



American Legion Post 318 Newsletter



“For God and Country”

April 2019

Commander’s Notes:

April starts the final quarter of our 2018-2019 program year. The good news is we’ve had some significant accomplishments to report on our CPR (Consolidated Post Report). The bad news is we still have not reached our 2019 membership quota.

Membership is the lifeblood of the American Legion and our Post. We have a really good record of doing our part, when it comes to maintaining our membership. The last time we missed quota was 2007, eleven years ago. I don’t believe that there is another Post in the County, or District, that has a better record. Currently, we are 5 members short of our quota, and we’re working hard to close that gap. The irony is we have several members that are still unpaid, for 2019. If you are a member and haven’t paid your dues yet, please consider continuing your support of the Veteran community by renewing your membership.

The Nomination Committee is expected to announce a slate of officers for the 2019-2020 program year at our April membership meeting. I know that Charlie Cleves and Ed Ruffennach are working hard on this issue. Should you be asked to serve, please give it consideration. If you haven’t been approached, but have a desire to serve the Post as an officer, please let either of them know.

April 30 is the deadline for submission of this year’s scholarship applications. As always, we have three \$1000 scholarships to award to the children of “honorably discharged” veterans. If you have a child graduating in 2019 he/she may be eligible. If you need an application, contact a Post officer.

Our Fish Fry season is underway and things are going pretty well. If you haven’t come out yet, we still have 3 weeks left. The food is good, the price is reasonable, and we could use your support. If you have some free time, we always need volunteers to work the event. Contact Jerry Porter (528-1557) to get involved.

HoopsMania™ will be wrapping up within the next few days. If you’re interested in knowing how your ticket is doing you can check it at www.CharitiesMania.com. Simply enter the ticket number where appropriate. However, at the event conclusion should you be a winner, the Post will contact you. If you purchased a ticket, thank you for your support.

Don Bishop

Veterans Due Huge Refund

Reprinted from: U.S. Veteran Compensation Programs

The Department of Defense (DoD) admits it made an error in administrative processing that now results in over 130,000 veterans being due a substantial refund. DoD officials report that the error was ongoing for decades, and only recently was discovered. Veterans are due refunds ranging from \$1750 - \$3200.

From 1991 - 2016, a serious computer glitch at the agency caused non-taxable disability severance payments to be subject to income taxes, according to DoD officials. The U.S. government is taking part in assisting in helping veterans recover the tax overpayments as quickly as possible.

It is estimated that some veterans are due in excess of \$10,000 because of the computer glitch.

Veterans who separated from the military with a disability discharge between January 1991 and the end of 2016, and those veterans who received a disability severance payment from the DoD, are likely to be affected by the computer glitch.

Veterans are instructed to complete IRS Form 1040x and write "Disability Severance Payment" on line 15 of the 1040X form and claim a standard refund amount that is based on the year that they received a severance payment.

Experienced veterans and veterans organization officials report the process of collecting your refund may be extremely complex, convoluted, and time-consuming. Veterans are highly encouraged to work with an accredited Veterans Service Office (VSO) to help with the paperwork

Also, NVLSP representatives are standing by to help. You can reach them at info@NVLSP.org.

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

Post 318 and Facebook

Eric Franz, a member of Post 318, is a “social media expert” and has agreed to assume responsibility for our Facebook assets. Using Eric’s expertise, you’re going to notice some changes in the way we use Facebook to both communicate and to meet our organizational goals and objectives. Our hope is that Eric can transition Post 318 from the “stone age” to a group of sophisticated and informed Facebook users. To fully understand where we are headed with Facebook, the following goals and objectives have been established:

1. Effectively use Facebook to:
 - Increase membership
 - Increase attendance at Bingo, Euchre, Post Dances and Fish Fries.
 - Communicate to members, guests and stakeholders
2. Effectively use Facebook to increase revenues associated with:
 - Scheduled Events; Bingo, Euchre, Post Dances and Fish Fries.
 - Mania Programs
 - Poppy Donations
 - Hall Rentals
3. Increase the number of members using Facebook
4. Increase membership knowledge of how to effectively use Facebook

Facebook is a tool that’s currently being underutilized as a Post communication vehicle. This has to change for us to be able to take advantage of the cost benefits associated with the use of social media. Our plan is to put in place and use the social media tools that can facilitate our success. We also hope to provide you social media insight, training, and support. As a member, your role is going to be to overcome any reluctance to understand and embrace the use of Facebook, and to overcome the phobias you may have about using technology. You know it is possible to teach “an old dog a new trick”, the dog just needs to understand that he obtains value for his effort.

Our current Facebook presence has three elements. We have a group named ***American Legion – Anderson Post 318***, and two pages; one also named ***American Legion – Anderson Post 318***, and one named ***Patriot Center of Cincinnati***. Our two initial Facebook elements started out with very defined purposes. However over the years, due to a limited understanding of how to effectively use Facebook, these elements no longer clearly address their intended purpose. Instead, much of the content placed on both Facebook assets is similar. As we move forward, our goal is to restore our Facebook entities to support their original intent. Specifically, our group and page named ***American***

Legion – Anderson Post 318 will focus on American Legion and veteran content and messaging, while the ***Patriot Center of Cincinnati*** will focus on event marketing and promotion.

So, what can be done to support our use of Facebook? First, if you have a PC, laptop, iPad, or smart phone, and internet access you should log on to www.Facebook.Com and create a Facebook account (if you don’t have one). Once you have a Facebook account, you should search and find the following Group (***American Legion – Anderson Post 318***) and Pages (***American Legion – Anderson Post 318***) and (***Patriot Center of Cincinnati***). When you land on these home pages, “Join” the group and “Like” the pages!

Once you have established a Facebook presence, you are welcome to both Post messages and content, and make comments. For example, you read about some VA benefits and you want to share that information? Post it! Someone else makes a Post, and you have something to add, make a comment. When you Post, or make a comment, that information is shared with all members of the group. Think about it as a “real time” newsletter, with an option for you to make an editorial comment.

If you don’t have the technology, or internet access needed for Facebook, you’ll need to decide if communicating with the Post, our guests, and stakeholders is important to you. This is not a substitute email. Facebook is interactive! Communications are real time! If you don’t have access and associate yourself with our Facebook assets and you miss a communication, it’s gone.

If you are an event owner, Eric will be contacting you to gain insight about your event. The expectation is that he will be able to help you make Facebook an effective tool to promote your event, build your attendance, and provide overall support for your efforts.

Lastly, our plan is to provide monthly hints on how to use Facebook in an effective and safe manner. However, should you have any questions about Facebook they can be directed to Eric at (513) 520-6165, or via email at eric.e.franz@gmail.com.

The following links will lead you to our Facebook assets: ***American Legion – Anderson Post 318,(Group):*** <https://www.facebook.com/groups/www.post318.org/>

American Legion – Anderson Post 318,(Page): <https://www.facebook.com/AmericanLegion318/>

Patriot Center of Cincinnati (Page): <https://www.facebook.com/PatriotCenter318/>

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	\$ 967	
Rent		\$ 300
Boys / Girls State		\$ 1,150
Veterans Day Program		\$ 250
Hardship Dues		\$ 40
New Members		\$ 80
Total	\$ 967	\$ 1,820

Fund Raising Update

The Post needs to raise about \$6,000 each month to continue operations. For March, with HoopsMania™, Fish Fry's and a solid Hall Rental contribution added to bingo and our dances, we had a great month earning approximately \$ 15,000. With summer coming, building a surplus is a good thing. Thanks to everyone who contributed to this success.

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

Event	Contribution
Bingo	\$ 5,529
Euchre	\$ 248
Dances	\$ 1,603
Rentals	\$ 3,764
Fish Fry	\$ 2,510
HoopsMania	\$ 1,100
Total	\$ 14,754



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

At The Flag Pole

Display the Flag Day:

- April 21 - Easter Sunday

April 26: Post 318 will provide a rifle squad for the rededication of the Veterans Memorial's at McNicholas HS. The ceremony is scheduled for 9:30 am.

May 4: Post 318 will provide a Color Guard for a Building Dedication and Veterans Honor Wall unveiling at Turpin HS. The ceremony is scheduled for 11:30 am. If you would like to attend the dedication let me know so we can get reserve seating for members.

Ralph Caskey
SAA

The Patriot Center of Cincinnati
Operated by American Legion Post 318
Available for...

Anniversary Parties, Birthdays, Showers
Rehearsal Dinners, Graduations, Office Events



Located at 6660 Clough Pk in Anderson Township, 45244
For Rental Information, Call Ken Knight at (513) 675-5234

Visit us at: www.post318.org

April Dance Schedule

For the month of April, we have two Dances scheduled. On April 13th we welcome back *The Remains* and on April 27th *The Monday Night Big Band* will make its Patriot Center Debut.

The Remains are one of two bands that have been in our line-up since the beginning. They always draw a large crowd playing the music of the 80's, 90's and today. If you haven't had the opportunity to hear them, now is your chance.



A new genre is being added to our dance line-up. *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!



Tickets for both events can be purchased in advance for \$10 at ShowClix, by going to: www.showclix.com, or by calling their 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.

"Saluting America's Veterans"

The Westside Community Band, as a public service, will be hosting a free concert. Sunday, April 7, at 2:00 PM

Audience members of every age will enjoy a very special afternoon of music-making in the Mount St.

Joseph University Theater when The Westside Community Band presents a musical tribute to the military veterans who have served our country throughout its history, from the American Revolution to the Civil War, and throughout the 20th century and beyond. There will be a special salute to our World War II veterans, as we commemorate the 75th anniversary of D-Day on June 6, 1944.

Please join us on April 7, and bring plenty of family and friends, especially those who have served in America's armed forces.

For additional information, please call 513-328-4853.

American Legion 100th Anniversary Celebration and Memorial Service

The American Legion will present a celebration and memorial service to commemorate its 100year anniversary. The event will be held at Cincinnati Memorial Hall Sunday May 26, from 2:00 to 4:00 PM.

The afternoon will include music by the award winning Cincinnati Brass Band, remarks from the Honorable Brad Wenstrup, entertainment from a Bob Hope Impersonator. All tickets are free of charge, however, limited by seating capacity, and may be obtained through Memorial Hall (see flyer below).

Come Celebrate the American Legion

Memorial Day Observance

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

WITH THE CINCINNATI BRASS BAND
Guest Speaker REP. BRAD WENSTRUP
Entertainer: Bob Hope Impersonator

POW/MIA Remembrance

LEGACY **100 Years** VISION

Sunday
May **26th** | **2:00** to **4:00** | Memorial Hall 1225 Elm St.
Cincinnati, OH
Reception following the event

Free ticket REQUIRED call 513-977-8838 Tues – Fri 1-6:00 pm
or www.memorialhallotr.com

Convenient Parking at Washington Park Garage

Visit us at: www.post318.org

U.S. Veteran Compensation & Help Programs

Reprinted from: U.S. Veteran Compensation Programs

Did You know that [veterans](#) who served between 1957 and 1977 get \$300 added to their military earnings record for each quarter of active duty service. For example, if their actual military earnings for a given year of active duty were \$2,700, their military earnings for that year for [Social Security](#) purposes will be shown as \$3,900 (\$300 per quarter times 4 quarters = \$1,200 additional earnings for that service year). Those who served between 1978 and 2001 would also receive an addition to their military earnings record, but it would be computed somewhat differently - they receive an additional \$100 in earnings for every \$300 in active duty military pay, up to a maximum of \$1,200 additional for each service year.

Did you know that disabled veterans cannot receive [compensation benefits](#) from DoD and the [VA](#) at the same time? Any [compensation](#) a [veteran](#) receives from [VA](#) will decrease the [compensation](#) from the DoD, which includes [disability pay](#) and retirement pay. For example, if a [veteran](#) receives \$2,000/month from the DoD and subsequently wins a [compensation](#) award from the [VA](#) at \$500/month, the DoD would quickly decrease the [veterans](#) payout to \$1500/month.

Arguably, here's the [benefit](#) to the [veteran](#) the current formula provides. [Compensation](#) from [VA](#) is not taxable, while DoD [compensation](#) is fully taxable. Basically, taxable [compensation](#) is being replaced by non-taxable [compensation](#). [Veteran](#) wins! However, if a [veteran](#) is eligible for [Concurrent Retirement and Disability Pay \(CRDP\)](#) or [Combat Related Special Compensation \(CRSC\)](#), the [veteran](#) can receive [compensation](#) from both the DoD and the [VA](#) at the same time. Confused? Please see an accredited [VSO](#) for clarification.

Coaching Into Care is a national telephone service of the [VA](#) which aims to educate, support, and empower family members and friends who are seeking care or services for a [Veteran](#). The goal is to help [Veterans](#), their [family members](#), and other loved ones find the appropriate services at their local [VA facilities](#) and/or in their community. Also, coaching to family and friends of [Veterans](#) who see that a [Veteran](#) in their life may be having difficulty adjusting to civilian life. Coaching is provided by licensed psychologists or social workers, free-of-charge. Coaching involves helping callers figure out how to motivate the [Veteran](#) to seek treatment. They can help you get information about mental health, services at the [VA](#) and [tips](#) on how to begin the conversation about treatment with a loved one who is a [Veteran](#). Call 1-888-823-7458 today.



Every Thursday
Door Open 6:30 PM
Play Begin 7:00 PM

\$ 5 Buy In
(\$2.50 Prize Money - \$2.50 Post Donation)

Cash Bar
Table Snacks

Ample Free Off Street Parking

Membership Update

We are almost to our membership quota (159); but, are still down five (5) with our membership standing at 154. For March we added seven (7) to our roster:

- Three (3) renewals – Ron Rittenhouse, Charles Foerster, Jonathan Knollmann
- Two (2) new members – David (chief) Cosaboom, Robert Hinklin
- One (1) 0888 transfer – Dan Ticotsky
- One (1) central Kentucky Post 0113 transfer – Rob Heberly

Here are our current stats:

2019 Membership Scoreboard

<i>Paid as of 3/25/19</i>	154
<i>2019 Goal</i>	165
<i>% Goal</i>	93.3%
<i>2019 Quota</i>	159
<i>% Quota</i>	96.9%
<i>Still Needed</i>	5
<i>Projected Shortfall</i>	1

We still have 9 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: David 'Chief' Casoboom, Rob Heberly, Robert Hinklin & Dan Ticotsky to Post 318. Chief is a retired Navy vet with some really interesting stories, has seven kids and is married to Patty. Rob is currently working for Tri-Health Blue Ash Inpatient Unit, a Persian Gulf army vet, is to be married shortly to Vicki and currently resides in the Eastgate area. Robert is a Vietnam army vet and is married to Kathy. Dan is a Vietnam army vet and currently resides in the Hyde Park area. When you see these individuals around please give them a big welcome.

Robert Kamman
1st Vice Commander

Visit us at: www.post318.org

Chaplain's Report

This month we lost two members of the Legion. Frank Gory died of a heart attack at the age of 58. He was a Navy diver and full of life. It has come to our attention that John McNamara at the age of 86 passed but nothing has been in the paper. I know his health was poor but have not heard much about him lately.

Noel Fenner is doing better with his knee replacement and is preparing for the second knee. Our prayers go out to him for speedy return to his standard of life.

Leo Turner is at home and getting services there. He is weak but still displays his winning smile.

Fish Fry's have been going well but with more member support coming and eating our good food, it could be better. Help wise, we are thankful for the strong support and dedication. Still three to go on Friday nights from 5 until 7 PM, and cost from \$7 to \$8.50.

Elections are coming up and we hope that someone will step up for Commander and Adjutant. These positions must be filled or we can lose our charter. Ed Ruffenack and Charlie Cleaves are on the nomination committee and need your help.

We have a lot of volunteer time by our members and their wives, but we could always have more. I would like to give a big shout out to Jack Surdick for his commitment to the Legion, coming to clean ups, set ups, fish fry's, dances and bingo along with his trusted sidekick, Dorothy. We need more people like them.

Have a Happy Blessed Easter Season.

Jerry Porter
Chaplain

March 8th through April 19th



FRIDAY 5 PM - 7PM
American Legion Post 318
6660 Clough Pike
Dine In / Carry Out

Next Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM, Wednesday, April 10th. As usual we will go through our committee reports, updating our projects and programs. We will also hold nominations for our slate of 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.

Thought for the Day:

There are three kinds of men: The ones that learn by reading. The few who learn by observation. The rest of them have to pee on the electric fence and find out for themselves.----- *Unknown*

Need Help?

If you're a veteran and need help obtaining any of your entitled benefits, please contact our Service Officer, Charlie Cleaves. Charlie can be reached at (513) 232-7767, or via email at: ccleaves1@fuse.net.

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 Cleaves	513-232-7767