

ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

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



Website – vfwpost981.com

Fall 2023 Newsletter

ALL AMERICAN POST

For the second year in a row Post 981 has attained All American status, one of only 854 Posts out of 6,000 around the world.

Congratulations to former Commander Matt Voss and all the other members of our Post that helped us get to the top again.

COMMANDER

As we move into the Fall season, I will start my remarks on a very sobering note: since our last newsletter this past Summer, we have lost 14 members due to deaths. In that same time period we have recruited 2 new members. One of the new members was an at-large transfer and the other was a new Life Member we recruited at the Legion 208 monthly meeting. Extrapolate these numbers over the next 12 months and you can see we have a definite membership problem. I recently attended a Commanders Call meeting where this issue was addressed, but obviously not solved. Our Post is doing all the right things, with little to show for our efforts. VFW National set a high bar for us at 176 (last year we never approached that number so I'm not sure how it was calculated). At this writing we stand at 162 members, or 92%. Department and National expects us to get to 102% in order to qualify for All-State and All-American, which means we need to recruit over 20 new members while not losing any more. Enough said.

On the positive side, we recently received a \$500 donation for our Poppy Fund from a dying veteran, who is not even a member of our Post. We also received a \$50 donation from a relative of a World War 2 B-17G tail gunner who was shot down over

Germany in 1944. His remains were recently ID'd and returned. We prepared a nice certificate which was presented to the family.

Recently, we had recruiting booths set up at the Palatine Farmer's Market and the Buffalo Grove Farmer's Market, and we spent three VERY HOT days at Buffalo Grove Days, recruiting not only for the VFW, but for our American Legion partners. Results were mixed. Those of you VFW members are all qualified to join the Legion as well. Currently about 25 of our VFW members are also Legion 208 members. In theory, it could be 100%! Both organizations exist for the same reasons.

We have recently donated \$750 from our Poppy Fund to the Luther Home in Arlington Heights in support of their November 4 Breakfast for Veterans. Our donation was matched by Legion 208. The home recently lost their sponsorship for this event so the VFW and the Legion gladly stepped up to fill the void. If you haven't attended in past years, check it out - it's well worth it and FREE to Veterans.

Our Post has also been invited again this year to participate in Buffalo Grove's Veterans Day activities on November 11.

Our Senior Commander, Tony, has been diligently updating our Program Activity Reports (PAR - formerly called X-sheets). We are currently up to date. Tony is also working on a post-specific recruitment pamphlet and a new member pamphlet. We hope these will aid our recruitment efforts.

Finally, back to membership issues. Wear your military hats and shirts often. I have personally recruited about a half dozen members at the local Jewel, Home Depot, etc. by engaging fellow

veterans. It actually works. It would be nice if each of our Post members recruited at least one new member. I know I'm preaching to the choir. Thanks for listening.

Smokey

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER

Our Post has accomplished many things this summer but once again face Fall with new challenges. The biggest objective now is getting our membership up with your help. We are losing fellow Veterans at an alarming fast pace and must do our best as a post to regain NEW members to replace them.

Our VFW motto is "No One Does More For Veterans" those are words of encouragement to continue to do more for those Veterans who need help. I am hoping all members will try to obtain qualified new members asap. Nothing is easy and changes in the VFW Illinois and District 4 will always be there but how we meet or exceed these changes is up to us. Nothing stays the same, we must adjust accordingly and continue to help VETERANS AND OUR COMMUNITY the best we can. I am hopeful we raise our membership and accomplish all our goals. We must grow each year and this year we have been hit hard with the loss of so members due to age and suicides. Now we brush off the dust and go back at obtaining new members with a stronger drive than before. Your staff has adjusted to the many changes already but need your participation and attendance in all Post activities. We all help in any way we can and now need your family and friends to join us in helping those who cannot help themselves anymore, aka our fellow Veterans.

You are the best advertising we have so PLEASE talk it up and among your acquaintances about joining our Post. Be proud to be a Post 981 VFW Veteran. Always remember Flag etiquette at our meetings and wherever you see our country's flag displayed. Teach Patriotism by example.

If anyone has questions regarding membership or our 50% off VFW Life Membership by age, please contact me at vfwpost981@gmail.com or 708 598 8000.

I'm looking forward to seeing all of you next week Oct4th at 700pm at our monthly regular meeting.

Tony Kochanny Senior Vice Commander

JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER

The annual Post **Holiday Party** will be held at **American Legion Post 208** (where we meet) on **Saturday, December 16** 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 \$20 each per Post member and guest. See what \$20 gets you at your favorite restaurant.

Mike Kolbuk

UPCOMING POST EVENTS

- Post Meeting – Wednesday (11/1)
- Post Meeting – Wednesday (12/6)
- Post-Holiday Party, Legion Post 208 – Saturday (12/16) 5:30 PM
- Post Meeting – Wednesday (01/03/2024)

BREAKFAST CLUB

Those interest in joining the breakfast club, please sent an email to bergda@comcast.net, will respond in reasonable amount of time.

Dale

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.

Robert Angeloff

Charles Beck

Robert Cooper

William Glass

Fred Jones

Peter Lippert

Robert Metcalf

Ernest Nelson

Richard Richards

Ramiro Robles

George Scherdin

Alan Sterling

Philip Urban

Robert Wojtowicz

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.

NEW POST SIGN

The next time you visit American Legion Post 208 (hopefully to attend a monthly meeting) notice the new signage on the building facing Douglas. Post 208 allowed us to put it up. What great hosts they are!



