

ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

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



Website – vfwpost981.com

SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER

COMMANDER

Spring has officially arrived - which means VFW Post 981 elections are upon us. At our March 6 Post meeting we conducted the first round of officer nominations for Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, and Three Year Trustee. Final nominations and officer elections will take place at our April 3 Post meeting.

We will have several new officers come June. I will be stepping down as Commander, and Quartermaster Roger has announced his “retirement“ after 10 plus years as keeper of our books and bank accounts. Thank you Roger, for your many years of service.

We will also be looking for new Senior and Junior Vice Commanders, a new Poppy Chairman - thanks Henry for your good work over the past 4-5 years - a new Three Year Trustee, and a new Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen chairperson. After 10 years as VOD/PP chair I'm stepping down in favor of new blood! We will also be looking for a new Service Officer.

By the time you read this we will, hopefully, have filled all the vacant offices and will look forward to inducting them at our June 5 Post meeting. It has been an honor to serve two terms (2019-2020, 2023-2024) as your Commander. I know I'll be leaving the future of the Post in good hands.

Smokey

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER

Hello and I'm hoping all are well.

We need more members to participate in our Post activities especially getting more new members.

Spring brightens spirits for all of us. Ask another Veteran to come to one of our regular meetings as a guest.

Our all-out upcoming activity is Poppy Days in May which will need total Post support. Please plan now on helping raise funds for our Poppy Account. Every penny collected is kept in a separate account to help Veteran Activities in OUR Community.

We all have to keep trying for NEW members as that is a constant hot item now for our Post. The loss of members mainly due to age is affecting recruiting which just means we must try harder. I'm hoping you can join your Post and enjoy the camaraderie of fellow veterans just like you.

Come June 5th our new officers will be sworn in (editor's note – Tony is not standing for re-election). Please give them your full support and if interested in appointed positions make your interest known to the new Commander after elections April 3rd are completed. Yes, VFW Post 981 wants and needs YOU.

If you know of any qualified new or transferred VFW Veteran please have them contact me at 708 598 8000 or email tonybaloney42@att.net

Thank you

Tony Kochanny

Senior Vice Commander

JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER

We will be going back to see the Schaumburg Boomers baseball team on June 23. For \$5 each, a Post member can invite one additional adult guest and any children under 18. We will be occupying a skybox with all you can eat lunch & refreshments (including beer). What a deal! Any other guests

will cost \$25. Check out the flyer farther in our newsletter. See you there.

After 8 years of feeding you and organizing our outings I will be relinquishing my Jr. Vice-Commander Post. Hopefully my replacement will be writing to you in the next newsletter.

Mike Kolbuk

UPCOMING POST EVENTS

- **Post Meeting** – Wednesday (May 1)
- **Poppy Sales** – Saturday (May 18) Arlington Heights and Saturday (May 25) Buffalo Grove
- **Memorial Day Parade** – Arlington Heights 9:30 AM – Monday (May 27)
- **Post Meeting** (Installation of Officers) – Wednesday (June 5)
- **Schaumburg Boomers Outing** – Sunday (June 23)
- **Home Fest Recruiting** Palatine – Saturday (July 6) & Sunday (July 7)
- **4th of July Parade** - Arlington Heights Thursday (July 4)
- **NO POST MEETING – MONTH OF JULY**

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:

Robert Metcalf – US Army Korea

Gus Tsouloufis – US Army Korean War

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. Also, our Color Guard needs time to organize the final salute to our members, whether at the wake or afterwards at the cemetery.

DONATING POPPY MONEY

The Post donated \$500 to the Legion for expenses for processing and sending out the Jerky to active duty troops.

LUETSCHWAGER & HENDERSON SCHOLARSHIPS

The scholarship committee received 15 applications and has identified the 4 finalists. The committee will interview each finalist during April and make the decisions. All will have to bring proof of Veteran's direct relationship & a grade transcript.

POST BOWLING OUTING

On Sunday March 10, members of our Post as well as from American Legion Post 208 gathered at Arlington Lanes for two hours of bowling, pizza, soft drinks and beer. While not hugely attended, those who came had a good time as most tried to re-discover bowling skills from long ago. No one

bowler stood out, but the two ladies in attendance wound up with the highest scores of the day. How's that for equality of the sexes..



VOD/PATRIOTS PEN

At the January 14th VFW 4th District Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Awards Banquet, our very own Post 981 winner Luke Martinez took First Place in the Patriot's Pen competition. Luke is an 8th grader from St. Mary School in Buffalo Grove. Luke went on to capture 4th place at the VFW State awards banquet in February in Springfield. In the Fall, Luke will be attending Carmel Catholic High School in Mundelein. Interestingly enough, the State's 1st place Patriot's Pen winner was also an 8th grade student from St. Mary School. (editor's note – Somehow Grayslake 2245 stole her from us). Congratulations to all the winners!

Smokey

VETERAN HEAD STONE MEDALLIONS

Both my WWII veteran father and father-in-law private graves are headed with their privately bought headstones.

To mark their service I applied for medallions from the National Cemetery Administration in lieu of the headstones they were entitled.

The medallions are service specific and come in a variety of sizes to fit the head stone. They are heavy bronze. They are shipped with epoxy glue to

fasten them securely. They have been on the headstones for more than 10 years without any problems.

Check the vfwpost981.com website on the Veteran's Resources page for the link to the Cemetery Administration. At the main page under "Burial and Memorial Benefits" click on "Headstone and Marker Types."

As I will also have my own headstone on my private grave my family knows to get my medallion.



OUR SCOUTS HELPING SERVICE MEMBERS

Under the advisement of Stewart Abbink both Cub Scout Pack and Boy Scout Troop 132 collected items to be included in the boxes of jerky shipped by AL Post 208 in April.

The scouts also participated in the packing of the boxes at the Post.

NEW POST MEMBERS

Cornell Sinclair – all the way in Oklahoma.

POST 981 COLOR GUARD

The Color Guard Past events:

Jan 12 Dist. 4 Color Guard - Military appreciation basketball game - Proviso East

Jan 14 Dist. 4 Color Guard - VOD Dinner –
Presentation of Colors

Up Coming events:

May 29 Memorial Day Parade

Even if you cannot march you can participate in wakes and funerals. In addition, there are many other activities that we participate in, in which you could participate. If you would like to learn more about joining the Color Guard and the commitment level. As a veteran's passes, we urge family members to notify the Post via telephone as soon as possible. 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, bugle and/or flag folding, they should contact Dale Berg.

Those interested in joining the Color Guard please contact, Dale Berg at 847-636-1479 or email bergda@comcast.net.

Dale Berg
Color Guard Commander
VFW Post 981
702 W Burning Tree Lane
Arlington Heights, IL 60004

Dale Berg

ARLINGTON VFW POST 981 BASEBALL TRIP



Schaumburg Boomers

SKY BOX BASEBALL EXPERIENCE

JOIN US ON JUNE 23 AT NOON (1200 HOURS) IN SCHAUMBURG (SPRINGINSGUTH RD & ELGIN-OHARA XWAY) FOR A SKY BOX EXPERIENCE FEATURING ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT FOOD & DRINK ALONG WITH THE GAME. ENTER AT FRONT OFFICE GATE & GO TO WILL CALL. MENTION POST 981

Post Members, 1 Guest, & Grandchildren under 18 – \$5 apiece. Other Adults & Grandchildren over 18 - \$25

Send your reservations and checks (made out to VFW Post 981) to: Michael Kolbuk, 654 Briarwood Dr, Wheeling, IL 60090. Deadline for reservations - June 5 Meeting. Your name with amount of each type guest & total paid needed.

Name _____

\$5 Guest _____

Of Children (under 18) \$5 _____

Number of Other Adults \$25 _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS®



ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

C/O Mike Kolbuk

P.O. Box 825

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TO: