

# ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

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



Website – [vfwpost981.org](http://vfwpost981.org)

**SUMMER 2020 NEWSLETTER**

## CONGRATULATIONS STEVE MACINNES

Post Service Officer Steve MacInnes was elected Illinois VFW District 4 Commander for the 2020-2021 term at the District 4 meeting held on Sunday May 3.

Congratulations, Steve. Looking forward to your leading the District to new achievements.

## COMMANDER

**As stated in the Spring newsletter, our main goal in these unprecedented times continues to be the health and safety of our Post members and their families!!**

I'm pleased and humbled to once again serve as your Post Commander for 2020-2021. I'm also pleased to announce that all of our Officer Staff positions from last year remain unchanged. I thank those members for their continued assistance – it truly takes a village!

Post elections this year were conducted in an unprecedented manner. Our last "in person" Post meeting was March 4, at which time we accepted Post Officer nominations. All Post Officer positions were unopposed. Since then, we have conducted Staff and Post meetings via Zoom. At the April 1 Zoom Post meeting additional Officer nominations were solicited and there were no additions to the March nominations roster. The participants in the Zoom Post meeting agreed that our Post Adjutant would cast one unanimous ballot for all those nominated. Subsequently on April 3 this was done via email by our Adjutant and all officers were elected unanimously. At the May 6 Post Zoom meeting the officers were sworn in by the District 4 Junior Vice Commander, our own

Steve MacInnes, who also serves as our Post Service Officer. Committee chairs will remain unchanged.

As of this writing, we are planning to continue to conduct our Staff and Post meetings via Zoom until we receive word that AMVETS Post 66 (our regular meeting place) has reopened its meeting rooms. It's a way for our members to keep in touch as well as conduct business as needed. Once we get back to "normal" we will still need to exercise necessary precautions. This virus has **NOT** gone away! Most of our usual parades and summer Post activities have been cancelled, including all 4<sup>th</sup> of July activities such as the Arlington Heights parade Palatine Hometown Fest and parade, farmer's markets (at least our participation), Taste of Arlington, and Buffalo Grove Days and parade. Our Arlington Park outing, usually held in September, is scheduled but may be in jeopardy. It's going to be a slow summer.

Since our Poppy Days were also cancelled, we are proposing to add an Operating Budget line item of \$5,000 to ensure that our Poppy Relief Fund is adequately maintained. Our Officers will be working on that budget in June and July.

Our Scholarship Committee has selected a winner! Article and picture will be in next newsletter. In these challenging times remember – continue to practice responsible social distancing and wash your hands frequently!! Most of us are in the "high risk" group. Stay safe and stay healthy.

*Smokey*

## SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER

It looks as if Illinois will be moving to Phase 4 of the Restore Illinois plan at the end of the month, I hope you and your family have all stayed healthy and safe in these crazy and extremely challenging times.

Our membership numbers have stayed relatively stable during the lockdown. We currently have 187 total members; 170 Life Members and 17

Continuous (annual paying) members. Please keep your eyes open and actively look for potential new members. If/when you run across a VFW eligible Veteran, please do not hesitate to get me their contact information. I will happily reach out to each and every one!

If you haven't already, please join our VFW Post-981 private Facebook group. It's a great way for us to not only pass on post news and updates but to also share a joke and a laugh or two.

Semper Fi

*Matt Voss*

## JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER

The Post is hoping that our Arlington Race Track outing will happen on Thursday **September 24**.

We are awaiting word as to whether the track will allow spectators. If it does, for \$5 each a Post member and a guest can enjoy a box seat, racing form, and lunch in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor dining room. Of course, any wagering will be on your dime. Any other adults can come for \$25. If we must cancel, I will refund everyone's money just like the Wolves Hockey game.

*Mike Kolbuk*

## UPCOMING POST EVENTS

- **August Post Meeting - Wednesday (8/5)**
- **September Post Meeting – Wednesday (9/2)**
- **Arlington Race Track Post Outing – Thursday (9/24)**
- **October Post Meeting – Wednesday (10/7)**

- **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:

**Frank H. Cooper**

**Frank Cooper Jr.**

**H. J. Hildebrant**

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 ELECTIONS

Nominees for Post Officers for the 2020-2021 year were the same individuals who were in charge the previous year.

Here is the Post leadership for this year:

- **Commander Mike Smogor**
- **Senior Vice-Commander Matt Voss**
- **Junior Vice-Commander Mike Kolbuk**
- **Quartermaster Roger Santagato**
- **Three-Year Trustee Bob Wisniewski**
- **Two-Year Trustee Don Luken**
- **One-Year Trustee Pat Hickey**
- **Chaplain Alan Carlson**

Appointed Post Officers:

- **Service Officer Steve MacInnes**
- **Adjutant Vince Cipolla**
- **Officer of the Day Jim Benso**
- **Judge Advocate Henry Mueller**
- **Color Guard Dale Berg**

Committee Chairmen for this year:

- **Poppies Henry Mueller**
- **Publicity/Newsletter Mike Kolbuk**
- **Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Mike Smogor**



# LIVING WORLD WAR II

To keep fit while I sheltered in place I have been riding my bicycle. Going through the housing

subdivision west of Garden Fresh (Buffalo Grove Rd & Dundee Rd in Buffalo Grove) I noticed that there is a section with roads named for some famous WWII military leaders. If anyone is a real WWII history buff, what a great place to live.

You can live on the following streets:

- Patton Drive
- Chenault Road
- MacArthur Drive
- Stillwell Drive
- Bradley Road

# FIGHTING PTSD

Those of you who receive our newsletter by mail may have noticed that the stamp on the last newsletter was “Healing PTSD.” This stamp is sold for 10¢ more than the 55¢ postage charge, with the extra dime going to the National Center for PTSD. Everyone now has an easy method to support our brother and sister veterans with this disability.

The State of Illinois has authorized a PTSD license plate. If you go to the K9’s For Veterans website you can download the application form. You send a \$10 fee to the State of Illinois. This fee will be deposited in the PTSD Awareness Fund. After receiving the decal you must apply for a new “Universal Special” license plate for your car to put the decal on. The renewal fee after the first year goes up to \$25.

<http://k9sforsveteransnfp.org/index.htm>  
!



## **POPPY DAY COLLECTIONS**

Due to the Covid-19 virus pandemic the Post was unable to hold Poppy sales on the scheduled May weekends. Our Poppy Chairman, Henry Mueller is contacting Corporations about possible donations. Here is a list of all the programs that our Post supported with Poppy Day Money during 2019-20:

- Fox Lake 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
- K9's For Veterans
- Toiletries for VA hospital patients
- Canteen books for VA hospital patients
- National Home re-building project
- Post member Honor Flight expenses
- 393<sup>rd</sup> Psyops Christmas Party
- Home For Our Troops
- Fisher House Foundation
- Gary Sinise Foundation
- USO
- Jr. Navy ROTC Wheeling HS

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/ PATRIOTS PEN**

The Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen season begins soon. The VFW National has announced the themes for 2020-2021:

Voice of Democracy: "Is This the Country the Founders Envisioned?"

Patriot's Pen: "What Is Patriotism to Me?"

Very appropriate themes for these troubling times.

*Smokey*

## **BOOMERS GAME OUTING**

Cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic.

## **NEW POST MEMBERS**

None this quarter. Keep on recruiting.

## **COLOR GUARD**

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic all activities have been suspended. The next possible Color Guard activity will be for Veteran's Day.

Anyone interested in joining the color guard please call 847-636-1479 or email [bergda@comcast.net](mailto:bergda@comcast.net).

*Dale Berg*

# VFW POST 981 ARLINGTON PARK TRIP



## Arlington International Racecourse A Day at the Races

**JOIN US ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 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**

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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 2, 2020.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

\$5 Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Number of \$25 Guest \_\_\_\_\_

Amount enclosed

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS®**



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**TO:**