

ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

Meetings: 7:00 PM 1st Weds. Of Each Month – Wheeling AMVETS Post #66



Website – vfwpost981.org

FALL 2017 NEWSLETTER

POST ADOPTS LOWER LIFE MEMBER DUES

To encourage existing comrades to convert, and to give new comrades a permanent commitment to the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 981 has reduced the costs of becoming a life member for all age groups in line with our previous Age 61 and over costs.

Here are the new dues compared to the old dues:

- Under Age 31 - \$212.50 (was \$425)
- Age 31 – 40 - \$205 (was \$410)
- Age 41-50 - \$187.50 (was \$375)
- Age 51 – 60 - \$167.50 (was \$335)

This is quite the bargain compared with the annual \$45 dues. Even the youngest member will see savings after 4 years for the rest of their lives.

For all those Post members who wish to convert to Life Membership, you should come to our monthly meeting with a check and see Quartermaster Roger Santagato before or after the meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you continuous members convert.

INDIVIDUAL RECRUITING REWARDS

Our Post now has incentives for members to recruit veterans to join our Post. For every new member that you bring to the Post, you will be eligible for an incentive like a gift card or VFW merchandise, value to be determined by the Post. This does not

apply to anyone who joins as a result of our having a recruiting table at places like farmer's markets and suburban festivals, but to the one-on-one contact that a Post member makes with someone at work, at a social occasion or other way.

COMMANDER

We just wrapped up our busy season (May to September) A BIG THANKS to all who helped make everything possible. A special thanks to Roger, Smokey and Pat the for the great work at the Farmers Markets. We want to do more next year but without the manpower that is impossible to do. More about this later. A quick run-down of our accomplishments so we can reflect proudly as well as provide a reminder for more to participate next year:

- Poppy Days – May
- Arlington Heights Memorial Day Parade – May
- Installation of Officers – June
- State Convention – June
- Spring Outing – (Boomers) – June
- Palatine JC 4th of July Parade – July
- Palatine Fest Booth – July
- Arlington Heights 4th of July Parade – July
- Village TAP Veterans – July
- Taste of Arlington – August
- Buffalo Grove Booth (3 days) -September
- Buffalo Grove Days Parade – September
- Summer outing (Arlington Race Track) – September
- Buffalo Grove Farmers Market (Recruiting) – June to September

- Arlington Heights Farmers Market (Recruiting) – July and September
- Palatine Farmers Market (Recruiting) – August

AGAIN a BIG THANKS to all who helped plan and participated in the above events. Look for details in 2018 via our Post and our Newsletters for information to help plan and attend these wonderful events. Your participation is appreciated and makes us a stronger Post. Please see “Upcoming Events” for the things we have planned in the near future.

RECRUIT! RECRUIT! RECRUIT! The VFW needs veterans and veterans need the VFW. Please be sure to refer interested qualified veterans to our website (vfwpost981.org) for more information pertaining to the organization and membership information. We have new incentive programs and life membership discounts (Any questions on this please contact Mike Smogor our Senior Vice Commander) in place now to help us bring in the younger veterans. We now are also on Facebook to reach out to our younger vets via their voice of communication. Our Facebook page is <https://www.facebook.com/veteranswhohelp/>. Please take a moment and see the many photos from our activities this year.

Please continue to help us grow the Post! Our future success is dependent upon it.

Yours in service,

Steve MacInnes

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER

Comrades,

Our “busy season” for *active* recruitment has coming to an end - Memorial Day and 4th of July parades, recruitment booths at Farmer's Markets in Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, and Palatine, and our Color Guard activities - as well as our booths at Palatine Home fest and Buffalo Grove Days. However, please be aware that our Post recruitment efforts DO NOT END there! The Illinois VFW has lost over 24,000 members since 2008, mostly due to the unfortunate passing of

many of our comrades in arms. That's about one third of our state membership! This severely impacts our ability to assist fellow veterans and also lessens our influence with the VA and Congress. So I'm urging each of you to continue to seek out new members - friends, relatives, even active duty military who have been deployed overseas. Carry our VFW Post business cards with you - if you need more please contact me - I have PLENTY! In addition, we need our members to become ACTIVE members - attend our Post meetings and see what we're doing in our community. We can use your help. Thanks to all those who are *always* there.

Smokey

JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER

The annual Post **Holiday Party** will be held at the AMVETS lower level on Saturday, **December 9** beginning at 5:30 PM. Open bar throughout, appetizers until 6:30 PM, a gourmet meal including dessert, and fellowship always. All for the ridiculous low price of \$10 each per Post member and a guest. See what \$10 gets you at your favorite restaurant. Flyer is inside the newsletter.

See you there.

Mike Kolbuk

UPCOMING POST EVENTS

- District 4 Meeting, Niles Post 3579 – Sunday (10/8)
- Post Meeting – Wednesday (11/1)
- Veteran’s Day Observance and Lunch, AMVETS Post 66 – Saturday (11/11)
- Buffalo Grove Veterans Day Observance – BG High School, 1:00 PM
- VOD/PP Judging Deadline – Wednesday (11/15)
- Post Meeting – Wednesday (12/6)
- Post Holiday Party, AMVETS Post 66 – Saturday (12/9) 5:30 PM
- Post Meeting – Wednesday (1/03/2018)

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:

Matthew Loriss

Fred J Krase

Michael Moloznik

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. If a family in the Arlington Heights area wishes a 21-gun salute, they should contact American Legion Post 208 in Arlington Heights (847-253-6632).

The Meaning of the VFW's Cross of Malta

Contributed by Tony Kohanny

History shows that the Cross of Malta, the emblem of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States, is 1,000 years old. Nearly ten centuries ago, the Maltese Cross was made the symbol of fighting men who were united by a solemn pledge of comradeship to fight for freedom and to aid the sick and the needy. Those ancient obligations are still symbolized by the Cross of Malta today for two million former servicemen who are the VFW. The Cross of Malta is the symbol of their battles in time of war and of their campaign to defend the God-given rights of human beings in time of peace. The Cross of Malta symbolizes the compassion, or sympathy, of those men and women for the needy. It is the sign of services, which our contemporary veterans render to help make living better for everyone.

Upon joining the VFW, a person vows in the presence of Almighty God and the members of this order to maintain loyalty to the government, to the VFW and to his fellow comrades. When the Cross of Malta is bestowed upon a new VFW member, he or she is pledged to advance the principles of the organization. The VFW is also joined by our Ladies Auxiliary in our efforts.

Together, the VFW and its Ladies Auxiliary foster true patriotism and strengthen the institutions of freedom by word and deed. They improve their cities, towns and neighborhoods through community service. They give aid to worthy comrades and to the widows and orphans. They extend helping hands to the needy and the sick. The Cross of Malta symbolizes truly the character and objectives of the VFW of the United States. People qualified through military service to wear the VFW Cross of Malta do so with pride because that emblem represents the highest of ideals.

Post Honored by Fox Lake American Legion

At our Post July meeting Ginger Johnson, President of the Fox Lake American Legion Post 703 Ladies Auxiliary and Linda Regaldo, also from the Auxiliary, presented Commander Steve MacInnes and One Year Trustee Pat Hickey with a plaque and scrapbook.

They honored our Post for its commitments, both monetary and with manpower, to their program of celebrating patients from the Captain James A. Lovell VA Hospital in North Chicago.

Fox Lake Legion 703 brings in busloads of patients to its building on Fox Lake twice a summer for boating, fishing, and home-cooked meals and once in December for a Christmas party. While the hospital provides the patients with a bed and 3 squares, getting out for a day and experiencing the sun, water, and food really has a great effect on the patients.

Pat Hickey was instrumental in getting our Post personnel to help the Auxiliary at the events, and in recent years, give financial help to offset some of the costs of the outings. This is one example of how our Poppy sales benefit fellow veterans who are worse off.



Post Supports HS District 214 ROTC Program

At the same July Post meeting Commander Steve MacInnes presented District 214 Junior ROTC Adult Commander Jeff Morse and ROTC member Jessica Marquez with a \$100 check.

The District 214 Junior ROTC helped out our Post in the following areas at the Arlington Heights Memorial Day parade due to emergency changes that arrived that day

- 1) They carried the VFW Banner for us since AI's girls could not make it.
- 2) They carried a majority of the service flags for us.
- 3) They assisted as back up for anybody who needed to drop out and we had that occur.
- 4) They were part of the closing ceremony.



Voice of Democracy/ Patriot's Pen

Our latest Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen season kicked off with communications to educators and administrators on August 1. On September 1 reminders went out to the same audience. And on October 1 a final reminder will be sent. If you know of a student in grades 6-8, tell them about our Patriot's Pen competition - or send them to me! Same for high school students in grades 9-12 and the Voice of Democracy competition. Remind

them of the monetary rewards associated with these competitions. The deadline for entries in November 1, 2017.

A Successful Outreach Summer

Since our last newsletter came out in July, Post 981 did 9 outreach days at various suburban fests (Arlington Heights, Palatine and Buffalo Grove) and farmers markets (Arlington Heights and Buffalo Grove).

Thanks to the hard work of various members who volunteered at the booths, especially Mike Smogor, Roger Santagato and Pat Hickey, the Post collected \$1,664 in donations, sold 175 hats and made contact with dozens of potential recruits.

All the donation money will be added to our Poppy fund to help with the various veterans causes we support. Already, \$533 has been earmarked to go to the Texas State VFW to be distributed to veterans in need from the Houston area. Sales of the hats benefit active duty veterans through Pat Hickey, who uses the profits from selling the hats to the Post to send packages to active duty soldiers. The Post's profit of \$438 will be saved to be used eventually for our 100th anniversary celebration in 2022.

Below is the booth at Buffalo Grove Days.



New Post Members

Calvin Williams joined our Post in July. He served in the Army for 7 years and did a tour of Korea. He has a wife, Senora and 4 children.



Craig Stoltman joined our Post in July. He was in the Army and served in Vietnam from 1970-1971. Gregory is married, and has 3 children and 2 grandchildren. He is a retired computer project supervisor who worked at Allstate.



Everyone say hello to Calvin and Craig as you encounter them at our meetings or outings.

Post Arlington Racetrack Outing September 2017

On Thursday, September 14 20 Post members and Guests gathered at Arlington International Race Track. The weather was a perfect 80 degrees, the sun was shining (though not on us as we were shaded in our box seats by the roof) and the track was dry.

Rather than having to go down for the Senior Citizen lunch to the lower level food court, we only had to walk into the enclosed section behind our seats for a lunch of chips, cookies, pasta salad, soft drinks and a choice of one of 3 hot sandwiches. During the afternoon of racing the most successful bettors seemed to be ladies who took the safest show bets, as almost all the favorites finished far out of 1st place in each race. For those members who became thirsty during the afternoon, two unlimited bar wrist bans were donated to us by a group who was partying at the track, and so Dale Berg and Pat Hickey became the designated bartenders for the group.



Post 981 Color Guard

Comrades,

The Color Guard of VFW Post 981 had a very busy summer participating in four Parades. Starting off with the Memorial Day Parade. In addition, we were in the Palatine and Arlington Heights Parades on July 1st and 4th. We then finished up the summer with the Buffalo Grove Days Parade on Sunday September 3rd. The Color Guard continues to grow with 10 members now. This allows us to always represent in a very professional and dignified manner for our comrades. We hope to continue to grow the Guard and get up to 12 for the 2017-18 year. This will give us the ability to be fully staffed for parades and special events. This would include the American Flag, VFW, and POW, two riflemen on the front line and the representation of all the military service flags directly behind. We accomplished this in two parades this year, Memorial Day and July 4th Arlington Heights. Our next upcoming event is the Veterans Day Ceremony at the Post and Salute to Veterans at Buffalo Grove. If you are interested in knowing more about the Color Guard please contact Steve MacInnes at 815 687 6472.

Steve MacInnes



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 981

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



Holiday Dinner Party

Saturday, December 9

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

WHEELING AMVETS POST 66
700 McHenry Rd, Wheeling, IL - **Lower Level Banquet Hall**
Cost is \$10 per member and guest.

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM. Open bar and appetizers.

6:30 PM - 8:00 PM. Dinner (Beef or Chicken), Dessert, Coffee. Bar is open.

8:00 PM - 9:00 PM. Music and Open bar.

Send your reservations and checks (made out to **VFW Post 981**) to: Michael Kolbuk, 654 Briarwood Drive, Wheeling, IL 60090. Deadline for reservations - December 5.

Member _____ Guest _____

Amount enclosed (\$10 per person) \$ _____ # of Chicken _____ # of Beef _____



ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

C/O Mike Kolbuk

P.O. Box 825

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TO: