



# The Post Messenger

THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 318  
8543 So. U. S. Highway #1,  
Port St. Lucie, Fl. 34952-3347



Daryl Bowie, Commander  
Phone - 772-878-0655  
Fax - 772-878-0625

## October-2013

Visit us @[www.americanlegion318fl.org](http://www.americanlegion318fl.org)

Sally Zimmerman  
Post318editor@bellsouth.net

Member: FALPA , NALPA

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### Commander's Message

Hello Legion Family,

I would like to start off by thanking all members and individuals who over the past few years unselfishly donated to make the New Post Building a reality. The path on this road has been long and difficult but we are now there. By the end of this month or by the middle of November we will finally be in "Our New Post Home." It is our Post that we own and don't have to pay rent for. It will be a Post that for many years we will be able to do the things that we just couldn't do because of the size at our old Post home. It is our future. I hope that when you see the New Post that you will be just as proud of it as I am.

We continue to grow as a Post. We are at 70% to total for obtaining 100% for the year. Babe Garneau, our 1<sup>st</sup> Vice, has worked so very hard making sure that you all get your new membership cards as soon as you renew. It's not an easy task making sure that 900 plus members are taken care of. If you have not renewed it is now time. Florida's American Legion State Commander, Art Schwabbe, has challenged every Post to hit the 100% mark before the end of December so take a look at your card and see if you are up-to-date.

We also will need as many members as we can get to help us move from our existing Post to the New. There will be a sign up sheet at the Post for those who would like to help out. We are planning to make the transition a smooth one but as everyone knows there are always a few obstacles when your try to make the move. Please bear with us on this move as our full intent is to close on one day and open up the next at the New Building.

Please take a look at your monthly Calendar as October is full of great events planned by all the different organizations of the Post. They all are working very hard to make each a huge success. Come out and support them. All there efforts are to help support their many yearly programs that we all care about.

This month I would like to make Bill and Don Nilsson as our Members of the Month for October. These two brothers have been very active this past year helping the Post raises the necessary money needed for the New Post. I want thank them both for their great ideas and their many hours of volunteering to make things happen.

"For God and Country"

**Daryl Bowie**  
**Commander**

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★ **VA Grants up to One Year Retroactive Benefits for Veterans Filing Fully Developed Claims to Help Reduce the** ★  
★ **Backlog** ★  
★ **New Benefit Takes Effect August 6 for First-Time Filers** ★  
★ The Department of Veterans Affairs announced today [August 1, 2013] that Veterans filing an original Fully Developed ★  
★ Claim (FDC) for service-connected disability compensation may be entitled to up to one-year of retroactive disability ★  
★ benefits. The retroactive benefits, which are in effect Aug. 6, 2013, through Aug. 5, 2015, are a result of a comprehen- ★  
★ sive legislative package passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama last year. ★  
★ If you have not yet filed a claim for Service Connected Disability, now would be a good time to quit procrastinating and ★  
★ see our County Veterans' Service Office. They are usually booked for appointments so it is best to call them at 772- ★  
★ 337-5670 ★  
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## 2nd Vice Report

Hello Legion Post 318,

With all great organizations come changes and I want to thank you all for adapting with us. It's going to get hectic soon when we transfer to the new post, but we will do our part to make sure you feel comfortable and enjoy your post! We've got some great ideas that are in the works that are sure to please. Killer steak night has been tremendously successful and we've been selling out of lobsters too. We're going to work hard to keep the stock up so you don't go hungry. With the new building coming we need your input. I know I always say this but we want to hear from you. PLEASE let us know what you think and put your suggestion in the suggestion box, whether someone went above and beyond or you just want to hear your favorite band more often, we want to know. Thank you all for allowing me to be your second vice and I will see you soon!

**Jason McNamara, 2nd Vice**

## Coupon Report

Hello American Legion!. Thank you for all your help with the coupon program. Our meetings in October will be on Tuesday 10/1 and 10/15 from 1:00 to 3:00. All are welcome. We can use all the help we can get.

We shipped out a second box in August for 27,030.35 and since the start 3,110,126.90. Thank you all for saving, cutting, and sorting the coupons. These figures represent a lot of hard work. Don't forget to give me your volunteers hours. The troops really appreciate our hard work. Read the thank you notes we have gotten on the board.

As always For God and Country

**Mary McLaughlin**

## Service Officer Report

Several times over the past couple of years, I have heard fellow veterans say "I'm too old to apply for benefits.", "Why apply at my age?", etc. etc. Why??? Because benefits from the VA are an entitlement you earned by your service. The same military service that entitles you to belong to Veterans' Organizations. Below is an excerpt from Title 38 U.S. Code: Pensions, Bonuses, and Veterans' Relief, Part 4 – Schedule for Rating Disabilities.

### § 4.19 Age in service-connected claims.

**Age may not** be considered as a factor in evaluating service-connected disability; and unemployability, in service-connected claims, associated with advancing age or intercurrent disability, may not be used as a basis for a total disability rating. Age, as such, is a factor only in evaluations of disability not resulting from service, i.e., for the purposes of pension.

[29 FR 6718, May 22, 1964, as amended at 43 FR 45349, Oct. 2, 1978]

I know, it's a lot of legal gibberish, but the main point is there. Age can not be used against the veteran in rating a disability.

**Ron Zimmerman Sr., Post 318 Service Officer**

## Auxiliary Report

Hello Ladies!

It is hard to believe summer is over and we are at the beginning of our new year. I hope everyone is excited about our programs and our new Post. We will be moving soon and will need as many people as possible to make this happen. When the time comes, please volunteer to help with this endeavor.

Our Halloween Party is scheduled for Saturday, October 26<sup>th</sup>. Come join us for this fun event! It is our way of giving back to the Post and is not a fundraiser. Please volunteer to donate your time and prepare food. Your help in making this a success is greatly appreciated.

Please plan on doing your part to make this year fun and successful by attending meetings and participating in all of the functions provided by each Unit. This starts with our dinner on Wednesday October 16<sup>th</sup> and our meeting on October 21<sup>st</sup>. Make a difference this year by supporting **your** Unit.

I look forward to a productive new year with a new building, new members and new programs.  
Your friend in service,

**Debbie Johnston, Auxiliary President**

## Chaplain Report

Need prayers for the following:

Sam Deville, Don Burley

Lord, make me an instrument of thy peace. Where there is hatred, let me sow love. Where there is injury, pardon. Where there is doubt, faith. Where there is despair, hope. Where there is sadness, joy. O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life. (St. Francis of Assisi)

If you know any member that is sick, in the hospital/rehab, or in distress, please call 302-357-1197

**Sam Austin, Chaplain**

## S.A.L. Report

Hi Everyone;

The S.A.L. had a very successful clam bake during the Labor Day picnic. It was a hot day but everyone enjoyed the steamed or raw clams, and of course, Babe's clam chowder. Many thanks to all our volunteers who made the day special.

On Sunday, October 20th the S.A.L. will once again be hosting our annual fall golf tournament. We will have a shotgun start at Gator Trace golf course beginning at 8:15 AM. The cost is only \$55 per golfer and includes greens fee, great food at the Post and incredible prizes. Sign up at the canteen!

Don't forget our monthly lasagna dinner; this month on Wednesday, October 9th.

**Garin Salisbury, Squadron Commander**

