

THE KENDALL-GRAM

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A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



Commander Leo Jaime



Happy Fall everyone! Why am I so cheerful that we will be soon covered in ice and snow? Because before we get there, we have the chance to enjoy some great weather and activities. Attending Friday night football games at the local high school is one of my personal favorites. Last week, I went to the Eola Bowl, a classic between Waubonsie and Metea, both high schools in District 204 in Aurora that serve western Naperville located along Eola Road, thus the rivalry. The Original Valley took the homecoming cup this year overpowering Metea 28-0.

Aside from the game's results, the real joy was to see so many of our community come together to support and be a part of the development of our future leaders. These young students will one day take the oath to defend our flag, serve in office, or lead a local business.

As a veteran's organization, we know well that support of our youth is the cornerstone of a successful community and, therefore, we are committed to supporting the local education foundations with annual cash donations to District 203 and 204. At right are the photos taken at each of the respective locations.



We also sponsor the Patriots Pen and Voice of Democracy competitions, entries for which are due at the end of the month. These two programs promote the very essence of patriotism, volunteerism, and service in our youth. I encourage you to get involved and be a part shaping the future of our community and nation. Contact our scholarship programs chair, Mark Overstreet, for details.



Fall also brings the annual visit to the VFW National Home, in Eaton Rapids, Michigan. This year's visit was extra special as I had the honor to represent our Post and the Naperville community in presenting a record-breaking donation of more than \$40,000. This immensely generous contribution – about half of the entire Department of Illinois' total – was the product of our 10th annual Judd A Thon fundraiser.

As with the nine previous Judd A Thons, we owe the success of this program to the leadership of Past Commander and current Trustee Pablo Araya. Pablo has once again gathered the support of countless sponsors, the Auxiliary, volunteers, city officials, and canteen staff to conduct a memorable event – not bad for a Navy pilot. Pablo is stepping down as chairman of the Judd A Thon and is passing the reins to our VFW Post member, Jennifer Slown. Please join me in thanking Pablo for his selfless contribution and dedication these past 10 years and pledge our support to Jennifer to make it even bigger and better!

Senior Vice Commander
Staci Boyer



Membership thoughts. I have personally noticed that there are always a lot of questions from potential new members of the Post. Have you ever been asked or asked yourself any of the following questions?

1. How do I join?
2. How much is it a year?
3. How much is it to be a life member? Does cost change with age?
4. Do I qualify?
5. If I joined online how do I connect with our post here so my membership counts for us?
6. What is a legacy member?
7. Where can I get an application?
8. Who do I pay?
9. How do I pay?

Let's unpack this a bit:

1. Reach out to anyone you know at the post to start. Find me! I carry applications with me. If you are in the Canteen, and someone is in the office - ask them for help! You can also click here <https://www.vfw.org/join> for more information as well as to JOIN with a LIFE or ANNUAL membership.
2. \$45.00 is the cost of an annual membership.
3. The cost of Life membership depends on age. The chart is on the application.
4. Watch [this video](#) in regards to qualification.
5. Member of another post? Fill out a transfer form! Easy! It is part of the application.
6. [Info on being a Legacy member](#).
7. [Applications are online](#) and at the post. Most officers have them as well.
8. Leave your payment with your application.
9. We take credit cards, checks, and cash.

Jennifer Slown and I are organizing a Veteran owned business job fair in conjunction with a membership event to educate and inspire new members! Look for this in December. May 4, 2024 will be a combo recruitment event and community outreach for still serving - with the Phoenix Natural competition.

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 have arrived! Team members please submit event ideas 6 weeks in advance! The Judd-a-thon was a huge success! Thank you to all that came out and to the Master Blasters for representing!

Quote of the month: "Believe you can, and you're halfway there." - Theodore Roosevelt



Taps

Bill Dixon, 91. Army, Army of Occupation-Germany.

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.

Junior Vice Commander

Jillian Langer



Supporting Military Veterans: World Mental Health Day Sheds Light on Crucial Issues and Resources in Illinois

World Mental Health Day, observed annually on October 10th, serves as a reminder to prioritize mental well-being and raise awareness about the challenges faced by individuals worldwide. Among those who deserve our special attention are military veterans, who may encounter unique mental health issues as a result of their service. In Illinois, a state with a significant veteran population, numerous resources and organizations are dedicated to supporting the mental health needs of these brave men and women.

Military service can expose individuals to traumatic experiences and high-stress environments, which can contribute to mental health challenges. The transition from military to civilian life, known as veteran reintegration, can present additional hurdles. Common mental health issues experienced by military veterans include post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and suicidal ideation.

Illinois boasts a range of programs and organizations committed to addressing the mental health needs of military veterans. These resources provide specialized care and support, helping veterans regain stability, resilience, and overall well-being. See page 5 for a list of resources and links.

On World Mental Health Day, it is essential to acknowledge the unique mental health challenges faced by military veterans and their significant contributions to society. In Illinois, numerous resources and organizations are dedicated to supporting veterans' mental well-being. By providing specialized care, counseling, and community connections, these initiatives aim to ensure that no veteran is left behind in their journey towards mental wellness. Let us honor our veterans by advocating for increased awareness, support, and access to mental health resources, not just on World Mental Health Day, but every day.

Business of the Post

Post Meeting 9/14 Highlights



The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm.

Two new members were voted in:

Chris Drikais, Army, Vietnam; Timothy Stoltz, Army, Gulf War

The Post needs two key volunteers: Building Committee and Hall Rental Team. Both only take a couple of hours per week, but make a large impact on the Post in that time.

Quartermaster reported that we continue to be in strong shape financially. The Post ended August slightly up from July in terms of cash on hand, but some of that is sponsorship money for Judd a Thon that will go out in September. No unexpected expenses during August.

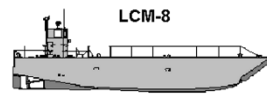
Senior Vice reported on two recruiting efforts coming up and a focus on ramping up recruiting at combined events when we can.

The first Hines Visit went well! Visits are second Tuesday of each month departing 6:30pm from the Post.

Trustees proposed donations including the following: Wreaths for America, Peanuts for Troops, Hines Bingo Bus, VFW Hawaii to support vets affected by Maui fires, Vietnam wall display expenses, Indian Prairie Educational Foundation (204), Naperville Educational Foundation (203)

Service Officer Updates

Dennis Lukavsky



The DuPage Veterans Assistance Commission held a resource fair at one of the county buildings in Wheaton. Below are a few I thought might be interesting and also helpful in our lives.

- **DuPage County Recorder Office's Property Fraud Alert:** Property Fraud Alert is an online subscription service offered to the public that allows them to have their name monitored within the Recorder's office in order to track possible fraudulent recordings that affects their property. Sign up for free [online](#) or call 800-728-3858.
- **Hines Peer Support Team:** Support for Veterans with mental health needs by serving as relatable role models, offer coping skills, and informing about community resources. The support team members are all veterans with a lived experience of recovery from mental illness. They also provide support in cutting through some of the red tape at Hines.
- **1776 Senior Care:** The 1776 Senior Care group has grant money from the VA to allow them to offer senior care for free to some veterans. For more information visit their website:
- **Free Legal Services:** The Prairie State Legal Services organization offers help will civil law issues. They offer services to certain veterans for free. Again, they have a grant from the VA.

If you have questions about any of these services feel free to get in touch with me :
Dennis Lukavsky, Service Officer, VFW Post 3873/Legion Post 43
cell:630 272 9064, email: dlukevsky@yahoo.com

Vietnam Wall of Remembrance, November 9-14, 2023

Submitted by Wayne Fischer

Please make your calendars for Thursday, November 9th through Monday, November 13th as we will have our **"Vietnam Wall of Remembrance"** up at our Park District Grand Pavilion along the Riverwalk and west of Centennial Beach. We will have Veterans overseeing the **"Wall"** from 6am to 10pm each day and our Naperville Radio Watch Team will be on-watch from 10pm to 6am to ensure there are no issues. Our Veterans will be there to share their experiences during the Vietnam War and assist the public with finding names of family friends or Veterans they may know that were lost in the Vietnam War.

On Thursday, we are planning an **"Opening Day Program"** starting at 10am and we will have our **"Veterans Day Program"** on Saturday, November 11th here at the "Wall" starting at 11am. Both Programs are open to the public. Also, we are working on having the Veterans Art Museum of Chicago have on display Vietnam Artwork in the banquet hall at the VFW on Friday, November 10th. Once we have more details on this, we will get more information out.

In addition to having our "Vietnam Wall of Remembrance" provided by Bloomin' Colors, 2023 also is the "50th Anniversary of our Departure from Vietnam".

Finally, we want to ensure our Youth have a chance to learn more about what the Vietnam War meant to those that served during that time either in Vietnam or elsewhere in Service to our Country.



National Home Chairman Mike McGrath



WOW! Another great Judd-A-Thon and we even had a few "green" raindrops to make our tenth annual event interesting, "sure and begorrah."

Many thanks to everyone who made it all possible and especially to our Judd-A-Thon race director Pablo Araya. Thanks to all the sponsors and to all who have participated. Thanks also to our Post Commanders and Post Officers for your great support! More next month about the final totals and about our annual Illinois Day visit to the Home.

"Blessings to all and many thanks."

Mental Health Resource Links

1. [Jesse Brown VA Medical Center](#): Located in Chicago, Jesse Brown VA Medical Center offers a comprehensive array of mental health services for veterans, including individual and group therapy, crisis intervention, substance abuse treatment, and PTSD programs. The center's dedicated staff understands the unique challenges faced by veterans and tailors their care to meet individual needs.
2. [Illinois Joining Forces \(IJF\)](#): As a statewide initiative, IJF serves as a central hub connecting veterans, service members, and their families with essential resources. By collaborating with various community organizations, IJF ensures that veterans have access to mental health services, employment assistance, housing support, and educational opportunities.
3. [Road Home Program](#): Operated by Rush University Medical Center in Chicago, the Road Home Program offers comprehensive mental health services to post-9/11 veterans and their families. Their specialized treatment programs address PTSD, depression, anxiety, substance abuse, and traumatic brain injury, providing evidence-based care in a compassionate environment.
4. [Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs \(IDVA\)](#): The IDVA focuses on providing support and resources to veterans across the state. They offer mental health counseling, crisis intervention, and referral services. The IDVA collaborates with local communities and organizations to ensure veterans receive the care they deserve.
5. [Veteran Assistance Commissions \(VACs\)](#): VACs exist at the county level throughout Illinois and serve as vital resources for veterans. These commissions provide assistance with claims and benefits, emergency financial aid, and connections to mental health services. They play a crucial role in connecting veterans to the resources they need in their local communities.

Karaoke Fundraiser for Legacy Ranch update Submitted by Kathy Thornton

What a fantastic fundraiser we had for Legacy Ranch at the Canteen in August. The VFW Auxiliary and the American Legion banded together in song and **raised over \$4000 for the Legacy Ranch**. The Legacy Ranch is located in Lockport and they offer equine therapy for veterans with PTSD. If you know of a veteran in need or would to donate to them, contact the Legacy Ranch for more information (thelegacyranch.org). So many thanks to go around, Bertha Novaczyk (aka Raffle Royalty) on baskets, cochair Marti Linnert and the many Auxiliary and American Legion volunteers that helped with set up and to sell tickets that evening. And of course, all the voices that united in harmony for a great cause. So much fun! Thank you all!

Auxiliary President

Maryann Groner



Not even a little rain could spoil the 10th annual Judd-a-thon. Many thanks to Bertha's Baskets and Bernie's Booze for a great effort that raised \$850.00 for the National Home, as well as the Auxiliary members who helped with shirt distribution. Fran and I will be presenting the check at the Illinois Day luncheon.

Now is the time to be thinking ahead to honoring the Veterans buried at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery. The Wreaths Across America project will be laying wreaths on December 16. With more than 3,000 new Veteran graves each year, please consider purchasing a wreath. Your gift of \$17.00 will help assure that every grave will have a wreath this holiday season. You can go on line to [Wreaths Across America](#), Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, to donate or volunteer to help place wreaths. There is a ceremony at 11:00 followed by placing wreaths. The event takes place no matter the weather. If you have never participated in this event, why not this year?



Finally, our Turkey Raffle committee will begin planning for a fun filled evening again offering a basket raffle and walk arounds. Our pull tab walk around winner last year won \$500.00! Maybe you will be lucky this year.

Judd-A-Thon 2023

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



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. Photos MUST include location, date, event, names. All submissions may be edited for length and content as needed.

Kendall-Gram Link Policy: Live links are provided for convenience and information only and are consistent with the mission of the Post and VFW. However, the appearance of external hyperlinks does not constitute endorsement by the Post or the VFW of the information, products, or services contained therein.

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 Kuelto	(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 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	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



October 2023

Tues 10/3: **10:00am**-2:00pm, Hines Outreach, VFW Post; **5:00pm**, Auxiliary Social, Canteen

Wed 10/4: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post

Fri 10/6: **6:00pm**, Nostalgia Night, VFW Post

Sat 10/7: **10:00am**, Monarch Landing Visit; Veteran Business Fair Recruitment Event

Tuesday 10/10: **6:30pm-9:00pm**, Hines Hospital Visit (POC [John Shaw](#))

Wed 10/11: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post

Thurs 10/12: **7:00pm**, VFW Post Meeting, VFW Post

Fri 10/13: US Navy Birthday

Sat 10/14: **10:00am**, Brookdale Retirement Home Visit; Blood drive / Health fair event. (POC [Ingrid Kanady](#) and [Staci Boyer](#))

Wed 10/18: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post

Thurs 10/19: **7:00pm**, Auxiliary Meeting, VFW Post

Sat 10/21: **10:00am**, Tabor Hills Visit

Wed 10/25: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post

Sat 10/28: **10:00am**, Story Point Retirement Home Visit

Tues 10/31: DEADLINE for Teacher of the Year submissions (POC Jillian Langer, Jr Vice)

November 2023

Sat 11/4: Patriot Pen and Voice of Democracy grading, VFW Post (POC [Mark Overstreet](#))

Thurs 11/9: Vietnam Wall Display opens, Naperville Riverwalk. Closes on 11/14.

Fri 11/11: Veterans Day

Fri 11/17: Toys for Tots Win a Dance with a Hero

Sat 11/18: Turkey Raffle (details coming)

December 2023

Fri 12/8: Fish Fry run through

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

Naperville Nostalgia Night

October 6, 6:00pm

Tickets \$5, food and drink extra

Only 80 tickets being sold.

Contact Kathy Thornton (630) 667-6704

Menu: Cock Robin Steakburgers and Sherbert Cones

Bar Special: One in a Million Mudslides

