



American Legion Post 318 Newsletter



“For God and Country”

January, 2020

Commander’s Notes:

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

As we begin a new Year at Post 318, let us remember our duty to continue to serve our veterans, our community, our state and our nation. Our major fundraiser financing our activities is Sunday Night Bingo at Patriot Center! We have to have you and others volunteer to continue help run our Bingo games, and our other major fundraiser, Dances.

You owe a great deal of thanks to the Post 318 members, their wives and other friends who have volunteered to help us with Bingo and dances over the years.

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

January 1, 2020 - New Years Day!
January 20, 2020 - Martin L. King, Jr. Day

Color Guard: 1/17/2020 - BBB - Military Night at Turpin High School @ 7:30.

1/18/2020 - GBB - Turpin H.S. @ 2 pm.

1/24/ - BBB - Turpin H.S. vs. Anderson H.S. @ Anderson H.S. - 7:30pm.

**Ralph Caskey,
Sargeant-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
Corp. Statutory Agent: Dan Wolfangel (513) 474-9577
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, January 9th, 2020. 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 and see who you can bring.

Patriot Center Rental

Our Hall is one of the newest, largest and cleanest in the area which is available for rental. The hall can hold over 200 guests! If you know anyone who needs a good place to have a party or gathering, please give them my number, (513) 675-5234, and recommend that they use our Patriot Center.

**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 December, 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 is presently residing in Florida and will run our Football Mania game until it is over. He has reported that this season’s game has produced 2 \$100 winners, and 4 \$25 winners. Our next program is for the Super Bowl. Matt Lilly has volunteered to conduct the Mania games for us, and he also continues to keep our bar well stocked. Thank you for the work you do, Matt!

A big “Thank You!” goes out from us to Dennis Sakal for his work here at post 318. Over the years he has spent many hours helping out at Bingo, as well as running our Mania games! Enjoy the warm weather for us, Dennis!

Joe DuBois

December Bingo!

Post 318 Bingo raised \$522 Charities, Inc, and \$1,500 for the post, and concession sales added another \$434, for a total of \$2,456 for the month of December.

Ed Sears, Bingo

Chaplain’s Report

On December 7th 9 of our members attended the ceremony honoring the life of fellow veteran and longtime member of Post 318, Don McLaughlin who passed away on November 25th. His ceremony was conducted at St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church, with military honors.

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, would love to see you at Bingo next Sunday! Give him a call at (513) 474-0246. You can just show up on Sunday night at 4:30 and he will show you what you need to know to help out. That’s how I did it!

December was a very busy month for the Legion. The Christmas party on December 6th was a big success! Randy Lindsey, wife Merideth, and their 2 daughters did a fine job running the event. We do hope that more people will step up to help them with the party next Christmas!

The fundraiser, “Breakfast with Santa”, on Dec. 7th, was a fun time for everyone who attended. See the photo and article below for more about it.

Cub Scout Projects

We are still looking for some service projects several Cub Scouts from the 5th grade at Sherwood Elementary School can do for veterans. If you know of any, please call and let us know how they can help.

Matt Lilly!

As I mentioned before, Matt deserves a big “Thank You” for all the work he does keeping our beer, wine, and spirits in good supply! And also we commend him for carrying on our Mania Games, after the departure of Dennis Sakal for warmer climes down south.

January Dances

We welcome **"The Remains"** back to the Patriot Center, Saturday January 18th, to kick-off our Spring dance schedule. This group has performed thousands of shows and has become an anchor in the Patriot Center band line-up. Their music is memorable. They regularly put together great song sets that both span music history from the 60's through what you hear on the radio today but also keep their audiences engaged. This is your chance to listen to a great local group playing the songs you want to hear.



Our 2nd January dance is actually February 1st, and it is a notable. The **Cincy Rockers** will be hosting the Patriot Centers Super Bowl Warm-up party. This is the 2nd year we've held this event and is being produced due to popular demand. So, dress in the colors of your favorite team and come join us for an evening of great music and entertainment.

**Super Bowl Warm-up
Featuring The Cincy Rockers
February 1st**



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.

Charities, Inc. Update

Breakfast with Santa – Charities, Inc. conducted its first Breakfast with Santa fundraiser. Our goal was to breakeven, or earn a little money that could be used to

support our Veteran Programs. Turnout was pretty good and the event actually went relatively well, but we over purchased food and supplies and ended up with a modest loss for the event. Although the event didn't end as well as we hoped, the overall consensus is that we should try this event one more time.

"Poppy Day" Planning Underway - Although it seems like 5 months is a long time away, it is time to begin planning our 2020 **"Poppy Day"** campaign.

Our 2020 goal is to; 1) continue distributing our "Poppies" at Kroger, Anderson Towne Center and Kroger, Cherry Grove, if possible, and 2) to enhance and continue our **"Poppy Day"** program at the FHSD elementary schools.

Last year contributions from the FHSD elementary schools were very close to the contributions we receive from our Kroger campaign. This year we hope to further close the gap by doing 2 specific things. First, we would like to offer 1 pizza party to the class at each school who turns in the highest average contribution per student. This would require us to find 6 sponsors to fund these parties at a cost of about \$80/per school.

The second thing we want to do is to identify the 6 veterans who will distribute "Poppies" at the elementary schools, May 21st, as soon as possible. We would then include them in a meeting with their school coordinators to discuss the project. Our hope is that by reviewing the project with the veteran and the building coordinator, that things should go smoother for the distribution of "Poppies".

If you are willing to be a sponsor, or be one of the 6 veterans to distribute poppies at the elementary schools, please contact Don Bishop at 474-4194, or via email at dabishop@fuse.net.

Christmas Concert a Rousing Success

In collaboration with the **Cincy Rockers**, Post 318 produced its first Christmas concert in many years. The consensus is it was a success. The reality is it far exceeded our expectations.

The concert consisted of Christmas songs and featured five (5) local vocalist; **Bobby Harlow, Jeanne Blessing, Jeff Wilson, Ann Chambers** and **Doug Morgan**, with the **Cincy Rockers** providing the accompanying music.

To accommodate our guests, our rental hall was originally configured to seat 240. However, due to obstructive views, we scaled that configuration back to 224. For the concert we actually ended up with 207 paid guests and generated approximately \$2,095. This is the largest single event the Patriot Center has ever hosted.

Concerts and Dances!

This month we at Post 318 pay tribute to our long time Concerts and Dances Leader, Don Bishop! Don is letting go of the leadership role of one of our primary sources of funds for continuing our mission! **We are in serious need of a volunteer to continue the dance schedule.** Don has already planned and staffed the Spring dance season, so you can step in and have several months to adjust to the dance leadership position.

Don will continue to serve the Post in several areas, but he will no longer run our dances. The current dance volunteer workers will be able to get us through the Spring season, but that will end on June 13, 2020. If two of you new members can work together on this project, this would be an excellent way to keep the Post income stream intact! Without a volunteer(s), we will have to cancel the dance fundraisers until someone steps up.

Thanks again for a job well done, Don! We appreciate the volunteer work you have done to plan, organize, staff, and conduct the many, many dance fundraisers that we have held at The Patriot Center over the years!

***Anderson, Ohio, Post 318,
Veterans and Friends!***

Columbus Blue Jackets Ice Hockey Military Appreciation Night!

You have been invited to the Columbus Blue Jackets Military Appreciation Night in the Nationwide Arena in Columbus, Ohio, at 7:00 PM on Thursday, January 16th, 2020! The hockey game will be against the Carolina Hurricanes, and veterans and active duty military can get (1) free ticket with each (1) ticket they purchase. You will also receive a Columbus Blue Jackets commemorative dog tag, and an opportunity to go on the ice and take a slap shot on the net after the game! For more information online: Bluejackets.com/Military. For a block of tickets call Mark Kijowski, (614) 246-3280.

Columbus Blue Jackets

Finances as of 11/30/2019

Charities, Inc. Balance (Total): \$6,680.31

Checking accounts (5th/3rd & PNC) (Total): \$15,488.36

Savings account (5th/3rd) (Total): \$21,721.79

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 two areas we are hoping to improve on 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 on January 12th, please call me at (513) 582-8477 or e-mail: joedubois@cinci.rr.com I will then let them know we are planning to attend.

Joe DuBois

Breakfast with Santa!

Looks like Santa put this little one to sleep! Or maybe the pancakes, bacon, and sausage did it! Either way, Santa did a great job, and his costume was excellent! Our thanks go out to Ed Ruffennach, members of BSA Troop 519, and the teachers who volunteered to help us with this event. Thanks also to our veterans who did the cooking for our first Breakfast with Santa event! The leftover food was donated to a worthy cause and delivered by Ralph Caskey.

Membership Update!

We've made great strides in our membership renewal this year! All but 13 existing members have renewed their memberships. We are 5 renewals away from reaching our 2020 quota (161) and 8 away from exceeding the largest membership our Post has ever reached, 163 back in 1987. If you are one of the 13 who have not renewed, please respond by the end of the month. Your membership can be renewed one of several ways:

- Online by credit card: www.legion.org/renew
- Cash or check, either mailed to or dropped off at the Post. 6660 Clough Pike, Cincinnati, OH 45244
- Switch to a 'Paid Up for Life' membership. This allows you to pay a onetime fee (or disburse it over 12 months). It eliminates renewal notices and future dues increases. You can check this out by going to <https://www.legion.org/join/pufl>

I still have some budget dollars left to pay dues for new members; therefore, if you know of anyone interested in joining the Post, please let me know: (513) 545-5237. This budget can also help you out if you are having a tuff year financially, so call me if you need us to pay your dues this year.

Robert Kamman
Membership Chairman

We wish you all a very Happy New Year!



Santa holding Quinn, great granddaughter of Ruth and Dan Wolfangel at Breakfast with Santa event.

POW-MIA

American Legion national commander, James W. (Bill) Oxford, saluted the caskets of seven unknown U.S. service members from the Korean War who died in 1951 in North Korean prisons. They were being moved to the U.S. for forensic identification from a cemetery in Hawaii where they had been buried since 1954.



Chaplain's Report-December 2019

My wife and I hope that all of you had a Merry Christmas and a good start to this New Year.

This report for December has been written a little early because of the deadline for getting it in so I hope nothing negative occurs between now and then. Our Commander is working hard to work out an arrangement with our neighbor, the Pet Store, about working out a parking arrangement, so we can have shared parking spaces. It will mean the removal of the island between our properties and some new paving. Be looking for some changes and perhaps some income from this endeavor.

Our membership continues to grow and looks like we will surpass our goal. In the past couple of months we have gotten some younger men to sign up, and they, from talking to a few, can add a lot to our organization if they can come out and get involved with our daily operations. We always need people who can help with Bingo, dances, special events and clean up days. None of these activities take more than a few hours one day a month. Working together, can be fun and a good way to get to know other members. We share a lot of laughs. Wives and other family members (over 18) are also welcome to help.

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 will stop by and say hello.

Our next VAVS (Veterans Services) outing will take place in February. We were just at the VA in Clifton Area and had a good time playing Bingo with the resident patients who abide there. I thank Jack Surdick, Joe DuBois, Darrell Everman, Randy Lindsey, and Gene Sawka who helped me on December 16th. Ask them how it went and get an idea of what is involved to see if you might be interested in going next time. Max time is 3 hours, so the 14 veterans in the hospital had a good time, as we visitors did too!

Don Bishop is back to work after a heart procedure and ran a very successful evening of music for the public that netted us money to keep us afloat. He has done so much for the Legion over the past many years, holding positions on the Executive Committee, running dances, special events, picking up supplies weekly, doing cleanup, running the Poppy Program, and other things as needed.

Because of health concerns, Don has to step back from most of these activities in January. It is going to take more than one person to fill all of the positions that he has filled over the years. Take care of yourself Don, and we will see you around, I know.

God Bless all of you, and Great health to all in this new year, 2020.

Jerry Porter - Chaplain
(513) 235-6875

Spring Dance Schedule!

The upcoming schedule contains multiple "themed" events for the scheduled band / music events, which may involve related theme costumes / dress-up contests or related theme activities for cash prizes, or special themed favors. Additional information on these activities will be noted within the event description on the advance ticketing site and the Post 318 web-site. The schedule is as follows:

January 18th - "The Remains Band".
February 1st - "Super Bowl Theme Dance - Featuring "Cincy Rockers Band".
February 15th - "Valentine's Day Dance" - Featuring "Wild Rice Musical Revue".
February 29th - "Slow Burn Band".
March 14th - "St. Patrick's Day Celebration" - Featuring "Cincy Rockers Band".
March 28th - To be announced at later date.
April 4th - "Wild Rice Musical Revue".
April 18th - "Slow Burn Band".
May 2nd - "Cinco de Mayo Theme Dance" - Featuring "Cincy Rockers Band".
May 16th - "The Remains Band".
May 30th - "Wild Rice Musical Revue".
June 13th - "Slow Burn Band" - (Patriot Center "Loyalty Card" Night).

All of the dances will be from 8 PM until 11 PM, with doors opening at 7:00 PM. Reservations are strongly recommended, since the Patriot Center dances may sell out in advance. We need volunteers to work these dances. Come out to a dance and see what you can do to help staff them! Tickets are \$10 on line at ShowClix or \$12.50 at the door. Even if you don't dance, the music is good and we have a cash bar and snacks!

Don Bishop