

ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

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



Website – vfwpost981.com

WINTER 2021 NEWSLETTER

WALLY LUETTSCHWAGER SCHOLARSHIP GRANT

Our Post is once again looking for a recipient of the Wally Luetschwager Memorial Scholarship Grant for the Fall 2021 school year.

Any children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren of our members would be eligible. Those living in the NW suburbs, especially the ones we serve, will have an edge over other applicants of equal credentials.

All the information and the application is available through our website:

www.vfwpost981.com.

POST 981 ELECTION NOTICE

At the March 3 2021 meeting nominations for elected Post Officers – Commander, Sr. Vice-Commander, Jr. Vice-Commander, Quartermaster, Adjutant, Chaplain, Service Officer and One-Year Trustee – will be accepted. Additional nominations can be made at the April 7 2021 meeting. You do not need to be present (on Zoom) at either meeting to be nominated, but, if interested, must submit a letter to the Adjutant, Vince Cippola, attesting that you will accept a nomination to a particular office. Only those members present (on Zoom) at the April meeting are eligible to vote in the elections.

NEW SENIOR VICE- COMMANDER

Tony Kochanny has volunteered and been elected by acclamation to fill the remaining term of the Senior Vice Commander post left vacant by Matt

Voss becoming Commander.

Tony was previously Senior Vice from 2016 – 2017, so he brings a lot of experience with him.

COMMANDER

First and foremost, I hope you and your family had a happy holiday season and are continuing to be healthy and safe.

As we all know 2020 presented us with some incredible challenges not only for veterans and for our Post but for the entire country and the world. I am extremely proud of our Post's ability to adapt to these challenges and continue to always move forward. Our list of accomplishments this past year include; seamlessly transitioning our monthly membership and staff meetings to Zoom, we held a special election for Sr Vice Commander (congratulations to Tony Kochanny), many of our members were able to attend the annual Arlington Park outing, our Color Guard held a 21 Gun Salute on Veteran's Day, we accepted applications for and then awarded our first annual Wally Luetschwager Memorial Scholarship Grant. We also have continued to diligently recruit new members and to solicit area businesses for Poppy Fund contributions.

I think the most valuable lesson that 2020 has taught us is that there no longer is a status quo, and the excuse "that's the way we've always done it" simply no longer exists. Most of 2020's challenges will unfortunately continue into 2021 and I am confident that Post 981 will continue to accept those challenges, adapt and once again overcome them.

Semper Fi

Matt

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER

Thank you for voting me as your Senior Vice, I will do my utmost to assist our Commander in all his objectives. Now a days with the Covid-19 virus affecting all of us we are still trying to move forward in trying to obtain more members. Some Post are dissolving due to losing members and the high cost of operations. We are moving ahead even in difficult times to help one another as that is what we do "Help other Veterans". I hope to continue the work done by Mike Voss and ask for your input and assistance in getting new members possibly absorbing another Post may be ahead of us but we cannot leave any leaf be unturned as we want to obtain all the qualified member we can.

Tony

JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER

The Covid-19 pandemic continues to prevent any outside Post activities.

The Chicago Wolves have no schedule available, and even with a schedule I have no idea whether spectators would be allowed.

The Post staff has discussed re-scheduling our Holiday party, but that also depends on the progress made in fighting the pandemic. I will keep you informed as things become clearer.

Mike Kolbuk

UPCOMING POST EVENTS

- Post Meeting – Wednesday (02/03)
- 4th District Meeting – Sunday (02/28) 1:00 PM, Moose Lodge (Post 1337), Mt. Prospect
- Post Meeting – Wednesday (03/03)
- Post Meeting & Elections – Wednesday (04/07)

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.

The following comrades passed away, or we have been notified of their passing, since the last newsletter came out:

Gerald Kiffel

Stephan Winston

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 wishes a rifle salute, they should contact Smokey at the number listed on our website.

POST HOLIDAY PARTY

Cancelled due to Covid-19 restrictions.

VOICE OF DEMOCRACY/ PATRIOTS PEN

We recently announced our Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Post 981 winners for 2020-2021. Kyra Koch, who is home schooled, was our Voice of Democracy winner. We had two Patriot's Pen winners, both from Lake Zurich Middle School North: Kendall Flournoy and Leo Michels. All three winners received their awards and certificates by USPS this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. All three read their essays at our December 2 Post meeting, which was held via Zoom. Their winning entries have been forwarded to VFW 4th District for judging - awards will be announced in January.

Congratulations to all of our winners!

Smokey

NEW POST MEMBERS

John MacInnes transferred into our Post in December. This name may sound familiar – he is the brother of Steve MacInnes. John is a retired Army Bird Colonel. He qualifies for the VFW due to 3 different campaigns - Vietnam, Grenada, and Desert Storm – earning a lot of fruit salad to wear on his dress uniform.



Post 981 Life Member Ari de Oliveira (Smokey's son-in-law) re-enlisted in the Navy for the next six years - at the end of which he will have attained 20 years. He will soon be returning to what he loves - Special Warfare - in 2021.



POST 981 COLOR GUARD

Our Post Color Guard have been in very few events due to the Covid-19, we did participate on:

- November 11th – Veterans Day 11:00 -- 21 Rifle Salute

The Color Guard have no upcoming events planned. The Guard has added to the uniform, patriot masks, red belts and on order Color Guard Garrison caps. Upcoming is the training by the state as an official folding of the flag and presentation at grave sites etc.

The Guard is growing. Even if you can't march you can participate in wakes and funerals. In addition, there are many other activities that we are involved in that you could participate in. If you would like to learn more about joining the Color Guard and the commitment level, Please Dale Berg at 847-636-1479 or email bergda@comcast.net.

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Color Guard Commander

Dale Berg



ARLINGTON VFW POST 981 HOCKEY TRIP



Chicago Wolves
Center Ice Game Ticket & Hot Dog/Drink

SUSPENDED. AWAITING LIFTING OF COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS.

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS®



ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

C/O Mike Kolbuk

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TO: