank him for all his contributions!



Post 318 Election Results

It’s official; we have a full complement of Officers to lead Post 318 for program year 2020. Those Officers who were elected by acclamation are:

1 st Vice Commander	Robert Kamman
2 nd Vice Commander	Randy Lindsay
Adjutant	Ed Ruffennach
Finance Officer	Ron Yersky
Chaplain	Jerry Porter
Sergeant-at-Arms	Ralph Caskey

Unfortunately, prior to our Post elections a candidate for Commander had not been identified. Yet, to maintain our charter a Commander and Adjutant are required. An Adjutant was elected, a Commander wasn’t. To satisfy the Commander requirement, Joe Dubois made it known that he would be willing to become Commander. Using the powers granted him by the Post By-Laws, ARTICLE VIII, Section 1 (see below), Commander Bishop appointed Joe to the position of Post Commander. He will be installed June 12th with the elected Post Officers.

ARTICLE VIII

Appointed Committees and Positions

Section 1: The Post Commander shall have, and shall exercise, the power to seek out and appoint willing persons to fill vacant Post Officer positions that are enumerated by the Post Constitution, By-Laws, and current year Business Plan that have become vacant by resignation or have failed to be filled by election. Commander shall also appoint all standing committees and any other committee to serve a period of time during the Post Commander’s term of office, to carry on Post activities. Failure to appoint an individual to a vacant officer or chair position, will eliminate the representation and voting rights of that officer’s or respective committee’s position within the Executive Committee.

Round About Travelers, LLC



Upcoming Trips:

- Sept 16-21 - Branson (6 shows/2 Shopping Trips)
Overnight St. Louis - \$609 dbl. occup. per person
- Oct. 22-24 - Soaring Eagle Casino & Resort
Mt. Pleasant, MI/shop & dine in Frankenmuth
Receive \$100 in slot play/ food
\$309 dbl. occup. per person

Call Ginny @ 513-608-9120 or
email gkaldmo@gmail.com.

Mention Post 318

Visit us at: www.post318.org



LEGION Act

We need your help contacting members of Congress

Reprint from American Legion Legislative Action Center

The American Legion must continue to serve as a powerful voice for veterans in our nation’s capital. The power of our voice is only as strong as our membership allows us to be. The American Legion’s Legionnaires, Auxiliary members, and Sons of The American Legion are the heart and soul of our organization.

Today, we need your help in contacting your members of the Senate and House of Representatives. Please reach out to your assigned Senator and Representative and ask them to Co-Sponsor S. 504 and H.R. 1641, respectively. Your member needs to encourage congressional leadership to bring the LEGION ACT (S. 504) and the Let Everyone Get Involved in Opportunities for National Service Act (H.R. 1641) to the floor for a vote, and to promise to vote for this legislation, to ensure all veterans are able to be recognized for their contributions and sacrifice in service to this country.

Because The American Legion’s membership periods are congressionally chartered, the organization is prevented from expanding membership eligibility without an act of Congress. These acts expand membership eligibility to honorably discharged veterans that have served on federal orders in unrecognized times of war since World War II.

Since the end of World War II, the Federal Government has designated specific periods of war, the dates of which are important for qualification for certain benefits or membership in veterans organizations established by Congress. In between those recognized periods of war, during so-called peacetime eras, the US military has been involved in not fewer than 12 known eras, which are unrecognized by the US Government as periods of war, resulting in numerous US combat casualties. In the spirit of our 100th celebration, we need Congress to take immediate action so we may welcome and recognize through membership all of our fellow veteran brothers and sisters. A select number of members of Congress have come together in bipartisan fashion to introduce S. 504 and H.R. 1641.

Contact your Senator and Representative today to tell them to support S. 504 and H.R. 1641 today! Follow the links below to reach our Representatives:

Senator Rob Portman:

<https://www.portman.senate.gov/meet/contact>

Senator Sherrod Brown:

<https://www.brown.senate.gov/contact>

House Representative: Brad Wenstrup:
<https://wenstrup.house.gov/contact/>

“These veterans are unable to receive some of the benefits and recognition available to their counterparts who served during official wartime periods. Because The American Legion is congressionally chartered, we are unable to welcome many of these veterans as members of the nation’s largest veterans organization. It is fitting that during the 100th anniversary of the founding of The American Legion, Senators Kyrsten Sinema (AZ) and Thom Tillis (NC) are introducing the LEGION Act, bipartisan legislation that will recognize all veterans who served honorably since the start of World War II, while also fostering growth within the veteran community . We hope that the American people will encourage all members of Congress to support the LEGION Act. It is an appropriate ‘thank you’ to those who served.” - Brett P. Reistad, National Commander.

Post 318 Preparing for the Legion Act.

If the Legion Act becomes law, our hope is that there may be many local veterans interested in joining our ranks. We also believe that other Posts are thinking the same thing. If it’s true “that the early bird catches the worm”, we want to be in the position to move quickly and approach as many newly eligible veterans as possible. To accomplish this task we are going to create a multifaceted plan, and have everything ready, so that once the legislation is enacted we can immediately move to implementation. This is where you come in! We have all had conversations with veterans that are not currently eligible to join the Legion. First, what we would like you to do is send an email to our Membership Chairman, Bob Kamman, with the name and contact information you may have for every potential member you may know. Second, if you’re not certain that you know any ask around, See if there is any interest! Lastly, if you have any thoughts, or ideas, that we could include in our plan, please share them with Bob. Think about it this way; out there somewhere there maybe a “Bingo Chairman”, or “Fund Raising Chairman”, that hasn’t even realized that this is what he might like to do! Let’s not keep all the good jobs for ourselves, let’s let them share in the fun!

Thought for the Day:

If it weren't for STRESS I'd have no energy at all.

.....Unknown

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.

Poppy Day Donations – The Post distributes “Poppies” to raise funds to support our veteran programs. This year we distributed “Poppies” at the Kroger locations; Anderson Town Center and Cherry Grove, and conducted a special *Memorial Day Challenge* at five (5) Forest Hill School District Elementary Schools. The net proceeds raised from these events was \$ 4,646.



The *Memorial Day Challenge* was new this year and had 3 primary goals; 1) to educate the youth in our community

about the significance of “*Memorial Day*” and the symbolism of the “*Memorial Poppy*”, 2) to provide an opportunity for the students to meet with local veterans, and 3) to raise funds for veterans in need. The challenge was well received, within the schools, and considered a great success!

The following provides a summary of the income received and programs recently funded by *Charities, Inc.*:

	Income	Expenses
Bingo	\$ 1,075	
Poppy Donations	\$ 4,646	
Donations	\$ 100	
Vegas Night	\$ 87	\$ 50
4th Dist. Comdrs. Pin		\$ 25
Membership		\$ 40
Memorial Wreaths		\$ 25
Joseph House		\$ 100
HCC C&P Dinner		\$ 80
Total	\$ 5,908	\$ 320

Fund Raising Update

The Post needs to raise about \$6,000 each month to continue operations. For May, we met our cash flow needs, but it was close. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this success.

Event	Contribution
Bingo	\$ 3,272
Euchre	\$ 340
Dances	\$ 1,200
Rentals	\$ 1,200
Total	\$ 6,012

Going forward you can support us by attending, or working, any or all of our funding projects.

Post 318

Every Sunday
Doors Open 4:30 PM
Games Begin 6:00 PM

Red, White & Blue Cover All
Bonus Ball - Favorite Pull Tabs
Concessions
Ample Free Off Street Parking

Patriot Center of Cincinnati
6660 Clough Pike
Anderson Township, Ohio 45244

Bingo Manager Ed Sears
513-474-0246.

June Dance Schedule

June wraps up our spring dance schedule, but we have some great events coming up!

The Cincy Rockers will host **"Prom Night"**, June 1st. This event will feature a **"Red Carpet Walk"**, and \$50 will go to the couple selected by the audience, as **"Prom King & Queen"**. You will also be able to get **Event Photos** taken. So, put on your best duds and come join us for a fun evening

Prom Night
Saturday, June 1
Cincy Rockers



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

Join **The Wild Rice Musical Revue**, Saturday June 15th, as they wrap up our Spring season by hosting **Loyalty Night**.

The Patriot Center will recognize its customers with our Loyalty Raffle. We will exchange frequent dancer cards with 1 raffle ticket for each punch recorded. We will then raffle off four (4) \$25 cash prizes as a thank you for supporting us.

So, whether you want to get up and dance, or sit back and enjoy the music, come join us and be entertained.

Loyalty Night
June 15th
Featuring: Wild Rice



CUSTOMER
0 5 10
LOYALTY

For Tickets: Go to www.showcix.com Or Call 1-888-718-4253, Option 1 and Ask about Patriot Center of Cincinnati Events.

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

Fall Dance Schedule

Our fall dance schedule has been finalized (see below). Our schedule has nine (9) dates, and a line-up of 5 bands.

Patriot Center Fall Schedule

September 7:	Cincy Rockers
September 28:	Monday Night Big Band
October 12:	The Remains
October 26:	Cincy Rockers (Halloween)
November 9:	Six Pac
November 23:	The Remains
December 7:	Monday Night Big Band
December 21:	Wild Rice Musical Revue
December 31:	Cincy Rockers (New Years Eve)

Honoring Veterans

Ed "Toot's" Ruffennach, a Veteran of the US Army, joined our Post last fall. We all know by now, that he has become Post 318's official Bugler, and plays at many, if not all, of our Color and Honor Guard details, where military honors are rendered. Here are some facts that we did not know about Ed.



Ed has been a member of "Taps for Veterans" for approximately four years now. In that time, Ed has played taps for Veteran related events a total of 49 times. He has participated in these details throughout the States of Ohio, Indiana, and Pennsylvania. Ed participated in these details, on his own time, and own expense. To date, Ed has travelled to and from these details a total of 3,470 miles.

Thanks Toot's, glad to have you with Post 318.

Gary Gregorio
Asst. SAA

Nagel Citizenship Awards Presented

Once again Post 318 in collaboration with Nagel Middle school handed out "Citizenship Awards" to twenty (20) students.

The Citizenship Award is given to students for caring and responsible behavior at school and in the community. The recipients must demonstrate excellence in character, patriotism, responsibility and service. As an individual, each student has to show a high degree of interest and enthusiasm for our national history, and a genuine respect for the Constitution of the United States. These students also worked towards the common good, both at school and in the community, by their words and daily example. The Citizenship Award is presented to those who best exemplify what it means to be an American Citizen. For 2019 these awards were presented to:

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| • Quinn Bailey | • Kaden Bardone |
| • Zoe Becker | • Logan Bien |
| • Amanda Branhan | • Zoe Burgess |
| • Mattie Davis | • Talley Diaz |
| • Jake Goldstein | • Bradley Kanir |
| • Sara Knake | • Rio Platt |
| • Adrienne Quiroz | • David Rammel |
| • Kendall Renner | • Nick Rizzo |
| • Audrey Sacks | • Kat Thorp |
| • Naol Worku | • Cameron Zimmerman |

Memorial Day



Another successful Memorial Day in the books. This year's event started at 0715 with breakfast at the Post. Tammy provided a great spread enjoyed by everyone.

At 0800, 14 members of our Post mustered at the Anderson Center for our annual cemetery visits. Turnout was a little light, but by doubling up on duties we got the job done.

The morning ended at The Anderson Center where the Post participated in the annual community "Bell Ceremony" with Josh Gerth, Colonel (retired) Dr. Grant Jacoby, Pastor Jonathan Kollmann, Jeanne Blessing and Mark O'Keeffe, Donna Prues, and students from Anderson High School.

It was a great morning and we want to thank everyone who participated in honoring our departed comrades.

At The Flag Pole

Display your flag days:

- June 14 , Flag Day
- June 16, Father's Day

Ralph Caskey
SAA

Underutilized VA Benefits

Reprint from: U.S. Veteran Compensation Programs

According to Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits officials, the following benefits are among the most underutilized benefits available to veterans:

Aid & Attendance: Veterans and their survivors can qualify for a monthly pension if they need help with daily activities, are bedridden, live in a nursing home, or even have limited eyesight.

Caregiver Support: Family caregivers can take advantage of a variety of services, such as a help support line, peer mentoring, online workshops and a comprehensive financial assistance program.

Transfer GI Benefits To Spouse or Children: The GI Bill helps pay for education benefits, and a veteran who doesn't use all of his or her GI allowances can transfer the remaining benefits to a spouse or child.

Community Benefits : Many counties have their own veteran service officer who can assist veterans with receiving their pensions, medical care, military records, grave markers and home loans.

Veteran Service Organizations: Veteran service organizations can also assist with matters such as filing a claim with the VA or financial matters such as tax issues.

Home Loans: Veterans, active duty service members and survivors can receive VA direct and VA-backed home loans to help build, buy, improve or refinance a home. Although there are credit and income requirements, terms may be better than those offered on the open market. Nearly 90 percent of VA-backed loans are made with no down payment.

Even if your home loan is not VA direct or VA-backed, you can also receive counseling if you are having trouble making mortgage payments. But if your loan is through the VA, the agency will provide a counselor to help you work directly with the company that handles billing

Life Insurance: Veterans, active duty service members and their families can enroll in VA-administered life insurance to receive benefits they have earned.

Chaplain's Report

Some of you must have read and followed my suggestion to pray for a good outcome for the nominating committee. Out of the blue came the mighty voice of Joe DuBois saying he was up for the challenge of being our new Commander. That allows us to move forward and continue to give services to our community. Now let us hope he can get some cooperation from our members to fill the positions needed for our Legion to continue to be successful.

Heard that a Bill King, one of our WWII members had fallen down some stairs but seems to be okay. Dan Wolfangel had surgery on his hands but is still helping out where he can, like he has done faithfully for over 20 years.

Don Bishop has stepped down from his role as Commander, but is not quitting his membership in the Legion. He still will run the dances and do what is needed that his health will allow him to do. Don has been a great Commander who has almost made his second home at the Post. Let him know how much you appreciate all he has done for this Legion.

Hopefully the weather will hold so that our visits to the cemeteries on Memorial Day can be successful. When you read this it will be finished and I hope we have enough men come forth to fill the roles.

I am still working to interview our Korean Veterans. I have done a few but eleven more to go.

May God continue with good health for everyone and guidance for our Post.

Jerry Porter
Chaplain

Membership Update

I send a heartfelt congratulations to all members of Post 318. With your renewal and your help with solicitations for new and transferred members, we are a quota Post again this year. Thanks to your support, Post 318 has become an active, veteran and community centered organization. We wouldn't be here without all of you. Thank you!

Here are our current stats:

2019 Membership Scoreboard

<i>Paid as of 5/25/19</i>	<i>160</i>
<i>2019 Goal</i>	<i>165</i>
<i>% Goal</i>	<i>97.0</i>
<i>2019 Quota</i>	<i>159</i>
<i>% Quota</i>	<i>100.6</i>
<i>Potential</i>	<i>169</i>

Robert Kamman
1st Vice Commander

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, June 12th. As usual we will go through our committee reports, updating our projects and programs. We will also install our newly elected officers, for program year 2019-2020.

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 Cookout

Post Activities will conduct a cookout, Wednesday June 19th, beginning at 6:00pm. This event is free and open to members, family and guests. The honors bar will be available for beverages. Please R.S.V.P. to Randy Lindsey (weasellee@yahoo.com) by Saturday, June 15th.

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