

ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

Meetings: 7:00 PM 1st Weds. Of Each Month – Arlington Hts. Am. Legion Post 208



Website – vfwpost981.org

FALL 2022 NEWSLETTER

100TH CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OCT. 8

What a great celebration it was!

There were over 100 attendees who came that night to celebrate our Post. The room looked beautiful. Chuck Vassallo had name cards and table assignments as we walked in. Each table had a placard with information about the year 1922. Each seat had a copy of the 100th Anniversary Centennial Book containing the history of the Post as was reconstructed by your Newsletter Editor.

Waitpersons circulated with appetizers and the bar was open. Music was played in the background by part of the evening's entertainment, the Sandi Haynes Orchestra.

At 6:55 PM our Master of Ceremonies, Greg Padovani, asked everyone to be seated. Post Color Guard members Dale, Smokey, Vince and A.J. posted the colors and led us in the Pledge of Allegiance. Greg made some appropriate comments and thanked the Celebration Committee – Chuck, Mike Kolbuk, Mike “Smokey” Smogor and Vince Cipolla. He then introduced State Commander Bobby Edwards, who presented Commander Voss with the VFW Century Award. Next the Mayor of Arlington Heights, Ton Hayes, read the proclamation given to Smokey at the previous AH Board Meeting. The Post then honored the 2 WWII veterans present for the celebration – Frank Fabianski and Clarence Placek. Finally Greg called on Chaplain Don Luken to pray the invocation. Other distinguished guests included State Sr. Vice-Commander Brett Nila, National VFW Council Member Philip Maugham, District 4 Officers Dutch DeGroot and Tom Davidson, former

AMVETS Commander Tony Altieri and former Post Commander Mike McInerney.

Dinner was served. Onion soup was followed by a Caesar salad. Everyone's choice of main course with appropriate potato and vegetable came next. Finally coffee service and slices of our celebration cake capped off a delicious dinner.

After dinner the 8-piece orchestra played a variety of songs from the 40's to the 70's for two hours, getting guests to participate in dancing and merriment. The night ended at 11:30 PM.





COMMANDER

We enter the 4th quarter of 2022 and begin our Post's 100th year with some exciting news passed on to us at the anniversary banquet by Illinois Department Commander Bobby Edwards; Arlington Post 981 is the #1 ranked Post in District 4, the 7th ranked Post in the State and 12th Nationwide. Our 2022-23 leadership team is working hard to keep us not only at the top of these rankings but to ensure that we retain our All American and All State statuses.

If you haven't attended one of our monthly membership meetings lately, please make an effort to come to one. Our meetings are held at American Legion Post 208 in Arlington Heights on the first Wednesday of every month at 7:00. I promise that

we are not the "same old, same old" VFW Post 981. Our members are friendly, the comradeship is second to none, we'll feed you dinner afterwards and drinks are always free!

The Staff and I are working on putting together our 2022-23 budget and one of the things the Staff has planned is that we are going to continue to expand our Post's offerings to our membership. The Sportsmen, Golf and Breakfast clubs have all been tremendous successes. If you have any additional club suggestions that you would like to see added to our Post, please reach out to Don Luken, the Clubs Committee Chair

With the closing of Arlington Park, even with the addition of the Summer Family Picnic we are in need of ideas for additional Post outings and events. If you have an idea that you'd like the Post to add to our calendar, please reach out to me or to our Jr Vice Commander Mike Kolbuk.

The National mid-term and the State of Illinois general elections are next month, please make sure to get out and vote. Remember if you fail to vote, you have silenced your own opinion and have essentially voted for the winner!

Semper Fi

Matt

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER

Welcome to Autumn! I'm happy to report that our membership numbers have not only remained steady, we have grown. We added seven new members to our roster since our last newsletter: Brian Jones, John Billis, Joe Heater, Simon Wlodarski, Patrick Popescu, Adam Roberts, and Kevin Dryman.

Unfortunately, we lost two Life Members:

Donald Guenther, 8/27/2022

Daniel Glaubke, 9/7/2022

Our total membership now stands at 179, broken down as follows:

Life Members: 166

Continuous Members: 13

Therefore, our current percentage is 107.19%. Thanks to all of our members who have helped to recruit our newest members.

Our Junior Vice will have a full report on our 100th Anniversary Celebration that was held on October 8, but I want to thank Chuck Vassallo, the Committee Chairman, and all the Committee members for making it a huge success!

Smokey

JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER

The annual Post **Holiday Party** will be held at **American Legion Post 208** (where we meet) on **Sunday, December 4** beginning at 5:30 PM. Unlimited drinks, appetizers, a full meal, coffee and dessert will be the order of the day. All for the ridiculous low price of \$10 each per Post member and a guest. See what \$10 gets you at your favorite restaurant.

Mike Kolbuk

UPCOMING POST EVENTS

- Post Meeting – Wednesday (11/2)
- Post Meeting – Wednesday (12/7)
- Post Holiday Party, Legion Post 208 – Sunday (12/04) 5:30 PM
- Post Meeting – Wednesday (01/04/2023)

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.

Dan Glaubke

Don Guenther

Jack Raftery

Tommy Pratt

Edgar Pfingsten

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. The Post Color Guard is ready to pay final respects at the wake and render a 21-gun salute and the playing of taps at the cemetery.

POST HONORED BY ARLINGTON HEIGHTS OFFICIALS

On Monday October 3 6 members of our Color Guard, Senior Vice-Commander Mike “Smokey” Smogor, Chuck Vassallo and Mike Kolbuk attended the Arlington Heights Board of Directors meeting at City Hall.

