

ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

Meetings: 7:00 PM 1st Weds. Of Each Month – Wheeling AMVETS Post #66



Website – vfwpost981.org

FALL 2020 NEWSLETTER

NEW POST COMMANDER

Mike Smogor has resigned as Post 981 Commander effective immediately. Per the Post bylaws Matt Voss, Senior Vice-Commander, moves up to the Commander's position. He will be appointing a Senior Vice-Commander. These changes will be in effect until the next elections in April 2021. Good luck, Matt.

WALLY LUETTSCHWAGER SCHOLARSHIP AWARDED

Our Post awarded the first VFW Post 981 Wally Luettschwager Memorial Scholarship Grant to Nicholas Jones of Arlington Heights, a graduate of Buffalo Grove High School, on July 8. Nick maintained a 4.15 GPA and was active on various athletic teams as well as community groups while in high school. He will be attending the University of Colorado Boulder this fall majoring in aeronautical engineering and will be eligible for a three-year ROTC scholarship beginning his sophomore year. Nick's family has a notable military heritage. His great-grandfather Ralph was a Marine around WWI; his grandfather John was a Marine during WWII along with two great-uncles and a great-aunt who also served during WWII; an additional two great-uncles fought in Korea with Great-Uncle Don being wounded in action; his other grandfather John was in the Air Force during the Korean War; his father James was in the Army Reserve and saw a year's active duty in Iraq; and three cousins served in the military.

Commander Mike Smogor and the Scholarship Committee (Mike Kolbuk, Don Luken, and Vince

Cipolla) made the award during a ceremony conducted at the AMVETS.



COMMANDER

As we move into the sixth month of the COVID crisis I hope that you and your loved ones are all staying healthy and safe during these trying times. The Staff and Post received some unfortunate news two weeks ago, Mike 'Smokey' Smogor submitted his resignation as our Post Commander. We all owe Smokey a mountain of gratitude for the five plus years he has spent as a member of the Post's Staff and most especially for the past year as our Commander. Smokey has stated that both he & Sharon are well and that he plans on maintaining his membership with our Post but at this time he simply needs to step away from his leadership role. We wish him nothing but the best! Per VFW by-laws and guidelines as the Post Senior Vice Commander I have assumed the role of Commander. Thank you to our District

Commander Steve MacInnes, he and I were able to “meet” via our iPhones and he swore me in as Post Commander. I am both honored and humbled to serve, I can only hope that I am able to lead as well as our previous Commanders have.

With Illinois still in Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois plan, we will continue to hold both our Staff and General Membership meetings via Zoom. At this point the risk is simply too great for too many to enable us to meet in person. The hope is that we will be able to all get together again soon, but for the time being we will continue to utilize technology and meet over the internet.

Semper Fi

Matt

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER

Our membership numbers are holding steady and we added 2 Life Members since the last newsletter. Steve Nash has upgraded his membership from continuous to Life, and we welcomed James Jones to our Post as a Life Member. James’ son Nick was the recipient of the 2020 Wally Luettschwager Memorial Scholarship. Per national our total membership is now 181; 164 Life Members and 17 Continuous.

Semper Fi

Matt

JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER

As of now the annual Post **Holiday Party** will be held at the AMVETS lower level on Saturday, **December 12** beginning at 5:30 PM. Open bar throughout, appetizers until 6:30 PM, a gourmet meal including dessert, and fellowship always. All for the ridiculous low price of \$10 each per Post member and a guest. See what \$10 gets you at your favorite restaurant.

See flyer inside the newsletter for Covid-19 protocols that we will be following.

The Post staff will be reviewing our options for the event, with the possibility that we may not be

able to hold it. Check our website for the latest information if you are not on our email list.

Mike Kolbuk

UPCOMING POST EVENTS

- VOD/PP Deadline – Thursday (11/1)
- Post Meeting – Wednesday (10/7)
- Post Meeting – Wednesday (11/4)
- Post Meeting – Wednesday (12/2)
- Post Holiday Party, AMVETS Post 66 – Saturday (12/12) 5:30 PM
- Post Meeting – Wednesday (1/06/2020)

TAPS



The members of Arlington Post 981, Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States of America, pay their last tribute of respect to our departed comrades.

Cecil Baker

Ron Poremba

As brave men and women they marched away with abiding faith in their God, **their country, and their flag.**

As soon as is possible we request that family members **notify the Post via telephone** (listed on our website) if a comrade has passed away. Too

many times we must rely on seeing an obituary in the newspaper which leaves little or no time for members to pay their final respects. If a family in the Arlington Heights area wishes a 21-gun salute, they should contact American Legion Post 208 in Arlington Heights (847-253-6632).

Ron Poremba Memorial

Our Post rarely gets a notice from a family about the passing of a comrade. You should all make your families aware the comfort our Post can bring to a grieving family

Ron's memorial service was held at Glueckert's Funeral Home Saturday July 25. Post 981 was represented by twelve members of Color Guard. They unfolded and presented the flag and rendered a final salute while playing "Taps". They then refolded the flag and presented it to Ron's son Mike.

Ron was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery.

When We Were Young

Who are we? See the end of the newsletter. Submit your service picture to yfwpost981@gmail.com.



Voice of Democracy/ Patriot's Pen

The deadline for this year's competitions is October 31. Reminders went out mid-September. This year's VOD theme is "Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?" The PP theme is "What is Patriotism to Me?" If you know of anyone in grades 6-8 (junior high – Patriot's Pen) or in grades 9-12 (Voice of Democracy) who might be interested in participating, please have them email the Post. We would like a repeat of last year when our Post VOD winner was also the District 4 winner, finishing 3rd in the state competition.

New Post Members

James Jones joined our Post in September. He is the father of our scholarship award winner, Nick. James was an Army Reserve member who served in both Desert Storm and Afghanistan.

Steve Nashe converted his continuous membership to life membership.

Everyone say hello to Jim as you encounter him at our meetings or outings.

Post Arlington Racetrack Outing September 2020

On Thursday, September 24 a total of 11 Post members and guests gathered at Arlington International Race Track. The weather was perfect, with temperature in the upper 70's and a cool cloud every so often.

Because of the pandemic Arlington Park only admitted 300 guests. All guests had to register on line and seating was only allowed at the outside table locations in the grandstand, 4 to a table. Finally we all had to enter the gate at the same time. We met at 1:00 PM outside the gate and after a 20 minute wait for no-shows we entered and took our seats. The Post was unable to arrange for a lunch due to the park food limitations, but for those who wanted to eat or drink there was a stand right outside our area selling boxed hot dogs, bags of chips, and beverages.

The afternoon racing was dominated by the favorites. I tried a couple of box exactas and hit on one of them. Roger couldn't make it but asked me to bet the 5th horse in the first race across the board which hit for him. As always, my wife bet show on the favorite and won every race.

With the potential that this was the last racing season for Arlington Race Track we will have fond memories of many great outings here.

Post 981 Color Guard

Next Color Guard event will hopefully be at AMVETS on November 11.

No other events are planned or expected.

Anyone interested in joining the color guard please call Dale Berg at 847-636-1479 or email at bergda@comcast.net

When We Were Young

Don Luken & Henry Mueller



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 981

Invites you and your guests to join your comrades and their guests at a



Holiday Dinner Party

Saturday, December 12

1730 HOURS (5:30 P.M.) TO 2100 HOURS (9:00 P.M.)

WHEELING AMVETS POST 66

700 McHenry Rd, Wheeling, IL - **Lower Level Banquet Hall**

Cost is \$10 each per member and 1 guest. Additional guests - \$25 each

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM. Open bar and appetizers.

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM. Dinner (Beef or Chicken), Dessert, Coffee. Bar is open.

8:00 PM - 9:00 PM. Music and Open bar.

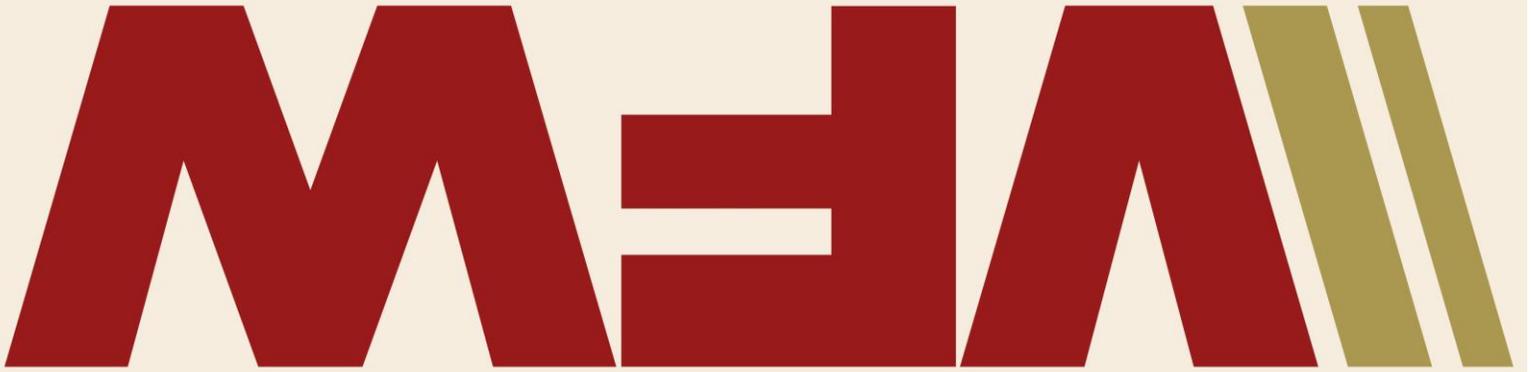
Masks will be required unless you are sitting at your table. Sanitizer will be provided. Tables will seat 4 unless you have a larger group. Appetizers and the meal will be served to each table

Send your reservations and checks (made out to **VFW Post 981**) to: Michael Kolbuk, 654 Briarwood Drive, Wheeling, IL 60090. **Deadline for reservations** - December Meeting on December 2.

Member _____ Name of Guest _____

Amount enclosed (\$10/\$25 per person) \$ _____ # of Chicken _____ # of Beef _____

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS®



ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

C/O Mike Kolbuk

P.O. Box 825

Arlington Heights, IL 60006

TO: