

ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

Meetings: 7:00 PM 1st Weds. Of Each Month – Arlington Heights Am. Legion Post 208



Website – vfwpost981.com

SPRING 2022 NEWSLETTER

CELEBRATING OUR POST TURNING 100

The band has been hired – Sandi Haynes (from our Christmas party) and her band expanded to 7 musicians all in formal attire. Dinner music and dancing afterward. It will be great.

SATURDAY OCTOBER 8 2022 CONCORDE BANQUETS, KILDEER

COMMANDER

It looks like we have finally turned the corner with the pandemic seemingly under control and the world is returning to normal, or at least the “new normal”! Post 981 is no different, we too are in the process of planning and resuming all of our pre-COVID activities;

Poppy Days, Wolves & Boomer games, Palatine Hometown Fest, Farmer’s Markets and of course our 100th Anniversary Celebration in October, not to mention some other ‘TBD’ events that the Staff is currently working on & planning! As always we can use help at these events, please step up and volunteer to help us fundraise for our Poppy Fund. Remember, 100% of the Poppy Funds we raise go directly to help local veterans.

Our partnership with American Legion Post 208 remains strong. We sponsored 2 Monday night Bears game pizza parties in the bar and by the time you’re reading this we will have sponsored another one for the NCAA Men’s Basketball Championship on April 4. Over the summer we will be hosting additional Monday night pizza nights during Cubs and Sox games. These events are a lot of fun and a great opportunity for us to meet & talk with other

Veterans and for us to recruit new members, please make every effort to attend one.

Recruiting new members is and will continue to be our Post’s biggest challenge. Hopefully with my fellow Desert Storm Veterans’ 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.

Sr Vice Commander Smokey has completely audited our roster contact list and we are missing many member’s email addresses and phone numbers. In order to help us get an even more accurate list if you currently do not get our post emails and updates please send an email to VFWPost981@gmail.com so he can update your contact and continue his audit.

Semper Fi
Matt

SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER

As your acting Senior Vice we have embarked on several initiatives to clean up our member email and snail mail (USPS) lists. We are attempting to (and have accomplished) consolidating members into one of two lists - those who have valid email addresses and those who do not but have valid USPS addresses. These lists are mutually exclusive. Those members having valid email addresses will receive Post newsletters, etc., electronically. Those who do not have valid email addresses will receive Post correspondence via the

USPS mail service. We have several members on our roster who have neither a valid email nor a valid USPS address (that we are aware of) - we are attempting to rectify that situation. Currently, we have 92 (54%) valid USPS addresses, 76 (44%) valid email addresses, and three members with neither (<2%). We would obviously like to increase the email address percentage to make it easier to stay in touch with our members and save on paper/printing/postage. If anyone knows of a member who has recently changed his/her email address or USPS address, please let the Post know. We are also attempting to reach out to our Unpaid Continuous members (currently numbering seven). To that end we have sent out USPS letters inviting our unpaid members to get up to date, and further inviting them to take advantage of our Life Membership offer of 50% off their Life Membership dues, the Post picking up the other 50%.

Recruitment remains our number one goal. Since our last newsletter we have added two Life and two Continuous Post members. We still continue to have an annual attrition rate surpassing our new member rate since our membership is growing older. We need the YOUNG veterans and the WOMEN veterans! We know they're out there - it's up to our current Post members to find them and recruit them! If our *active* Post members each recruited one new member, we could increase our membership by over 15%. If anyone needs member application forms, please see me.

Some upcoming events to add to your calendars: VFW District 4 meeting at Legion Post 208 May 1. Poppy Days, May 21 in Arlington Heights and May 28 in Buffalo Grove (thank you to all the members who volunteered!). Memorial Day Parade May 30. Palatine Hometown Fest June 30-July 4 (we will sponsor a vendor tent). Schaumburg Boomers baseball game Post outing June 26. Our Color Guard Commander will have details on this year's parades participation.

Smokey

JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER

Attend *The Accidental Hero* with the Post at the Metropolis in AH on Monday May 23. See end of newsletter for info. We also will be going back to see the Schaumburg Boomers baseball team on June 26. For \$5 each, a Post member can invite one additional adult guest and any children under 18. We will be occupying a skybox with all you can eat lunch & refreshments (including beer). 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

- **Post Meeting** – Wednesday (May 4)
- **The Accidental Hero** – Monday (May 23)
- **Poppy Sales** – Saturday (May 21) Arlington Heights and Saturday (May 28) Buffalo Grove
- **Memorial Day Parade** – Arlington Heights 9:30 AM – Monday (May 30)
- **Post Meeting** (Installation of Officers) – Wednesday (June 1)
- **Schaumburg Boomers Outing** – Sunday (June 26)
- **Home Fest Recruiting** Palatine – Friday (July 1) & Saturday (July 2)
- **4th of July Parade** - Arlington Heights Monday (July 4)
- **Post Meeting** – Wednesday (July 7)

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:

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. Also, our Color Guard needs time to organize the final salute to our members, whether at the wake or afterwards at the cemetery.

CHICAGO WOLVES OUTING

On March 13 18 Post members and guests gathered for a Wolves hockey game at the Allstate Arena. Each attendee was treated to a Wolves knit cap and a meal of a hot dog and soft drink. The seats were balcony center ice giving everyone a perfect view of the action. A close game ended in a 1-1 tie, but 20 seconds into overtime Grand Rapids scored to defeat the Wolves 2-1.



The scholarship committee received 20 applications and has identified the 4 finalists. The committee will interview each finalist near the end of April and make the decision. All will have to bring proof of Veteran's direct relationship & a grade transcript.

NEW MEMBER FRANK FABIANSKI

On December 5 our Post honored a WWII veteran, Frank Fabianski, with a lifetime membership to the VFW and a replacement of a lost Purple Heart medal. This was in celebration of his 100th birthday. Frank graciously sent back the following letter:

“Thank you for honoring me at my birthday party on December 5th. Your presence there brought dignity to the occasion. And I felt a sense of comradeship with you. It was such an honor for me. Being a Purple Heart veteran from WWII, I know my comrades from that time are mostly gone, but I did experience that feeling there, on that day, with you once again. Thank you again for attending the celebration and I wish our Post good Yuletide wishes.

Frank Fabianski T/3”



K9S FOR VETERANS

Check out Steve being interviewed by the CEO of K9s For Veterans (one of the charities our Post supports with Poppy money) at the following Facebook address:

<https://www.facebook.com/K9sForVeteransnfp/videos/174213627833670>

Or go on Facebook and look for K9s site.

VOD/PATRIOTS PEN

The VOD/PP "season" concluded in January. At the VFW 4th District Annual VOD Banquet our Post had a second place VOD winner, Kyra Koch (home schooled) and a third place Patriot's Pen winner, Drew Kuntz, Lake Zurich Middle School North. The 4th District VOD winner, Natalie Sissac, sponsored by Niles Post 3579, went on to place first in Springfield and will represent Illinois in Washington, DC, in April. Congrats to Natalie, Post 3579, and the 4th District!

Stay tuned to find out the 2022-2023 VOD and PP themes which are usually announced in late Spring/early Summer.

Smokey

NEW POST MEMBERS

None since the last newsletter.

PROMOTION FOR ARI DE OLIVEIRA

Ari, life member of our Post and son-in-law of Smokey, was recently promoted to rank of Chief Petty Officer (E-7). Congrats, Ari.



POST 981 COLOR GUARD

The Color Guard Past events:

Nov 29, 2021 Cub Scouts 269, Demonstrated proper flag folding and etiquette.

Dec 5, 2021 Presentation of colors, purple heart, life member-ship, Frank Fabinski, 100th Birthday.

Jan 23 Service for Roger Liddicoatt, Saint Mark's Episcopal Church, Geneva, IL.

Jan 29 Service for Joseph Kruse, River Grove, IL.

Feb 16 Webelos 269, Demonstrated proper presentation of colors.

Feb 18 Service for Paul Eubanks, Buffalo Grove
Up Coming events:

May 30 Memorial Day Parade including Steve Nash Silver Star presentation at Memorial Park.

Even if you cannot march you can participate in wakes and funerals. In addition, there are many other activities that we are involved in that you could participate in. If you would like to learn more about joining the Color Guard and the commitment level please contact Dale Berg at 847-636-1479 or email bergda@comcast.net.

If a family wishes a rifle salute, they should contact Dale Berg at the number listed on our website - 847-636-1479 or email bergda@comcast.net.

Dale Berg

THE ACCIDENTAL HERO OUTING METROPOLIS

A US officer liberates the Czech villages of his grandparents in the last week of WW II. The jaw-dropping coincidences that got him there, and his extraordinary homecoming, are right out of an epic adventure - except it's a true story. This remarkable tale was hidden for decades until found by the officer's grandson. Featuring rare film footage and photos, this one-man show has thrilled audiences.

Monday May 23 7:30 PM Metropolis in AH

Tickets are \$5 apiece to the Post. The Post has 20 tickets available. Available April & May

ARLINGTON VFW POST 981 BASEBALL TRIP



Schaumburg Boomers

SKY BOX BASEBALL EXPERIENCE

JOIN US ON JUNE 26 AT NOON (1200 HOURS) IN SCHAUMBURG (SPRINGINSGUTH RD & ELGIN-OHARA XWAY) FOR A SKY BOX EXPERIENCE FEATURING ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT FOOD & DRINK ALONG WITH THE GAME. 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 Dr, Wheeling, IL 60090. Deadline for reservations - June 1 Meeting. Your name with amount of each type guest & total paid needed.

Name _____

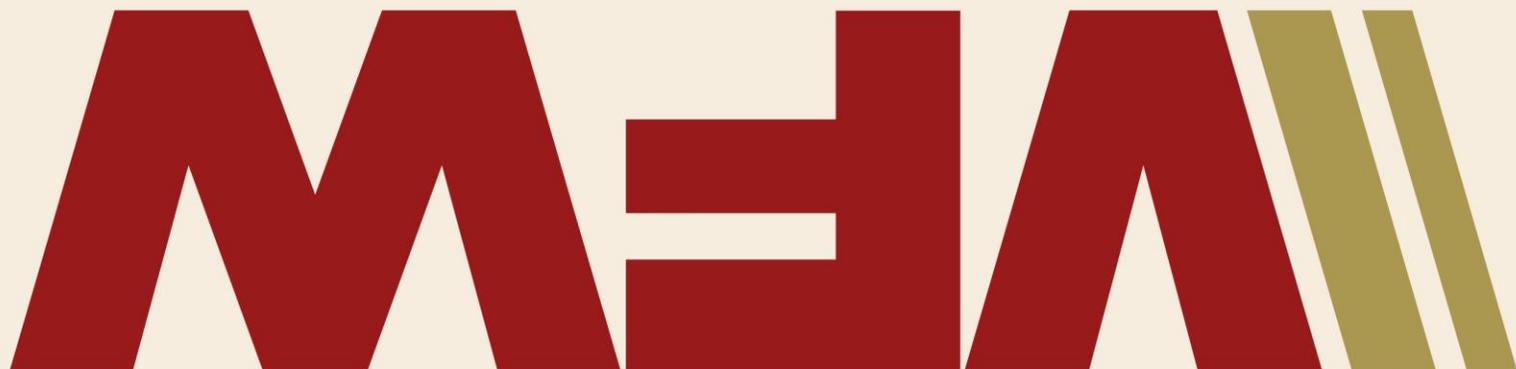
\$5 Guest _____

Of Children (under 18) \$5 _____

Number of Other Adults \$25 _____

Amount enclosed \$ _____

VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS®



ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

C/O Mike Kolbuk

P.O. Box 825

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TO: