



American Legion Post 318 Newsletter



“For God and Country”

August 2021

Commander’s Corner

Hello to everyone. To you of you that don’t know, I have been elected to the position of Post commander. I had somewhat recently received a letter like all of you have, about open positions in the Post. It stated that if certain positions weren’t filled then the Post would lose its charter. They were Post commander and Post adjutant positions. I called and ask for a brief list of duties of both. After reading them, I decided I didn’t want to be Post adjutant, so I volunteered to be put on the ballot for Post commander (little did I know I was the only one). So I was “elected”. I will try to serve as Post commander to the best of my abilities. I feel really blessed to have so many members who are on the executive committee that have served in that position in the past who are giving me guidance.

To give you a little bit of my back ground, I grew up in Hamilton, Ohio. I married my high school sweetheart, and we have been married for 52 years. We have three children and five grandchildren.

I was sworn into the Navy in December 1968. I served 6 years as CTM (Communication Technician – Maintenance).

I have been active in the Boy Scouts of America for 66 years, and I am a member of the Dan Beard Council Shooting Sports Committee. I am a NRA certified rifle, pistol, shotgun, black powder, instructor and chief range safety officer.

I was a member of the Grassy Run Historical Society doing reenactment work. I have already represented Post 318 at the Department of Ohio Annual Convention held in Independence, Ohio, in July.

I am looking forward to meeting you all while serving my first year as your Post 318 Commander.

Lee Stegmann
Commander

Membership Update

Once again it is time to start our membership renewal program for the 2022 year. The renewal window starts the 1 July 2021 and is to be completed by Veterans Day, 11 Nov 2022. As in past years, I am asking for your assistance in reaching our quota, 169 members by Veterans Day. There are several reasons for reaching quota by this date: 1. We will receive financial incentives, this never hurts, 2. It’s written in our Post constitution, and last and most importantly 3. It will greatly simplify my job.

2020 Membership Scoreboard

Paid as of 7/25/2021	41
2019-20 Post Goal	170
% of Goal	24.1%
2019-20 Quota	169
% of Quota	24.3%
Required for Quota	128

We have already signed up eight (8) new members: Thad Airhart, USMC; Joe Ballenger, USA; Brad Beckett, USA; Thomas Gilliam; USA, James Gray, USA; Lance Larsen, USAF; Mike Leopold, USAF; Stephen Woolery, USMC. We want to wish these new members a hearty welcome and encourage them to be active members of our Post. Welcome aboard!

As a related item, if you should know of anyone that might be interested in joining our Post, please pass their contact information to me and I will follow up with them or you can give them my contact information.

Enjoy the remainder of your summer.

Robert Kamman
1st Vice Commander
Membership Chair

Post Finance Report

All bills are paid. A deposit from the estate of our deceased member, Hugo Vontz, Jr., who passed away in 2020, has been made to our savings account.

Randy Lindsey
Finance Officer

Post Clean Up Schedule

We are once again scheduling our Post clean up day on Tuesdays at 9 AM. Please come out and help!

Ed Sears and Bob Alfieri

Post 318 Socials

Our first social gathering was a success! We are planning to have an Ice Cream Social on Saturday, August 14th, at 6:30 PM.

Kirk Minnich
2nd Vice Commander

Uniformed Services

The rifles were cleaned under the supervision of Mike Gregorio, with help from Walt Geil and Ralph Caskey. Gary Gregorio did the inventory, so we're ready for another year. New gloves will be issued when we have Color Guard details. We have our first CG detail on Aug 16th at the Forest Hills School District (FHSD) opening. Gary Gregorio, Walt Geil, Bob Alfieri, Jack Surdick and Ralph Caskey will do the detail. When the upcoming football and soccer season starts I'll send out requests to man the details. No word yet as to our participation at these events so stand by. We will present all 9 schools in the FHSD with a new flag for their school.

A Flag Retirement Ceremony will be held at Hillcrest Cemetery in late September or October, details will follow.

If any member would like to join the Color Guard we could use some extra members see S.A.A. Ralph C. for details.

Ralph Caskey
Sergeant-at-Arms

Charities, Inc. Update

Charities Inc., is planning its 2022 fund raisers. We're looking to generate about \$ 37,000 to fund IRS approved projects and philanthropy supported by the Post.

This year we are focusing on 8 events. Like always, we need your support and participation to actually execute the events. This year's tentative list is as follows:

- All Year:** Amazon Smiles
- All Year:** Kroger Rewards
- All Year:** Bingo
- November 2021:** Wave the Flag
- Nov. – Dec.2021:** Old Coney Christmas Lights
- December 2021:** Cookies & Cocoa with Santa
- March 2022:** Gifts for Yanks
- May 2022:** Poppy Days (Schools & Community)

We know what we need to do, but we also know that we are dependent on others to be successful. However, we're hoping that with the pandemic winding down we'll be able to get our fund raising back on track.

To this point, remember there are two corporate programs that contribute to CI (Charities,Inc.) based on your support for their businesses. All you need to do is sign up, select CI as your cause, and they will contribute a portion of your spending to CI. Details are listed below:

Kroger Community Rewards – If you are a Kroger customer and are not supporting a charitable organization through ***Kroger Community Rewards***, we would encourage you to do your part to support your Post! 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 – If you shop at Amazon.com 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.

Don Bishop

President, Charities, Inc.

2021-2022 Business Plan and Budget

The Business Plan was reviewed and updated last month. On July 14th a membership vote was taken and the Business Plan and the Budget were approved.

Don Bishop, Program Manager, Post 318
Business Plan

BINGO!

I want to thank all the people that come out to help set up for bingo, along with all of the people that come out and work Bingo for the POST. If you like to play Bingo, we play on Sunday night. Cost of Bingo paper to play is listed below. Doors open at 4:30 pm. Play starts at 6 pm.

Please consider helping us out on Sundays. The jobs are easy to learn, and about half are completed by 7:30 pm. We are usually finished with all jobs by 9:30 to 10:00 pm.

PRELIMINARY GAMES

1 x 6 Faces \$3.00 / 2 x 6 Faces \$5.00 /Additional: \$2.00.

REGULAR GAMES

6 Faces \$9.00 / 9 Faces \$12.00 / 12 or 15 Faces \$15.00 / 18 up to 45 Faces \$20.00.

EXTRA GAMES

Red White, and Blue \$5.00 each.

Split the Pot 6 Face \$1.00 each.

Player Wins All 1 Face \$1.00 each.

Thank you,

Ed Sears
Bingo Chairman

513-474-0246, emsears1969@gmail.com

All Post 318 ZOOM meetings:

ID: 3959722502, Password: Post318 (Capitol "P" and no space between Post and 318 is necessary in the password.)

If you can't attend the monthly General Membership meeting, please use the Zoom application and the ID & Password provided above! Log on, mute your mike, and listen and observe the meeting. We need your attendance, since we can't do business without a quorum. We need you there on Zoom!

Randy Lindsey
Zoom Chairman

Post Officers & Committee Chairs:

Commander: Lee Stegmann 513-967-9613

1st Vice: Bob Kamman 513-545-5237

2nd Vice: Kirk Minnich 513-594-5339

Adjutant: Dan Wolfangel 513-474-9577

Finance Officer: Randy Lindsey 513-374-2099

Chaplain: Jerry Porter 513-528-1557

Sergeant at Arms: Ralph Caskey 513-470-6588

Bingo: Ed Sears 513-474-0246

Community Support, Americanism, and Fundraising are all VACANT

Event Coordination: Ken Knight 513-675-5234

House: Bob Alfieri 513-232-0309

Service Officer: Charlie Cleves 513-232-7767

Charities Inc. Liaison: Don Bishop 513-474-4194

Corp. Statutory Agent: Dan Wolfangel 513-474-9577

VA Volunteer Service: Jerry Porter 513-528-1557

Asst. Finance Officer and Newsletter Editor:
Joe DuBois, joedubois@cinci.rr.com 513-582-8477

July 4th parade

The Anderson 4th of July parade was held on Saturday, July 3RD, and our Post 318 Color Guard led the parade, followed closely by Mike Gregorio, our bagpiper! Our Boy Scouts followed, carrying the Anderson Township Banner. Following our Scouts were several antique classics, carrying our Members. Photos of the vehicles in the parade are on page 7!



Awards and Recognition Program

Post 318 conducted its Annual Awards Program on July 17, 2021. We recognized the local winners and recipients of various American Legion and Post 318 program awards, and also the years of service of Post members. The event was attended by many of the award recipients, their families, co-workers, Post 318 members, and representatives of Anderson Township, Anderson Fire Department, Hamilton County Sheriff's Office, and Anderson High School.

After the Pledge of Allegiance and invocation, incoming Post Commander Lee Stegmann, 1st Vice Bob Kamman, and Chaplain Jerry Porter, and outgoing Post Commander Bob Kamman were presented with their appropriate officer service pins.

Each year Post 318 awards multiple monetary scholarships to deserving local high school seniors who have a parent or grandparent that has served honorably in the United States Military. This year's six scholarships were awarded to: Parker Lindmark and Zachary Reising of Anderson High School, and Conner Flora, William Henkel, Riley Howland and Jaden Schlosser of Turpin High School.



Post Scholarship recipients & Presenter Jerry Porter.

Recognized for their contributions to the safety and welfare of our community were Law & Order Program award recipients. Hamilton County Sheriff's Department Deputy Andrew Caddell, was recognized as Post 318's Law Officer of the Year. Anderson Township Fire Department's Battalion Chief Christopher Kasperczyk was recognized as Post 318's Firefighter of the Year.



Battalion Chief Christopher Kasperczyk & Deputy Andrew Caddell



Tom Prem, Bob Kamman, Ray Krimple and Rick Simpson

Post 318 recognized twenty-four of its own members for continuous years of membership and service to the American Legion ranging from 5 years to 70 years of Legion membership. Those recognized were: Zenon Bilwin (70 years); Eugene C. Johnson, Jr. (55 years); James F. Clark and **Thomas W. Prem (50 years)**; Michael L. Mannarino (45 years); Jimmie L. Nugent, Jr. (35 years); Thomas Andes and William R. Becker (30 years); **Richard Simpson** (20 years); Edward Brautigan and Charles Gill (15 years); Joseph Burkart, Thomas A. Bursk, Michael Gregorio, **Robert Kamman, Raymond Krimple** and Gerald Oaks (10 years); Joseph M. Blanco, Eric Franz, James K. Marshall, John L. Nolting, Richard Schueler, Charles Stein and John W. Wakefield (5 years).

Ohio Senator Steve Wilson recognized eleven Post 318 veterans who passed away in 2020. Certificates commending the veterans' military service to their country were presented for distribution to respective family members of these deceased Post 318 veterans

Those veterans are: Richard Burnes, Harold Cook, William Hitchcock, Stanley Dillon, Ed Ruffennach, Roger Siegman, Jack Storm, Leo Turner, Hugo Vontz, Jr., Cornelius Weber and Ronald Yersky, Sr. A separate certificate commemorating all eleven veterans, and a State of Ohio flag flown over the Ohio Capital, were also presented to the Post by Senator Wilson.



Ohio Senator Steve Wilson honoring our deceased member veterans.



Saron Tefera, Ohio Girl's State Governor, 2020

Recognized for their selection and attendance at the American Legion's / Legion Auxiliary's Buckeye Boys and Girls State Programs were Anderson High School students: Serra Lindsey; **Owen Newberry**; **Saron Tefera**; and Andrea Mier y Teran.



Owen Newberry, Ohio Boys State, 2020.

Nagel Middle School was recognized for their Citizenship Program.

The Post also recognized two brothers, Anderson High School students and trumpet players, Jason and Nathan Bell, for assisting Post 318 in their Memorial Day veteran grave services at local cemeteries, and at the Anderson Township Memorial Bell Ceremonies, by providing the playing of "TAPS".

Post 318 Commander Lee Stegmann conducted the evening's activities, noting that the sponsorship of these various programs, and the presentation of the annual awards and recognition is but a small part of Anderson Post 318's continuing efforts at providing service to the active and the veteran military service personnel and their families, and to the youth and public of the Anderson Township community.

Dan Wolfangel
Adjutant Post 318
Coordinator, Awards Program

Chaplain's Report

Once again I find myself in a familiar position as Chaplain. There are so many of you that could find this position rewarding and very social. If anyone is interested in learning what being Chaplain entails feel free to contact me.

There still is nothing going on at the VA. There is a need for a Representative from our Legion District 4. The Representative that has done it for years, Dave Hurst, passed away last year.

Bob Alfieri is healing well after knee replacement. If anyone sees him exerting himself, please step up and remind him he is still on the mend. Now if we can get Dan Wolfangel from tripping and tearing up his leg, we hope and pray he gets better soon. We still need an adjutant to replace Dan whose term has expired, but he is hoping someone will step up and learn this position.

Let me know if I can be of help to anyone.

Jerry Porter
Chaplain

"Let's Dance"

Mark August 28th on your calendar! After an 18-month break, the **Wild Rice Musical Revue** will bring live music back to the "Patriot Center". This high energy dance band, made up of Cincinnati music legends, specializes in making sure their audience has a great time! Whether you want to get up and dance, or sit back and enjoy the music, you will be entertained.



Although the COVID pandemic is mostly behind us, it had a significant impact on our ability to raise money! Now, we're in the recovery mode and the proceeds we derive from our dance events go directly to help pay Post operating expenses. We need to get our dances going again, and ask that you to consider coming out to enjoy Wild Rice.

Don Bishop
Dance Chairman

VAVS, September 11th

The Cincinnati VA will be partnering a 9/11 commemoration and swearing-in ceremony with the Navy and the Association of the United States Army to host a 20 year September 11th at Lunken Airport. We are estimating 1,500-2,000 guests consisting of Military/Veteran Organizations as well as the general public. We need volunteers to assist with set up on Friday, September 10th (times TBD) and working the event on September 11th (estimated 9am-1pm). If you want to help with this event, please contact Jerry Porter, our VAVS Coordinator.

Post 318 Fund Raiser!

Announcing the Third Annual Fundraiser Celebrating Post 318's Heroes. The Latitudes Bar & Bistro, 7454 Beechmont Ave. will host the event. The fundraiser will be held on Sunday, August 29th, 2021.

Doors Open at 1:00 PM. and Music starts at 2:00. The sponsors of this event are thanking our Post 318 Veterans for their service to our country & to Anderson Township! With Special Guests: DJ Glen Hock & Jon Wayne Hatfield. Entertainment will Feature "The Varner/Netherton Revival" musicians Dan Varner & Nick Netherton.

Reserve your Pre-Sale VIP Tables Now! 6 person table: \$200.00, 4 person: \$150.00, 2 person: \$75.00. These prices include: Admission tickets (bracelets), one split the pot and one raffle ticket per seat, one champagne bottle for each table to share. (Two bottles for 6 persons). Table service is included. Contact Kerri Wolfangel at 513-265-3125 or kwolfangel@comey.com to purchase a table! **General Admission is \$10.00 at the door for outside tables or for standing room.** All proceeds from this event will be donated to American Legion Post 318!

Fundraising features; Silent Auction Baskets, Raffles, Split the Pot, and the outdoor Tiki Bar! Food and beverages will also be available from Latitudes' regular menu!

Next Meeting

Our next General Membership Meeting is scheduled for 7:00 PM, Wednesday, August 11th. We will go through our committee reports, updating our projects and programs. We will have the drawing for the monthly volunteer's award, and split the pot at the end of the meeting. Following the meeting we will have snacks and socialize in the Club Room!

July 4th Parade Continued

Our thanks to Charlie Cleves for his work arranging for the owners of these classic vehicles to carry our veterans in the parade. And a big thanks to the owners of these vehicles for the donation of their prized possessions for the use of our veterans on the Anderson Township July 4th celebration parade route!

A classic 1973 Red Cadillac led the vehicles down Beechmont Avenue from Dunkin Donuts to the Anderson Town Center!

July 4th Parade Continued

Following our Scouts came several antique classics, carrying our Members. Post 318 Commander, Lee Stegmann was in uniform in the lead car, this red '73 Cadillac.



White Mustang



Retired St. Nick Coach Jerry Doerger's blue '72 Olds Cutlass



Red Mini Cooper



Johnny's Blue & White 1957 Chevy



Authentic WWII Willys Jeep from the 1940's



Christmas Concert Under Production

In collaboration with the *Cincy Rockers*, Post 318 produced its first Christmas concert in 2019. It was a great success. It far exceeded our expectations, with 206 guests and a profit of more than \$ 2,000. So, we decided to do it again.



Our Christmas concert features Christmas favorites performed by five (5) local vocalist; ***Bobby Harlow, Jeanne Blessing, Jeff Wilson, Ann Chambers and Doug Morgan***, with the *Cincy Rockers* providing the accompanying music.

Caution! *If you join us on December 18th, it will put you into the Holiday spirit, and you'll be humming Christmas Carols for a week!*

In 2019, we put on our 1st "***Breakfast with Santa***". It was a good event, but it didn't meet our expectations. So, it was decided that we needed to try it one more time

In 2020, we considered this event again, but were side tracked by the pandemic.

So now it's 2021, and it looks like we're ready for a re-run. However, rather than "***Breakfast with Santa***" we're going to break the mold and try "***Cookies and Cocoa with Santa***".

All the details are not yet complete, but for a modest admission fee there will be an opportunity for our young guests to meet Santa, have photos taken (if they wish), and to browse for small gifts at our Christmas Store.

This is a Charities, Inc. event, and all proceeds derived will be used to support Post 318 programs and philanthropy. If you have grand children that would enjoy this event, support the Post and bring them out to meet Santa.

Don Bishop

"IN SEARCH OF A POST ADJUTANT "

We are currently moving ahead into the new 2021-2022 membership year, without having elected one of the major Post Officer positions, that of Post Adjutant. I am not saying that merely because I currently serve, and have served in that position since July 2004, a total of almost 16 years years, with one break of about 15 months when Ed Ruffennach served, and I served as his Assistant Adjutant until his death, in late 2020, when I was appointed to serve the balance of his term.

The American Legion requires each Post to have a Commander and an Adjutant to maintain it's charter. We have tried over the past few months to find someone to serve as Assistant Adjutant to "learn the ropes" in preparation to run in this last election, however our efforts have gone unanswered. I have noted here an excerpt from the Post Business Plan: "The Adjutant shall have charge of and keep a full and correct record of all proceedings of all meetings, keep such records as the Department and National Organizations may require, render reports of membership annually or when called upon at a meeting, and under direction of the Commander handle all correspondences of the Post.

Other responsibilities of the Adjutant include, but are not limited to:

- 1) Chairs the Internal / External Communications Committee (see Standing Committee Responsibilities)
- 2) Maintains membership records in cooperation with membership Chairperson.
- 3) Records and maintains meeting minutes.
- 4) Publishes and posts official orders, announcements, instructions, and various articles of correspondence as necessary.
- 5) Maintains custody of all Post records.
- 6) Maintain a copy of the Post Adjutant's Manual.
- 7) Has primary access to the Post mailboxes (and distribution of all Post mail)."

I am hoping there is someone within our membership who will step up and assume the responsibilities of Post Adjutant. This is necessary to assure that American Legion – Anderson Post 318 will continue to serve our veterans and our community. Please volunteer to serve as Assistant Adjutant in preparation to assume the role.

I will be willing to discuss the Adjutant responsibilities with any members interested in serving Post 318 in the position, and I will continue in an Assistant Adjutant to assist a new Adjutant in training.

Dan Wolfangel
Adjutant, Post 318