

ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

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



Website – vfwpost981.com

SPRING 2018 NEWSLETTER

COMMANDER

We have just finished our first quarter of 2018. We have been very busy as a Post starting to make plans for the busy season ahead. We have added some new members which you will read about in the Senior Vice Updates. The post continues to grow at a very slow level, but the good news is the arrow is pointing upward. As your staff for the Post, we are working on ways in which we can continue to grow our recruiting efforts. The VFW on a national basis has dropped 38% in the past five years and that number is not about to drop unless we focus on our new crop of veterans who are ready to take over the mantle in future years ahead. A recent article in the weekly VFW magazine showed that Iraq, Afghanistan Desert Storm Vets are now the largest population of veterans at 46% whereas Vietnam Era Veterans are 42%. This is the first time since the VA started keeping these statistics that this has happened. So, what does that mean to us and the rest of VFW? It means quite simply the focus must change and begin to build relationships with our younger comrades. As a Post, we have added three in the past six months. Big thanks go out to Senior Vice Smokey for an outstanding job once again. To stay even at the very least based on veteran population, we need to recruit a minimum of six between now and the end June. We now must change our approach on recruiting. This has already begun to evolve somewhat but we are just at the tip of the iceberg. Recently I was a special dignitary guest at Harper College for a ribbon cutting of their new Veterans Center. I met the head of the student veterans board, and several returning Afghani/Iraq Vets. There are over 350 veterans who go to Harper. We have already started

to set up some activities with them. Comrades this is the type of activity we need in addition to the current recruiting. I am also asking each and every one of you as a Post Member of 981 to join me in this recruiting effort by reaching out to this new group of veterans. Also, don't forget Smokey put together a great recruiting incentive to help us attain our goals. Lastly, we are currently a little over 96% towards our goal of 100% which will make us as an All American Post. We have three months left to bring in 6 new members. This is very doable. My goal as a commander is ten. I need your support.

RECRUIT RECRUIT RECRUIT!!!

Please remember social media is very important when coming up with ways to communicate with these young vets. Our Facebook site is one way this can be accomplished.

<https://www.facebook.com/veteranswhohelp/>. We also use this page to let you know of any events that we have coming up. If you would like assistance on getting on the site, please don't hesitate to reach out to me. Also remember you can refer potential veterans to our website that Mike Kolbuk has done such a great job of putting together and keeping up to date. Vfwpost981.org.

Just a quick reminder that the biggest fund-raising event for the year is coming up. Our Poppy Days Events are scheduled for May 19th in Arlington Heights and May 26th in Buffalo Grove. Our goal is to go over \$5,000 in donations. More information will be coming shortly and sign-ups are occurring at the next post meeting on May 2nd. If you want to help we will find a place to for you just let us know.

How have we helped Veterans and Active Duty this first quarter through Poppy Sale money?

Post 981 presented to Tom and Dawn Hedrick a check for \$1,500 for the HelpUSATroops annual event on April 28th-29th. For more information on this worthy event go to www.helpUSAtroops.com Please go the Post Calendar for upcoming events

Steve MacInnes

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER

Happy Spring Comrades! Our Post is about to embark on our "busy" season again, with parades, ceremonies, Poppy Days, farmers' markets, and various Color Guard events. Memorial Day is right around the corner. And, as usual, our emphasis will be focused on membership recruitment, as well as our usual commitments to helping our fellow veterans. Since our last newsletter we have added one more member, Henry Velez. Welcome! Sadly, we have lost several members to Father Time as well.

I was finally able to interpret how VFW National figures our membership numbers and percentages, and therefore I generally present two numbers to the membership each month - the VFW numbers and my numbers. The VFW does not count continuous members unless they are paid through the end of 2018, but their numbers are now pretty close to mine. At this time, we have only four Continuous members unpaid through the end of February 2018. Currently, VFW has us at 96.04%; my numbers put us at 95.61%, which includes all members - Life and Continuous in good standing. So the numbers are getting closer! We have an excellent opportunity to hit that 100% mark this year. All the numbers come out in the wash by the end of June, 2018.

Recruitment events were plentiful this past year. We learned a lot and will continue to improve our recruitment methods in 2018. As always, if you know someone who is eligible for the VFW and has not yet joined a Post - work on them! Some comrades (like me!) never joined the VFW for one simple reason: I was never asked or recruited! If any of you need some of our Post business cards to

help with recruitment, let me know - I have hundreds.

Also remember that we offer a 50% discount on Life Memberships, and, due to a generous anonymous donor, we are offering FREE annual memberships in 2018 to the next six veterans we enlist.

Let's make 2018 our greatest membership recruitment year ever!

Smokey

JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER

VFW Post 981 will be going back to see the Schaumburg Boomers baseball team on June 24. For \$5 each, a Post member can invite one additional adult guest and any children under 18. You will get 90 minutes of unlimited picnic fare for lunch and a box seat for the baseball game. 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

- Help USA Troops AMVETS Post 66 Packing – Sunday (Apr 29)
- Post Meeting – Wednesday (May 2)
- Post Blood Drive, Arboria of Long Grove – Saturday (May 11)
- Poppy Sales – Saturday (May 18) Arlington Heights and Saturday (May 25) Buffalo Grove
- Memorial Day Parade, Arlington Heights – Monday (May 30)
- Post Meeting (Installation of Officers) – Wednesday (June 6)
- Home Fest Parade, Palatine – Saturday (June 30)
- 4th of July Parade, Arlington Heights – Wednesday (July 4)
- Post Meeting – Wednesday (JULY 11)

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:

William R Allen

Adrian Pearson

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 Flag Draped Coffin

Contributed by Tony Kohanny

Here is how to understand the flag that laid upon it and is surrendered to so many widows and widowers:

Do you know that at military funerals, the 21-gun salute stands for the sum of the numbers in the year 1776?

Have you ever noticed that the honor guard pays meticulous attention to correctly folding the United States of America Flag 13 times?

You probably thought it was to symbolize the original 13 colonies, but we learn something new every day!

The **1st fold** of the flag is a symbol of life.

The **2nd fold** is a symbol of the belief in eternal life.

The **3rd fold** is made in honor and remembrance of the veterans departing the ranks who gave a portion of their lives for the defense of the country to attain peace throughout the world.

The **4th fold** represents the weaker nature, for as American citizens trusting in God, it is to Him we turn in times of peace as well as in time of war for His divine guidance.

The **5th fold** is a tribute to the country, for in the words of Stephen Decatur, 'Our Country, in dealing with other countries, may she always be right; but it is still our country, right or wrong.

The **6th fold** is for where people's hearts lie. It is with their heart that they pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with Liberty and Justice for all.

The **7th fold** is a tribute to its Armed Forces, for it is through the Armed Forces that they protect their country and their flag against all her enemies, whether they be found within or without the boundaries of their republic.

The **8th fold** is a tribute to the one who entered into the valley of the shadow of death, that we might see the light of day.

The **9th fold** is a tribute to womanhood, and

Mothers. For it has been through their faith, their love, loyalty and devotion that the character of the men and women who have made this country great has been molded.

The **10th fold** is a tribute to the father, for he, too, has given his sons and daughters for the defense of their country since they were first born.

The **11th fold** represents the lower portion of the seal of King David and King Solomon and glorifies in the Hebrews eyes, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

The **12th fold** represents an emblem of eternity and glorifies, in the Christians eyes, God the Father, the Son and Holy Spirit.

The **13th fold**, or when the flag is completely folded, the stars are uppermost reminding them of their Nations motto, 'In God We Trust.'

After the flag is completely folded and tucked in, it takes on the appearance of a cocked hat, ever reminding us of the soldiers who served under General George Washington, and the Sailors and Marines who served under Captain John Paul Jones, who were followed by their comrades and shipmates in the Armed Forces of the United States, preserving for them the rights, privileges and freedoms they enjoy today.

There are some traditions and ways of doing things that have deep meaning. In the future, you'll see flags folded and now you will know why.

Movie Madness

On March 3, members of VFW Post 981 and their guests gathered at Indian Trails library in Wheeling for an afternoon of subs, popcorn and comedy.

The party started with two two-foot long sub sandwiches from Ramy's in Wheeling along with soft drinks and water. Ramy's provided an assortment of dressings and hot guardinara to put on the sandwiches.

At 12:00 noon the first movie, "What's Up, Doc," started playing on the big screen. After a fun-filled hour and a half, we took a 20 minute break for bathrooms and allow replenishment of popcorn, more sandwiches and drinks.

The second movie, "One, Two, Three," started at 2:00 PM and was over by 3:45 PM. Members still in attendance left with whatever leftovers they wanted.

It was a great family-friendly afternoon for the Post.

Post 981 Blood Drive

VFW Post 981, in conjunction with Arboria Assisted Living Residence, 2300 Route 53 in Long Grove, will be conducting a blood drive on May 11 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM.

All Post members who are able to donate blood, as well as relatives, friends and even strangers are encouraged to come.

As a former blood donor (I cannot give anymore due to medical restrictions) and a blood recipient, I can testify that there is always a need for blood, and you cannot predict when an emergency will happen.

VOD/Patriots Pen

On January 12, 2018, the annual VFW District 4 Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen Awards Banquet was held at The Seville Banquet Hall in Streamwood. As usual, Joe Wein from District 4 did a great job putting this together. We had our Post VOD winner, Brian Furman, and his parents in attendance, as well as one of our Patriot's Pen winners, Grace Bathery, and her parents. Our Post winners did not receive a District 4 award this year, but a great evening was had by all. The 2018-2019 VOD and PP season will begin in earnest during the summer months. If you know of any junior high (grades 6-8) students (Patriot's Pen) or high school (grades 9-12) students (Voice of Democracy), let them know about this program or have them contact me. This year's themes will be "Why My Vote Matters" (VOD) and "Why I Honor the American Flag" (PP).

Help USA Troops Support

At the January Post Meeting Commander Steve MacInnes presented a \$1,500 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 29.



New Post Members

Henry Velez joined our Post in January. He was in the Army, and served in Korea, Bahrain and Afghanistan. A Chicago real estate agent he is also pursuing his MBA at UIC. He is married and has a daughter. At age 29, he joins our younger ranks.

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

Post 981 Color Guard

This is a slow time of year for the 1st quarter for the Post Color Guard. We did however purchase new flags for the service branches and a new POW/MIA Flag. All the new flags are also with fringe as well. We also bought new tips and poles for the

upcoming parades and ceremonies. The Color Guard is now large enough to have a full complement of flags as we look forward to marching in the Memorial Day Parade to kick off the parade season.

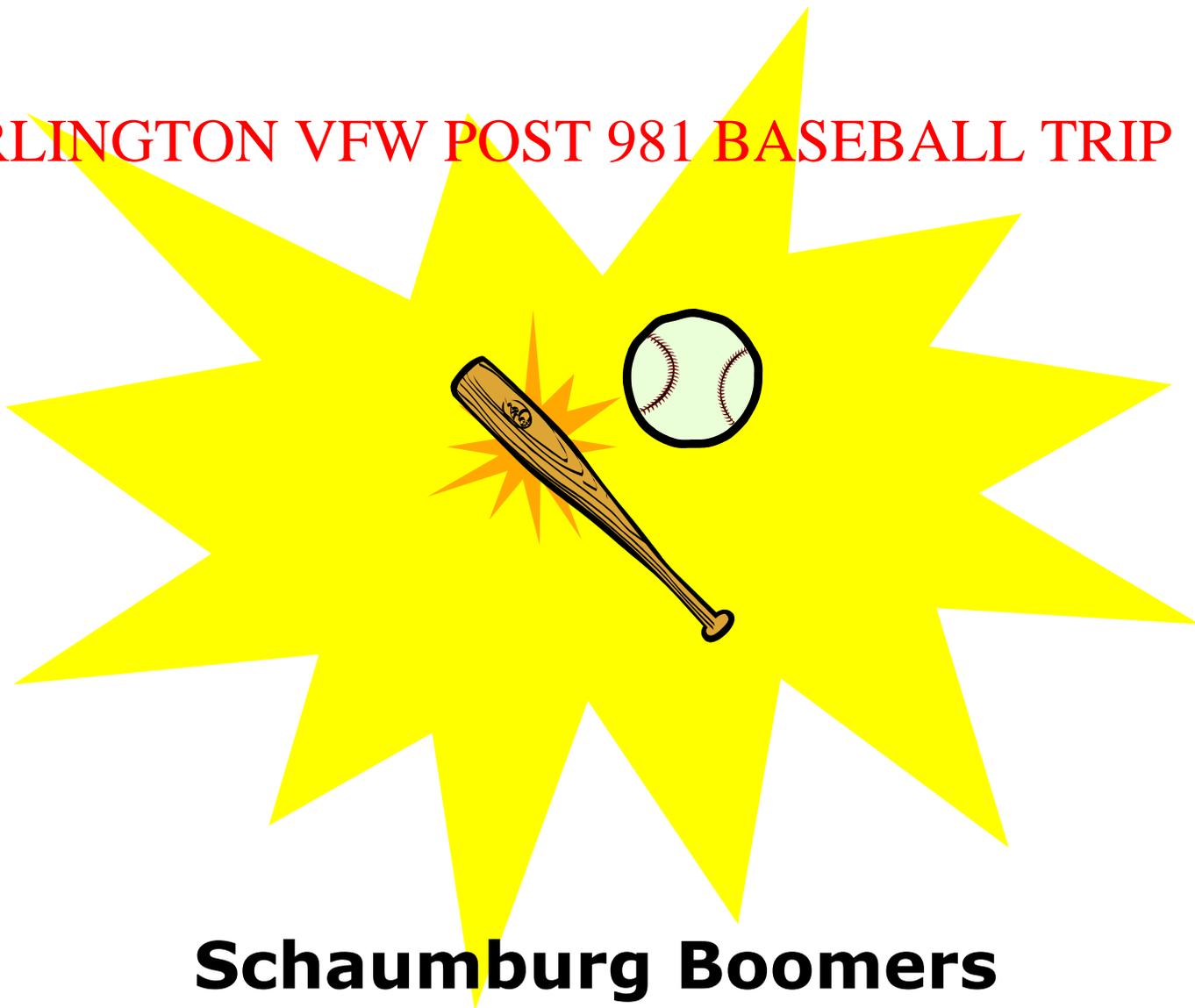
Here are some of the activities the Color Guard will be involved in for the summer:

- Presentation of the Colors - Help USA Troops
- Memorial Day Parade
- Palatine July 4th Parade
- Arlington Heights July 4th Parade
- Buffalo Grove Days

As always, the Color Guard is proud to represent Post 981 in our continued salute and honor with integrity and professionalism to all our veterans and active duty.

Steve MacInnes

ARLINGTON VFW POST 981 BASEBALL TRIP



Schaumburg Boomers

All You Can Eat Picnic & Game Ticket

JOIN US ON JUNE 24 AT NOON (1200 HOURS) IN SCHAUMBURG (SPRINGINSGUTH RD & ELGIN-OHARA XWAY) FOR A 90-MINUTE PICNIC LUNCH AND BOX SEAT TICKET. 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 Drive, Wheeling, IL 60090 Deadline for reservations - June 6

Name _____

\$5 Guest _____

Of Children (under 18) \$5 _____

Number of Other Adults \$25 _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____



ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

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TO: