

# THE KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 23 Issue 03

March 2023



**A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873**



## Commander Leo Jaime



Spring is in the air! If our friend from Punxsutawney was right on Feb 2nd, we should welcome warmer days by mid-month. With warmer weather also comes the opportunity to start thinking about our ever-popular Spring Plant Sale (May 5) – please make sure you don't miss the deadline to submit your [order forms](#) (clickable link) by April 1st.

In March, we look forward to a few key events, including our recognition of the National Vietnam War "Veterans Day". On Wednesday March 29th, 1973, 50 years ago, our United States Armed Forces officially left Vietnam. This year we will be honoring our Vietnam Era Veterans at our Naperville Veterans Park. All Veterans and public are welcomed. We are planning a brief program starting promptly at 10:30am. We hope to see all of you, including our fellow Vietnam Era Veterans, and families and friends.

We are also holding discussions on the slate of officers for the coming year. As you are aware, we will be voting on key leadership positions as well as committee positions focused on community involvement. If you are interested in becoming more involved with the day-to-day activities that keep our Post in the top ranks, please let us know. Rest assured that any expression of interest or request for additional information does not obligate you to any position. You make the final decision to put your name in the ballot when ready. Participation by new members is crucial for the success of our Post. Refreshing positions with new talent ensures new ideas are brought forward, with creativity to align ourselves with changing times and opportunities.

The [Fish-Fries](#) (clickable link) are already in full swing and are planned to continue into April. This is the comeback year following the pandemic and supply-chain constrains. As such, and to ensure each Friday is a success, we will need your full support. Pass the word to your family, friends, neighbors, and colleagues that the best Fish-Fries in town are held our Post every Friday during Lent. The menu is great, but most importantly, the revenue created is used throughout the year to help us assist veterans and promote patriotism in the community.

Lastly, I want to thank every member for their support to reach our membership goals. Yes! we have achieved 100%, and early! This is proof that if we work together, no matter how small the contribution, we can make things happen. Let's capitalize on the momentum and close out the year with a healthy slate of officer and committees and accomplish our mission: do more for veterans!

## Junior Vice Commander Staci Boyer



March is upon us! We have officially started our VFW/Legion athletic team. We have multiple sponsors a co-coach, 9 members and a team name! If you are interested in participating in endurance/obstacle course races like the Spartan Race, Paintball, bowling, or being part of numerous 3 person sprint triathlon teams, please reach out to me via text at 773-351-4646.

The 2/4 Disney Karaoke fundraiser for The National Home was a huge success. We have collectively posted so many wonderful photos across our social media platforms. Thank you Jennifer Slown and your Veteran Realtor Team for hosting, along with your partners Phil and Rosie Bukowski of The Bukowski Team! See event photos here (clickable link)- <https://kristallephotography.pic-time.com/F7Ed2pl8KfKYn>

2/18 Legion Dinner honoring our local First Responders was an exhilarating success!  
2/21 Health and Wellness Fair ended up better than we hoped - Next one planned for 5/23  
2/24 Fish Fry kick off is a huge success. Stay tuned for Branch Fridays and more fun!

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:

3/4 Karaoke for American Legion in canteen 6:30-10pm  
3/11 St Patrick's Day Parade  
3/18 Teacher appreciation dinner at post Social hour 6pm Dinner 7pm  
3/19 Folds of honor at Top Golf. 40\$ or more to sponsor  
3/26 Sound gong wash meditation at post.  
3/29 Veterans Park - National Vietnam War "Veterans Day" 10:30 am  
3/29 Free sandwich at Mission BBQ for Vets.

Stay tuned for:

5/6 - Honor Flight Fundraiser 11-3pm <https://www.dupageveteransfoundation.org>  
5/6 - Phoenix Natural Body-Building Competition (colorguard, military tribute, VFW & Legion Booth- <https://phoenixproductions1.com>  
5/23- 530-830pm Veteran Health Fair - Contact Staci or Ingrid Kanady for details.  
6/1 Naperville Municipal Band Concert honoring all branches of the military

Quote of the month: "People putting you down is a sign of your increasing success."

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



### Environmental Health Registry

This month seems to be a good time to talk about VA Health Registries. They seem not to attract the attention they actually deserve, since they serve a very worthwhile purpose. They put the VA on notice that they are responsible should you become ill with one of their listed diseases.

Here is a list of the current registries:

- Agent Orange Registry
- Airborne Hazards and Open Burn Pit Registry
- Gulf War Registry (includes Operations Iraqi Freedom and New Dawn)
- Ionizing Radiation Registry
- Depleted Uranium Follow-Up Program
- Toxic Embedded Fragment Surveillance Center

Here is the important take away on this topic: If you were in a situation where you COULD HAVE been exposed to one of these hazards you need to consider registering. Notice, **I did not say that you were** SUBJECT-ED TO the hazard. Here is the reason why: Upon registering, you are eligible to take a voluntary evaluation to see if you have any of diseases in a given registry. Early diagnosis equates to better outcomes.

You do not have to be in the VA Health care system to qualify for a given registry.


Here are clickable links to more information and eligibility:

- <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/PUBLICHEALTH/exposures/index.asp>
- <http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/benefits/registry-evaluation.asp>

If you have questions about the registries please let me know.

This is something not to be ignored. Please give it serious consideration TODAY.

## 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 24<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.napervfw3873.org) or call Belgio's Catering at (630) 369-6100 for the current week's menu.

Fish Fries will run every Friday during Lent. 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.

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|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Feb 24</b> USMC             | <b>Mar 24</b> Army             |
| <b>Mar 3</b> Army              | <b>Mar 31</b> Navy/Coast Guard |
| <b>Mar 10</b> Navy/Coast Guard | <b>Apr 7</b> USMC              |
| <b>Mar 17</b> Air Force        |                                |

## National Home Chairman Mike McGrath



The month of March begins the 98th year that the [National Home](#) (clickable link) has been helping veterans and families, as the home welcomed its first clients in March 1925 when newly widowed Mrs. Pollett and her 6 children came to live at an old frame farmhouse that would later grow into more than 600 acres in the small town of Eaton Rapids, Michigan. Thus, a great legacy of honoring the dead by helping the living was begun, and it continues today.

As we now commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Iraq War and the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam withdrawal. We are thankful to our veterans and their families for their many sacrifices and hardships in the name of freedom and the National Home continues to help and honor them as it has done for 98 years.

Thank you all for your great support!

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## 2023 Buddy Poppy Days

As we get closer to Memorial Day it is time to start planning for our annual Buddy Poppy Days fundraiser.

**This year we will distribute poppies from Wednesday, May 24, through Sunday, May 28.** We will also have a few people at the bandshell on Memorial Day during the musical program.

We will need volunteers to sign up for two-hour shifts at the various locations. Most locations will run from 0900 to 1900, with shorter hours on Sunday. The exceptions will be the train stations (weekday early morning hours only) and the bandshell (Memorial Day only, 1200-1400).

Once again, signup will be online only. **The signup sheet link will go live on April 19.** Watch next month's Kendall gram and email blasts for more details on signup sheet link and poppy procedures. The information will also be on the post web site.

For questions, contact one of the committee members:

VFW:

Bob Colby - bobcolby888@gmail.com

Tom Richert - tom.richert@gmail.com

Auxiliary:

Nancy Marinello - nancymarinello@yahoo.com

Julie Berkowicz - julie@berkowicz.net

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## National Vietnam War "Veterans Day", Wednesday March 29th, 2023

50 years ago, our United States Armed Forces Officially left Vietnam on March 29 th , 1973. Up until a few years ago, this day was pretty much forgotten. But this year marks the 50 th Anniversary of our departure from Vietnam and we will be honoring our Vietnam Era Veterans on Wednesday, March 29 th at our Naperville Veterans Park, and all Veterans are welcomed. We are planning a brief program starting promptly at 10:30am.

This gathering is open to the public and there will be parking available at the Grace United Methodist Church across from Veterans Park. We hope to see many of our fellow Vietnam Era Veterans there and bring a friend. It is time that all who served during the Vietnam War to be Honored.

Thank you and Semper Fidelis, Wayne Fischer

**Auxiliary President****Bernadette Budny**

Greetings!

March is always a month when we begin to look forward to less cold, more days where there is a hint of warmth in the air, and more hours of daylight. Another event to look forward to is our Judd Kendall Fish Fry. Our famous [Friday Fish Fries](#) (clickable link) began on Friday, February 24. Fish fries are an important fundraiser for our Post. Auxiliary member, Trish Krenick, has once again volunteered to assist the Post and manage the committee for cashiering. If you wish to volunteer, please contact her at tkrenick@gmail.com. No experience necessary. Can't volunteer? We welcome you as a consumer as well. Check out the menus for each week here: [napervfw3873.org](http://napervfw3873.org). We look forward to seeing you there.

Auxiliary member Marcy Maughan is organizing the **2023 Plant Sale which will be on May 5th**. The order forms are available in the canteen, [on line](#) (clickable link), and at the Fish Fries. We hope you will seriously consider ordering from the Post this year.

Auxiliary member Nancy Marinello is ordering Poppies now and gearing up for Buddy Poppy distribution in May. A sure indicator that spring is just around the corner.

Many of the activities and community outreach programs are coordinated and attended by members of the Auxiliary and Post. At our April meeting we will nominate a new slate of officers. Along with all the active members who share their efforts and talents, why not join us to share your talents at a meeting (Thursday, March 16) or committee soon?

The Auxiliary meets the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 upstairs at the Post. Please join us.

**Karaoke Fundraiser for National Home**

submitted by Kathy Thornton)

On Saturday, February 4th, the VFW Social Hall was magically transformed into a Disney wonderland, where the American Legion Post 43 hosted a fundraiser for the VFW National Home. Most attendees, young and old were decked out in Disney! Beauty and the Beast, Peter Pan, Belle and all your favorite Disney cast were on hand to offer their talent and their voices for our common cause. Kudos to Jennifer Slown and Nadia Rios for an amazing experience for everyone. We wished upon a star for a successful fundraiser for the VFW National Home. That would be a dream come true. Pictures above are of Auxiliary families. Many of you will recognize the 7 dwarfs' leader as former VFW Post commander, Mike Rechenmacher.





## VFW Post 3873 Calendar of Events March 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	01 Yoga for Vets, 9:30am	02	03 Fish Fry	04 Monarch Landing Visit, 10:00am Karaoke, 6:30pm
05	06	07 Hines Outreach, 10:0am-2:00pm; Auxiliary Social, Canteen 5:00pm	08 Yoga for Vets, 9:30am	09 VFW Post Meeting, 7:00pm	10 Fish Fry	11 Brookdale Visit, 10:00am St Patrick's Day Pa- rade
12	13	14	15 Yoga for Vets, 9:30am	16 Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00pm	17 Fish Fry	18 Independence Vil- lage Visit, 10:00am Teacher Apprecia- tion Dinner, 6:00pm
19 Folds of Honor at Top Golf	20	21	22 Yoga for Vets, 9:30am	23	24 Fish Fry	25 Story Point Visit, 10:00am
26 Lotus Vibrations Meditation, 5:00pm	27	28	29 National Vietnam War Veterans Day, 10:30 am	30	31	01

**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](http://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

