

# ARLINGTON VFW POST 981

Meetings: 7:00 PM 1<sup>st</sup> Weds. Of Each Month – Arlington Hts. Am. Legion Post 208



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

Fall 2024 Newsletter

## RUNNING THE POST

For the first time since I have belonged to the Post we are short of individuals to take responsibility for important areas. The following leaders are needed:

1. Junior Vice Commander
2. Service Officer
3. Poppy Fund Officer
4. Color Guard Commander

Those of you who have belonged to the Post for a while, who enjoy the benefits of the Post, and either never or not recently served the Post need to STEP UP AND HELP. None of these positions will require a large time commitment, just someone to take charge.

Commander Abbink is trying to hold it all together, still serving as Service Officer, ordering the food for the meetings, and organizing the Color Guard, but that is totally unfair to him since the responsibility of being Commander is job enough for anyone.

*Newsletter Editor Mike Kolbuk*

## COMMANDER

As we move into the Fall season, I will start my remarks on a very sobering note, the lack of leaders for our Post. Due to death and illness the jobs of Junior Vice Commander, Service Officer, Poppy Fund Officer, and Color Guard Commander all need to be filled. Anyone taking on the responsibility has the resources of the previous leaders for questions and guidance. In addition, the former Junior Vice Commander Mike Kolbuk wrote up SOP's for everything that is required to be done for the Junior Vice position. If you have never been a staff

member, or have not been one in a while, please see me and I'll get the ball rolling.

Currently about 25 of our VFW members are also Legion 208 members. In theory, it could be 100%! Both organizations exist for the same reasons.

We have recently been requested to donate \$750 from our Poppy Fund to the Lutheran Home in Arlington Heights in support of their November 9 Breakfast for Veterans. American Legion 208 has pledged the same amount. The home lost their sponsorship for this event so they are once again hoping that the VFW and the Legion will step up to fill the void. If you haven't attended in past years, check it out - it's well worth it and FREE to Veterans.

Our Post has also been invited again this year to participate in Buffalo Grove's Veterans Day activities on November 11.

We have been diligently updating our Program Activity Reports (PAR - formerly called X-sheets). We are currently up to date.

Finally, a note about membership issues. Wear your military hats and shirts often. Engage fellow veterans at the local Jewel, Home Depot, and etc.. It actually works. It would be nice if each of our Post members recruited at least one new member. I know I'm preaching to the choir. Thanks for listening.

*Stewart*

## SENIOR VICE-COMMANDER

Our Post has accomplished many things this summer but once again face Fall with new challenges. The biggest objective now is getting

our membership up with your help. We are losing fellow Veterans at an alarming fast pace and must do our best as a post to regain NEW members to replace them.

Our VFW motto is "No One Does More For Veterans" those are words of encouragement to continue to do more for those Veterans who need help. I am hoping all members will try to obtain qualified new members asap. Nothing is easy and changes in the VFW Illinois and District 4 will always be there but how we meet or exceed these changes is up to us. Nothing stays the same, we must adjust accordingly and continue to help VETERANS AND OUR COMMUNITY the best we can. I am hopeful we raise our membership and accomplish all our goals. We must grow each year and this year we have been hit hard with the loss of so members due to age and suicides. Now we brush off the dust and go back at obtaining new members with a stronger drive than before. Your staff has adjusted to the many changes already but need your participation and attendance in all Post activities. We all help in any way we can and now need your family and friends to join us in helping those who cannot help themselves anymore, aka our fellow Veterans.

You are the best advertising we have so PLEASE talk it up and among your acquaintances about joining our Post. Be proud to be a Post 981 VFW Veteran. Always remember Flag etiquette at our meetings and wherever you see our country's flag displayed. Teach Patriotism by example.

If anyone has questions regarding membership or our 50% off VFW Life Membership by age, please contact me at [vfwpost981@gmail.com](mailto:vfwpost981@gmail.com).

*Tom Rakowski Senior Vice Commander*

## **JUNIOR VICE-COMMANDER**

**VACANT**

## **UPCOMING POST EVENTS**

- Post Meeting – Wednesday (11/6)
- Post Meeting – Wednesday (12/4)
- Post-Holiday Party, Legion Post 208 – Saturday (12/14) 5:30 PM
- Post Meeting – THURSDAY (01/02/2025)

## **BREAKFAST CLUB**

Due to Dale's passing, those interest in joining the breakfast club should send an email to Smokey at [smokeymike@aol.com](mailto:smokeymike@aol.com). He will respond in a reasonable amount of time.

## **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.

**Arthur Heidemann** – see article following

**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. The Post Color Guard is ready to pay final respects at the wake and render a 21-gun salute and the playing of taps at the cemetery.

## FAREWELL ARTHUR HEIDEMANN

Former Commander Arthur Heidemann (1978-1979) passed away on September 9 2024 at age 87. The Post Color Guard rendered a final salute. He retired from the Navy in 1974, serving as a Seabee. Interesting enough, his brother John also served as our Commander from 1956-1957.

## BURIAL PLOTS

Do you know that the Post is in possession of 9 cemetery plots in Memory Gardens Cemetery on Euclid just west of Rand Road? These are available to Post members and their families. Here are their locations and numbers of plots:

1. Vet Honors, Lot 274, Block B, Space 1. It has a double concrete vault which allows 2 casket burials or 3 cremation burials.
2. Garden of the Apostles, Lot 155, Block B, Spaces 1-4. No vaults, one burial per space.
3. Garden of Savior, Lot 58, Block B, Spaces 1-4. No vaults, one burial per space.

The process for obtaining title to any of these is a visit to the cemetery with an officer of the Post. Note that there are other expenses associated with using the plots.

1. Opening and closing of the grave.
2. Purchasing a concrete vault for the ones without one.
3. Vault handling fee
4. Grave marker. For veterans, it would be the granite base to accommodate the bronze marker the government provides. For non-

veterans it would include the marker and base.

## POST POPPY DONATIONS

The Post of Poppy Chairman remains vacant. Please contact Commander Abbink.

At the August meeting the Post donated the money collected this year at Memorial Day to the following veteran's charities:

1. K9's For Veterans which provides service dogs.
2. Bravehearts Therapeutic Riding and Educational Center which connects veterans and their families with horses.
3. Midwest Veterans Closet which helps veterans needing furnishing for their dwellings.

Each received a check for \$1,500.



## POST PICNIC

Due to lack of interest and an organizer, this year's picnic did not take place.

# VOICE OF DEMOCRACY/PATRIOTS PEN

The themes for 2024-2025 have been announced by VFW National: Voice of Democracy - "Is America Today Our Forefathers Vision?"; Patriot's Pen - "My Voice in America's Democracy?".

The deadline for entries is November 1, 2024. If you are aware of anyone in grades 6-8 (Patriot's Pen) or 9-12 (Voice of Democracy) please send them my way.

*Smokey*

## NEW POST MEMBERS

*Preston McEachern* joined our Post in August. He served 6 years in the Army Reserve including active duty during Desert Storm. He is a water treatment engineer and has 2 sons.



*Al Schneider* transferred to our Post in August. Al retired from the Air Force and served in Desert Storm. He is married and has 4 kids.



*Joe Porter* transferred to our Post at Camp McCoy during Army Reserve training. He served in Afghanistan.

*Carlos Segui Jr* transferred into our Post from at-large status. He was in the Army in Iraq.

Everyone say hello to Preston, Al, Joe and Carlos as you encounter them at our meetings or outings.

## POST COLOR GUARD

The Post of Color Guard Commander remains vacant. Please contact Commander Abbink.

**The Color Guard Past events:**

July 4 Arlington Heights July 4<sup>th</sup> Parade

**Up Coming events:**

Nov 11 - Buffalo Grove Park District – Veterans Day Celebration

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. Those interested in joining the Color Guard please email the Post.



**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS POST 981&  
AMERICAN LEGION POST 208**

*Invites you and your guests to join your comrades and their guests at a*



# Holiday Dinner Party

**Saturday, December 14**

**1730 HOURS (5:30 P.M.) TO 2130 HOURS (9:30 P.M.)**

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 208**

121 N. Douglas, Arlington Heights, IL

*Cost is \$20 each per Post member and guests.*

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM. Appetizers and Drinks.

6:45 PM - 7:45 PM. Dinner with Salad, Starch, Meat, Vegetable and Rolls. Coffee and Dessert follows. Bar is open throughout.

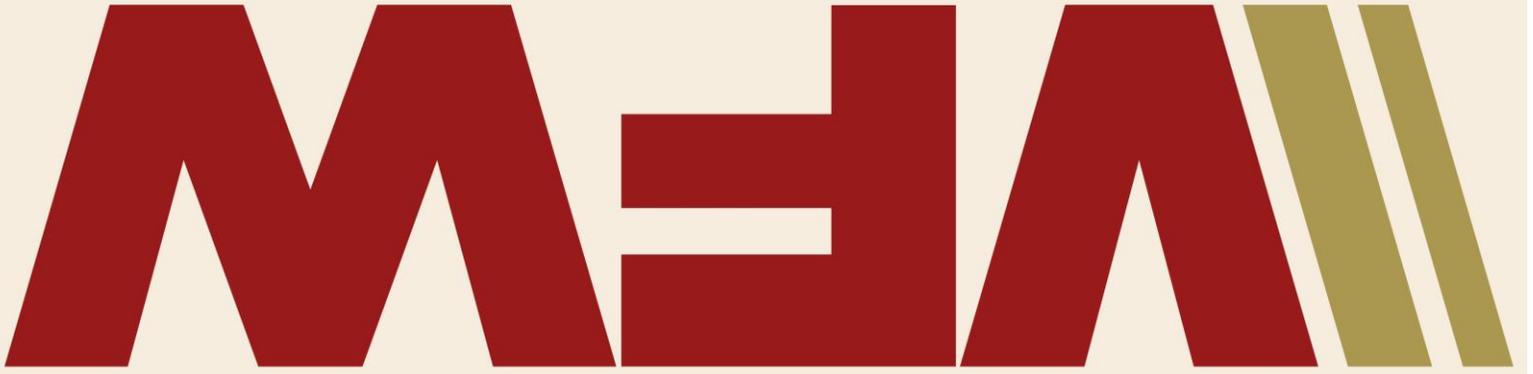
7:45 PM - 9:30 PM. Unlimited Drinks. Entertainment and Dancing.

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Send your reservations and checks (made out to **VFW Post 981**) to: Michael Kolbuk, 654 Briarwood Drive, Wheeling, IL 60090. **Deadline for reservations - December 10.**

Dinner Preference: Beef \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_

Member \_\_\_\_\_ Names of Guests \_\_\_\_\_

**VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS®**



**ARLINGTON VFW POST 981**

**C/O Mike Kolbuk**

**P.O. Box 825**

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**TO:**