

ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

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



Website – vfwpost981.com

SPRING 2020 NEWSLETTER

COMMANDER

We are again poised to begin our “busy season” – although we all know we’re busy all year round! First and foremost, in light of the recent COVID-19 pandemic, our April 1st Post meeting was **CANCELLED**. We will be taking final nominations for Post Officers by email (send directly to our Post email) and then electing the same, hopefully at our May 6th Post meeting. I know we have plenty of capable members to fill these posts. If you are willing and able to give a few hours a month to our Post and to our Veterans, please step forward! We currently have a very capable staff and I know I couldn’t do an adequate job as your Commander without them. We have accomplished much since the Winter Newsletter. **Our main goal in these unprecedented times is the health and safety of our Post members and their families!! As Steve MacInnes, our Service Officer, said, there’s no manual for this.**

I’d like to hand out kudos again to Mike Kolbuk, Don Luken, and Vince Cipolla for the seamless rollout of our Scholarship program – read more about it below.

In February, we fulfilled a request from the Waverly Inn in Arlington Heights to visit with their Veterans – read more below.

At our March 4 Post meeting we presented Bob Henderson with the 2019 Post Member of the Year award – read more below.

We recently had a request for a Vietnam Veteran to speak to students at Stevenson High School in April. Since I’ve done this many times in the past at various schools, I would have been doing this gig. SHS has wisely cancelled the event. I also know that our Service Officer, Steve MacInnes,

recently did this at his granddaughter’s school. I’m scheduled for another such event on April 20 at Lake Zurich Middle School North but I fear that will be cancelled as well.

Speaking of Steve, he is the 4th District nominee for the District Commander Post. Please try to attend the May 3 4th District meeting in Schaumburg, if it remains scheduled, to support Steve.

We have several **IMPORTANT** dates coming up in May. May 16 will be our Poppy Day in Arlington Heights, and May 23 in Buffalo Grove. Many of you have already signed up – THANKS! We still have a few spots open – please see Henry Mueller, our very efficient Poppy Day Chairman, if you can spare a few hours. We will be putting together a list of the organizations we support with our Poppy Day funds so, in case you’re asked where the money goes, the information will be at your fingertips. Please stay tuned to see if our Poppy Days will be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

May 25 our Color Guard is scheduled to participate in the Arlington Heights Memorial Day parade. Dale Berg will have all the details.

Farmers Markets recruitment booths are scheduled to resume in June. Come out and help.

June 28 is our annual Boomers baseball outing.

On a personal note, I recently became a grandfather for the fourth time. Maximus John was born in San Diego on January 12 to my youngest daughter Katy and her Navy husband Ari – also a Post 981 Life Member. All are doing fine.

Our Post is looking forward to another great year – but only with your support.

In these uncertain times remember – practice responsible social distancing and wash your hands

frequently!! Most of us are in the “high risk” group. Stay safe and healthy.

Smokey

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER

We have created a Facebook group for our post. It's located at:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2857612577659594/>

or you can search “VFW Post-981” in the search bar, which will bring you links to both our Post page as well as our group. The Post’s page is the public facing page, our group page is exclusively for our post members & family. If you are a Facebook user, please join it. If you are not on Facebook, please ask a member of your family to who uses Facebook join our group on your behalf. We are using the group as an additional way to notify our membership of post news as well as have some fun.

Our membership numbers are holding pretty steady. We currently have 169 Life Members and 21 continuous/annual members for a total membership of 190. As I’ve previously discussed, National is using an inaccurate 204 member count for our 2019 year end figure which is giving us a lower 93.1% membership percentage. If they would correct their figure to the correct 190 members we would be at 100%.

As always please actively look for potential members. If/when you run across a VFW eligible Veteran, please get me their contact information. I will happily reach out and attempt to recruit every one!

Semper Fi

Matt

JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER

VFW Post 981 will be going back to see the Schaumburg Boomers baseball team on June 28.

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 (maybe even 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

- **Post Meeting** – April 1 (Cancelled)
- **Post Meeting** – Wednesday (May 6)
- **Poppy Sales** – Saturday (May 16) Arlington Heights and Saturday (May 23) Buffalo Grove
- **Memorial Day Parade**, Arlington Heights – Monday (May 25)
- **Post Meeting** (Installation of Officers) – Wednesday (June 3)
- **Schaumburg Boomers Outing** – Sunday (June 28)
- **Post Meeting** – Wednesday (July 1)
- **4th of July Parade** - either Arlington Heights or Palatine Saturday (July 4)
- **Home Fest Recruiting** Palatine – Saturday (July 4) & Sunday (July 5)

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:

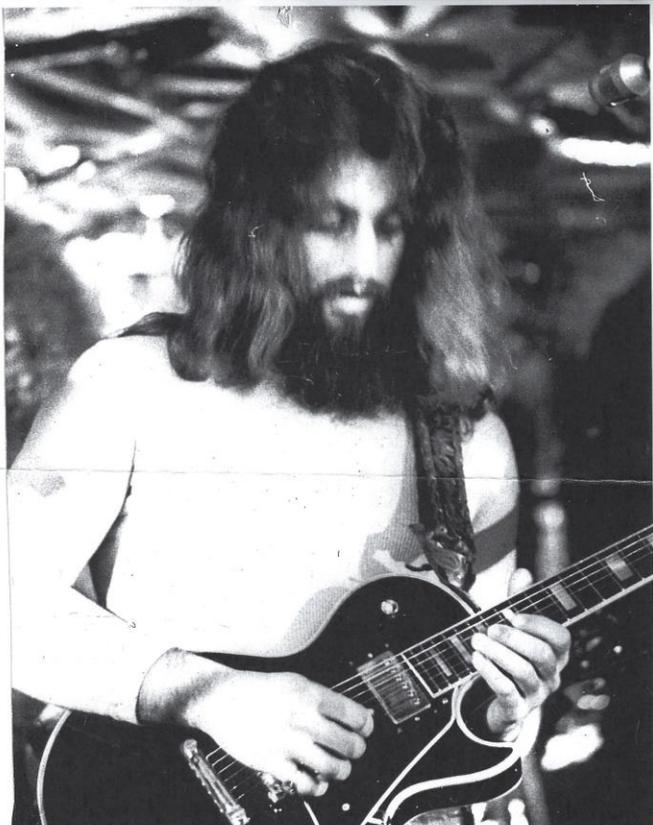
Roy Pfeifer

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).

When We Were Young

Who are we? See the end of the newsletter. Submit your service picture to vfwpost981@gmail.com.



Chicago Wolves Outing

Game postponed due to covid-19 precautions. Awaiting word from the Wolves as to make-up or cancellation.

Wally L Scholarship

The scholarship committee has identified the 3 finalists. When it is safe, the committee and Commander Smogor will interview each finalist and make the decision. All will have to bring proof of Veteran's direct relationship & a grade transcript.

White Sox Hero of the Game

At every White Sox home game the Sox honor a veteran as the "Hero of the Game." That person is on the field at the end of one of the earlier innings and a live shot of him or her is projected on the Jumbotron and the park announcer goes over the military record and personal information. He or She then always gets a standing ovation from the crowd. Quite the honor!

This winter our Staff talked about the Post going to a game and having the Post members in attendance all be recognized. Unfortunately the White Sox only want one, and the staff decided that we wouldn't single out 1 member over all the others. If any of you want to be a participant in this honor, you can email Mike Gomez of the White Sox at

MGomez@chisox.com. He will fill you in on how this is accomplished. If you are chosen, fill the rest of the Post about it.

Honoring Fellow Vets

On February 21 four members of our post (Dale Berg, Bob Wisniewski, Jim Benso & Pat Hickey) went to the Waverly Inn Memory Care unit in Arlington Heights for lunch with their veteran patients. Waverly Inn had requested our members to attend.

While some of the guys were not responsive, a few provided lively conversation. There were veterans from all service branches & the Canadian Army and all conflicts from WWII to Vietnam. Our guys did such a good job that we have been invited again.

Way to go Dale, Bob, Jim & Pat: helping those vets who need it the most.



VOD/Patriots Pen

Our Voice of Democracy winner, 2018-2019 Post and reigning District 4 champion, Koryn Koch, once again was the District 4 VOD champion for 2019-2020! Koryn was automatically advanced to the Department competition in Springfield and in January she was awarded 3rd place and \$1,250. Steve MacInnes and Mike Kolbuk represented our Post in Springfield for the awards. Unfortunately, Koryn is a Senior this year and won't be able to enter a VOD essay next year. But her sister Kyra will – she was awarded 3rd place this year at the District 4 awards banquet. Congratulations to both!

Also, a shout out to Joe Wein for another successful District 4 Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen season.
Smokey

Post Member of the Year

At our March meeting Commander Mike Smogor revived a tradition that had been neglected recently and presented Bob Henderson with the 2019 VFW Post 981 Member of the Year award.

In his remarks Commander Smogor cited long-time member Bob's regular attendance at Post meetings and at Post outings, his contribution to recruiting efforts during the summer, and his Poppy selling volunteering.

Congratulations, Bob!

New Post Members

Sean Lucas joined our Post in March. He is a Navy veteran who served time in the Persian Gulf supporting Iraq occupation. He is single, works for the Post Office, and lives in Palatine.

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

Post 981 Color Guard

Our Post Color Guard have been in several events that they participated in:

February 21st -- Presented Colors on Trivia night for Packages 4 USA Troops, Commander Smokey did not know all the answers.

February 21st -- Attended a luncheon with Veterans at the Waverly Inn:

Richard "Dick"- Navy, John- Army, Lennart-Army, Michael- Army Air Force, Gene-Navy, Bill-Canadian Army, Tom K- Army, Tom L.- Army Infantry, Cal- Marines, and Patrick- Army.

On a similar note, the Color Guard participated along with others on a Post 981 sponsored event. February 21st taking 1,600 lbs. of wet venison into jerky and on March 7 packing the jerky and sundry items into boxes that were sent to service personnel here in the US and overseas, pictures on the web site. Thanks to all for making this a great sponsored event by the Post. Pictures are on our website. The Color Guard upcoming planned events:

May 25th – Arlington Heights Memorial Day

Parade

July 4 – Parade Location to be Determined

The Guard is growing. Even if you can't 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. If you would like to learn more about joining the Color Guard and the commitment level.

If a comrade has passed away, as soon as is possible we request that family members **notify the Post via telephone** (listed on our website). 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, they should contact Dale Berg at the number listed on our website.

Please Dale Berg at 847-636-1479 or email bergda@comcast.net.

Dale Berg

When We Were Young – Jim Benso
& Al Stransky

ARLINGTON VFW POST 981 BASEBALL TRIP



Schaumburg Boomers

Skybox Baseball Experience

JOIN US ON JUNE 28 AT NOON (1200 HOURS) IN SCHAUMBURG (SPRINGINSGUTH RD & ELGIN-OHARA XWAY) FOR A SKY BOX EXPERIENCE FEATURING FOOD & DRINK ALONG WITH THE GAME. ENTER AT VIP 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 17. Only your name with amount of each type guest & total paid needed.

Name _____

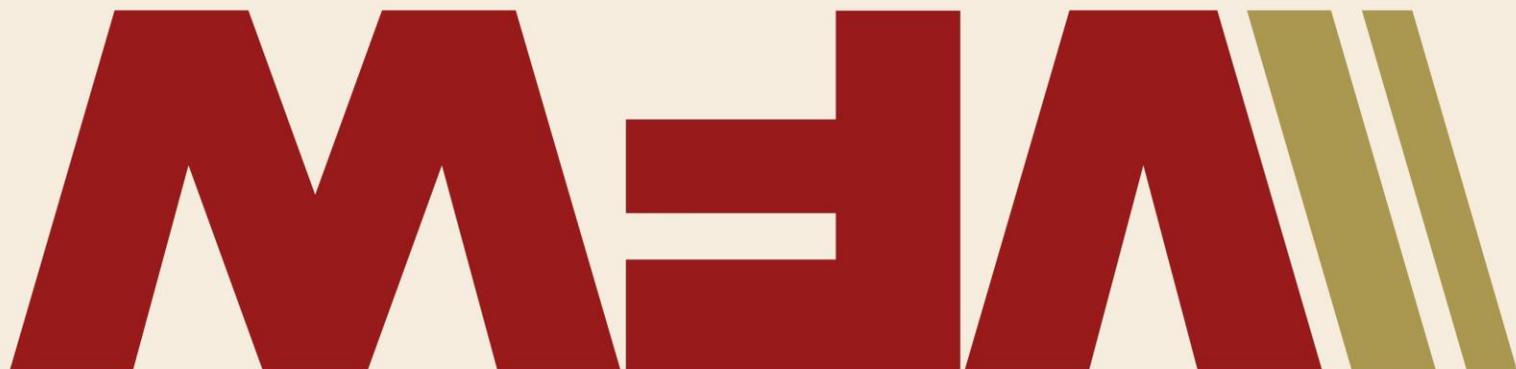
\$5 Guest _____

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

Arlington Heights, IL 60006

TO: