

THE KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 23 Issue 02

February 2023



A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



Commander Leo Jaime



Every year around this time, we are reminded that the future is no longer in our hands, in a good way, however.

February marks the culmination of the State-level Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy competition, with a winner of each program advancing to the final National competition. I had the privilege of being a judge at the Post level back in October 2022 where we read through more than 470 essays to select our top-five. Reading the essays gave me, as I am sure it has for all who read them, a sense of comfort that our future is in good hands. Not all kids are created equal, granted, but I can tell you that, through the essays I had the pleasure to judge, I learned that there are plenty who care for our nation, our freedoms, our future, and most importantly, our veterans and all that we stand for. It is heartwarming. This past month, I took it up a notch and officiated the 19th District Patriot's Pen competition and Awards Luncheon. There, I cemented the sentiments described before. It was great to meet the Post winners, the cream of crop of our District's essay writers. More importantly, I got to know the people behind the students who support them and provide the moral and civil examples of good citizenship and patriotism.

The Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy programs are among the most important youth scholarship programs of the VFW. Mark Overstreet, our KG editor, has graciously accepted the challenge to lead our Post's programs for the upcoming school year. Please join me in thanking Mark, and if you feel you are missing out, please reach out to Mark or me; we can show you how you too can be a part of the program.

Changing gears: The Fish Frys are back!! I am pleased to remind all that we will be hosting seven consecutive events starting on the first Friday of Lent. More details will be communicated via the blast emails, including how you can volunteer and provide support. Our community is accustomed to attending a top-notch event at the Post, and I'm sure our event chair, Tom Parker, will not disappoint. Please plan to support by bringing your family and loved ones to the best Fish Fry Fridays in town.

Lastly, I would like to thank all who are supporting our membership efforts. We are eight members shy of reaching 100%. If you are on the annual plan, please renew ASAP! Or better yet, become a "Lifer."

Junior Vice Commander Staci Boyer



Happy February! We are looking to start a VFW/Legion athletic team. If you are interested in participating in endurance/obstacle course races like the Spartan Race or being part of numerous 3-person sprint triathlon teams and/or would like to be a co-coach for this initiative please reach out to me!

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

Coming up soon:

- 2/4 6:00pm-9:00m. Disney Karaoke! \$10 Fundraiser for the National home. Costumes and Raffles!
- 2/5 5:00pm. Sound gong wash meditation with Lotus Vibrations.
- 2/18. First Responder appreciation hosted by the American Legion at the Post.
- 2/21 5:30pm-8:30pm. Veteran Health Fair. Staci or Ingrid Kanady for details.
- 2/24. First Fish Fry. Every Friday from 2/24-4/7. Contact Tom Parker for more details.
- 2/26 8:00am-11:30am. Sons of the Legion pancake breakfast. \$8/\$5. Fundraiser for veterans.

Stay tuned for:

- 3/3. Karaoke for American Legion in canteen
- 3/18. Teacher appreciation dinner at post
- 3/19. Folds of honor at Top Golf. \$40 or more to sponsor
- 3/26. Sound gong wash meditation

Quote of the month: Comparison is the thief of joy! Be better, than YOUR own yesterday!



Join us for a relaxing evening with a fully immersive sound meditation. Relieve stress, tension and pain as you are bathed in the gentle soothing sounds of singing bowls, drums, rattles, handpan, gong and flute. We will guide you through a cosmic soundscape designed to relax and recharge. You will enter a state of relaxation where healing of the mind and body can take place, making you feel rejuvenated and balanced. We look forward to holding space for those seeking tranquility, relief, comfort, & support.

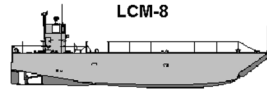
Sunday February 5th and March 26th, 5pm-7pm

Please bring yoga mat, eye mask, blanket, pillows, and knee support.

This is a donation based event open to the community and free to veterans and their families.

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



Some of you may have noticed that I have been adding general VA news and VA Health articles in the email blasts I send out. It's not a coincidence. I thought it would be important to collect as much "VA News" as possible. I know there is a lot of information (probably too much for anyone) in many of these releases. I don't read everything either. But I do think it is worth your time to scan over the blasts and look for articles that apply to you. There is always a chance you are missing out on some benefit you are entitled to have. My philosophy is that my job is put out as much information as I can. Your job is to decide what is important to you.

I want to quickly mention Scammers/Phishing over the Pact ACT. There has been a major increase in scammer activity due to the Pact ACT. From my point of view, you should only talk to an accredited Service Officer about filing a claim. Scams are becoming more and more sophisticated and thus more difficult to identify. Here is a link to the VA's Do's and Don't when considering filing a Pact ACT claim (link is live in pdf):

<https://www.oprm.va.gov/docs/PACT-Act-Scams.pdf>

Our post is fortunate in having an accredited Service Officer come to the post the first Tues of ever month. So if you want to file or just have questions about filing come visit us at the post between 10AM and 2PM on Feb 7th.

VFW FISH FRY



Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873 is pleased to announce that our "All You Can Eat – Open to the Public" Friday Fish Fries will begin on February 24th and run through Lent.

Fridays
February 24 – April 7
4:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Located at:
908 W. Jackson in Naperville

Over the past 50+ years, this has become a much-loved part of the Naperville social scene. Please join us to enjoy time with friends and family, and to support Naperville's veterans.

Buffet menu varies each week that includes a variety of fish, meat, vegetables, desert, coffee, and soft drinks.

Cash and Credit Cards Accepted



Visit our website www.napervfw3873.org or call Belgio's Catering at (630) 369-6100 for the current week's menu.



We will be resuming our annual Fish Fries during Lent this year, with the first one occurring on February 24th. They will run for 7 weeks and as usual, each week will feature a service night. Members from each branch are urged to attend on their respective service night to help make the dinners run smoothly and to be recognized by citizens from the Naperville community. Members from other branches are always welcome to help on any Friday evening. Point of contact is Tom Parker.

Service Night Schedule	Feb 24 USMC	Mar 24 Army
	Mar 3 Army	Mar 31 Navy/Coast Guard
	Mar 10 Navy/Coast Guard	Apr 7 USMC
	Mar 17 Air Force	

**National Home Chairman
Mike McGrath**



"Building Strong Families"

Now in the Home's 98th year of operation, we are glad to be back up and running after two long years of dealing with the pandemic. In just two short years, the Home will be celebrating 100 years of helping veterans and their families! Thanks to everyone for the great support during these challenging times!

And as a reminder, the National Home is open to the families of active-duty military personnel, veterans, and relatives of VFW and auxiliary members. The family can be one or both parents with one or more children.

There are homes available in the National Home Community at the present time so if you know of a family that may need help, please mention our helpline 800-313-4200 or contact the Home through the website (www.vfwnationalhome.org).

Thank you! And blessings to all in the coming year.

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

Roger Ory, 74, Air Force. Served in Korea. Member of the Post since 1972.

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



Auxiliary President Bernadette Budny



Greetings!

The 19th District held its Voice of Democracy awards dinner on Saturday, January 7. April Zhang, a student at Neuqua Valley High School, was this year's Post 3873 winner and represented the Post in the District competition. Many members of the Post and Auxiliary attended the dinner to support April. Of all the individual Post winners competing at the District level, April placed second overall. While April was not selected to advance to State, her second place finish reflects highly on her talents.



The 19th District also held its Patriot's Pen awards pizza party on Sunday, January 22. Sophia Pandya, a student at Kennedy Junior High School, was this year's Post 3873 winner and represented the Post in the District competition. Several members of the Post and Auxiliary attended the pizza party to support Sofia. Although her entry did not place at the District level, we wish her luck competing next year.

Every VFW member shares a powerful legacy of serving in combat to defend our nation. By choosing to join the VFW, we also extended that legacy through our commitment to assist veterans, their families, and our communities. The VFW has a unique program which enables us to further our legacy in another important way. **Legacy Life Membership** allows you to upgrade your life membership for a fixed amount of money that will create a perpetual income stream to the VFW at the Post, State and National levels. There are three levels (Bronze, Silver, and Gold) that range from \$400 to \$1,200. Donations can be made all at once or over time until you reach your desired amount. The various benefits associated with Legacy Life Membership include a tax deduction, discounts on purchases from the VFW Store, and more. The greatest benefit, however, is the knowledge that you are helping to provide a perpetual source of income to ensure the important work of the VFW in assisting veterans, their families, and our communities will continue forever.

Please contact Post QM Phil Maughan at (630) 383-1974 or plmaughan@pobox.com for additional information.



VFW Post 3873 Calendar of Events



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
29	30	31	01	02	03	04
			Yoga for Vets, 9:30am			Monarch Landing Visit, 10:00am Disney Karaoke, 6:00pm
05 Lotus Vibrations Medi- tation, 5:00pm	06	07 Hines Outreach, 10:0am-2:00pm; Auxiliary Social, Can- teen 5:00pm	08 Yoga for Vets, 9:30am	09 VFW Post Meeting, 7:00pm	10	11 Brookdale Visit, 10:00am
12	13	14	15 Yoga for Vets, 9:30am	16 Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00pm	17	18 Independence Village Visit, 10:00am
19	20	21 Veteran Health Fair, 5:30pm	22 Yoga for Vets, 9:30am	23	24 Fish Fry	25 Story Point Visit, 10:00am
26	27	28	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		
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 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		
Legislative	Frank Haynes	(630) 357-2906
National Home	Mike McGrath	(630) 357-2680
Patriot's Pen		
Safety	Mike McGrath	(630) 357-2680
Scout Liaison	Todd Schuneman	(815) 791-4178
Social Media	Dave Angelus	(630) 596-3245
Voice of Democracy		

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