Our Color Guard posted the colors and Dale Berg led the room in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Ton Hayes observed the large amount of reporters on hand (covering the Bears stadium) and thanked them for covering our 100th anniversary. He then talked about our Post and its role in helping veterans and the village.

BLUE STAR MARKER

Our Post was contacted by the Rolling Meadows Garden Club for a donation to enable them to erect a Blue Star Memorial Marker. They had received donations from Mount Prospect Post 1337. Needless to say we topped both their donation totals. The marker will be placed on Kirchoff Road next to the RM Veterans Memorial Site. The Blue Star Memorial Program started in 1945 to be a living veteran's memorial sponsored by garden clubs. To date there are 150 markers in Illinois and several thousand across the United States.

POST PICNIC AUGUST 21

For August it was a rather cool day in the 70's, cloudy and windy. That didn't stop 25 Post members and their guests from gathering at Deer Park Grove for our first picnic in a while. The pavilion was clean, had a spacious roof, had picnic tables galore to eat on, and was close to the restrooms.

Thanks to Tim Delaney and Humana we were provided with brats, burgers and hot dogs, buns, and eating utensils. Our Post grill masters, Dale Berg and Smokey, brought their high-end barbecues and grilled everything up. Attendees pitched in with salads, desserts and beverages to provide a complete meal.

As a surprise, Dale had shrimp skewers for everyone. Tim brought his drone and amazed us with his handling of it and the pictures it delivered. There was even a game of catch. Near the end of the afternoon a group of picnickers used a few of our tables at the unused corner of the pavilion and entertained us with Latin music and dancing. After 4 hours we were full and happy.



VOICE OF DEMOCRACY /PATRIOTS PEN

Remember! The deadline for entries is October 31, 2022. All of our school contacts have been sent a "LAST CALL" notification. We have been promised entries from several local high schools and middle schools. Judging of entries will take place the first week of November and Post winners will be invited to our December 7 Post meeting to receive their awards.

Smokey

NEW POST MEMBERS

Simon Wlodarski joined our Post in September. He is a Marine who subsequently joined the Army National Guard. His tours included Iraq, Afghanistan, and Africa. Simon is married with two children and is a Sr. VP at Bank of America.



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

POST COLOR GUARD

The Color Guard Past events:

July 4 - Arlington Heights Parade

Schaumburg Boomers Game – Presentation of Colors

Sept 11 - Wheeling Park District – Presentation of Color - 5K Special Needs Children Run

Oct 3 - Arlington Heights Village Board Meeting – Presentation of Colors

Oct 8 – Post 100th Year Anniversary Party – Presentation of Colors

Up Coming events:

Nov 11 - Buffalo Grove Park District – Veterans Day Celebration

Even if you cannot 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. Those interested in joining the Color Guard please contact, Dale Berg at 847-636-1479 or email bergda@comcast.net.

Dale

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 981

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



Holiday Dinner Party

Sunday, December 4

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

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 208
121 N. Douglas, Arlington Heights, IL**

Cost is \$10 each per Post member and 1 guest. Additional guests - \$20 each

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM. Appetizers and Drinks.

7:00 PM - 8:00 PM. Dinner with Salad, Starch, Meat, Vegetable and Rolls. Coffee and Dessert follows. Bar is open throughout.

8:00 PM - 9:00 PM. Unlimited Drinks.

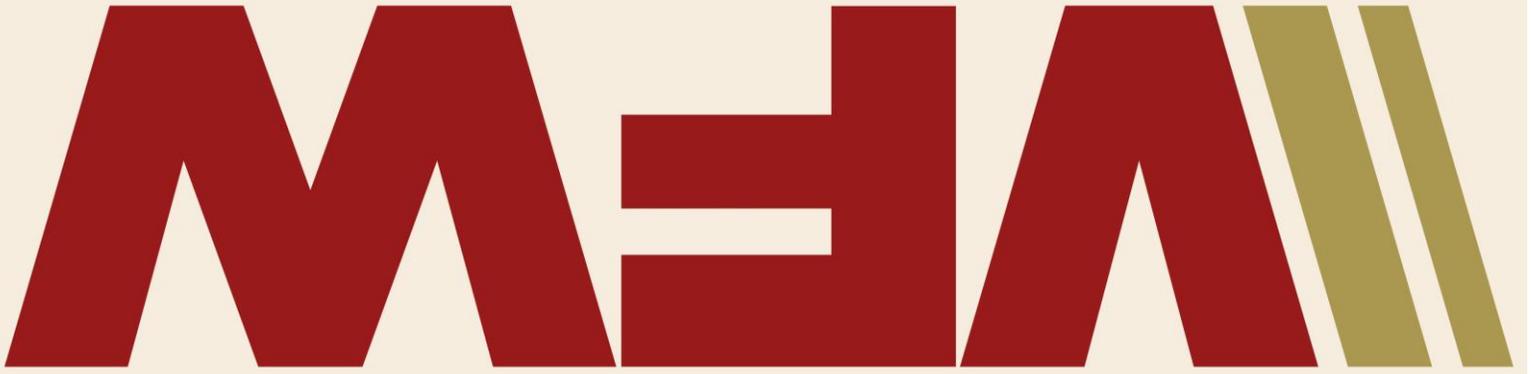
Send your reservations and checks (made out to VFW Post 981) to: Michael Kolbuk, 654 Briarwood Drive, Wheeling, IL 60090. **Deadline for reservations** - December 1.

Dinner Preference: Beef _____ Chicken _____

Member _____ Names of Guests _____

Amount enclosed (\$10 each for you and 1 guest/\$20 each for additional guests) \$ _____

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS®



ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

C/O Mike Kolbuk

P.O. Box 825

Arlington Heights, IL 60006

TO: