



American Legion Post 318 Newsletter



“For God and Country”

March 2018

Commander’s Notes:

During the month of March we have a lot going on. Five (5) fish fries, three (3) dances, five (5) nights of Euchre, five (5) bingo sessions, and four (4) rentals plus all the work associated with event set-up and clean-up. We can’t get this done without your support. When we reach out, please consider how you can lend a hand.

March also represents that time of the year when we seek out those members who are interested and willing to take on a Post leadership position. Should you have an interest, please make yourself known. If you are approached by someone from the nominating committee, consider taking on one of these leadership positions. This will allow the Post to continue serving the American Legion, Anderson Township and the veteran community. All of these worthy causes.

Don Bishop

Hillcrest Cemetery Project Gets Legion Funding

Hillcrest Cemetery is the final resting place for approximately 1,400 veterans from the World Wars, Korea, and Vietnam. There are also Civil War and Spanish American Veterans buried on these grounds. Most of those buried at Hillcrest are indigent black veterans, with no resources or family connections.



Due to the compelling story of Hillcrest and the number of veterans that are interred in this cemetery, for the last 10 years, Post 318 has been very involved in *The Coalition to Save Hillcrest (The Coalition)*. Four (4) members of the Post hold seats on the Board of Directors.

Over the years many projects have been worked by volunteer organizations, including members of our Post and our sponsored scouting organizations. Headstones have been placed, trees removed, retaining walls built,

the list goes on and on. The most recent project had about 80 volunteers, mostly from General Electric, come together to begin the process of cleaning headstones.

The next project on *The Coalition’s* list is the Headstone Alignment Project. Throughout the years, the terrain of the cemetery has caused many of the headstones to shift their position. When one views these graves, it’s certain they would not be mistaken for the graves of veterans found at any National cemetery. *The Coalition’s* opinion is there should be no difference. These veterans are due a level of respect that has never been demonstrated to them. Yet, a significant amount of money had to be raised before it could be undertaken. Enter American Legion Department of Ohio Charities, Inc. In response to a funding grant written by *The Coalition*, \$5,000 was allocated by them to fund this undertaking. The scope of this project is to reset approximately 450 headstones, over a period of 2 to 3 years.



The final paragraph of the grant request summarizes the projects objective. It reads; in closing, what we’ve learned over the last 10 years is that no one is in favor of providing funds to dead people. Yet, what we’re talking about is maintaining the dignity of 1,400 veterans, with no families to look after them. We are working hard to improve this situation. It’s believed that if we could get a little help, we could get this done sooner, rather than later.

Now the work begins! Because this will be a community service project we will be looking for volunteers who would like to participate. Exactly how and when the project will be implemented is still being developed, but initial thinking is that volunteers would work in teams. Each team would work a few hours monthly and the teams would rotate so that the project doesn’t become a burden and to maximize the use of equipment that will be acquired to complete the project. If you have an interest in being part of this project, please contact Commander Bishop.

Visit us at: www.post318.org

Fund Raising Update:

The Post has to raise about \$ 6,000 each month to continue operations. You can support our fund raising efforts by either attending, or working, our various events. For February, we exceeded the \$ 6000 threshold. How we got there is summarized in the table below.

Event	Contribution
Bingo	\$3,359
Dances	\$1,586
Euchre	\$ 223
Fish Fries	\$1,344
Rentals	\$1,345
Total	\$7,867

Bingo –We conduct bingo every Sunday. Doors open at 4:30p games begin at 6:00p. Contact Bingo Manager, Ed Sears (474-0246), with any questions.

Post Dances – We attempt to schedule 2 dances each month. They are open to the public. Doors open at 7p. The bands perform from 8p to 11p. Contact Commander, Don Bishop (474-4194), with any questions.

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 Program Manager, Joe Baker (289-9044), with any questions.

Lenten Fish Fries – Fish Fries will be held each Friday during Lent. Meals are served from 5p to 7p. For questions, contact Chaplain Jerry Porter at 528-1557.

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. To cover this philanthropy, *Charities, Inc.* has to raise approximately \$2,200 each month. The following is a summary of recent income and expenses for *Charities, Inc.*

	Income	Expenses
Bingo	\$412	
Veterans Food Bank		\$25.00
Flags for Turpin		\$34.90
Veterans Christmas Party		\$162.98
Insurance Premium		\$368.00
Volunteer Raffle		\$50.00
Monthly Rent		\$300.00
Total	\$412.00	\$940.88

You can help raise the funds we need by; 1) volunteer-ing to work Charities, Inc. fund raising projects, 2)

making tax deductible donations and 3) by registering with both Kroger and Amazon to participate in their corporate charitable giving programs. The following provides information about the corporate programs.

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. At the bottom of the home page “click-on” Kroger Community Rewards. Select “create account” and complete that task. When prompted for your cause, select *American Legion Post 318 Charities, Inc.* There is no cost to you to participate, nor is there any impact on your coupons or fuel points. Also, under the new Kroger rules, you only have to sign up once, rather that each year.

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. There is no cost to you for making this designation, and all money received from Amazon goes to support our programs.

Amazon has over a million charities to select from! To make your life easier, Amazon has provided a link for you to directly select *American Legion Post 318 Charities, Inc.* as your charity. Simply “click-on” this unique link to register: <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/36-4721620>.

To maximize our revenue opportunities please share this information and links with family and friends.

Membership Update

We are behind in our membership renewals compared to this point in time last year. We haven't received renewals from 12 of our 2017 members and this is a kind reminder, that our Post constitution defines that all dues are payable by October 20th. If you can help us out by taking a few minutes to write your renewal check and getting it in the mail, I would be grateful. Those members who have not yet paid their 2018 dues are respectfully encouraged to do so.

2018 Membership Scoreboard

<i>2017-2018 Quota</i>	<i>155</i>
<i>Paid as of 2/31/18</i>	<i>147</i>
<i>% Quota</i>	<i>95.00</i>
<i>Still Needed (Quota)</i>	<i>8</i>
<i>Goal</i>	<i>165</i>
<i>Still Needed (Goal)</i>	<i>18</i>

Robert Kamman
1st Vice Commander

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Help Wanted

This “*Help Wanted*” column is going to become a regular feature in our monthly newsletter. Its purpose is to communicate the kind of support needed by the Post to maintain operations. Some of the support we need can be provided by non-members (spouses, family, or Friends of the Legion). If you’re willing to take on any of these challenges, please contact Commander Bishop.

Last month we highlighted the positions listed below. We’re still looking for help if you’re interested, please contact Commander Bishop.

- **Bingo Manager** (member)
- **Fundraising Chairman** (member)
- **Community Support Chairman** (member)
- **Graphics Arts Support** (member/non-member)
- **Bingo Volunteers** (member/non-member)
- **Dance Volunteers** (member/non-member)

This month we’re adding to the list the following requirements:

BlackJack Dealers – The theme of our March 31st dance is “Vegas Night”. For this event *Charities, Inc.*, will operate a single Blackjack table and a Big 6 wheel. To cover the BlackJack table, we’re looking for 2 volunteers willing to share the duty during the evening.

The time requirement associated with this opportunity would be 4 hours (7p to 11p). This support could be provided by a non-member.

Photographer – The theme of our June 2nd dance is “Prom Night”. One of the promotions we want to try is to take pictures of the customers who dress for the event. To make this happen, we need is to find someone willing to take these pictures and then working with our Web Master to post them on our web site. We’re not looking for a professional photographer. We’re looking for someone who’s willing to bring their own camera (or cell phone) and take some snap-shots to commemorate the event.

The work effort associated with this requirement would be 4 hours (7p to 11p). This support could be provided by a non-member.

March Dance Schedule

There are three (3) dance events scheduled in March. First up, March 10th, is a local group making their Patriot Center debut. The *Big Trouble Blues Band* play from a huge set list of various musical genres from 60's and 70's *Classic Rock* styles to *Traditional Blues*, and from *R&B* to *Motown*. They are an energetic show-style band that engages audiences and entertains all ages, and get

crowds up and on their feet. A note of interest, this band is led by Anderson High School, Vice Principal, Dave Kammerer.



On March 17th, we will celebrate St Patrick’s Day with the *Cincy Rockers*. This will be the first of two (2) consecutive theme dances. There will be a “*Wearing of the Green*” contest, for the Irish and want to be Irish to show their colors. The winner will get a cash prize of \$50, and there will be prizes for the first two (2) runners up. We’ll also feature the “kissable” Post 318 Blarney Stone. A perfect photo opportunity to mark the event.



On March 31, the Patriot Center welcomes *The Last Caballeros* to host our Vegas Night event. Besides having one of Cincinnati’s premier bands for your listening and dancing pleasure, Charities, Inc. will have a Blackjack table and a Big 6 wheel available for your entertainment. Proceeds going to support our program and charitable giving. An autographed celebrity photo will also be a part of this fun evening.



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Easter Egg Hunt Ends

The Executive Committee has voted to end our annual Easter Egg hunt. The consensus was that the Post would be better served to focus our resources on other projects. Because we are ending this program, we have a collection of stuffed animals that need a new home. Should you have any thoughts about where they should be placed, please contact Commander Bishop at 474-4194.

Chaplin's Report

We can say we had a good Winter season for the Legion, but not for everyone. Bob Calder had a series of mini strokes that has him going in and out of the hospital. He is amazing that he still seems upbeat with all his problems. We all can learn something from this amazing man. Keith Musselman has had his implant adjusted and is hoping for good results. We pray that he gets them. Ralph Caskey and Ron Yersky seem to be improving from their surgeries. We hope and pray to see both of them back fully involved. We miss not seeing Bill King and Chuck Smith, and we hope all is well with them. We also are glad to see Don getting around a lot better and hope he continues to get stronger.

Fish Fries have started well and I thank the great volunteers. Dances have been doing okay along with Bingo, but getting volunteers for both has been a chore for Don and Ed. Let's continue to help out and make this year continue to be strong.

Thanks again for the men who donated funds to Buckeye Boys and Girls state, allowing us to send more students.

Jerry Porter
Chaplain

Buckeye Boys and Girls State

The Post has always been a supporter of Buckeye Boys State and Buckeye Girls State. These are week long programs designed to provide mock government and leadership experiences through role play. We are pleased to announce that this year we will send 10 high school students to these programs. This will be the largest contingent that the Post has ever committed to support. The cost to do this will be approximately \$3,000. Therefore, we are accepting contributions to support this program. Should you wish to make a tax deductible donation, you can mail a check to American Legion Post 318 Charities, Inc. P.O. Box 54390, Cincinnati, Ohio 45254-0390. Should you have questions about the program itself, please contact Americanism Chairman, Randy Lindsey at 374-2099, or via email at weasellee@yahoo.com.

At The Flag Pole

Fly The Flag Day

March 29th: National Vietnam War Veterans Day

Ralph Caskey
Sgt.-at-Arms

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM, Wednesday, March 14th.

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.

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.

Thought for the Day:

I used to be indecisive, but now I'm not so sure.

.....***Unknown***

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>	Matt Lilly	513- 617-8351
<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>	Randy Lindsey	513-374-2099
<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

Earn triple donations when customers make their first AmazonSmile purchase between March 12-31.



Dear Charity Administrator,

We are excited to tell you about a new AmazonSmile promotion that will launch soon. Amazon is **tripling the donation amount** to 1.5% when customers make their first eligible smile.amazon.com purchase from March 12 - 31. This is a great opportunity to increase American Legion Post 318 Charities Inc's AmazonSmile donations by reminding your supporters to shop at smile.amazon.com.

From March 12 - 31, use the message and banner below in email, social media, and on your website to spread the word to your donors, staff, and volunteers. Please do not announce this promotion until it begins on March 12.

For additional details about the promotion, visit the promotion [detail page](#).

3x your impact! From March 12-31, Amazon is **tripling the donation rate** on your first smile.amazon.com purchase! Go to smile.amazon.com/ch/36-4721620 and Amazon donates to American Legion Post 318 Charities Inc.

Visit us at: www.post318.org