

THE KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 23 Issue 06

June 2023



A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



Commander Leo Jaime



My article in the May KG mentioned the month of May as one of the busiest months of the year for our Post. Indeed, it was! I won't go into details other than to say I am extremely proud of our members volunteerism, dedication, and love for our country. I am also thoroughly impressed with Naperville's support for veterans and military. The turnout of volunteers for the Buddy Poppy drive and the gravesite flag placement and retrieval was fantastic and seeing a large crowd (10-deep in some corners) lining the sidewalks during the Memorial Day parade was equally encouraging. Please remember to thank your neighbors for supporting our veterans and our Post.

June is now upon us. By the time you read this, we should have celebrated our new slate of officers with our Installation Dinner. As such, please allow me to thank all of you for putting your trust in me as your commander for another year. I am honored to serve and pledge to uphold the highest standards while doing so. In June, we also attend the State Convention where we will be recognized with the All-State award. This award is not something to take lightly but one that we should all be proud of. It's a reflection of the countless hours volunteered by our members and the ingenuity and creativity that reimagined the way our Post reaches out to the veteran community. Well done everyone!

We have built amazing momentum to make the 2023-2024 membership year another successful year, but let's challenge ourselves to make it even better! How? By increasing the number of members that participate in Post activities. For starters, we desperately need to relieve those members that are doing it all year after year, starting with the need for a **new Memorial Day Parade Chair**, to replace Tom Parker. Tom has selflessly and successfully led this event for a number of year (among many other activities) but as his Officer responsibilities increase (Assistant Quartermaster), we need fresh blood to take the reins of planning and executing the 2024 Parade. Time is of the essence, as planning for next year's parade actually begins this month. Please [email Tom](#) (or call him: (630) 280-9347) or reach out to me if you are up to the challenge.

Lastly, we **need help with two key events** coming up later this summer. Past commander Pablo Araya will lead his 10th and last Judd-A-Thon and will be looking for his replacement. Also, Brian Byrne is looking for help with the annual Golf Outing in September. Please reach out and have fun!

Junior Vice Commander Staci Boyer



What a wonderful Memorial Day WEEK we have had! From Armed forces week at Mission BBQ, the Gold Star Memorial unveiling and flag placements, to memorial services and the parade - we have all come together to truly recognize the importance of Memorial Day! Thank you to everyone that contributed to honoring those that gave their lives for our freedoms!

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

We have officially started our VFW/Legion athletic team, AND we have finalized our uniform shirts! 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) FIRST EVENT is July 2 - 5 mile local ruck march!

Quote of the month: "Patriotism is not short, frenzied outbursts of emotion, but the tranquil and steady dedication of a lifetime." - Adlai Stevenson II

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.

Kendall-Gram Editor

Mark Overstreet



My apologies for the delay in the June Kendall-Gram! I've made some changes to the layout and format and I will be printing "in house" with a color printer so that hard copies are in color (if you want a hard copy, they will be available at the Canteen).

I've removed the calendar page and replaced it with upcoming events. We will start listing events as far out as the space allows to give Post members a chance to plan ahead. I will be creating three-month calendar and linking it to the Post website.

Finally, the reformat has opened up a full pageworth of space for new content, so please send in your Post-related content, articles, photos, and so on. Many thanks to Tom Benton and Kathy Thornton who anticipated the need and sent me their inputs (see pages 3 and 4)!

If you have any comments or ideas for the Kendall Gram please send to mark.overstreet@gmail.com.

Service Officer Updates Dennis Lukavsky



This month seems like a great time to remind folks about their rights as active service members or veterans. The VFW service organization offers assistance in reviewing, preparing, and following up and if necessary appealing claims for several different kinds of VA benefits. This past year the VFW Service Organization helped 560,000 veterans claim their rightful benefits.

