



American Legion Post 318 Newsletter



“For God and Country”

May, 2020

Commander’s Notes

Here we are again, still facing the shutdown due to the Chinese Flu! So far we have been having virtual meetings to continue some of our normal work at Post 318! If you want to join our virtual General Membership meeting at 7PM on May 13th, download the free Zoom.com app to your smart phone, tablet, or to computer. Install the app, then go to the meeting page and note the ID and Password blank spaces on that page. Once you have the app loaded and installed on your device, you just start the Zoom app 5 or 10 minutes before the meeting and go to the Meeting page. Nothing else is required until 7PM! **At 7PM on May 13th enter ID: 760 1161 8155, Password: 011164.** After 40 minutes, Randy will have us exit the meeting, and we will then go to the next Zoom meeting at 7:30PM. Ed Ruffennach will host the second half of the meeting, since our free Zoom use is limited to 40 minutes per host! **7:30 Meeting ID: 711 1530 4887, Password: 1K4J2W**

Make sure you activate “video and audio” on your device. The group will see the picture (your camera must be on) whenever your microphone picks up a sound (your mike must be on too). If there is any noise picked up by your mike, you will stay on everyone’s screen! If you don’t turn on your microphone you will not be seen or heard! Your voice (and TV, Radio, wife or dog) causes Zoom to send your camera and mike input to everyone, so we can hear and see who is talking. Please be in a quiet space for the meeting, or mute your mike until you want to speak to the group.

Joe DuBois

Patriot Center Rental

Our Hall is one of the newest, largest and cleanest in the area which is available for rental. However, no one can rent it until the current limit on group size is changed by the governor!

The Patriot Center was not rented during April, and no one has signed up for a May rental.

Ken Knight
Events Coordinator

Officer Elections for 2020-2021

March 11th – A Nomination Committee was appointed to develop a slate of Post 318 Officers for the 2020-2021 Membership Year. (Officers to be Elected: Commander / 1st Vice Commander / 2nd Vice Commander / Adjutant / Finance Officer / Chaplain / Sgt.-at-Arms). Nominations were open until the end of the EC meeting held on April 29th, 2020, as approved by membership vote on April 8th.

May 13th – The election will be conducted at the Post General Membership meeting on May 13th, 2020.

The members who will be running for office are:

- Chester Canter for Commander,
- Robert Kamman for 1st Vice Commander,
- Kirk Minnich for 2nd Vice Commander,
- Ed Ruffennach for Adjutant,
- Randy Lindsey for Finance Officer,

There are no nominations for Chaplain.

Ralph Caskey for Sergeant-at-Arms.

June 10th - Officers will be installed at the Post 318 General Membership meeting. After installation, they will assume responsibility for their respective offices for the remainder of the meeting.

If an emergency or other circumstances delay this order of process, the current Post Officers will continue to serve until the election process has been completed and the newly elected officers have been installed.

The Nomination Committee

At The Flag Pole:

Fly The Flag Days:

- Mother's Day, May 10th
- Women's Army Corps Founded, May 15th (1942)
- Armed Forces Day, May 18th
- Memorial Day, May 25th (Half staff until noon)
- Volunteers can sign up for our Memorial Day Color Guard and the Bell ceremony at the May 13th virtual meeting.

Thanks! R. Caskey
Sergeant-At-Arms

Fund Raising Update

Bingo is cancelled until further notice!
Euchre is cancelled until further notice!
Dances are cancelled until further notice!

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.

Jack Russell Storm



Jack Russell Storm

Dear father of Russell (Kim), Bill (Julie), his most beloved daughter Julie Storm Rubenacker, Jesse (Jamie) Storm and the late Brady Strm. Loving grandfather of Marina, Miles, Jack, Janie, and Falcon. Brother of the late Earl Storm, Evelyn Rowekamp, Leland "Sonny" Storm, Lillian Baldwin, Carla Sue Harness. Uncle of Ruth Mathis and also survived by many other nieces and nephews. Jack passed away Tuesday, March 31, 2020 at the age of 83. Private funeral service to be held. Jack was a member of the American Legion Post #318. Memorials may be made to the [American Heart Association](http://AmericanHeartAssociation.org). Condolences at HodappFuneralHome.com

Published in The Cincinnati Enquirer from Apr. 3 to Apr. 5, 2020

Joseph House

Al Buxton, 4th District Adjutant, wrote: "Will you please forward this to your contacts. Joseph House stepped up big time. As true leaders in helping our vets, Joseph House took in a dozen men that the VA needed assistance with housing and treatment. With COVID 19, resources will not get better for a while. Joseph House's already tight budget just became tighter. They continue to do the right thing for all veterans."

If you can, please add Joseph House to your monetary donation list during this crisis. We are still collecting toiletries and clothing for the veterans at Joseph House. You can drop off your donations inside the members entrance at the Post, just to the left inside the door to the Club Room.

Joe DuBois
Commander

Chaplain's Report, April 2020

March and April have proven that we are not in charge of our destiny. Someone with higher powers than us has control. Knowing that and believing that has helped me get through these trying times. You can only do so many puzzles, and TV is rather boring without our normal sports programs and updated shows. Bars are closed and so are movie theaters, so it is time to go back in time and bring out the Scrabble, Dominoes, card games, board games, and Jenga. A time to carry on normal conversations and not be in such a hurry. You're also saving money on gas and eating out. Hopefully you are finding time to think about what really is important in your life and your family's life. My wife and I are actually doing "Chair Yoga" and I find it relaxing. You might want to try breathing exercises, pushing away from the table, and taking walks. This too will pass! Let us get through this healthy---and not fatter.

We lost another member of our Post last month. Jack Storm has been a member since 2014. He was in the Navy and worked for NSA at Fort Mead. His last years were hard with health problems, and he spent a few years in a Nursing Home. May he rest in peace.

Well the Legion also needs our attention. Elections are coming up and we still need a new Chaplain! We have 2 new transfers to our Post running for offices. Chester Canter is running for Commander, and he brings prior experience from his previous Post. Kirk Minnich has volunteered to run for 2nd Vice Commander.

We will still need a Chaplain, which doesn't require a lot of expertise. It only takes a spirit of wanting to get involved and to help others. I know we have some good men who could really do well in this position. Men who have been active with VAVS, attend activities held at the Post, and know our routines. It would be great to have a full slate of officers.

As of this newsletter, VAVS and all other activities are on hold. After May 1st, things might get back to normal, but only time will tell. We still have High School Scholarships to consider and even though we have not received any requests, I did have an inquiry. Buckeye Boys State has been cancelled, and the fate of Girls State will be decided on May 1st. Paul Henkel has done a lot of work, with a great group of students chosen and ready to go. Another big Covid-19 loss!

It is my hope and prayer that all of our veterans, families, and friends stay healthy through this crisis.

Jerry Porter
Chaplain

Charitable Giving

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

General Account:

Beginning Balance on 03-01-2020	\$3,596.21
501-©-3 Rent March 2020	-\$150.00
Volunteer Raffle gift card March	-\$50.00
Greater Anderson Betterment Commission	-\$125.00
Kroger Reward Donation	+\$170.52
Breakfast w/Santa late store sale	+\$10.00
Duke Energy Your Cause Donation	+\$30.00
<u>Deposit Bingo</u>	<u>+\$485.00</u>
Balance as of 03-31-2020	\$3,966.73

Veterans Account:

Beginning Balance on 03-01-2020	\$978.89
501-©-3 Rent March 2020	-\$150.00
Gifts For Yanks	-\$511.00
<u>Members donations Gifts for Yanks</u>	<u>+\$191.00</u>
Balance as of 03-31-2020	\$508.89
TOTAL OF BOTH ACCOUNTS:	\$4,475.62

Walt Geil
Charities, Inc. Treasurer

April Membership Update!

Current membership:

2020 Quota = 161, Our 2020 Goal = 165

Paid Status vs Quota = 166 (103.1%) We have exceeded our GOAL! Our Potential is =170!

New members this year = (9) (Ken Barg, John Bothwell, Tony Capetillo, Richard Corsmeier, Jim Gartin, Jay Lenihan, Steve Saunders, Mike Thumann, Rick Weis)

Transferred In = (5) (Chester Canter, Kirk Minnich, Danny Garrett, Katie Harwood, Ron Mercurio).

Transferred Out = (0)

Paid by Charities Inc. = (22) (One Remaining).

Deceased Members = (7) (Bill King, Don McLaughlin, Roger Siegman, Dale Simpson, Jack Storm, Leo Turner, Ron Yersky). Not Renewing = (0). Delinquent = (4) (Mike Hartzler, Frank Miller, Tom Neal, Josh Zortman).

Bob Kamman
1st Vice Commander

House

We have done as much as possible to reduce fixed costs. All kitchen appliances are off, excess night lights are off, and I have been to the Post every day to check on things. All the thermostats are set at 50 degrees for now.

Bob Alfieri
House Chairman

Next Meeting

Our next virtual meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM, Wednesday, May 13th, 2020. We will be using the free app, Zoom. It works with computers, smart phones or tablets. The host sends out an invitation to you containing an ID number and a pass code for you to use at 7PM on meeting night. You can download the Zoom app on your device and install it (free). On meeting night start Zoom. **At 7PM fill in the blanks with the ID and password for the 1st half of the meeting.** If the meeting goes to 40 minutes, another host will open Zoom for the 2nd half, and you will re-start Zoom, enter the 7:30PM ID and Password, and be back with the group for the 2nd half of our meeting. Write both sets of ID and Passwords down and have them ready when the meeting starts (Randy's 1st!) and for the 2nd half using Ed's set. Both sets of IDs and Passwords are in the ***Commander's Notes*** on page 1.

On meeting night, I will officially start the meeting after we all get on Zoom, since we don't open the Zoom app until 7 PM. Adjutant Ed will have an officer roll call and determine which officers are attending, as well as who else is "Zooming" with us. If we have a quorum we can conduct Post business. **If you want to participate, load the Zoom app on your device and join the meeting at 7PM on May 13th!**

We will not have a Split-the-Pot, nor will we have a drawing for Volunteer of the Month! Randy will NOT serve a light snack after the meeting, either!

If you never come to meetings, please give Zoom a try on Wednesday night, May 13th!

Joe DuBois

Love to Read?

Project Gutenberg has a free deal for veterans! Go to this link for the website and information:

<https://www.blogs.va.gov/VAntage/73760/stuck-inside-get-free-e-books-project-gutenberg/>



Connecting critical needs of Anderson area residents with local resources that can fill those needs, especially the elderly and those underserved during this COVID-19 crisis.

Serving and helping our community to stay safe and healthy by making it feasible for those who are elderly, ill or underserved to stay at home.

Allow us to serve and stand in the gap for those with critical needs.

Helping Hands of Anderson Township (HHAT) is a local volunteer group who are healthy, willing and able to help the elderly and those in need while complying with the state mandated COVID-19 regulations.

Our program works two ways:

1. We have created a “call center” to match those who have a “need” with local resources, such as churches, food banks and other agencies, that are able to fill that “need”.
2. We have a “volunteer bank” of folks ready to run errands, grocery shop, or pick up medicine for those residents that are elderly, high risk, or ill so they can stay at home protecting them from illness or spreading illness to others.

All our volunteers are informed and adhere to the latest Center of Disease Control “best practices” guidelines. A copy of those guidelines are available upon request.

Contact us at:
513-302-8160
HHATneed@gmail.com
Hours of Operations: M - F 10AM - 2PM

Charities, Inc.

Americanism: Scholarship Applications are due April 30th.

Community Support: The Anderson Area Chamber of Commerce has suspended distribution of all Post 318 event notices.

Fund Raising: Fall Dance Schedule should be under development.

Charities, Inc.: Monthly Financials have been reduced to writing and made available for review. (Page 3)

Budget Reduction: The suspension of Bingo and the collapse of the “Poppy Program” will create a significant “Revenue Shortfall”. To address this issue the 2020 Charities, Inc. Budget was adjusted.

Specifically, outstanding 2020 Budgeted Expenses were either reduced, or eliminated, to offset the revenue shortfall. An email was sent out to Committee Chairmen, and EC members, documenting all changes that were made. These identified changes are effective immediately.

Charities, Inc. also has recurring expense commitments that are due in July and August. These 2021 expenses, total approximately \$3,400.

Respectively submitted: Donald Bishop – President,
American Legion Post 318 Charities, Inc.

Bingo!

Bingo has been cancelled, along with everything else! February was the last full month of Bingo Sundays until the crisis is over. There is no current income from Bingo, dances, Euchre, Hall rental, or catering!

Ed Sears

Bingo Chairman

April Finance Report

Balances as of 4/29/2020:

1st Financial Checking	\$14261.31
1st Financial Savings	\$12125.01
13 mos CD	\$10000.00
5/3 Bank	\$200.00

All bills are paid except noted.

Liquor license has been paid. Liquor license renewal date is 6/1. Cost was \$2844.00

Pending is Lawyer costs for Anderson Pet Center agreement.

Post expenses have been reduced to less than \$2500 per month which includes the mortgage payment of \$1496.86

Thanks to Ed S. and Bob for their hard work at reducing the Post’s energy consumption.

Besides the normal bills, the only other money spent by the post was to purchase new flags for the Anderson Township Center for Memorial day.

***Respectfully,
Randy Lindsey***