

ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

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



Website – vfwpost981.com

SPRING 2025 NEWSLETTER

COMMANDER

Spring has officially arrived - which means VFW Post 981 elections are upon us. At our March 5 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 2 Post meeting.

We are still looking for new Junior Vice Commanders, a new Poppy Chairman and a new Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen chairperson. After 11 years as VOD/PP chair Mike Smogor is stepping down in favor of new blood! We will also be looking for a new Service Officer.

By the time that new officers are inducted (our June 4 meeting) we will, hopefully, have filled all the vacant offices...

Stewart

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 4th our new officers will be sworn in. Please give them your full support and if interested in appointed positions make your interest known to the new Commander after elections April 2nd 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 using the Post email – vfwpost981@gmail.com.

Tom

JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER STILL VACANT

We will be going back to see the Schaumburg Boomers baseball team on June 22. 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.

Keep the Post picnic in mind also. It will be on Sunday August 10. Sign-up will be in next newsletter.

Mike Kolbuk

UPCOMING POST EVENTS

- **Post Meeting** – Wednesday (May 7)
- **Poppy Sales** – Saturday (May 17) Arlington Heights and Saturday (May 24) Buffalo Grove
- **Memorial Day Parade** – Arlington Heights 9:30 AM – Monday (May 26)
- **Dedication of Dale Berg Monument** – American Legion Post after Memorial Day Parade – Monday (May 26)
- **Post Meeting** (Installation of Officers) – Wednesday (June 4)
- **Schaumburg Boomers Outing** – Sunday (June 22)
- **Post Meeting** – Wednesday (July 2) – LOCATION TO BE ANNOUNCED
- **4th of July Parade** - Arlington Heights Friday (July 4)

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:

Al Hembd

Donald Stirn

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 email** (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 \$1,000 to the Legion for expenses for processing and sending out the Jerky to active duty troops.

LUETSCHWAGER & HENDERSON SCHOLARSHIPS

The scholarship committee received 11 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.

CHICAGO WOLVES OUTING

On Sunday February 23 Post members and their guests gathered at the Allstate Arena in Rosemont to watch the Wolves take on the Blackhawks' minor league team the Rockford IceHogs. Even though the Wolves were outshot, crisp passing got them 4 goals and they were able to withstand a comeback bid in the 3rd period to win 4-2.

The action was first-class and we were able to see it all from our 1st balcony seats. We also got free Wolves stocking caps and enjoyed the hot dogs and soda part of the package. FYI – equivalent Blackhawks tickets go for \$130 apiece.



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 March.

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

DALE BERG MEMORIAL

Current plans call for the American Legion Post 208 dedicating the memorial to Dale on Memorial Day May 26. It will occur after the Arlington Heights Memorial Day ceremonies are over. There will be refreshments served afterwards. Plans may change, so check with the Legion closer to the holiday.

Our Post donated money towards the construction.

NEW POST MEMBERS

Juan Gonzalez – Marine, active duty 2007-2011, currently Active Reserve, served in Iraq and Kuwait, married with 2 kids.



Say hello to Juan when you see him at a meeting.

POST 981 COLOR GUARD

Up Coming events:

May 26 - Memorial Day Parade

July 4 – Fourth of July Parade

VOD/PATRIOTS PEN

At the January 19 VFW 4th District Awards Banquet, our Post Patriot's Pen winner, Seraphine Zun from St. Mary School in Buffalo Grove, was awarded 3rd place. Seraphine is our first 6th grader to win awards at both our Post and at VFW 4th District.

Congratulations to all the winners!

Smokey

RIP AL HEMBD

Former Post Adjutant Al Hembd passed away due to Pancreatic Cancer.



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 email 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 the Post email.

Stewart Abbink
Acting Color Guard Commander

ARLINGTON VFW POST 981 BASEBALL TRIP



Schaumburg Boomers

SKY BOX BASEBALL EXPERIENCE

JOIN US ON JUNE 22 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 4 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

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TO: