



American Legion Post 318 Newsletter



“For God and Country”

August 2017

Commander’s Notes:

Having had a small set back with my health, this may be my last Commander’s column for a while. I’m awaiting valve replacement surgery. Once this occurs, 1st Vice Bob Kamman is going to be our acting Commander. Please throw your support behind Bob as he takes on the challenges of our Post.

As I step aside, I want to remind everyone that our most pressing challenge is to **Increase Membership Participation and Support** for our programs and events. However, because I haven’t had a lot of time this month to develop a message as to why this is important, I thought I would just rattle of a few facts and let you draw your own conclusions.

- We currently have 154 members. Our quota for 2018 is 155.
- Our dues are \$ 40 per year, due by October 20th. The Post keeps \$ 12.50 and pays \$27.50 to the Department of Ohio.
- We have 4 “**Life Members**”. They pay nothing and the Post gets nothing. We also have 15 “**Paid Up For Life**” (PUFL’s). These members paid an amortized portion of their annual dues in a lump sum payment. The Post gets a pro-rate of the \$12.50, usually just a few dollars.
- Our operating expenses, the money it costs to pay our bills, is about \$72,000 annually. This averages \$468 per member.
- This \$72,000 does not include any of our program costs or philanthropy, which is funded by Charities, Inc. (about \$34,000 annually).
- We generate the money needed to pay our operating expenses through Bingo (\$29,000), Special Events (\$18,000), Hall Rentals (\$14,000), Beverage Sales (\$13,000) and Fundraisers (\$6,000).
- To conduct these events, we need members to volunteer some of their time to work these events, or support us by attending these events.
- Today, less than 40 members come out to work, or support, these events. If you don’t count Fish Fries, it’s more like 20 or 25
- The average age of our volunteers is probably in the range of 70.

Without additional support, how much longer do you think this can continue?

Don Bishop

Veteran “On-Line” Exchange is Being Tested

The Pentagon has announced that they are beginning a new online shopping service which will be available starting November 11 allowing all veterans with a DD214 to shop online and receive EXCHANGE prices and pay no state sales tax.

To be able to shop starting November 11 and get into the system, you need to be verified at www.vetverify.org. However, if you have already registered with the VA and you have an email address in your file, they will send you an email to advise that you have been verified and can start shopping.

Veterans who are receiving the response, “Cannot Be Found” will need to still create a DS Logon at www.myaccess.dmdc.osd.mil to ensure they are authenticated with DMDC. However, if they have already established a DS Logon and/or have recently (last 10 years) applied for Veterans benefits their information should be received in the next batch we receive. All Veterans who have registered and received a response “Cannot be Found” will receive an email (at the email address provided during registration) when their file is verified as received.

The Vet Verify Customer Service phone number is 1-844-868-8672

Veterans Memorial Reminder

Just a reminder! There will be a dedication ceremony for the Anderson Township Veterans Memorial, August 3rd, beginning at 7p. The ceremony will be held at the Anderson Center with several members of our Post participating. Please come out and join us if you can.



Visit us at: www.post318.org

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. Contact Bingo Manager, Ed Sears (474-0246) with any questions. For the month of July bingo earned \$ 4004 and contributed \$ 784 to **Charities, Inc.** to meet our legal obligations.

Euchre – Euchre tournaments are conducted every Thursday night in the Club Room. Buy-in is \$10, \$5 going to the Post and \$5 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 July Euchre contributed \$ 412 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.

PokerMania Update

It’s time to sign-up to support our **PokerMania** event. We need to fill 28 positions each night; 13 dealers and 15 volunteers to work dealer support, concessions, or bar positions. Like usual, everyone is holding back. What we need is for everyone to step forward, so that we can reduce the stress associated with this event. The following positions are still open:

Job / Role	Friday (8/11)	Saturday (8/12)
BlackJack	2	3
7 Card	--	4
Texas Hold’Em	1	1
Dealer Support	--	2
Cash Window	--	1
Kitchen	1	1

Obviously, without dealers we can’t hold a card playing event, so if you’re thinking about helping and you can deal cards please make that your 1st choice. To sign up, contact Don Bishop at 474-4194 or via email at dabishop@fuse.net.

Interested in learning how to deal Blackjack? We plan to conduct a training session at the Post beginning at 7p, August 7th. The purpose would be to review the rules and practice dealing with a Blackjack shoe. All are welcome

Charitable Giving

Over the course of each year American Legion Post 318 Charities, Inc. (**Charities, Inc.**), contributes thousands of dollars to programs important to our membership. The following is a summary of our June 2017 giving:

American Legion Legacy Scholarships – American Legion Legacy Scholarships are awarded to the children of veterans who die while serving our country. **Charities, Inc.** makes an annual contribution of \$ 500 to this fund.

Honor Flights – Honor Flights afford aging veterans an opportunity to visit the war memorials in Washington, D.C. **Charities, Inc.** makes an annual contribution of \$ 300 to this program.

Joseph House – is a homeless Veteran’s facility. **Charities, Inc.** makes several contributions to this organization each year (totaling \$300). Our June donation was \$ 200.

USO – The USO provides services to active duty military. **Charities, Inc.**, makes an annual contribution of \$ 100 to this organization.

VA Shuttle Project – The shuttle project provides golf cart transportation between the VA Hospital and its parking lots. **Charities, Inc.**, makes an annual contribution of \$ 250 to help fund this service.

Fisher House – A facility located on the VA campus to provide housing at “no cost” to family members of VA patients who need to be present to support their loved ones. **Charities, Inc.**, makes an annual contribution of \$300 to this program.

VAVS – On a quarterly basis, the Post sends members to the VA Hospital to entertain resident patients. **Charities, Inc.** provides funding to support these visits. Our contribution in June was \$ 11.46.

American Legion Post 318 Charities, Inc. 2018 Proposed Budget

The “initial” view of **Charities, Inc.** 2018 proposed budget is complete. Through the execution of 7 fundraising projects, Charities, Inc. expected to raise \$34,175 and fund a variety of Veteran, Americanism and Community Programs. This budget will be reviewed and finalized at the **Charities, Inc.** board meeting, August 21st meeting.

This year’s budget is a 4% reduction over 2017, but provides enough funding for all of our established programs. It also includes some new spending commitments for the Anderson Band Boosters, The Georgetown Veterans Home, and the Holiday Wreath Campaign

Awards Program Was Well Attended

We had between 90 and 100 Award Recipients and guests attend our annual awards ceremony. Those that were recognizes are as follows:

Veteran Scholarship Winners

- Dana Bausch - Turpin High School
- Allyssa Leaton - McNicholas High School
- Nicole Moulas - Anderson High School



Americanism & Government Winners

- Willie Johnson - 10th Grade Boy - AHS
- Anna Yorio - 10th Grade Girl - AHS
- Zachary White - 11th Grade Boy - AHS
- Charlotte Moore - 11th Grade Girl - AHS
- Michael Zigos - 12th Grade Boy - AHS
- Rachael Timberlake - 12th Grade Girl - AHS

Boys State Recognition & Presentations

- Will Bridges - Anderson High School
- Matthew Martin - Anderson High School
- Sean Schaeffer - Anderson High School
- Zachary White - Anderson High School

Girls State Recognition & Presentations

- Skylar Boggs - Anderson High School
- Molly Cron - Anderson High School
- Grace Hatfield - Anderson High School
- Kiae Marshall - Anderson High School
- Alexandra Raborn - Anderson High School
- Margy Stringfellow - Anderson High School
- Sara Thornton - St. Ursula Academy

Oratorical Scholarships

- Sean Schaffer - Anderson High School
- Matthew Martin - Anderson High School



Law Enforcement Officer of the Year

- Cpl. David Boiman - HCSO - District 5

Firefighter of the Year

- Firefighter/Paramedic Bradley Baker - ATFD



2017 Post 318 Legionnaire of the Year

- Jerry Porter

Poppy Program Supporters

- Kroger Store - Anderson Towne Center
- Kroger Store - Cherry Grove Plaza
- Belterra Park
- Forest Hills School District (Ayer/Maddux/Mercer/Nagel/Sherwood/Summit/Wilson)

Five (5) Year Service Awards

Jason Bates, Robert A. Beyrer, Robert P. Carey, Joseph A. Chalfant, Robert A. Conmy, Stanley Dillon, Curtis Grant, Stephanie Humphries, Kevin T. Kaup, Glenn Kendall, John H. Privity, Robert C. Puthoff, James Harry Rimmer, Edward J. Schmerber, Craig Smith, Elmer Mark Taber

Ten (10) Year Service Awards:

Jimmy Bussey, Robert Calder, Charles Cleves, Dennis C. Fehlinger, Steven G. Stuntz, Brad Wenstrup

Fifteen (15) Year Service Awards:

Robert Alfieri, William T. Beuke, Lewis Ivanovich Keith R. Musselman

Twenty (20) Year Service Award:

Gregory K. Brown

Twenty-Five (25) Year Service Award:

Edwin M. Sears, John J. Smith

Thirty-Five (35) Year Service Awards:

Richard S. Brusman, Gregory S. Troy

Forty (40) Year Service Award:

Charles R. Smith

Forty-Five (45) Year Service Awards:

Dale L. Simpson, Robert B. Williams

Sixty (60) Year Service Award:

John Steve Justice

2018 Department Officers

At the Department of Ohio convention held in Dayton, Ohio, July 7, 8 & 9 the Officers listed below were elected to serve for the 2018 Program Year. Biographies of these Officers can be found on the Department web site at www.ohiolegion.com.

Stanley Pleasant
Department Commander



Robert Schmitt
1st Vice Commander



Roger Friend
2nd Vice Commander



Harold Krieg
Department Treasurer



Yeager-Benson
Memorial Post 199
Fabulous Fourth District

Proudly Presents

Jean L. Wilson

Candidate for
Department 2nd Vice
Commander 2018-19



Jean believes that once a military serviceman or servicewoman ends their service to our Country our service begins to ensure that they receive all the benefits that was earned serving us!

Endorsed and Supported by Post 199, Hamilton County Council, Fabulous Fourth District. Past Department Commanders – Bob Ray, Jerry Wilson, Ron Hartman, Lou Dimmerman and Ron Chapman

PAST & CURRENT OFFICES HELD

Post Awarded Life Member 28 Years
Adjutant, 1st Vice Commander,
All Time High Commander (2 Years)
Current Finance Officer (15 Years)
Post 199 Legionnaire of the Year
Unit 199 Auxiliary Member of the Year
Awarded Auxiliary Unit 199 VIM
8 et 40 Member

Past Hamilton County Offices:
Adjutant, 2nd Vice Commander, 1st Vice
Commander and Commander
Hamilton County Legionnaire of the Year

Past 4th District Adjutant, Finance
Officer, 2nd Vice Commander, 1st Vice
Commander and 4th District Big Brown
Jug Commander, 2000-2001
with 100% CPR Reporting

Past Department Assistant Historian
Past Department Assistant Sgt. At Arms
Past member of Department Scholarship
Committee
Department Americanism Committee

Served on Board of Joseph House for
Homeless Veterans for 10 Years with 2
terms as President

Hamilton County Veterans Service
Commissioner

Board member of Fisher House
Appointed by Governor Kasich to the
Ohio Women's Task Force

Am Vets Post 13 Life member
Harrison Mayor's Fund for needy
families serving as past treasurer and
currently serving third year as president.

Visit us at: www.post318.org

Membership Update

Our membership drive is going full speed. We are slightly ahead of where we were at this point in time last year...GREAT JOB!

The slightly not so good news is that we currently have the potential of filling about 150 of our 155 quota slots. Therefore, we are in need of everyone's support to recruit a minimum of five (5) additional new members to hit quota and 15 additional new members to reach our Post Goal. If you have any leads, please send them my way and I will be glad to follow up.

2018 Membership Scoreboard

<i>2017-2018 Quota</i>	<i>155</i>
<i>Paid as of 7/31/17</i>	<i>86</i>
<i>% Quota</i>	<i>55.50</i>
<i>Still Needed (Quota)</i>	<i>69</i>
<i>Members Yet to Renew</i>	<i>64</i>
<i>Goal</i>	<i>165</i>
<i>Still Needed (Goal)</i>	<i>79</i>

Robert Kamman
1st Vice Commander

Chaplin's Report

This has been a typical July. Not much happening and that is a good thing, so there is some rest for those who have been working all year.

On July 22nd, we had our annual Awards Night. The number of people who showed up was over 100. Bob Kamman was in charge since our Commander, Don Bishop, is in Christ Hospital for a heart procedure, and will be there for a week, at least. Awards were given out to the students who participated in our Americanism Programs, such as the Oratorical contest, Americanism and Government test, and a Buckeye Boys and Girls State. The outstanding Fireman and Police officer were also recognized, as well as individuals who worked with us on the Poppy Program. Legionnaires who have been members for five, ten, fifteen, etc., were given pins. To my great surprise, I was presented the Legionnaire of the Year award. I should have been suspicious when my wife wanted to come with me to the meeting.

We did not get any calls about our members having health issues. At our last regular meeting we had a couple of our older members actually attending. Bob Calder and Don both were in the hospital for surgery. We pray that they will be back home soon.

Don't forget we have a VA Hospital Visit coming up, Friday August 4th. We will car pool from the Post at 6:00 PM, and return about 8:30 PM. We need about 6

volunteers to conduct this event. If you would like to go, please contact me at 528-1557, or via email at Gerald1940@twc.com.

If anyone has any concerns that I can assist with, please feel free to contact me.

Jerry Porter
Chaplain

House

I want to thank all of the people that come out on Tuesday mornings and every other time we ask. We encourage all members to give this a try, only a couple of hours a week if we have the people.

Second, As you have noticed, we have new padded chairs in the Hall. This is through the generosity of a member who donated the necessary funds to make our Hall a place we can be proud of and our guests have a place they can be proud to rent or entertain in. Again, our thanks to the donor.

This leaves us with some of the brown chairs that are our overage. It is our intention to offer these chairs to our members for \$1.00 each. If you need chairs for parties etc. please let me know and we can arrange for the sale.

Bob Alfieri
House Chairman

Next Meeting

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

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.

Thought for the Day:

I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find one now..... ***Unknown***

“Post Scripts”

Should you have an issue or topic you would like to opine about, if you put it in writing and submit it by the 25th of each month, it will be published for all to consider. However, there are two requirements; 1) we can't publish political opinions/endorsement, and 2) all editorials must be attributed. You sign it we'll print it!

U.S.S. Cincinnati **Submitted by Joe Baker**

At one of our last Thursday evening Euchre games we had a new person show up to play and he saw the USS Cincinnati wall picture frame we had in the club room. He asked me about it and said he is on the committee to get a USS Cincinnati Submarine memorial setup and installed somewhere in our beautiful city. He told me that the main coordinator for this project is Joe Japp (jjap@bpbslaw.com) so I sent him an email and here is what he responded:

“Site selection for the USS Cincinnati – Cold War Memorial is narrowed to 6 on riverfront locations owned by the county, from which Todd Portune as chair of county commissioners intends to make final selection by year end. They Will post info on Facebook USS Cincinnati project page when we have an update.”

He also said “the parts that they have are getting old and rusty, so if there are any USN vets who want to help out, please get hold of Joe Japp to discuss, and “LIKE” their Facebook page”.

At The Flag Pole

Special Days : August 4th Coast Guard Birthday
August 7th Purple Heart Day

Flag Etiquette Tip: Displaying the flag : U.S. Flag at peak above any other flag

Thanks to all who joined Post 318 for the 4th of July parade we had 20 members and 6 guests in the Parade.



A 5 member Honor Guard is needed at Turpin High School for the Foresthills Opening August 28th at 7:15 AM. Call Ralph if interested 470-6588.

Ralph Caskey
Sgt.-at-Arms

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.

Post Officers & Committee Chairs:

Commander:	Don Bishop	513-474-4194
1st Vice:	Bob Kamman	513-474-5237
2nd Vice:	Matt Lilly	513- 617-8351
Adjutant:	Dan Wolfangel	513-474-9577
Finance Officer:	Ron Yersky	513-232-2591
Chaplain:	Jerry Porter	513-528-1557
Sgt.-at-Arms:	Ralph Caskey	513-470-6588
Americanism:	Randy Lindsey	513-374-2099
Bingo:	Ed Sears	513-474-0246
Community Support:	Doug Rogers	513-602-5007
Event Coordination:	Jimmy Bussey	513-616-3215
Fundraising:	Ken Knight	513-675-5234
House:	Bob Alfieri	513-232-0309
Service Officer:	Charlie Cleves	513-232-7767

Visit us at: www.post318.org