

Winter 2014

Arlington VFW Post 981 Newsletter



COMMANDER'S CORNER

Chuck Vassallo, Commander

Greetings Comrades! With the holidays behind us, we look forward to the weeks and months to come in 2014. Let's not forget our comrades who are still serving on active duty, as well as the families they have left behind — keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

During the business session of the national convention held in Louisville, KY, in July of 2013, VFW delegates approved a \$10 increase in annual dues assessed to "continuous" members. This marks the VFW's largest-ever increase in annual dues. This is an appropriate time for our "continuous" members to consider becoming a "Life Member" and eliminate the annual chore of paying yearly dues, and avoid any future unforeseen dues increases. An easy one-time payment solidifies your membership for life, payment can be made by check or by a major credit card, or you can take advantage of the VFW's convenient installment payment plan. Getting back to the \$10 dues increase to "continuous" members, here is how that amount will be divided at VFW National Headquarters: \$7 for National Veterans Service, and of that, \$4 will be used for state grants

and \$3 for National Veterans Service operating expenses. \$2 for the Voice of Democracy and Patriot' Pen essay contests for high-school and middle-school students, respectively. \$1 for the Department's veterans service program.

Membership

I am aware, some of our Comrades reading this will consider the litany of our continuous plea to increase membership as plane old fashion lip-service. Wrong! Without an increase in membership to offset our members who pass on, as well as those who, for one reason or another, elect to allow their membership to expire, the VFW's lobbying voice to Congress is weakened, when issues of veterans services and benefits are debated on the floor of Congress. As members of Post 981, it is our duty to continually be in a recruitment mode for new members. We should all be familiar with the qualifying overseas service requirement for VFW membership. Some should be obvious: WW-II, Post WW-II occupation 1945-1955 (Europe, Korea, Japan), Korean War 1950-1955, Vietnam 1958-1975. In addition, those who served overseas and were



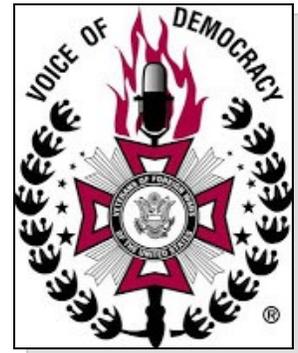
awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal 1958-2014: Cuba, Thailand, Grenada, Libya, Panama, Haiti, Somalia, Desert Shield/Storm, Bosnia/Kosovo, Afghanistan and Iraq. For more information, go to www.vfw.org/Join/Eligibility.

Nominations & Elections

Election of Post 981 officers will be here before we know it. First nominations will take place at the March Post meeting, followed by final nominations and elections at the April Post meeting. Ideally speaking, in a more perfect world, moving up through the chairs and gaining important VFW Post administrative experience at each officer's post level, builds on the strength of a VFW Post. Although, circumstances of an individual may dictate otherwise. Nevertheless, if any Post member is interested in occupying an officer's position, please express your desire to a Post member, and have that member nominate you during the nomination process.

VOD & Patriot's Pen

Essay scholarship competition took place during the months of September and October. The subject of the essay was *"Why I'm Optimistic About Our Nation's Future."* Judging at the Post level took place in November, judges were Bob Henderson, Mike Kolbuk, Roger Santagato and Chuck Vassallo. Prakash Nigam, a student at Palatine High School, was awarded first place honors, Michelle McInerney, a student at Stevenson High School, achieved the status of first-runner-up. Both of these students received monetary scholarships for their effort. In addition, one Patriot's Pen essay entry was submitted, the subject of the essay was *"What Patriotism Means to me."* The Patriot's Pen is a scholarship competition for 6th, 7th and 8th grade students. Peyton Wein, a 6th grade student at Rolling Meadows Middle School, received a monetary scholarship for her effort on the Post level. On January 11th, at the 4th District VOD & Patriot's Pen Dinner, held at VFW Post 6863 in Summit, Peyton received third place honors for her essay at the 4th District level, she received a monetary scholarship for her effort.



Post 981's General Membership Meetings

As a reminder, the Post's General Membership Meetings are held on the **first Wednesday of each month** at 7:00pm, at the AMVETS Post Home in Wheeling; please plan on attending.

Newsletter Distribution

To avoid an interruption in receiving your Post 981 Newsletter, please let us know if you have moved, or if you have changed your email address. Also, If you would like to receive the Newsletter by email, please contact me at chuckvassallo@comcast.net; delivery is much faster than "snail mail", and it will help save us the expense of printing and mailing.

Yours in service,

Chuck

Holiday Party

Michael Kolbuk, Jr. Vice Commander

The Arlington VFW Post 981 held its Holiday Party at the AMVETS Banquet Hall in Wheeling on Saturday evening, December 7th.

Attendees, including guests, numbered 47. At the invitation of the Post, Tony Altieri, AMVETS Post 66 Commander and Sr. Vice Commander Ken Neilsen were there. Fourth District Commander Joe Wein was also expected but had to cancel due to an unexpected family commitment.

As guests entered the lower hall, they were greeted by a brightly decorated room courtesy of Chuck Vassallo, Pat Hickey, Tony Kochanny, Don Rozga and Mike Kolbuk. Place cards with everyone's name were given out so that comrades and their guests could reserve their spots at the table of their choice.

Appetizers were served from 6:00pm to 7:00pm, consisting of shrimp, hot meatballs, cheese and crackers, and vegetables and dip. The bar was opened at that same time to allow thirsts to be satisfied. Christmas carols played in the background.

At 7:00pm Jr. Vice-Commander Mike Kolbuk welcomed everyone and turned the proceedings over to Commander Chuck Vassallo. Chuck said his own words of greeting and then led the hall in the Pledge of Allegiance. He introduced Chaplain Wally Luettschwager who gave a short prayer of thanks. Chuck then turned things back to Mike Kolbuk. Mike announced that the poinsettia centerpieces at each table could be taken home by the person who had a gift tag stuck to the bottom of their plate. He then called each table in turn to get their food from the buffet table.

Dinner consisted of herb-roasted potatoes, Yukon whipped potatoes, stuffed chicken breasts, sliced roast sirloin, chopped salad, seasonal roasted vegetables, and broccoli and cauliflower casserole — all catered from Dorfler's Meat Market in Buffalo Grove. Mike's daughter, Elizabeth Kolbuk, served the food to the attendees. Music played during the dinner featured Tony Bennett. Everyone was able to eat to their satisfaction, with seconds available if anyone wanted. Dessert consisting of a beautiful cake with VFW Post 981 written on it along with the holiday decorations, and cupcakes. Both regular and de-cafeinated coffee was hot and plentiful.

After dinner a variety of dance music was played to tempt those wanting to cut a rug, but no one took up the invitation. Shortly after 9:00pm everyone had departed, the bar was then closed and the hall was cleaned up by most of the same volunteers who had done the set-up.

Photographs taken at the party can be viewed on our website vfwpost981.org.





Arlington VFW Post 981
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Visit Post 981 on the web!

vfwpost981.org



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 Comrade Lawrence Brousseau Sr.

When the call of our country was heard, these Comrades answered; self was forgotten in the cause of the greater good. As brave men they marched away with abiding faith in their God, their country and their flag.