



American Legion Post 318 Newsletter



“For God and Country”

December 2019

Commander’s Notes:

Thanksgiving is over, and we are nearing the end of 2019 and the beginning of 2020! This is a busy and stressful time of year, and I hope you are prepared for it! If you feel overwhelmed with your life at any time, please remember that one of our main goals is to help fellow veterans when they need it! Give a “Buddy” a call and get some help with your problems! Please call me at (513) 582-8477, or Chaplain Jerry Porter at (513) 528-1557, or our Veterans Services Officer, Charlie Cleves, at (513) 470-6588. You are not alone! We care! Give us a call and we can talk about your situation.

Joe DuBois

Bingo Results for 2018-2019

Our major fundraiser for Post 318 is Sunday Night Bingo. The past bingo year was from November 1st, 2018 through October 31st, 2019. Bingo earnings for the year were: \$28,250 for the Post, \$9,181 for Charities, Inc., and concessions made \$5,244, for a total of \$42,675!

We owe a great deal of thanks to the members, their wives, and to friends of the Post who show up week after week to keep us in the Bingo business! And also a big “Thank You!” to our Bingo Chairman, Ed Sears, for his continuing service to keep our Bingo games going, Sunday after Sunday!

American Legion Post 318

At the Flag Pole

December 7th, National Pearl Harbor Day
December 31st, Official end of WWII (1946)

Color Guard: ATC tree lighting ceremony Dec. 7, 4 pm,
Joseph House donations: Please bring socks / under garments / toiletries to Post 318 Christmas party.

**Ralph Caskey,
Sgt.-At-Arms**

Post 318 Officer List

Commander: Joe DuBois (513) 582-8477
1st Vice: Bob Kamman (513) 474-5237
2nd Vice: Randy Lindsey (513) 374-2099
Adjutant: Ed Ruffennach (330) 962-9652
Finance Off.: Ron Yersky (513) 232-2591
Chaplain: Jerry Porter (513) 528-1557
Sgt.-at-Arms: Ralph Caskey (513) 470-6588

Post 318 Committee Chairmen

Americanism: Paul Henkel (513) 413-4293
Bingo: Ed Sears (513) 474-0246
Events Coordination: Ken Knight (513) 675-5234
Communications: Ed Ruffennach (330) 962-9652
Community Support: (vacant)
Finance: Ron Yersky (513) 232-2591
Fundraising: (vacant)
House (Building): Bob Alfieri (513) 232-0309
Membership: Bob Kamman (513) 474-5237
Post Activities: Randy Lindsey (513) 374-2099
Service, Vet. Affairs: Charlie Cleves (513) 232-7767
Uniformed Ceremony: Ralph Caskey (513) 470-6588
Charities, Inc. Liaison: Don Bishop (513) 290-8307
VA Volunteer Service: Jerry Porter (513) 528-1557

Next Meeting

Our next general meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM, Wednesday, December 11th, 2019. The success of Post 318 depends on your support, so come and find out what’s going on! As always, there will be split-the-pot and light snacks after the meeting. If you can bring a fellow veteran who needs a ride, please call our Chaplain, Jerry Porter, at (513) 528-1557.

Patriot Center Rental

Please let your friends and neighbors know that your Patriot Center is available for use for their functions! The hall can hold over 200 guests! Give Ken a call at (513) 675-5234!

**Ken Knight,
Events Coordination**

Fund Raising Update

Bingo – The Post conducts bingo every Sunday. Doors open at 4:30 PM, preliminary games begin at 6 PM. All your favorite “pull tabs” are available. You can support the Post by either coming out to play, or volunteering to work these events. Please contact Bingo Manager, Ed Sears (474-0246) with any questions. For the month of October, Bingo earned \$3,000 for the Post, and contributed \$1,015 to **Charities, Inc.** to meet our legal obligations. Gross income from concessions was \$460.

Euchre – Euchre tournaments are conducted every Thursday night in the Club Room. Buy-in is \$5, \$2.50 going to the Post and \$2.50 going to prize money. This is a fun evening and is open to both our membership and the public. Doors open at 6:45 PM, games begin at 7 PM. Contact Joe Baker (289-9044) with any questions. For the month of November, Euchre contributed \$ 191 to the Post.

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 on-line and sign up for **Kroger Rewards**, selecting **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.

Football Mania Results

Dennis Sakal reported that our Football Mania game has produced 2 \$100 winners, and 2 \$25 winners, so far. Our next program is for the Super Bowl. Dennis will be out of town during that time, so we need a volunteer to set it up and help distribute the tickets. If you are interested in helping with this fundraiser, please call or text me! (513) 582-8477 or e-mail: Commander@post318.org.

Joe DuBois

Charitable Giving

Over the course of each year, American Legion Post 318 Charities, Inc., contributes thousands of dollars to programs important to our membership.

Chaplain's Report

November has been a sad month for me. On November 25th, we lost another member who was a great friend and genuine good guy, Don McLaughlin. His funeral will be on December 7th, at St. Timothy's on Beechmont (See obituary on page 5)

Bill Hitchcock is still at Mt. Washington Care Center in room 106. Jack Storm is at Salem Woods Care Center. Leo Turner is in the VA system with an advanced form of dementia. Keith is still at the Anderson. If any of you visit these care centers, I hope you stop by and say hello to them.

As usual we are still having problems getting people to help out at least one event. There is also a need for new members for the Honor Guard. See Ralph Caskey if you are interested. Dances usually happen at least twice a month and they always need some help. Bingo is our big money maker and it happens on Sunday night. Bingo Chairman, Ed Sears, loves to have new people help with that.

December is a very busy month for the Legion. The Christmas party is on Dec. 6th. It is a free evening where you and your family can come and meet other members. Great door prizes too!

There is a fundraiser, “Breakfast with Santa”, on Dec. 7th, and it should be a fun time for everyone who attends. There are a couple of dances, and a big music concert. We also need help on December 16th, when we are going to the Veterans Hospital to play Bingo with resident vets. If you can help, we will meet at the Post at 5:30 PM and finish up by 8 PM. If you will help please call me at 235-6875 or email at Gerald1940@twc.com.

Have a great Christmas season, and may you and your family be blessed with good health and happiness.

Jerry Porter, Chaplain

A Cincy Christmas Jamboree



The Patriot Center, in collaboration with the *Cincy Rockers*, is bringing the legends of Cincinnati vocal entertainment together for a good old fashion Christmas variety show.

Ed Sullivan has nothing on us! Join the *Cincy Rockers*, and our “A-Team” of ***Bobby Harlow, Doug Morgan, Ann Chambers, Jeff Wilson, and Jeanne Blessing*** as they revive the memories of Christmas’s past through holiday songs and entertainment.

Event tickets are on sale at ShowClix. There are three (3) options; **Premium Seating** at \$19.50, **Select Seating** at \$17.00, and **General Admission Seating** at \$15.00. You can purchase tickets on-line by following this link: <https://www.showclix.com>, or by calling the ShowClix Box Office at 1-888-718-4253, Option 1 and ask about Patriot Center of Cincinnati Events. On-line ticket sales close at 12 noon on December 14th. Tickets can be purchased at the door, if available.

Seat selection will be required for tickets purchased in advance from ShowClix. Groups wishing to be seated together must purchase all tickets for the group at the same time. Seating for tickets purchased at the door will be determined based upon availability.

Don Bishop, Dance Chairman

Wave The Flag

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who participated in this year’s *Wave The Flag* fundraiser. Charities, Inc. recognized net income of \$1,601.08. All proceeds from this event will be used to support Post 318 Veteran and Community programs.

Don Bishop, Charities, Inc. Liaison

House (6660 Clough Pike)

We always need volunteers on Tuesday mornings at 9AM to help clean the Post, and to set up for coming events. This is an important function necessary for our survival as an active Post. Please consider donating an hour or so to the physical support of Post 318!

We always have coffee after setup is complete. Sometimes we also have donuts (or cookies) provided by Mike Stringer.

***Bob Alfieri,
House Chairman***

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM, Wednesday, December 11th.

Our success depends on your support, so feel free to bring a friend and come find out what’s going on! As always, there will be a light snack after the meeting.

Tom&Chee!

The general manager of the new Tom&Chee being built in Anderson Towne Center is asking for job applicants. If you know of anyone who needs a local job, have them give Jill Timpe a call at (513) 800-7841.

Membership Update

2020 Membership Scoreboard

2019- 2020 Quota	161
Paid as of 11/2019	147
% Quota	91.7
Still Needed (Quota)	14
Members Yet to Renew	20
Goal	165

Still Needed to make our Goal: 18

The Fabulous 4th District made their 80% by veterans day; therefore, since we were way ahead of 80%, we will also be receiving a Brown Jug award. We should be receiving a Brown Jug for the Post and a brown jug pin.

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

December Dances

December will present several entertainment options. We have three (3) dances and a concert scheduled.

Once upon a time, the “Big Bands” dominated the musical scene. If that brings back fond memories come out to the *Patriot Center* Saturday, December 7th and enjoy the 18 piece *Monday Night Big Band*. If you were not around for that era, this is your opportunity to listen to great swing music and discover what it’s all about.



On December 21st, *The Wild Rice Musical Revue* will host our last regular dance of the season. It will be our Christmas Dance, and we will also conduct our Loyalty Raffle for 4 cash door prizes.



Tickets for both events can be purchased in advance for \$10 by going to the Post web site www.post138.org, then click on the Special Events Tab, or you can call the ShowClix box office at 1-888-718-4253, Option 1, and ask about Patriot Center of Cincinnati Events. Advanced sales end at 12:00p on the day of the event. Tickets purchased at the door are \$12.50.

New Year’s Eve

The *Cincy Rockers* will host our New Year’s Eve celebration. This is one of Cincinnati’s premier bands playing music you want to hear. Whether you want to get up and dance or sit back and enjoy the music, you will be entertained. Doors open at 8pm, Music 9 to 1am.



The Patriot Center event will offer traditional party favors; hats, tiara’s and horns, with champagne at midnight to toast in the New Year.

Tickets for this event are \$25 and can be purchased online or by phone. You can reach the ShowClix Box Office by following this link: <https://www.showclix.com/event/cincyrockers123119>, or by calling 1-888-718-4253, Option 1 and ask about Patriot Center of Cincinnati Events. All fees and taxes included.

Breakfast with Santa



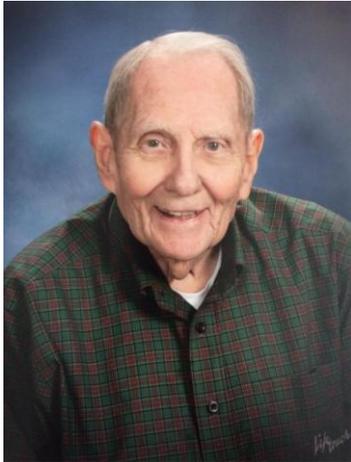
Gather your children, or grandchildren, and come join Santa for Breakfast at the *Patriot Center of Cincinnati*. Doors open at 8:00 AM and a pancake breakfast will be served until 10:30 AM. There will also be an opportunity to take your child’s picture with Santa and for your children to browse for small gifts in the Christmas Store.

Admission is for all is \$7.50 at the door. Admission includes breakfast, an opportunity to take pictures with Santa, and access to the Christmas Store. If you don’t have a camera available, Nick Ross Photography will be available. However, there is an additional charge for this professional service; \$5.00 or \$10.00 per photograph, depending on your choice of service.



SAINT TIMOTHY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Donald J. McLaughlin
November 26, 1929-November 25, 2019



St. Timothy's parishioner Don McLaughlin died on Monday, November 25, 2019. Please keep Don's family in your prayers.

A celebration of Don's life will be held on Saturday, December 7, at 11:00 am with visitation beginning at 10:00 am at Saint Timothy's Episcopal Church, 8101 Beechmont Avenue, Cincinnati, OH.

*"Rest eternal grant to him, O Lord;
And let light perpetual shine upon him.
May his soul, and all the souls of the departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace."*

Memorial gifts may be made to: The Wounded Warrior Project at woundedwarriorproject.org or Saint Timothy's Episcopal Church 8101 Beechmont Avenue Cincinnati, OH 45255

Please Specify: "In memory of Donald McLaughlin" and include your name & address.

2020 Poppy Day Program

Charities, Inc. has kicked-off its 2020 Forest Hills School District Poppy Day (FHSD) program. The goals for this program remain the same; 1) to provide the reason for **Memorial Day** and the symbolism of the "**Memorial Poppy**", 2) to provide an opportunity for FHSD students to interact with local veterans, and 3) to raise funds to support disabled veterans and veterans in need.

This year will be the 4th year we have taken the "Poppy Program" into these FHSD Elementary Schools. Like our previous years, our plan is to make changes that will allow us to build upon our previous successes. To this end, there are 2 areas we are hoping to improve this year.

First, we want to improve the recognition component of our Memorial Day Challenge. Last year a pizza party was provided to the class that turned in the largest average contribution per student. This year we hope to find 6 sponsors and provide a pizza party to the class in each school that turns in the largest average contributions per student. The cost per sponsor would be about \$ 80. If you would like to be a sponsor, please contact Don Bishop at (513) 474-4194.

Second, we want to improve the coordination between the schools and the Post. Therefore, our plan is to identify the 6 Veterans who will be assigned to each school and have them meet the school coordinator, prior to their arrival at the school to pass out poppies. If you would like to be 1 of the 6 Veterans, please contact Don Bishop at (513) 474-4194.

Don Bishop

4th District Winter Conference

January 12th, 2020. Doors open at 8 AM, Conference begins at 10 AM. The Halker-Flege American Legion Post 69 will host the Conference. Post 69 is located at 9000 Reading Road in Cincinnati.

If you are interested in going with me to represent Post 318 at the 4th District Conference in January, please call me at (513) 582-8477 or e-mail: joedubois@cinci.rr.com I will then call and tell them we are planning to attend.

Joe DuBois

U.S.M.C. 244th Birthday Party

Post 318 Marines at the cake cutting on November 10th!



USMC veterans Aaron Boyle from Abilene, Texas, and Gene Sawka cut the birthday cake with a military sabre.

American Legion Benefits Calculator!

By answering a few simple questions, we are able to help you determine your eligibility for hundreds of available benefits: <https://www.legion.org/benefitscalculator/>

After completing the questions, you will be delivered a customized report to provide to your Department Service Officer, Charles Cleves.

From www.caring.com

Hope your week is going well! If you are looking for resources for aging adults, I found the information on this website helpful! Because of that, I wanted to let you know about the work caring.com is currently doing to help seniors in our community.

Based on conversations with community leaders across the US, many aging adults are unaware of the available care options and programs that can help maintain independence and quality of life. They created a free resource that provides comprehensive information on topics like financial support and care options that are available. You can read more about their work here:

- <https://www.caring.com/senior-living/assisted-living/ohio>
- <https://www.caring.com/senior-living/assisted-livin>
- Post 318 does not recommend or support or vouch for any of the information you will find on these websites! However, I have found interesting information concerning the availability of retirement homes and prices in Ohio.
- If you find any problems with this information, please let me know and we will publish a disclaimer!

Joe DuBois

Samsung scholarships

Samsung Scholarships may be used for undergraduate studies and applied toward tuition, books, fees, and room and board. Winners are selected according to academic record, involvement in school, and community service. Ten National Scholars receive \$10,000 each (two from each region). Ten National Runners-Up receive \$5,000 each (two from each region).

Remaining Department Finalists receive \$1,250 each guaranteed.

Eligibility: Scholarship applications are restricted to high school juniors who attend the current session of either The American Legion Boys State or American Legion Auxiliary Girls State program and are a direct descendant - i.e. child, grandchild, great grandchild, etc. - or a legally adopted child of a wartime U.S. military veteran who served on active duty during at least one of the periods of war officially designated as eligibility dates for American Legion membership.