

THE KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 23 Issue 01

January 2023



A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



Commander Leo Jaime



Happy 2023! And thank you for an amazing 2022.

It's a great feeling to put 2022 behind us with a proud list of accomplishments – too many to mention. If I had more room to write I'd give you a list of all the selfless acts of individual volunteerism our members walked, stood, saluted, fed, cleaned, mulched, raked, danced, sang, sold, cooked, paraded, talked, hugged, cheered, ran, and simply "were" a part of. We may all think it's just the "way it is" but, let me assure you, we have a special thing here at the Judd Kendall Post 3873 Naperville, and I am blessed to be a part of it.

Now, as we start a new calendar year, we get ready to tackle an even busier agenda. We will need all hands on deck to cover the events planned, including a veterans Health Fair in February, a recognition of the (official) 50th anniversary of the withdrawal from Vietnam in March, the return of the Fish Fry (planning – TBD), a Day of Service in May, and all our annual and new events in the Spring, Summer and Fall. If you have not yet experienced the rewards of volunteering for your Post, there will plenty of opportunities in 2023. Please see me or our Jr Vice, Staci Boyer.

Aside from opportunities to participate in worthy events, we will push to finish our operating year above 100% membership. We are currently 11 members shy at 98.1%, with 5 months to go. I am sure we will reach our goal, having full confidence in the efforts of our recruiters: YOU. Thank you, in advance, for your hard work. For those on the annual membership plan, please renew, or better yet, consider upgrading to a Life Membership: you'll save on dues and reduce the Post's administrative burden and expenses.

Lastly, I'd like to thank all who have stepped up to fill the existing open roles. Your commitment is greatly appreciated. These next couple of months, I will be seeking support for specific roles that will need to be filled this Spring to set the slate of new Officers and Committee Chairs. One of the most important spots to fill will be the Junior Vice Commander. This Officer position not only sets the social character of our Post but is the steppingstone to the eventual role of Commander. If you have the ambition, please see me or one of the other Officers.

As we say in aviation: "You are only as good as your NEXT landing." Let's make 2023 a great landing!

Junior Vice Commander Staci Boyer



REMINDER! Veterans only free workout at my gym on Tuesday mornings 8am-9am! 1707 Quincy Ave #107. This is open to ALL veterans and you need not be a member of the VFW or Legion. All ability levels are welcome. I will modify and work with you as needed. Please RSVP to me at 773-351-4646.

The Army / Navy game was one to remember! The first time in history we went into a double overtime. Navy put up a good fight but Army took it in the end 20 to 17! We had a wonderful crowd in the canteen with a lot of great raffle prizes. There is so much great energy when we all get together!

Nadia and I hosted a White Elephant Holiday Party and we were so happy with the outcome! Thank you to Mission BBQ and the Auxiliary members that came out to help make this event a success. Santa even stopped by to find out what we all had on our Christmas lists! We have a new collaboration with All Saints Academy students to volunteer at our events for service hours and they were a joyful addition to our event. If you have an event that you think would be a good fit for some of the students please reach out to me.

On Dec 20th, we held a Legion Rider drive by at Story Point and brought birthday cards and a song to Lou Wegner who celebrated his 100th Birthday! Our All Saints students made cards for him and showed up to show support and thanks! We also passed around an awesome card at the holiday party that everyone signed, along with some beautiful messages dropped off by our members at the post!

Dec 29th Lyn Lowder Vietnam Vet received a Quilt of Valor- presented at Rosie's Diner!

We have had the opportunity to invite new Veterans to our recent events and have been able to extend our reach into the community with some new collaborations and projects.

HUGE shout-out to everyone from the Post/Legion that is involved with the Toys 4 Tots program this year. Your hard work is beyond words. I am honored to be able to work with all of you that give back so much to your community!

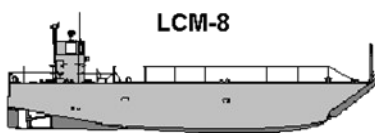
Coming up soon:

- 1/28/23 Sweetheart dinner in the Canteen. See Carey for details. \$15 for dinner and entertainment.
- 2/21/23 Veteran Health Fair. Contact Staci Boyer or Ingrid Kanady for details.

Quote of the month: Breakthrough moments are the result of many previous actions. Don't quit!

Please take the time to follow us on Instagram @NapervilleVFWpost3873 and on our Facebook page VFWNaperville. If you attend any of our events and post on social media please tag our pages so we can repost and share. Additionally, please use the hashtag #VFWpost3873 in posts that feature us so we can create more of an online presence. If you have event information that you would like featured or marketed on social media please reach out to Staci Boyer via text 773-351-4646.

**Service Officer Updates
Dennis Lukavsky**



Here are some of the new benefits related things for 2023 to keep in mind as we start another year helping and supporting our fellow veterans:

- On Jan. 1, 2023, the Department of Veterans Affairs will open enrollment for Veterans Affairs Life Insurance — the first new VA life insurance program for Veterans in more than 50 years. For more information visit VA Life (<https://www.benefits.va.gov/insurance/valife.asp>).
- The Social Security Administration announced the 2023 COLA increase will be 8.7%. That increase will be consistent through all the programs administered by the VA. If you would care to see the breakdown of benefits based on % of disability, please send me an email and I will provide it to you.

Recently, several members have told me they have stopped receiving email blasts. There are several factors that can cause this, pretty much all of them beyond our joint control. The good news so far is that I have been able to get all occurrences repaired. I usually send out 2-3 blasts per week, so if you or someone you know goes a week without receiving an email from me, please reach out to be re-added to the list.

Christmas Party 2022



**National Home Chairman
Mike McGrath**



"Merry Christmas and Best Wishes for a Great New Year!" to everyone from the VFW National Home.

And Thank You all for the Great Support!

Naperville Banners for Veterans

The City of Naperville is proud to recognize and pay tribute to Naperville's military heroes for their sacrifice and service through the Naperville Salutes street banner program.

This joint effort between the City of Naperville, VFW, Naperville Public Arts Task Force, Naperville Park District, Naperville Heritage Society, Freedom Heroes of Naperville and Naperville Responds for Veterans serves as a living tribute for our community to honor past and present members of the Armed Forces and their family members.

For more information, refer to the City of Naperville site at <https://www.naperville.il.us/naperville-salutes>

Useful Links for Veterans

REQUEST MILITARY RECORDS

<https://www.va.gov/records/get-military-service-records/>

REQUEST DISCHARGE UPGRADES

<https://www.va.gov/discharge-upgrade-instructions>

ARCHIVES - SEARCH HISTORICAL MILITARY RECORDS

<https://www.archives.gov/>

Taps

Ed Hausknecht, 96, Navy. Served in World War II.

Please contact Phil Maughan at the Post for mailing addresses if you wish to send a sympathy card.



**Auxiliary President
Bernadette Budny**



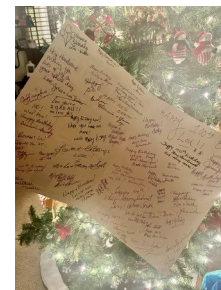
Auxiliary Membership is now over 100% (101.25%)! Welcome to our newest members!

Remember the Auxiliary meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. If you have an idea for a fundraiser you would like to coordinate in 2023, please bring that suggestion to our next meeting so we may discuss and put on the calendar.

Happy New Year to all Auxiliary and Post members and your families. May 2023 bring each of you good health and happiness. Wishing you peace in the New Year. May God bless our veterans and those who continue to serve our country.

Lou Wegner's 100th Birthday

Photos courtesy of Staci Boyer



A Note From Staci Boyer:

We celebrated one of our WWII Veterans, Lou Wegner! He turned 100!! We brought him birthday cards, an amazing meal from Mission Barbeque, sang Happy Birthday AND viewed a drive-by parade with the Legion Riders. Lou is a member of both the Naperville VFW POST 3873 and American Legion Post 43 Naperville. Don O'Reily, who just turned 101, joined in the festivities. Thank you to all that came out & a special thank you to the students from All Saints Catholic Academy for volunteering their time!



VFW Post 3873 Calendar of Events January 2023



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

Hines Hospital Visits

The Chairman of the Hospital Committee would like to inform everyone that **Hines Hospital visits are on IN-DEFINITE HOLD due to COVID**. We will share more information and the new schedule once we are able to restart the visits.

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 Kuelto	(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 Building	Bob Colby	(630) 301-2664
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	(630) 267-0015
Legislative	Frank Haynes	(630) 357-2906
National Home	Mike McGrath	(630) 357-2680
Patriot's Pen	Kim Woods	(630) 267-0015
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	(630) 267-0015

Auxiliary Officers

President	Bernadette Budny	(630) 717-9471
Sr. Vice President	Maryann Groner	(630) 363-8138
Jr. Vice President	Darlene Kwarta	(630) 885-1770
Treasurer	Leo Hart	(630) 816-0506
Secretary	Jan Barbour	(630) 247-9007
Chaplain	Nancy Marinello	(630) 464-3696
Guard	Carol Gloor	(630) 778-6873
Conductress	Lucy Hoy	

Veterans of Foreign Wars

