

THE KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 23 Issue 09

September 2023



A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



Commander Leo Jaime



Around this time last year, I challenged us all to put forth our best effort and to achieve the coveted All American status for our Post. This past July, I was humbled, and ever so proud, by our accomplishment – **Well Done!**

I truly believe we can be recognized as All American again this year given our slate of officers and committee chairs, which are second to none. We have put together a top-notch team of capable motivators to promote membership, recruit volunteers for the various programs, and, most importantly, serve our veterans.

With the All-American status come significant awards that, aside from arming us with bragging rights, perpetuate our Post's high standards and legacy. All Posts that meet the program participation criteria will receive the All-American Post Citation, a Post Streamer, and be recognized in the VFW magazine. The top 25 will receive additional acknowledgement, hats, pins, etc. The top 5 receive \$1000 to attend the next national convention and reserve seating for same.

Below are the new criteria for the 2023-2024 fiscal year:

- 1) **Membership must be at least 102%** - numbers to be published in the next month or so.
- 2) **Must conduct two Membership recruiting events**, submit reports through All American Dashboard – This one is perhaps the most important criteria, since it aligns with our mission to serve our veteran-community. As mentioned frequently, there are many veterans out there deserve to be members of our Post and enjoy the benefits of comradery, volunteerism, and advocacy. We are all recruiters! Reach out and help a veteran through our doors.
- 3) **Post-Election Report must be submitted to National Headquarters.**
- 4) **Meet all the following Program Participation Criteria:**
 - a) Voice of Democracy and Patriots Pen: minimum of one entry advanced to District judging – reach out to our youth program chair, Mark Overstreet and get involved. The impact we make on our kids today will shape the future of our VFW and nation.
 - b) Hold a fundraiser with the proceeds going to Veterans & Military Support Programs Services, minimum of \$100 – We already have two planned! The Annual Golf outing on Sep 12 (come out and enjoy a round before the Midwest summer is over) and the Judd A Thon on the 17th (come out and run/walk the arduous 0.1K course!).
 - c) National Citizenship Education Teachers Award: Advance a teacher to District.
 - d) Posts must submit a community service report quarterly to their department for submission to the All American Dashboard. The quarters are July-Sept, Oct-Dec, Jan-March, and April-June.
 - e) Buddy Poppy- Purchase Three (3) per member in the Post

**Senior Vice Commander
Staci Boyer**



Let's talk about membership for a moment. I love that so many of you agree with the spirit of creating a "WHY". Why should and would someone join our Post? That is my personal goal this year - to make this decision for people a no brainer. Our events are amazing. Our fundraisers, our teamwork, our community efforts - unmatched. We showcase everyday what our Post does for our Veterans and for each other. Please reach out to me to help you market and create exposure for all of the events that you are doing. The more awareness there is about what we do and want to do for our Vets the better! We want nonmembers that are considering joining to see the benefits. We want them to know they can volunteer, be fitness minded, fundraise for organizations that are important to them, and have fun! The VFW offers a wonderful social component as well as a support system with robust resources and advocates. Jennifer Slown and are organizing a Veteran-owned business job fair in conjunction with a membership event to educate and inspire new members! Look for this in October.

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

If you are interested in participating with our VFW/Legion athletic team 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) Uniform shirts are on the way! Team members please submit event ideas 6 weeks in advance!

Quote of the month: You just can't beat the person who never gives up." - Babe Ruth

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.

**Junior Vice Commander
Jillian Langer**

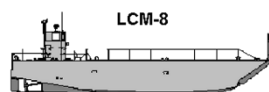


We have a ton of upcoming events and opportunities to volunteer. Please see the back page for a calendar of the events.

If you are interested in volunteering at an event or for a committee, please reach out. Following up on Commander Jaime's message from last month, we need a lot of volunteers at our events to show our presence in the community!

Service Officer Updates

Dennis Lukavsky



Appreciating Life

This month I came up blank on a topic related to Service Officer activity, but never fear I do have a theme for this month.

Even though many of us are retired and we should have large blocks of free time, often we don't. We seem to be busy with veteran activities, church activities, many different civic projects, and other things around the home as well as still working as many of you do. As I have said in the past, most of us are very blessed. We are surrounded by loving family members, church and social friends, and business friends. So, what all this means is "We never stop to smell the roses". Life seems to fly by at a supersonic rate. As such we never really appreciate the people around us. Make sure you spend time "enjoying your relationship with family, friends, and colleagues.

Life is way to short to let that slip by, you loose all sorts of life's happiness that way.

MAKE SURE YOU SMELL THE ROSES TODAY.

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.



Taps

Leonard Brink, 79. Army, Service in Vietnam.

Ken Garhan, 89. Army, Army of Occupation-Germany.

Danny Hickman, 78. Army, Service in Vietnam with the 196th Light Infantry Brigade.

Ronald Rieser, 91. Army, Service in Korea

Please submit name, age, service, and service dates or conflicts to kendallgramvfw3873@gmail.com.

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

Vietnam Wall November 9-14, 2023

Submitted by Wayne Fischer

As many of you already know, Ray Kinney of Blooming Colors, is currently printing a new “Vietnam Wall” (see bottom of page 5) that will be displayed at the Park District Grand Pavilion along the Riverwalk. Naperville Responds for Veterans, along with Naperville Park District, will be handling the installation and takedown.

The dates for the “Wall” to be on display currently are November 9th to the 14th. We also plan to hold our annual Veterans Day Program in conjunction with the “Wall” on November 11th. Our Combined Post Honor Guard will also be conducting “Honors” each evening. We will get the time out later. During the day, I hope we will have a minimum of 2 Vietnam Veterans in attendance in 4-hour shifts to assist and answer any questions that may arise.

Personally, I hope we can get all of our High Schools in District 203 and 204 to encourage their students to come to the “Wall” and experience it first-hand. Also, I have reached out to our Naperville Community Radio Watch for overnight Security Patrol.

If anyone wants to be part of the Committee to really make this a “Special and Memorable” event, please let me know. Also, back in 2015 when we had our “Wall” on Rotary Hill along with the Exchange Club’s “Healing Field of Honor”, Naperville North High School did interviews of more 30 Naperville Vietnam War Veterans who shared their personal experiences from Vietnam.



The **Judd-A-Thon 2023** is scheduled for Sunday, September 17th. It is time to sign up for one of the most spectacular events in the VFW calendar year.

(We need sponsors this year more than ever. If you know of a business willing to help out, please tell them about the sponsor form.)..

REMEMBER, AS IN YEARS PAST, TO **ENSURE A GOODY BAG AND TEE SHIRT YOU MUST BE REGISTERED BEFORE FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 1ST.**

[Judd-A-Thon 2023 Sponsor Form](#)

[Judd-A-Thon 2023 Registration Form](#)



JOIN US FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6 AT THE POST FOR....

NAPERVILLE NOSTALGIA NIGHT! FUN STARTS AT 6P.

COST PER TICKET IS \$5.00 (FOOD AND DRINK EXTRA)

CONTACT KATHY THORNTON FOR TICKETS 630.667.6704.

SPACE IS LIMITED! ONLY 80 TICKETS BEING SOLD.

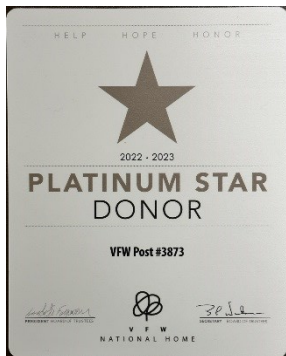
MENU: COCK ROBIN STEAKBURGERS & SHERBERT CONES (THINK SQUARE)

BAR SPECIAL: ONE IN A MILLION MUDSLIDES

**National Home Chairman
Mike McGrath**



There are currently 81 children and 51 parents living on campus at the home, for a total of 132 residents. Poppy child Layla and her family reside in Illinois Home #2 and the kids are now back in school.



We are gearing up for our post's 10th annual Judd-a-thon on September 17 and for Illinois Day at the Home on September 23. And don't forget the National Home helpline, 800-313 4200. Could this help someone you know?

Thank you all again for the great support and "may God bless our National Home."

If you are interested in participating in the trip to the Home for Illinois Day, please reach out to Mike McGrath, mackcav1@sbcglobal.net.

**Business of the Post
Post Meeting 8/10 Highlights**

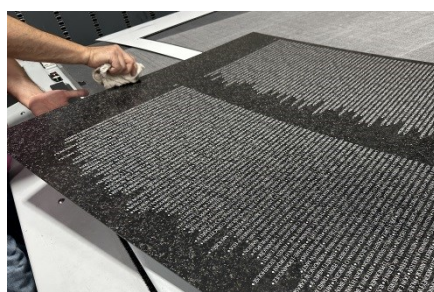


Quartermaster Report shows we are in good financial shape. Good month for the Canteen, very good month for the Hall rentals. Note that we are seeing general increase in prices.
Recruitment committee noted that there are a number of events already planned and they plan to incorporate recruitment into as many events as appropriate. One of the goals is to recruit 13 new Life members.
Trustees proposed 9 annual contributions for vote: VFW National Home, VFW Military Assistance Program, VFW SOS Program, VFW Commander's Special Projects, Homeless Vets Stand Down Chicago, Midwest Shelter for Vets, Hese House, Naperville Responds for Veterans, VFW Service Officer Funding.
Good of the order brief discussion of many opportunities to volunteer in support of Commander Jaime's *Year of Volunteerism*.

Next Post meeting will be 7:00p.m. on September 14. If you are unable to join in person and would like to join via Zoom, please contact the Post for the link and passcode.

Vietnam Wall Printing

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



Auxiliary President

Maryann Groner



First I would like to thank the Legacy Ranch fund raiser committee of Marti Linnert, Kathy Thornton, and Bertha Novaczyk for all their hard work to raise funds for Veterans to attend the Taking the Reins program as well as all those who volunteered to help and everyone who came out and supported us.

The Post continues to bloom thanks to our plant watering volunteers. I know pulling those hoses is a chore, but the post looks great!

September will be a busy month for us. We will again be helping with shirt pickup and late registration for the Judd-a-thon. If you stop by Friday, why not stay and support the Legion in their painting on the porch fund raiser? Nadia has chosen a seasonal theme and by helping them you will also take home a hand-painted masterpiece. If you have ever painted with the Auxiliary, you know this Pinots Palette event will be a fun-filled evening. Auxiliary members will also be at the post before the big race Sunday morning to distribute shirts and race bibs. Start training now for this fund raiser for the National Home. After the race, look for Auxiliary members who will be selling tickets for a Booze basket as well as another great selection of baskets by Bertha.

On a more serious note, the third Friday in September is designated as National Prisoner of War/Missing in Action recognition day. In 1973, Mary Huff, wife of Navy pilot Michael George Huff who was listed as missing in action after he was shot down during combat in the Vietnam War, developed the idea for a national flag to remind every American of the United States service members whose fate was never accounted for during the war. Be sure to fly the flag on September 15.



At the August 10 Post Meeting, Commander Jaime announced that the Post had been awarded first place in Category III for efforts in Hospital and VAVS Program. Congratulations to all for the hard work and contributions!



Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs

Primary Link: <https://veterans.illinois.gov>

[Compensation](#)

[Women Veterans](#)

[State Licenses & Military Training](#)

[Service Dogs/Guide Dogs](#)

[Veteran & Active Duty Military Discounts](#)

[Military Records](#)

[Veterans Homes](#)

[Healthcare](#)

[Employment Resources](#)

Hines Hospital Visits

Hines Hospital visits will take place on the second Tuesday of each month from September through June. Due to Hospital requirements face masks will be required for all participants when they enter. The bus will leave from the Post promptly at 6:30PM and we should return before 9PM.

Questions: John Shaw, theshawsjb@aol.com

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
kendallgramvfw3873@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	Staci Boyer	(773) 351-4646
Jr. Vice Commander	Jillian Langer	(773) 732-2172
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	Dom Guerrieri	(630) 207-3100
Surgeon	Ingrid Kanady	(847) 951-3300
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	Pablo Araya	(312) 505-4377
2-Year Trustee	Roger Budny	(630) 205-8745
3-Year Trustee	Craig Frier	

Committees

Americanism	Tom Parker	(630) 280-9347
Blood Drive	Ingrid Kanady	(847) 951-3300
Buddy Poppy	Bob Colby	(630) 301-2664
Building		
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	Staci Boyer	(773) 351-4646
Legislative	Frank Haynes	(630) 357-2906
National Home	Mike McGrath	(630) 357-2680
Patriot's Pen	Mark Overstreet	(773) 517-7346
Safety	Mike McGrath	(630) 357-2680
Scout Liaison	Todd Schuneman	(815) 791-4178
Social Media	Dave Angelus	(630) 596-3245
Voice of Democracy	Mark Overstreet	(773) 517-7346

Auxiliary Officers

President	Maryann Groner	(630) 363-8138
Sr. Vice President	Bernadette Budny	(630) 717-9471
Jr. Vice President	Tita McLaughlin	
Treasurer	Leo Hart	(630) 816-0506
Chaplain	Marti Linnert	
Guard	Carol Gloor	(630) 778-6873
Conductress	Lucy Hoy	



VFW Post 3873 Upcoming Events



September 2023

Sat 9/2: **10:00am**, Monarch Landing Visit
 Mon 9/4: Labor Day
 Tues 9/5: **10:00am-2:00pm**, Hines Outreach, VFW Post; **5:00pm**, Auxiliary Social, Canteen
 Wed 9/6: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post
 Sat 9/9: **10:00am**, Brookdale Retirement Home Visit
 Mon 9/11: Patriot Day
 Tuesday 9/12: VFW Golf Outing at Springbrook (POC Brian Byrne); **6:30pm-9:00pm**, Hines Hospital Visit (POC [John Shaw](#))
 Wed 9/13: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post
 Thurs 9/14: **7:00pm**, VFW Post Meeting, VFW Post
 Fri 9/15 Pinots Palette Paint & Sip Toys for Tots fundraiser
 Sat 9/16: **10:00am**, Tabor Hills Visit
 Sun 9/17: Judd-a-Thon (POC Pablo Araya or [Jennifer Slown](#))
 Mon 9/18: US Air Force Birthday
 Wed 9/20: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post
 Thurs 9/21: **7:00pm**, Auxiliary Meeting, VFW Post
 Sat 9/23: Illinois Day at National Home; **10:00am**, Story Point Retirement Home Visit
 Wed 9/27: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post
 Thurs 9/28: **7:00pm**, Joe Cantafio, Canteen

October 2023

Fri 10/6: **6:00pm**, Naperville Nostalgia Night, VFW Post (see page 4)
 Sat 10/14: Time TBD, VFW Post, Blood drive / Health fair event. (POC [Ingrid Kanady](#) and [Staci Boyer](#))
 Tues 10/31: DEADLINE for Teacher of the Year submissions (POC Jillian Langer, Jr Vice)

November 2023

Thurs 11/9: Vietnam Wall Display opens, Naperville Riverwalk. Closes on 11/14.
 Sat 11/18: Turkey Raffle (details coming)

December 2023

Sat 12/9: Army Navy game!
 Sat 12/16: VFW Post / American Legion combined Christmas party

Monthly Recurring Events

First Tuesday: Hines Outreach; Auxiliary Social
 Second Tuesday: Hines Hospital (Sept thru June)
 Every Wednesday: Yoga
 Second Thursday: Post Meeting
 Third Thursday: Auxiliary meeting
 Every Saturday: Retirement home visit