FAREWELL MATT VOSS AND STEVE MACINNES

Former Commanders Matt Voss (2020-23) and Steve MacInnes (2017-2019) have transferred to other posts. Matt moved to New Orleans and is now a member of Alfred E. Flynn Post 8973 in the Crescent City. Matt led our Post to be named an All-American Post in 2022 and 2023. Having trouble driving at night prompted Steve to transfer to Ronald Hill Post 2245 in Grayslake, 1 ½ miles from his residence. Steve made a name for

himself as District 4 commander which was recognized as All-American in 2023. Both will be missed by the Post.

STEVE MAC HONORED BY THE WHITE SOX

On July 9 Steve MacInnes was honored as the Hero of the Game at Guaranteed Rate Field. Each game a veteran is honored on the field during the game and featured live on the center field video board as the public address announcer reads the service record. The Post website will have a link to the video.

If you are interested for next year you can download the application. You get 4 complimentary tickets and parking.



POST POPPY AWARD

At the June VFW State Convention our Post was awarded The Buddy Poppy Program Award for Category 2 Posts. Attaboy Henry Mueller!



LETTER FROM SETH ALI

Hello Mike. Congratulations on your election to Junior Vice-Commander.... You have given so much time getting the newsletter out and I hope the members appreciate your dedication to the Post. Have a great year.

(Seth lives in Surprise AZ and was Commander 2008-2009.)

POST PICNIC AUGUST 13

For the second year in a row 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 annual picnic. 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 and hot dogs, buns, condiments and eating utensils. Our Post grill masters, Dale Berg and Smokey, brought their high-end barbecues and grilled everything up. Dale filled in the meat with bacon slices. Attendees pitched in with a wide

assortment of salads and desserts to provide a complete meal.

Near the end of the afternoon a group of picnickers used a few of our tables to get out of a light rain.

After 4 hours we were full and happy.



VOICE OF DEMOCRACY/PATRIOTS PEN

Reminders have gone out to all of our VOD/PP contacts at local schools, etc. The deadline is October 31. Again, if you know of a junior high student (6-8) or high school student (9-12) who wants to participate, send them my way.

Smokey

NEW POST MEMBERS

David Foss joined our Post in September. He served 10 years in the Navy with 2 tours of Vietnam. His son retired from the Navy.



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

POST COLOR GUARD

The Color Guard Past events:

July 4 Arlington Heights July 4th Parade
Sept 3 Buffalo Grove Day Parade

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

Saturday, December 16

1730 HOURS (5:30 P.M.) TO 2130 HOURS (9:30 P.M.)

AMERICAN LEGION POST 208

121 N. Douglas, Arlington Heights, IL

Cost is \$20 each per Post member and guests.

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

6:45 PM - 7:45 PM. Dinner with Salad, Starch, Meat, Vegetable and Rolls. Coffee and Dessert follows. Bar is open throughout.

7:45 PM - 9:30 PM. Unlimited Drinks. Entertainment by Sandi Haynes and the Blue Rocket Band.

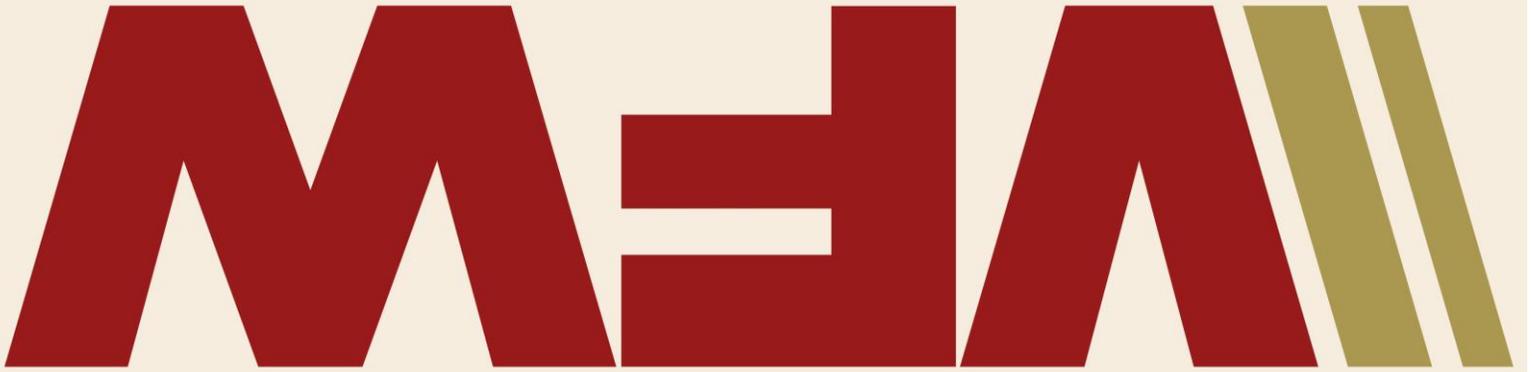
Send your reservations and checks (made out to **VFW Post 981**) to: Michael Kolbuk, 654 Briarwood Drive, Wheeling, IL 60090. **Deadline for reservations** - December 10.

Dinner Preference: Beef _____ Chicken _____

Member _____ Names of Guests _____

Amount enclosed (\$20 each for you and guests) \$ _____

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS®



ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

C/O Mike Kolbuk

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TO: