

ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

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



Website – vfwpost981.com

SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER

COMMANDER

Spring has officially arrived - which means VFW Post 981 elections occurred. At our March 4 Post meeting we conducted the first round of officer nominations for Commander, Senior Vice Commander, Junior Vice Commander, Quartermaster, and Three Year Trustee. At our April 1 meeting our future Officers were elected. See the story farther in our newsletter for the names of the new officers.

I will not be Commander for the 2026-2027 year. I will also be stepping away from my other responsibilities: Service Officer, VOD/PP Chairman and Color Guard Commander. Please help our new Commander and volunteer for these duties.

By the time that new officers are inducted (our June 3 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

We will be going back to see the Schaumburg Boomers baseball team on June 7. 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.

Mike Kolbuk

UPCOMING POST EVENTS

- **Day of Service** – Sunday (May 3) 3:00 PM – 6:00 PM Recreational Park AH
- **Post Meeting** – Wednesday (May 6)
- **Poppy Sales** – Saturday (May 16) Arlington Heights and Saturday (May 24) Buffalo Grove

- **Memorial Day Parade** – Arlington Heights 9:30 AM – Monday (May 25)
- **Post Meeting** (Installation of Officers) – Wednesday (June 3)
- **Schaumburg Boomers Outing** – Sunday (June 7)
- **4th of July Parade** - Arlington Heights Friday (July 4)
- **Post Meeting** – Wednesday (July 8)

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:

None This Quarter

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 American Legion Post 208 for expenses for processing and sending out the Jerky For the Troops in April.

POST ELECTION RESULTS FOR 2026-27

At the April 1 meeting the following Officers were elected and will assume their posts after being sworn in at the June 3 meeting:

- **Commander** – Richard Dunne
- **Senior Vice-Commander** – Tom Rakowski
- **Junior Vice-Commander** – James Jones
- **Quartermaster** – Mike Kolbuk
- **Three-Year Trustee** – Pat Hickey

Congratulations to all those who were elected. The Post owes a lot of gratitude to Stewart Abbink and Larry Bielski who will be stepping down.

LUETSCHWAGER & HENDERSON SCHOLARSHIPS

The scholarship committee received 23 applications, the most ever, 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 March 7 Post members and their guests gathered at the Allstate Arena in Rosemont to watch the Wolves take on the Texas Stars. Unfortunately they were outplayed and lost 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., Post members payed \$5 for the outing

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!

Stewart

THANK YOU ALAN VAN BLADEL

Alan presented Commander Stewart Abbink with a check for \$1,000 to help pay for winter jackets needed by the Color Guard. Any left-over money is to be used by the Color Guard for future expenses.

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. The scouts will be joining us on our Post Day of Service in May.

POST DAY OF SERVICE

On Sunday May 3 from 3:00 PM to 6:00 PM our Post will perform a Day of Service at Rec Park across the street from American Legion Post 208 on Douglas in Arlington Heights. We will be cleaning up the park environs.

This action is expected to be the last item needed to qualify the Post for All American status. All members are urged to attend.

NEW POST MEMBERS

Rich Olejniczak – Graduated from West Point, received the Southwest Asia Award while on active

duty, stayed in the Army Reserve and retired after 20 years of service.



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

POST 981 COLOR GUARD

January 26 – Provided funeral honors for WWII Marine at Memory Gardens

Up Coming events:

April 10 – Provide funeral honors for veteran at Shalom Gardens

May 26 - Memorial Day Parade

July 4 – Fourth of July 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 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

ARLINGTON VFW POST 981 BASEBALL TRIP



Schaumburg Boomers

SKY BOX BASEBALL EXPERIENCE

JOIN US ON JUNE 7 BEGINNING 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 3 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: