

THE KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 23 Issue 04

April 2023



A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



Commander Leo Jaime



Spring is finally here, although some may say “only on the calendar”, or “we still have some winter left”, etc. The bottom line is that before we know it, we will be rushing to the hardware store to refill the propane tanks for our grills or get the lawn mower ready, but, most importantly, we will be parading downtown and visiting our visiting various grave sites to honor our fallen comrades during Memorial Day.

We will also conduct our Buddy® Poppy campaign, which is expected to back in full force after three years of restricted access or reduced pedestrian traffic at local donation points. For those not entirely familiar with the campaign, it is one of the oldest National campaigns run by a veteran’s organization. Its first distribution in 1922 provided income and assistance to the disabled veterans who assembled the poppies. Today, more than 100 year later, the VFW Buddy® Poppies are still assembled by disabled veterans in VA Hospitals, providing much needed assistance.

Both the Buddy® Poppies and the Parade will need all hands on deck. We will need volunteers to take on the solemn task of placing American flags on the more than 3000 veterans’ gravesites across various cemeteries and churches around town, and we will also need many volunteers to offer Buddy® Poppies to our community. Stay alert for an email from our service officer, Dennis, (and see the article on page 4 of this Kendall-Gram) with details on ways to participate.

I am confident that your participation in one or both events will afford you the satisfaction of knowing that you are an integral part of our mission to serve our veterans, the military, and our communities.

Someone once said: “with great sacrifice comes great reward”. The VFW is going through a transition with many of its core members intending to pass the baton, only to find a slim crowd willing or able to carry it. Our local eligible veterans are young and ready to take their next step in their career or family life, leaving little time left to volunteer in their communities or to commit to a role in a veteran organization. As such, it has been an arduous task to fill our Post’s still-open positions; and we are not done yet. By the time you read this, many of you may have gotten a call from me requesting your commitment to re-up for another year or requesting you step-up to serve your Post and take one of the open spots. Your Post needs you, and I am confident I can count on you!

Junior Vice Commander Staci Boyer



We had the honor of recognizing our VFW Post Teacher of the Year on 3/18 (photo right). **Kevin Benages** is a strength and conditioning coach from Naperville North High school. He is a role model for the youth in our community and is very deserving of this award!

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. Photo below right!

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! (Text me-773-351-4646)

Coming up soon:

4/1 1pm-3pm. Easter Egg Hunt | Crafts, activities, pizza & pictures!

RSVP at this link—<https://mailchi.mp/5dd8b9125b5d/egghunt2023>

4/15 American Legion Past Commanders Dinner

4/17 8am-9am. Veteran owned business networking monthly meeting at Rosie's Diner

*For Vet business owners and those wanting to start one and seek mentorship. (3rd Monday each month)

4/21 Pinots Palette Sip & Paint party | 22 a day fundraiser at the Post.

Stay tuned for:

5/6 - 11am-3pm. Honor Flight Fundraiser

<https://www.dupageveteransfoundation.org>

5/6 - Phoenix Natural Body Building Competition (colorguard, military tribute, VFW & Legion Booth- <https://phoenixproductions1.com>

5/16- 530pm-830pm Veteran Health Fair - Contact Staci or Ingrid Kanady for details.



Quote of the month: "Every breath we take is another chance to heal." - Jasmine Warga

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



This month I would like to talk about the Caregiver Support Programs offered by the VA. More and more of the Viet Nam-era veterans are relying on assistance, so I thought it time to broach this subject. To qualify, the veteran **MUST** be enrolled in the VA Health Care program. The VA offers two programs:

- The General care giver support program offers various sorts of educational opportunities, support groups, one-on-one coaching, and respites to name a few.
- The Comprehensive care giver program eligibility relies on the following criteria: The veteran must on VA Health Care, at least 70% disabled, and have difficulty performing daily activities.

Your primary caregiver may qualify for CHAMPVA (Civilian Health Care), a monthly stipend, 30 days of respite care, and more.

This video does a very good job of explaining the programs:

<https://youtu.be/ps013CIR7TU>

Here is a link to VA Home page for Caregivers:

https://www.caregiver.va.gov/support/PCS_Program_Difference.asp

(both links live in e-version of Kendall-Gram)

To find out more about the programs, call the VA Caregiver support line at

VA Caregiver Support Line
 ☎ **1-855-260-3274 (toll-free)**
 Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-10 p.m. ET
 Saturday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. ET

SAVE THE DATE!

Who: Open to the Public

What: Naperville's Gold Star Family Monument Dedication Ceremony

When: Saturday, **May 27th** promptly at **2pm**

Where: Veterans Park, 303 E Gartner Rd, Naperville, IL 60540

Why: Dedicate our community Gold Star Family monument that was the hard work of many



National Home Chairman**Mike McGrath****"April, the Month of the Military Child."**

Established in 1986 by then Secretary of Defense Caspar Weinberger, April is the Month of the Military Child. The designation underscores the important role military children play in the armed forces community and establishes a time to applaud military families and their children for the sacrifices and challenges they face.

Schools and community groups are encouraged to recognize and honor military kids who must often move and change schools due to a parent being deployed. "Freedom Isn't Free" and we all benefit from and should be thankful for their service to our country.

"Purple Up"

Wear purple on April 15 to show support for military children. Purple indicates support for all branches through the combination of all branch colors, Air Force blue, Army green, Coast Guard blue, Marine Corps red, Navy blue, and Space Force black. So "Purple Up" to show your support for military children on April 15!

[National Home Campus](#) (clickable link)

As we enter the National Home's 98th year of service to military families, there are a total of 80 children on campus. Both Illinois Homes 1 and 2 are occupied and the 4-H Program has just started.

Helpline ... 800-313 4200

Thank you to everyone for the great support and, "May God Bless Our National Home."

2023 Buddy Poppy Days—We Need You!

It's time once again for our annual Buddy Poppy fundraiser. **This year we will distribute poppies from Wednesday, May 24, through Sunday, May 28.** We need volunteers to sign up for the two-hour slots at the various locations that have graciously allowed us to distribute poppies. The signup will use the same tool as the previous years. Go to (live link) <https://volunteersignup.org/XMJFX> to find for a location, day, and time that suits you. Feel free to sign up for multiple slots. We need all the help we can get.

Remember that you need to come to the Post to get what you need for your shift in advance of your time slot. You need a collection jug, and one bag of poppies per shift. Each bag contains 150 poppies, which is enough for a two-hour slot at a busy location. Masks are optional this year, as is the use of styrofoam boards to hold poppies for distribution (i.e. you can hold them in your hand if you prefer). Please return your supplies and funds collected as quickly as possible. Collection jugs are a shared resource, we need these returned for others to use, so please get your money, poppies, and jug back to us as quick as you can. Jugs and unused poppies should be returned to the conference room. Money collected should be given to the bartender.

Once again, signup will be online only. The signup sheet link is live now. The information on 'how to' 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

**Auxiliary President
Bernadette Budny**



April is a month of fresh starts and new beginnings, with its brightly colored daffodils and tulips blooming, and fresh warm breezes blowing. Let's carry this thought on to a new beginning for YOU. Have you read about our activities but hesitated to join, thinking "They have enough volunteers?" Or hesitated to join a meeting because you don't personally know the officers? Ours is a fraternal organization. We are brothers and sisters through veterans' service, and we welcome each of you. We have many opportunities to join in and serve coming soon. 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 skill at a meeting (Thursday, April 20)?



At the 19th District meeting on February 19, 2023, our Auxiliary was awarded a certificate by the Department of Illinois for 100% participated and reported by all committees.

Fish Fries and St Patrick's Day 5K and Parade





VFW Post 3873 Calendar of Events



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
26	27	28	29	30	31	01
						Monarch Landing Visit, 10:00am Easter Egg Hunt, 1:00pm (RSVP)
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
		Hines Outreach, 10:0am-2:00pm; Auxiliary Social, Can-teen 5:00pm	Yoga for Vets, 9:30am			Brookdale Visit, 10:00am
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
			Yoga for Vets, 9:30am	VFW Post Meeting, 7:00pm		Independence Village Visit, 10:00am; American Legion Past Commanders Dinner
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
			Yoga for Vets, 9:30am	Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00pm	Sip & Paint Fundraiser	Story Point Visit, 10:00am
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
			Yoga for Vets, 9:30am			
30						

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		
Chaplain	Nancy Marinello	(630) 464-3696
Guard	Carol Gloor	(630) 778-6873
Conductress	Lucy Hoy	

Veterans of Foreign Wars