The total amount recovered was an impressive \$11.2 billion. For some of you newer members, these services are free and available to all veterans and current service members. If you feel you have a valid claim, you can come to the post and discuss your situation with an accredited VFW Service Officer (VSO). He comes to the post the first Tues. of every month. Let me know if you need addition information or to discuss the situation.

If you need help determining if you might be entitled to benefits. The VA offers a "cliff notes "version of benefits in a handy 143-page handbook which is downloadable. Here is the link [Benefits Handbook](#). The VA website can be difficult to work through if you are not familiar with it. You might consult the handbook as a starting point.

Again for new members, I'm the Service Officer for both Legion Post 43 and VFW Post 3873. My information is below.

Dennis Lukavsky, Service Officer, VFW Post 3873/Legion Post 43
cell:630 272 9064
email:dlukavsky@yahoo.com

Service Officer Email Blast Distribution List

Our Service Officer sends out several emails per month with updates on events at the Post, important details from the State and National VFW offices, and other information of interest to members of the Post. If you would like to receive the Blasts, please send an email to dlukavsky@yahoo.com.



Starting Early in Support of Veterans

Submitted by Kathy Thornton, Auxiliary Past President current Committee Chair

Over Memorial Day weekend, Matthew Luna Sibaja had a lemonade stand to raise money for a tree fort. He decided to donate half of his proceeds to our veterans. He and his folks stopped by the VFW to drop off a check in the amount of \$24.00. Matthew is 10 years old and will be a 5th grader at Kingsley Elementary School. What a fine young man. Thank you, Matthew! Mom and Dad did a great job!

VFW Post 3873 8th Grade Citizenship Awards Program Kudos

Submitted by Tom Benton

For many years, the Judd Kendall VFW Post has worked with local schools to honor two recipients at each school with our VFW Citizenship Awards. These awards are bestowed upon students chosen by the school staff as being outstanding students displaying personal characteristics of teamwork, good attitude, pursuit of perfection, dedication, and academic performance. Military veterans know that these qualities are important not only for success in the classroom but also for success throughout life. It is a worthy effort that the VFW recognizes outstanding students with our VFW Citizenship Awards. The schools appreciate the presence of Veterans in the schools and participating in community recognition of their students.

As with many VFW programs, great results happen only because of the volunteer efforts and support of many VFW and Legion members. The VFW co-ordinated efforts with our American Legion Post 43 Comrades in order to maximize our presence in the schools. Nadia Baran has been instrumental in this effort. Thank you Nadia! VFW Post Commander Leo Jaime supported this program 100%. Thank you Leo! Other volunteers who helped with this year's program are Jan & Mike Barbour, Phil Maughan, Dennis Lukavsky, Arvin Verma, Chris Bylak, Tom Richert, John Shaw, Brian Byrne, Jim Russel, and Jim Oftedal. Please forgive me if I have overlooked anyone's participation and please let me know if I did.

Once again, the Post Leadership and I all appreciate your efforts in making this program a success.



Wreath Laid at Grave of 1LT Oliver J. Kendall

Submitted by Phil Maughan

For many years the Post has paid for flowers to be placed on Judd Kendall's grave on each Memorial Day and Veterans Day. He is buried in France in the Somme American Military Cemetery near where he was killed on the eve of the battle at Cantigny. This picture is from Memorial Day 2023.



Taps

Lou Wegener, 100, Army Air Corps. World War II.

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

Memorial Day Activities

Photos courtesy of Jim Hoch. Click the photo to go to full version on his [SmugMug page](#).



Placing Flags at Boardman Cemetery



Placing Flags at Wheatland



Placing Flags at Big Woods Cemetery, Eola



Placing Flags at Naperville Cemetery



Placing at Saints Peter and Paul Cemetery



Auxiliary President**Bernadette Budny**

The Memorial Day weekend was a very busy one filled with many activities as we gathered to show our appreciation for our departed veterans. A heartfelt “thank you” to each Auxiliary member who volunteered to distribute poppies, placed flags on the graves of our deceased, walked or rode the trolley in the parade, and/or supplied desserts for the luncheon that day.

At our May Auxiliary business meeting we elected our new slate of officers for the 2023-2024 year. Congratulations to each of these special members who has stepped up to lead our organization:

- President – Maryann Groner
- Senior Vice President – Bernadette Budny
- Junior Vice President – Tita McLaughlin
- Chaplain – Nancy Marinello
- Treasurer – Leo Hart
- Conductress – Lucy Hoy
- Guard – Carol Gloor
- Three-Year Trustee – Julie Cunningham
- Two-year Trustee – Amy Owenby
- One-year Trustee – Brenda Hasler



Caption for photo: Auxiliary members assemble to march in the Memorial Day parade.

Please congratulate these members when next you see them.

Are you a new member but have not been initiated yet? We look forward to getting to know you at our next business meeting which will be held on Thursday, June 15, at 7:00 pm.

National Home Chairman**Mike McGrath****Congratulations Judd Kendall Post 3873!!**

Our Post again leads the way with most dollars donated to the WFW National Home with a total amount of \$40,603! We will look forward to receiving the award at the convention.

Our most sincere thanks to Commander Leo Jaime, to Quartermaster Phil Maughan, to "Judd-A-Thon" Race Director Pablo Araya, and to all of our Post and Auxiliary officers and members for making it happen! Truly an achievement we can all be proud of!

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	



VFW Post 3873

Upcoming Events

[\(PDF Calendar Available\)](#)



June 2023

Sat 6/3: **7:30am**-1:00pm, Blood drive, VFW Post (POC [Ingrid Kanady](#)); **10:00am**, Monarch Landing Visit

Sun 6/4: **5:00pm**, VFW Officer installation dinner, VFW Post (RSVP [Dennis Lukavsky](#))

Tues 6/6: **10:00am**-2:00pm, Hines Outreach, VFW Post; **5:00pm**, Auxiliary Social, Canteen

Wed 6/7: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post

Thurs 6/8: **7:00pm**, VFW Post Meeting

Sat 6/10: **10:00am**, Brookdale Retirement Home Visit

Sun 6/11: **12:00pm**-4:00pm, Arts & Craft show, Open to public (Members contact Carey for a booth)

Wed 6/14: Army Birthday; **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post

Thurs 6/15: **7:00pm**, Auxiliary Meeting

Fri 6/16: Muster time TBD, Naper Nights ID check, Naper Settlement, (**need volunteers!**, POC - [Nadia Baran](#))

Sat 6/17: Hospital Corps Birthday; **10:00am**, Tabor Hills Visit; **1:00pm**, Arms-Steuerle Chapel Funeral Home, 7 Urn Memorial. Join us for a memorial to honor our 7 Brothers in Arms (POC [Staci Boyer](#))

Mon 6/19: **8:00am**, Vet Business Networking meeting at Rosie's Diner (POC Jennifer Slown)

Wed 6/21: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post

Sat 6/24: **10:00am**, Story Point Visit; **6:00pm**-11:00pm, Auxiliary Karaoke fundraiser for NFP

Wed 6/28: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post

Monthly Recurring Events

First Tuesday: Hines Outreach; Auxiliary Social

Every Wednesday: Yoga

Second Thursday: Post Meeting

Third Thursday: Auxiliary meeting

Every Saturday: Retirement home visit

July 2023

Tues 7/4: 4th of July! Watch social media, Instagram [@NapervilleVFWpost3873](#), Facebook [VFWNaperville](#).

August 2023

Fri 8/18: Muster time TBD, Naper Nights Beer Tent, Naper Settlement (**need volunteers!**, POC [Nadia Baran](#))

October 2023

Sat 10/14: Time TBD, VFW Post, Blood drive / Health fair event (Combo event- rolling arrival/ departure. Everything is optional. Participate in what interests you - come and leave when it is convenient. (POC [Ingrid Kanady](#) and [Staci Boyer](#)).