



# The Post Messenger

THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 318  
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Visit us @[www.americanlegion318fl.org](http://www.americanlegion318fl.org)

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### Commander's Message



Hello Legion Family:

American Legion Post 318 would like to wish all members to have a safe and happy Holiday Season. As I stated in the last newsletter it's that time of the year where we as a Post can help so many others. I know sometimes I can get repetitive but I cannot emphasize the importance of what we as an organization can do for others. Is there a child that needs our help? Will that child have no Christmas? Is there a Veteran that has no family and needs just a friend to visit with? There are many ways to help. You could go to the Assisted Living Facility with us and visit the Veterans. You can visit an elderly home bound Veteran that needs your friendship; you could buy a toy for an underprivileged child, or just find a way to make someone happy. I hope you can find the time to make a difference for those individuals.

The New Post Building project is getting close to being started. In this newsletter you will see a new letter and Pledge form and ways you can help. We are so close but we need all the help we can to get going. We have to start the project prior to the end of February or we have to go through the county permitting process again; which would require more money. For those who have said that they wanted to wait till they see something happening it is now the time. We need that last push to get started.

This month I would like make Felix and Maria Ayala as our "Members of the Month". Felix and Maria help in so many ways around the Post assisting all organizations helping others. Thank you both for your hard work.

As we come to the end of 2012 and during this Holiday Season let us not forget those service men and women who are in harm's way fighting for our freedoms. Let us not forget those who fought before them. God Bless them all. Let's keep them in our prayers.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Commander  
Daryl Bowie



*and please*

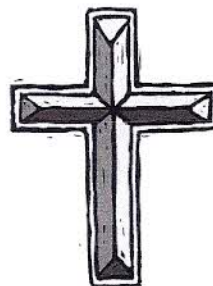
*God*

*watch*

*over all our*

*Troops*

## God Bless Our Troops



## Legion Auxiliary

Hello Everyone,

I hope everyone enjoyed their Thanksgiving and everyone is preparing for the upcoming Christmas season.



Between all the hustle and bustle of the holidays, we tend to forget those less fortunate than ourselves. We would like to encourage each member to support our ongoing food drive. When you are out shopping for your family, please pick up some extra nonperishable food items for our local food bank. Even one canned food item from each person in the Legion could fill our shelves at the Mustard Seed for the season. Please consider a donation for those that have been plagued with a loss of job or just not making enough to keep up. The box for collection of these items is on the table in the dining room. Any donation would be greatly appreciated.

I had the opportunity to participate in last year's kid's party at Christmastime that is sponsored by the Sons. I was overwhelmed by the look on each child's face as the Riders delivered Santa with all his toys. It reminded me of what Christmas joy is all about and I would like to encourage each and every one of you to participate in some way when it comes time for this event. The Ladies Auxiliary gets the names of children then provides all the shopping for this event. Please contact Brenda Saffioti if you can help with shopping or help with anything for this glorious day.

To all of you that support the Post and its activities, we say **THANK YOU!**

Our next meeting will be on December 17, at 6:45 pm. We always try and have some extra fun this time of year so please come and join us this holiday season.

Respectfully,

Debbie Johnston, Auxiliary President

## S.A.L. News

Greetings;

The lasagna dinners are doing very well.

Thank you to all the volunteers for helping to make them successful. The annual Children's Christmas party will take place on Saturday, December 15. Come see Santa deliver presents to needy children of our community. On Sunday morning, December 16, we will donate toys to the U.S. Marine Corps Reserves for their annual Toys for Tots program.

Happy Holidays

Joseph Boehm, Squadron Commander.



## Editor's Note

In last month's newsletter on the front page where we honored John Hager, I made the horrible mistake of spelling John's name incorrectly. My deepest apologies, John.

Ed. Garin

## Chaplain

### Post Everlasting

**Kenneth I. Munyan 2 Nov.**

**Fred Scheeley 13 Nov.**

**Henry A. Smith 12 Nov.**

*May their souls and the souls of all departed veterans rest in peace.*

Need prayers for the following:

A Navy Veteran and George Vansciver.

### A Prayer for our Troops by Vee

Oh Dear Lord.....

Please keep them safe...protect and shield them with Your love...

Guide them safely through these days...

Let them know they are loved in so many ways...

Ride on their wing and be their strength....

Please be their ray of light in the blackness of the night...

Lighten the load on their shoulders...Carry their burden...

Fill their minds with peace...their hearts with love...

Let them know they've been blessed by You above...

Oh, and one more thing Lord, if I may...

Would you assign them each their own special guardian angel...

to be at their side...

Angels marching with them to the beat of a different drum...

And bring them back home safely to all of us...

Amen

If you know any member that is sick, in the hospital/rehab or in distress, please call Garin Salisbury, Chaplain @ 772-878-0655.

## Second Vice

Sometimes we need to use our limited space to address important issues like reserved seating. This issue has been addressed by the E-Board, reaffirmed, recently voted on by the membership and incorporated in our House Rules. In essence the Post does not provide reserved seating, except for limited pre-approved seating for the decorating committee of the respective event. We are a Veteran's Service Organization based upon our comradeship in the service to our country. Never should a Veteran cross our threshold and be denied seating at a vacant table because it is "reserved". While we will endeavor to seat large groups together at our functions, seating is available on a first-come/first served basis. We hope to have more flexibility in our new, enlarged facilities. A copy of our policy has been posted on the Volunteer Board for your perusal. We respectfully request your cooperation and understanding.

In your service for God and Country  
Jim Richards, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice

## Remember When.....

The year was 2004. Immediately after Hurricanes Francis and Jean Post 318's members realized their Post was in terrible shape. Although we were lucky that we still had power, the roof was so damaged that it was like a waterfall throughout the entire building. The whole Post was saturated and ruined. It was decided that WE JUST COULDN'T SIT BACK AND DO NOTHING!

Within one month all the walls were stripped, new drywall and new ceiling tiles installed, plenty of painting, all done by the members of Post 318. We reopened in record time for our members. That's what we are all about. Proud to be a part of Post 318. For God and Country, U.S. McGafan

Hello Fellow Legionnaires:

This is just a few words to bring you up to date on our Post Membership. Since my last writing in the September Newsletter, membership was at 61%. At this time we are at 72%. Thus far we have reached the following goals: September 5<sup>th</sup>, 50%, October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 55%, and October 31<sup>st</sup>, 65%. December 5<sup>th</sup> will be our next goal of 75%. At this time we only need 26 renewals for that goal.

I would like to thank the 30 new members and the 31 transfer-ins for their membership. If not for them, we would not have reached our goals as quickly as we did.

We have, at this time, come to almost a complete stand-still in renewals. Those of you who have not renewed their membership will be receiving a reminder card from your local Post 318 asking you to renew your membership.

In my tenure as Membership Chairman, I have not seen membership climb as fast as this year. Please take just a moment and check your Membership card and make sure it says the year 2013. Do not worry about paying your dues by the end of the calendar year, because our Fiscal Year began in August. However, the sooner the better it is to renew now.

Thank you in advance for all of your help in this matter.

God Bless,  
Maurice "Babe" Garneau  
1<sup>st</sup> Vice

## American Legion Riders

Hello all,

Since my last writing, we have been extremely busy! Escorts, poker runs, visits to The Life Center on Jennings, a Halloween party at The VA Hospital and also with this Veteran's Day weekend activities. As I began to write this article for our Post Newsletter, it occurred to me that it might be appropriate to review the origin of Veteran's Day. Originally referred to as Armistice Day, it was the day in 1918 that the Allies and Germany signed an Armistice declaring the end of hostilities. It occurred in the 11th month, on the 11th day, at the 11th hour, 1918. The signing took place north of Paris, in a wooded area named the Forest of Compiègne in a rail car once belonging to Napoleon III. The Armistice signing preceded the official ending of WWI, which was June 28, 1919. The original Armistice Car and the replacement were destroyed in WWII and now there is a replica on the site where the original signing took place. I have had the privilege of visiting the site and can truly say that it is extremely impressive. On June 1st, 1954, Congress renamed November 11 Veteran's Day to honor all Veterans and that is how we know it today. So, thanks from the American Legion Riders, many of whom are veterans, to all who have served. We owe you our deepest gratitude. Serving Veterans and their families,

Jerry Heider



## Coupon Program

The Holidays are coming soon. Thank you volunteers for making the program such a success. We mailed out a second box in October for 25,703.15 and one box so far in November for 24,710.50. That brings our year total to 474,101.78 and the total since the beginning to 2,222,449.05. That represents a lot of hard work on the part of the volunteers. Our meetings in December will be on Tuesday the 4th and 18th from 1:00 PM until 3:00 PM.

We have to do what we can to help our troops. They do appreciate our efforts. Don't forget to drop off the manufacture coupons that you don't need, in the box at the Post. Everything helps: collecting, cutting and sorting. Thank you all again.

For God and Country  
Mary McLaughlin

