

ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

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



Website – vfwpost981.org

SUMMER 2019 NEWSLETTER

Post Individuals Honored

- Steve MacInnes has been elected VFW District 4 Junior Vice-Commander for 2019-2020.
- On June 14 at the State of Illinois Convention in Springfield your Arlington VFW Post 981 Newsletter received another 2nd place in the state for those newsletters published quarterly. I'm feeling like Avis Car Rental to the perennial 1st place newsletter from Taylorville Post 4495.
- Commander Mike Smogor received recognition of the Post achieving 100% retention.

COMMANDER

It is with humility and honor that I'm taking over the reins as your Post Commander. I have some tough shoes to fill - Commander Steve MacInnes did a marvelous job over the past two years! But I have a great staff of Officers who I know I can count on - and count on them I will. I only hope I can continue to keep the Post running as smoothly and efficiently as it has been for the past several years. As we enter our "busy season" (parades, farmers' markets, Veterans' ceremonies, etc.) we will need members to step up and volunteer to help. I will also continue to function as the Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Chairman. I look forward to the many challenges.

Our new Senior Vice Commander, Matt Voss, has a daunting task ahead of him to keep us at or above that 100% membership mark - please give him all the support you can. Our Junior Vice Commander, Mike Kolbuk, continues to do an outstanding job with catering Post meetings, arranging Post outings,

maintaining an award-winning Post newsletter, and keeping our Post website up to date. Our Post Adjutant, Vince Cipolla, can always be counted on to accurately document our meetings and generally keep us on our toes. Our Judge Advocate and Poppy Day Chairman, Henry Mueller, does an outstanding job - this year the Poppy Fund saw us collect \$6,000, a new record in large part due to Henry's efforts. Our new Color Guard Commander (and Chaplain) Dale Berg, is moving us forward in conjunction and cooperation with the Legion Post 208 Color Guard. We will be pooling our resources as necessary to cover our many Color Guard events and ceremonies. Our three trustees - Pat Hickey, Don Luken, and Bob Wisniewski - will do their job to audit our Post finances. Speaking of which, our Quartermaster Roger Santagato, continues to do an excellent job with our monies and books, and is a stalwart of our Farmers' Markets efforts, among many other things. Our new Officer of the Day, Jim Benso, will be enforcing our Post meeting rules and will assist in keeping order (sometime that's like herding cats!) Jim is one of our many invaluable Post members - showing up for everything - sometimes showing up for events we don't even have (kidding)! Last but not least is my new Service Officer, Steve MacInnes, who no doubt will do an outstanding job in that capacity.

As you can see, I have a great supporting staff. I urge all our Post members to assist our Post Officers as much as possible. Remember why we are here: "No One Does More for Veterans."

Smokey

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER

I am honored to have been elected your Senior Vice Commander for 2019-2020. Even though I am a 25+ year Life Member of Post 981, I am one of the youngest members of our Post and to be voted into a leadership position by the membership is quite humbling.

As Senior Vice-Commander I will have my work cut out for me trying to follow the outstanding job our Commander Mike Smogor has done the past two years as our Senior Vice Commander. Bringing our membership level to an unparalleled high of 100% (100%+ using 'VFW math') is quite an accomplishment that I can only hope to match! Thank you 'Smokey' for simply doing an incredible job!

Recruiting new members is and will continue to both my and our Post's biggest challenge this year. Hopefully with my fellow Desert Storm Veteran's children entering young-adulthood their work-life schedules will be easing up and will allow for more of them to join our ranks. We also need to target Post 9/11 veterans for membership, with the incredible amount of deployments in today's military, almost all of the recently separated Veterans are eligible for VFW membership! If/when you run across a VFW eligible Veteran, please do not hesitate to get me their contact information. I will happily contact each and every one!

As Post 981's Service Officer for the last year and a half I have had the privilege of working with most of the members of the Post's Officer Staff and I believe we are well positioned to guide Post 981 into 2020 and beyond!

Thank you once again for this incredible honor, I look forward to serving the Post as best as I am able.

Semper Fi

Matt Voss

JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER

The Post will be going to Arlington Race Track on Thursday **September 12** for the Fall outing.

For \$5 each a Post member and a guest can enjoy a box seat, racing form, and lunch in the 3rd floor dining room. Of course, any wagering will be on your dime. Any other adults can come for \$25. See you there.

Mike Kolbuk

OUTGOING COMMANDER

It has been my pleasure to serve you as Commander these past two years. The effort that you have displayed to help your veterans did not go unnoticed. As a post the past two years we have been over 100% and I have no doubt this will continue to be the case. A special thank you to my staff for their outstanding contributions in keeping the post on track as well making sure as Commander I stayed on point. The future looks very bright for the post. Commander Smokey was invaluable to me as my number 2, and I look forward to seeing the post continue to grow at a steady pace under his command. . It won't be easy as the years are going by, and we need new blood. Matt Voss our new Senior Vice Commander will be a key leader in making that happen with his background and experience. Thank you Quartermaster Roger this post does not run smoothly without your leadership. As for the rest of the staff I have already thanked them. As I finish up my role as Commander I ask that you give Smokey the respect you gave me. Again it has been my privilege and honor to be your Commander

Steve MacInnes

UPCOMING POST EVENTS

- Buffalo Grove Farmer Market Recruiting – Saturday (7/21)
- Palatine Farmer Market Recruiting – Sunday (7/27)
- Taste of Arlington Heights Recruiting – Saturday (8/3)
- Buffalo Grove Farmer Market Recruiting – Sunday (8/4)
- **August Post Meeting - Wednesday (8/7)**

- Arlington Heights Farmer Market Recruiting – Saturday (8/24)
- **4th District Meeting Hosted by Post** – Sunday (8/25) 1:00 - 4:00 PM AMVETS
- Buffalo Grove Days Recruiting – Friday through Monday (8/30-9/2)
- Buffalo Grove Days Parade – Sunday (9/1)
- **September Post Meeting – Wednesday (9/4)**
- Arlington Race Track Post Outing – Thursday (9/12)
- Buffalo Grove Farmer Market Recruiting – Sunday (9/29)
- **October Post Meeting – Wednesday (10/2)**
- VOD/PP Entry Deadline – Friday (11/1)

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 Alexander

Erling Behrens

George Brandt

Albert Danajka

Everett Glave

Robert Karp

Max Kolpas

Kurt Meyer

Warren Moscinski

Thaddeus Sobczak

Guido Storti

Anthony Villarese

As brave men and women they marched away with abiding faith in their God, their country, and their flag.

This list is extraordinarily long as we audited our members 90+ years old and discovered many who had passed away in previous years. No one had ever notified us even though our newsletters were delivered 4 times a year to all of them.

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).

NEW POST OFFICERS

At our June 2019 Post meeting the officers for the fiscal year 2019-2020 were sworn in by Joe Wein from the 4th District.

Mike Smogor is our new Commander. Replacing Mike as Sr. Vice-Commander is Matt Voss.

Here is your list of officers:

Commander – Mike Smogor

Sr. Vice-Commander – Matt Voss

Jr. Vice-Commander & Public Relations Officer
– Mike Kolbuk

Quartermaster – Roger Santagato

Chaplain – Alan Carlson

One Year Trustee – Don Luken
Two Year Trustee – Bob Wisniewski
Three Year Trustee – Pat Hickey
Judge Advocate – Henry Mueller
Adjutant – Vince Cipolla
Officer of the Day – Jim Benso
Service Officer – Steve MacInnes
Color Guard Commander – Dale Berg

Thanks to Steve MacInnes for his service to the Post as both Commander for 2 years and Color Guard Commander for 5 years and to AJ Stransky for his work as Trustee and Officer of the Day.



Poppy Day Collections Rise to New Heights

Thanks to the leadership and organizational skill of Henry Mueller, our Post Poppy sales efforts in May set another new record. A total of \$6,350 was collected to help veterans and active duty troops.

The collecting was done at the train station platform at Arlington Heights as well as locations in both Arlington Heights and Buffalo Grove. Part of the money was \$750 Henry got in grants from Walmart and Woodman's Foods. The Post does not work in Wheeling or Palatine so that we do not compete with AMVETS or the Palatine Legion..

Here is a list of all the programs that our Post supported with Poppy Day Money last year:

- American Legion for VA hospital patient outings

- Help USA Troops postage for active duty armed forces
- Postage to send jerky to active duty armed forces
- Marine Corps League
- Toiletries for VA hospital patients
- Canteen books for VA hospital patients
- National Home re-building project (see picture of Steve giving \$1,500 check at state convention.)
- Post member Honor Flight expenses

Ideas for spending the Poppy fund are always welcome, with the emphasis on helping veterans in the local area along with active duty troops. As always, all money collected is kept in a separate fund and proposals for spending will be reported to the Post as part of the budget process.



Voice of Democracy/ Patriot's Pen

This year's theme for BOTH the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen student essay competitions will be "What Makes America Great." As continuing VOD/PP Chairman, I will begin efforts on or around July 1 to get the word out to our local elementary and high schools. If anyone knows of a junior high student (grades 6-8) or a high school student (grades 9-12) who might be interested in these competitions, please send them

my way. No entry fee and cash awards! We would like a repeat (and then some!) of the results we had last year - winning the 4th District VOD competition.

Smokey

Boomers Game Outing June 23

A little rain sprinkled on us as 29 Post members and their guests met at the Schaumburg Boomers' ballpark for a sky-box experience and a lively minor league baseball game. But, the rest of the afternoon was dry, and the sun even came out making for a perfect afternoon.

Lunch consisted of popcorn for snacking along with hamburgers, chicken strips and hot dogs, all the fixings and potato salad. Dessert were brownies and cookies. There was more than enough ice-cold soft drinks and water to refresh our thirst. We were able to indulge ourselves for 2 ½ hours with unlimited refills.

Our box was right above home plate, and if you didn't want to watch the live game from the seats in front you could see the Cubs on the big screen in the suite.

The game itself was most enjoyable. The Boomers were down 3-1 going into the 8th, but 2 hits, 3 walks, a hit batsman and a wild pitch put them ahead 5-3.

The bullpen withstood a 9th inning bases-loaded, no outs situation to cement the Boomers 5-4 win.



New Post Members

None this quarter. Keep on recruiting.

Post 981 Color Guard

Our Post Color Guard has been busy with several ceremonies that they participated in.

- April 7th – Ceremony USA Troops at the AMVETS Post 66
- May 27th – Arlington Heights Memorial Day Parade
- May 29th – Journey Care - Church Creek Healthcare Memorial Celebration. Presentation of colors and presented certificates of service in their service branch along with coins that represent the 100th Year of the Memorial Day Parade in Arlington Height to all veterans.
- July 4th – Arlington Heights Parade
- July 6th – Palatine Hometown Fest

The color guard is growing, one new member, Bob Wickman. The color guard are now holding meetings the second Thursday of the month at American Legion Post 2008 in Arlington Heights at 1900 hrs. The color guard will be getting training to get certified by the state and added to their register of Color Guards to contact for honors and services.

Anyone interested in joining the color guard please call 847-636-1479 or email bergda@comcast.net.

Dale Berg



VFW POST 981 ARLINGTON PARK TRIP



Arlington International Racecourse A Day at the Races

JOIN US ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 FOR 1:25 PM POST TIME. BOX SEAT, PROGRAM AND LUNCH INCLUDED. ENTER AT EUCLID AVENUE STARTING AT NOON, MENTION "VFW POST 981" FOR ADMISSION. LUNCH SERVED NEAR BOX SEAT.

Post Members and 1 Guest - \$5 a piece; Added Guests \$25

Send your reservations and checks (made out to **VFW Post 981**) to: Mike Kolbuk, 654 Briarwood Drive; Wheeling, IL 60090. Deadline for reservations will be the night of the September Post meeting - September 4, 2019.

Name _____

\$5 Guest _____

Number of \$25 Guest _____

Amount enclosed

\$ _____

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS®



ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

C/O Mike Kolbuk

P.O. Box 825

Arlington Heights, IL 60006

TO: