

THE

KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 22 Issue 07

July 2022



A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



Commander Leo Jaime



About 20 years ago, as a green Major, I was “voluntold” to take the role of execute officer of the 1st Marine Corps Recruiting District in Garden City, NY. The billet of XO is normally held by a LtCol but, due to personnel issues, the District found itself short an officer and I, as the aviator on a ground-tour, was the easy choice. I spent the next few months learning the job and quickly realized that unless I leaned on the seasoned field grade officers leading the eight recruiting stations, I was destined to fail. I did just that: listened and learned from the Marines in the civilian front-lines and only made minor correction courses where needed.

During the next few months, as I take on the role of Post Commander, I intend to do the same. I’m fully aware that our Post’s outstanding reputation is not the result of aggressive, change-driven leadership, but mainly of steady flow of the invaluable wealth of experience of our membership. Each of you, our members young and seasoned, plays a very important role in keeping our Mission and Vision (below – quiz at our next meeting...) on target. I will lean on you, as will our young Junior Vice and Senior Vice.

OUR MISSION: To foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts. To serve our veterans, the military, and our communities. To advocate on behalf of all veterans.

OUR VISION: Ensure that veterans are respected for their service, always receive their earned entitlements, and are recognized for the sacrifices they and their loved ones have made on behalf of this great country.

It is an honor to be elected to lead the Post. I am truly humbled and thankful to be a part of it and of this community. As I mentioned recently, Naperville and the Judd Kendall VFW Post have welcomed and embraced my family and me with open arms; making us feel at home and allowing us to continue to serve. I am also especially thankful to be able to address our membership this month of July. As you may already know, July is our favorite month. Days are warm and long, the neighborhood pools are open, grills are smoking and most importantly, our Red White and Blue flies on many front porches. It is also the month we celebrate the birthday of the nation and the sacrifices those brave men and women made 246 years ago.

I look forward to a challenging and engaging year, and to hear your opinions, suggestions, stories, and gripes.

Happy 4th of July!

**Senior Vice Commander
Kim Woods-Whitaker**

My strong faith in God coupled with my degree in project management will guide me in the role of Senior Vice Commander serving the Naperville VFW. I am a leader capable of understanding time-sensitive requirements necessary to support the planning and execution of the VFW vision and mission. I received my undergraduate in Business with a minor in Entrepreneurship from Georgia Southern University and received a full ride as a member of the university Volleyball team. I earned my MBA in Project Management, and will leverage that, my strong work ethic, and my ability to break down project requirements will assist me to support the mission of the VFW.

My military service as an enlisted and Warrant Officer helped me to stand apart from my peers while reinforcing my commitment to hard work and supporting a greater good. I forged relationships and camaraderie with my fellow soldiers, and it was teamwork within this soldier circle that helped me to complete the warrant officer training program with flying colors. Working as a signal officer was rewarding and challenging. This was a major accomplishment that continues to fuel my desire to be a part of VFW community.

I, too, am honored to accept the role of Senior Vice Commander to our post commander, Leo Jaime, and look forward to serving and to an amazing year. I look forward to chairing the Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen. This year's 2022-23 essay is a response to the question of "Why is the Veteran important?" You have my word that I will support this program to the fullest of my potential by engaging the select district schools to increase participation.

I look forward to a challenging and engaging year.

Happy 4th of July!

**National Home Chairman
Mike McGrath**

VFW NATIONAL HOME FOR CHILDREN
HELP HOPE HONOR

"Congratulations and Thank you!" as our post has again won the VFW award for most dollars donated to the National Home for the 2021-2022 program year with an amount of \$33,400.

National Home Illinois Day 2022

Illinois day weekend activities are scheduled for Friday, September 23, and Saturday, September 24. Information with motel accommodations will be available at the July 14 Post meeting.

Thank you all and may God bless our National Home.

Junior Vice Commander Staci Boyer

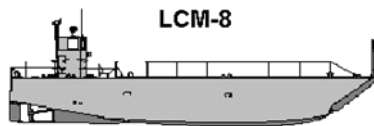


I am honored to be assuming the role of JR Vice for our post. I am extremely passionate about our veterans and military community and will strive to do all I can to uphold traditions and make positive changes that benefit our mission. I believe in action and thinking outside of the box— with this I hope to open up new opportunities for us to do more, to help more, and to be more. I intend on creating a revitalized social media presence that will help to showcase all we have to offer, and allow us to extend our reach. The younger generation desperately needs to learn what the VFW represents and how we all can make a difference. Stronger together! Thank you for trusting me with this duty and I will not let you down.

In the famous words of Benjamin Franklin - “Well done is better than well said.”

Time to get to work!

Service Officer Updates Dennis Lukavsky



Now that we are working our way through summer, it is a good time to remind ourselves about our commitment to two upcoming **Naper Nights Events on July 16, 2022 and August 19, 2022**. These are our chance to meet and greet the public and let them know what we do. When I talk to the public, most folks think we just sit around all day drinking beer and tell war stories. We need to change that perspective. These events also present an opportunity to find new members. Let's face it, the Post could benefit from some younger blood. So please make every effort to support these last two events, they are important to the health of our Post.

The VA has added or will soon be adding some new benefits:

New VA Life Insurance Program Coming: In January 2023, VA will launch a new program offering, **Veterans Affairs Life Insurance (VALife)**, which provides guaranteed acceptance whole-life insurance coverage to Veterans ages 80 and under with any level of service-connected disability. Although, some Veterans aged 81 and older may also be eligible. Learn more about VALife and whether it is the right choice for you and your family.

VA Job Training Program: If you're a Veteran who lost your job due to the COVID-19 pandemic, VA may have a solution for you. The **Veteran Rapid Retraining Assistance Program (VRRAP)** offers education and training for a variety of high-demand jobs so you can get back to work.

Qualifying Veterans can receive up to 12 months of tuition and fees along with a monthly housing allowance.

To be eligible for VRRAP, you must be between 22 and 66 years of age, unemployed due to COVID-19, able to work, and not eligible for education or unemployment benefits.

Auxiliary President Report

Bernadette Budny



Happy New Auxiliary Year! Happy 75th Anniversary to our Auxiliary!

My name is Bernadette Budny, and I am honored and humbled to be elected President of the Judd Kendall VFW Auxiliary for 2022-2023. I would like to recognize my husband, Roger Budny, who served with the Army 84th Engineers in Viet Nam, and my father, Bruno Wanat, who served with the Army during World War II, in the Battle of the Bulge, was taken prisoner, and received a Purple Heart. It is because of them that I am an Auxiliary Member.

I would also like to congratulate each of the new Board members: Senior Vice President, Maryann Groner, Junior Vice President, Dar Kwarta, Chaplain, Nancy Marinello, Treasurer, Leo Hart, Secretary, Jan Barbour, Conductress, Lucy Hoy, Guard, Carol Gloor, and Trustees, Brenda Hasler, Joe Stacho, and Amy Ownby. With their help and support and the help and support of all auxiliary members, I will do my best to meet the challenge.



2022-2023 Auxiliary Board Installation Dinner, attended by Department of Illinois President and Chief of Staff, and District 19 President.

Finally, let me take this opportunity to con-

gratulate Immediate Past President Kathy Thornton and her Board for a very successful year. Great job! Our Auxiliary meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm upstairs at the Post.

Our next Auxiliary meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 21. We would love to see you at our meetings. We openly welcome ideas or comments for this upcoming year. Feel free to reach out if you have questions.

Don't forget the 1st Tuesday of the Month Auxiliary Social Hour starting at 5:00pm in the Canteen.

Happy 246th Birthday America, and thank you to all military veterans who made it possible. Hope you and your family have a happy and safe holiday.

Have You Heard About the VFW's Partners in Patriotism? – Would you like to support the VFW's life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families without receiving all of the unwanted mail? The VFW has developed an option that lets you support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate National's mailed solicitations for donations. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact the VFW Development Department Donor Services at 816-756-3390, ext. 6318, or email partners@vfw.org with "Partners in Patriotism Application" in the subject line.

Kendall-Gram Editor
Mark Overstreet



Hello from Bahrain! This is the first of what will likely be five or six “international editions” of the Kendall-Gram. I’m a Navy Reservist currently mobilized to Naval Amphibious Force, Task Force 51/5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade (TF 51/5), headquartered in Manama, Bahrain. I’ve been on site here since July 2021 and will be home in early November 2022. I’ve been a member of the Post since 2012, when I returned from Afghanistan, and so have had the opportunity to meet some of you over the years at the Canteen or Memorial Day and other events. I won’t have a note every month, but wanted to include one this month as a brief introduction and also as a way to thank Tom Parker for setting me up for success with this new role. I’m sure it will come as no surprise to anyone who knows him or who has worked with him that he provided all of the resources I could possibly need, templates, and good advice for how to get stated. So THANK YOU Tom!

One additional item I wanted to mention is that I would love to include articles and images submitted by Post members. However, I can’t pick them up from the Canteen, so please email them to me. My email address is mark.overstreet@gmail.com. There is more information about submissions on page 7, but don’t hesitate to reach out with questions if you’d like to include something.

I look forward to this opportunity to serve the Post and look forward to meeting in person when I get home.



Memorial Day Photos



Courtesy of Jim Hoch





VFW Post 3873 Calendar of Events July 2022



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	01	02 Monarch Landing Visit, 10:00am
	04 Fourth of July!	05 Hines Outreach, 10:0am-2:00pm; Auxiliary Social, 5:00pm	06 Yoga for Vets, 9:30am	07	08	09 Brookdale Visit, 10:00am
10	11	12 Hines Hospital Visit, 6:15pm, meet at Post	13 Yoga for Vets, 9:30am	14 VFW Post Meeting, 7:00pm	15	16 Independence Village Visit, 10:00am
17	18	19	20 Yoga for Vets, 9:30am	21 Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00pm	22	23 Story Point Visit, 10:00am
24	25	26	27 Yoga for Vets, 9:30am	28	29	30
31	01	02	03	04	05	06

Hines Hospital Visits

The Chairman of the Hospital Committee would like to remind everyone that the Post visits the Hines VA Hospital every second Tuesday of the month. **Visits are not made in July and August.** We leave the Post at 6:15 p.m. and return at approximately 9:15 p.m. Transportation is provided. Everyone is invited to attend, so why not come out to spend quality time with some very appreciative veterans?

Canteen Hours

	Open	Close
Mon—Thur	1:00 p.m.	10:00 pm
Friday	Noon	Midnight
Saturday	Noon	10:00 pm
Sunday	Noon	6:00 pm

The bartender may elect to close the Canteen early due to low patronage. The bartender will give a last call and close the Canteen 15 minutes later.

NO ONE is allowed behind the bar except the Bartenders.

THE BARTENDER IS BOSS

Kendall-Gram Submission Policy

Post members are encouraged to submit articles and photos. Send articles and photos to the email address below. All photos MUST include where and why it was taken and the names of those in the picture. Photos without captions will not be used. Articles/photos submitted by the 10th will be eligible to appear in the next Kendall-Gram. Articles/photos submitted after the 10th of the month will be considered for the following month.

Kendall-Gram Editor:

Mark Overstreet
mark.overstreet@gmail.com

Post Information

Mailing Address: Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873
908 W. Jackson
Naperville, IL 60540

Phone Number: **(630) 420-9820**

Website Address: napervfw3873.org

Facebook: Naperville VFW Judd Kendall 3873

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 7:00 pm in the upstairs hall of the Post.

Judd Kendall Post 3873 Officers

Commander	Leo Jaime	(773) 441-3887
Sr. Vice Commander	Kim Woods	(630) 267-0015
Jr. Vice Commander	Staci Boyer	(773) 351-4646
Quartermaster	Phil Maughan	(630) 383-1974
Ass't Quartermaster	John Shaw	(630) 961-3479
Ass't Quartermaster	Tom Parker	(630) 280-9347
Adjutant	Matt Hoyt	(630) 362-5564
Judge Advocate	Lawrence Goss	(630) 728-9641
Surgeon	Bill Howland	(630) 369-0087
Service Officer	Dennis Lukavsky	(630) 272-9064
Officer of the Day	Lou Kueltzo	(630) 898-8760
Guard	Roger Budny	(630) 205-8745
Chaplain	Bob Grember	(630) 960-1998
1-Year Trustee	Craig Frier	
2-Year Trustee	Pablo Araya	(312) 505-4377
3-Year Trustee	Roger Budny	(630) 205-8745

Committees

Americanism	Tom Parker	(630) 280-9347
Blood Drive	Ingrid Kanady	(847) 951-3300
Buddy Poppy	Bob Colby	(630) 301-2664
Building		
Color Guard	Dennis Regan	(630) 361-4644
Communications	Dennis Lukavsky	(630) 272-9064
Eighth Grade Awards	Tom Benton	(630) 579-8514
Facilities Manager		
Grounds	Phil Maughan	(630) 357-3440
Honor Guard	Jim Oftedal	(630) 357-4030
Hospital	John Shaw	(630) 961-3479
House	Mike McGrath	(630) 357-2680
House	Bob Tallon	(630) 561-9902
House	Tom Parker	(630) 280-9347
Membership	Kim Woods	
Legislative	Frank Haynes	(630) 357-2906
National Home	Mike McGrath	(630) 357-2680
Patriot's Pen	Kim Woods	
Safety	Mike McGrath	(630) 357-2680
Scout Liaison	Todd Schuneman	(815) 791-4178
Social Media	Dave Angelus	(630) 596-3245
Voice of Democracy	Kim Woods	

Auxiliary Officers

President	Bernadette Budny	(630) 717-9471
Sr. Vice President	Maryann Groner	(630) 363-8138
Jr. Vice President	Darlene Kwarta	
Treasurer	Leo Hart	
Secretary	Jan Barbour	(630) 247-9007
Chaplain	Nancy Marinello	(630) 464-3696
Guard	Carol Gloor	
Conductress	Lucy Hoy	

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Judd Kendall Post 3873
908 W. Jackson
Naperville, IL 60540

