

ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

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



Website – vfwpost981.org

SPRING 2017 NEWSLETTER

COMMANDER

This letter is going out prior to our April Post meeting. As such, we will be electing our new officers for the 2017/2018 year. I hope you plan on attending to vote for next year's officers or consider running for office yourself. We need everyone's support to keep the Post active and accomplishing our mission...**HELPING VETERANS!**

Our next letter will not go out until early July. As such, there is a lot going on over the next few months. Please check out "Upcoming Events" for more details. Additional information will be provided during our Post meetings (please join us!) as well as via email. If you have not provided us your email, please consider doing so. It is an excellent way to get the most current Post information and it helps us save money as this newsletter can be sent electronically.

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

Yours in service,

Mike McInerney

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER

Comrades,

We are again looking for a great year again for Post 981 by having more members than last year is our goal. Once again we offer any Veteran age 61 or

older 50% off Life Membership. If you are older than 61 Life Membership cost is shown below:
61 to 70 is only \$145.00 for Life Membership
71 to 80 is only \$112.50 for Life Membership
80 and over is only \$85.00 for Life Membership

Annual Membership is still \$45.00 per year.

It takes all of our members to solicit new members and we need everyone's help now. Our Color Guards NEW uniforms and jackets are walking advertisements and each member has business cards to pass out. We must continue to grow and it starts with each one of us talking it up and posting our business cards everywhere we go. Veteran friends, relatives and acquaintances are future members being proud to be a VFW members is what got you involved and that is how we keep asking new members to join us. We are a very active Post and can only rely on ourselves to keep it that way. It starts with each one of US to obtain new members, so please talk it up. We are all proud of our service and yes, there are others out there who are just like us, proud to be an American and become a VFW member. Those are the men and women we need to keep our Post going forward to help other Veterans. As of March 1st, 2017 we have a total of 228 members compared to 255 last year same time. Just to remain even we need 27 more members so you all can see we need everyone's support in obtaining new members. Coming out to our regular meetings the first Wednesday of each month will energize you to see we are moving forward and you are part of this movement.

Any questions please email me

at tonybaloney42@att.net or call me on my cell 708

598 8000. Looking forward to seeing all of you at our next meeting.

Tony Kochanny

JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER

The Post will be doing its summer outing at the Schaumburg Boomers minor league baseball park on **June 11**.

For \$5 each a Post member, an adult guest, and any grandchildren under the age of 18 can enjoy an all you can eat picnic of hotdogs and hamburgers along with the fixings followed by box seats for the game. Any other adults can come for \$25.

See you there.

Mike Kolbuk

UPCOMING POST EVENTS

- Poppy Day – Saturday (5/27)
- Memorial Day Parade – Monday (5/29)
- Officer Installation Dinner – June Post Meeting (6/7)
- June Outing Schaumburg Boomers – Sunday, 6/11
- VFW State Convention Springfield, IL – Friday to Sunday, 6/16-18
- 4th of July Parade TBD – more details at upcoming Post meetings

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:

Joseph P. Amodio

Donald Dattilo

Jordan Jasnoch

Leo Larson

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).

Post 981 Teacher of the Year

Written by Mike Smogor

At our March 1, 2017 Post meeting, we were pleased to honor Mr. James C. Multra with our Post Teacher of the Year Award. Jim received a cash award and a certificate from the Post. This is the first step in the annual Smart/Maher VFW National Citizenship Education Teacher Award. Entrants are eligible for national awards up to \$1,000 for the educator, an additional \$1,000 for their school, and plaques for both.

Jim teaches 7th and 8th grade Social Studies, Literature, and Language Arts at Lake Zurich Middle School North in Hawthorn Woods. He also coaches basketball, soccer, and volleyball, and is also involved in teaching historical musical analysis - teaching history through music.

Jim has also taught Humanities in Taiwan, China, and speaks fluent Chinese.

He holds a BA in Teaching Social Studies with a minor in English from the University of Illinois, an MA in Humanities/History from California State University, and an MA in Differentiated Education from Concordia University in Chicago.

Jim is a member of the Chicago Light Artillery, Battery A, and participates in many Civil War reenactments throughout the year, including Civil War Days at the Lake County Museum.

Annually, Jim has his students write letters to veterans and stresses the importance of our veterans.

Every year for the past two years Jim has encouraged his students to participate in the VFW Patriots Pen competition, and the majority of Post 981's Patriots Pen entries came from Jim's students. We want to congratulate Jim on this award and wish him well as he moves on to the VFW 4th District competition, and, hopefully, to the VFW Department and National competitions.



Voice of Democracy/ Patriot's Pen

VFW Post 981 recently received an email from Prakash Nigam.

Prakash was a freshman at Palatine High School in 2013 when he became Post 981's Voice of Democracy winner. Prakash and his family attended the District VOD/PP dinner with Chuck Vassallo and Roger Santagato in January 2014, but he was not chosen for the District entry.

Prakash has received an appointment to West Point beginning in the fall of 2017. He reached out to Chuck Vassallo with the good news and enclosed a picture.

This is the value of all the work currently done by Mike Smogor and all those who preceded Mike in soliciting entries for those two VFW contests.

Future leaders of our country are inspired.



Help USA Troops Funded by VFW Post 981

At our February 2017 meeting, Mike McInerney presented a \$1,000 check to Dawn Hedrick, the co-founder of Help USA Troops

(www.helpusatroops.com).

Help USA Troops was started in 2011 in honor of Lance Corporal James Stack, Dawn's son-in-law, who was killed in Afghanistan.

Originally conceived as a way to send candy to Marines, it expanded its reach to send care and comfort items to all troops.

The costs of sending one box overseas is \$17. VFW Post 981's contribution will help them send 57 boxes overseas. Members of our Post also volunteered to make jerky for inclusion in the boxes and will be helping to pack the boxes on April 2.



New Post Members

Jeff Little transferred into our Post on January 4. He served in the Army from 1972-78 and did 3 tours of Korea. He is married and has 2 daughters.

Al Maeur transferred into our Post on January 4. He joined the Air Force in 2007 and is currently a member of the Air Force Reserve. He served in Iraq. Al currently attends John Marshall Law School.

Everyone say hello to Jeff and Al as you encounter them at our meetings or outings.

Post 981 Movie Matinee February 2017

On Saturday, February 4 15 Post members and Guests gathered at the Rolling Meadows Library for the first Post winter activity, a showing of *The Steel Helmet* and *Hamburger Hill*.

With two party subs (Italian and Turkey/Ham) from Rammy's Sub Contractors in Wheeling, potato chips, and soft drinks, everyone was able to enjoy a hearty lunch. Popcorn was also on hand to eat during the movies.

With the expert help of the library staff, both movies were shown without a hitch on their large projection screen. In between the two movies, we took a 25 minute break for bathrooms and to get more food. The showing ended at 3:30 PM.



Post 981 Color Guard

Comrades,

I hope you are all well. Memorial Day is fast approaching. Members of the Color Guard should reply directly to me if you can participate in the parade as well as the closing ceremony.

The color guard for the parade will be a combined one with the American Legion, including the rifle squad.

So what I need now is your confirmation that you can participate in the parade and the closing ceremony.

I appreciate all the effort and commitment that you have put toward the Color Guard for 2016 and as we continue to grow your continued dedication to salute comrades.

Steve MacInnes

Leo Larson 1929-2017

Former VFW Post 981 Commander Leo Larson passed away on February 23, 2017.

Leo served as Post Commander in 1973 and 1974. He served in a variety of other positions for the Post as well.

Leo was a veteran of the Korean War, and was a retired tool and die maker, owner of Collins Manufacturing in Niles. Leo lived most of his life in the Northwest suburbs, notably Arlington Heights and Kildeer.

Leo was able to go on an Honor Flight before his health took a turn for the worse.





ARLINGTON VFW POST 981 BASEBALL TRIP

Schaumburg Boomers

All You Can Eat Picnic & Game Ticket

JOIN US ON JUNE 11 AT NOON (1200 HOURS) IN SCHAUMBURG (SPRINGINGGUTH RD & ELGIN-OHARA XWAY) FOR A 90-MINUTE PICNIC LUNCH AND BOX SEAT TICKET. SEE WILL CALL.

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 Drive, Wheeling, IL 60090. Deadline for reservations - June 3

Member Name _____ \$5 Guest _____
of Children (under 18) \$5 _____ Number of Older Children & Other Adults \$25 _____ Amount enclosed \$ _____



ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

C/O Mike Kolbuk

P.O. Box 825

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TO: