

THE KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 24 Issue 01

January 2024



A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



Commander Leo Jaime



Thank you for an amazing 2023!

It has been a milestone year for our Post as we achieved the coveted All State and All American titles highlighting our commitment to our veterans and their families. We did this as a team of dedicated volunteers who selflessly donate their time and effort to ensure our mission is accomplished. Thank you. You know who you are, so I won't start naming individuals - it would take more than the space our editor allows for this article.

These awards are nice to get (nice hat), but the true meaning is the underlying work that took place behind the curtain. Let's review: First is membership. This is perhaps the hardest box to check, considering it takes tireless one-on-one interaction between recruiters (all of you) and the deserving veterans. We hit it out of the park by not only getting to 100% but also exceeding that annual quota by more than 2%. Second, there were the community outreach programs such as the successful execution of the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy competitions, the Day of Service, the Poppy drive, the Teacher Award, the numerous recruiting, and Community Service events. Again, thank you.

We also positioned the Post for success with a robust suite of events, including the annual plant sale, the annual golf outing, the record-breaking Turkey Raffle and Judd-A-Thon, the events surrounding the Vietnam Wall of Remembrance, dinners, parties, tail gates, and celebrations (excluding the anomaly of Dec 9th...), all of which not only raised funds to serve our veteran community but also showcased our facilities to generate interest in Hall rentals and revenue for the Canteen.

I can't overemphasize that none of this could have been accomplished without your dedicated sense of volunteerism. Last year I asked you to step up, and you did in grand style! From those that contributed that single hour to those that chaired one (or more) of the various programs. And, let's not forget the enormous pouring of support from our sister Veteran Organizations and the Naperville community including our schools, family and friends, neighbors, the Park District, NPD, NFD, and City of Naperville.

As I look to 2024, I am confident that we are on a path to another great year. In the next few weeks, we will put together the 2024-2025 slate of officers and committee chairs. This is your chance to be a part of the next chapter. Open spots are few so put your name in the hat early!

Wishing you a Happy and Prosperous 2024!

Senior Vice Commander Staci Boyer



Wow this year flew by! Hope you had a happy holidays everyone!

For memberships, please keep your eyes and ears open for interested people. The below QR code is easy. Save it to your camera roll on your phone and share it with someone who has questions! I would love to answer them all. We have been getting a lot of inquires - so thank you to those of you that are sharing it!

QR Code links to an information form for recruitment



We have two upcoming events where we will be set up to answer questions and sign people up that are interested:

1/20/24 Noon at the Post with our Veterans Business Connection Fair

5/4/24 All Day at YellowBox Community Theatre with the Phoenix Natural Noble Warrior

If you are looking for great Military gifts, please check out our Kendall Depot offerings! Text me with questions as we have a lot of inventory!

Follow us on our social media platforms on Instagram and Facebook. Look for highlight buttons for what we have been doing and what is upcoming labeled by the month. On Facebook we pin upcoming events to find easily. You can also find past Kendall Gram links on all of our social media channels as well.

Veterans, spouses and friends of the post- 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

Interested in the Adopt a Veterans Grave project? Please text me - 773-351-4646

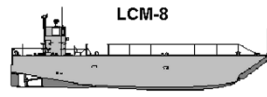
Quote of the month: To the guardians of our freedom, may the New Year bring you strength in abundance, moments of joy amidst challenges, and the knowledge that your service is valued and celebrated."

Business of the Post



Highlights from the December 14 Post meeting. Full minutes available from Adjutant. The meeting was opened by Commander Jaime at 1900 hrs according to Ritual. Five Veterans were voted into membership: Ronald Houck, Army Vietnam, Daniel Flynn, Navy Iraq, David Jones, Navy Persian Gulf, Bryce Frederick, Army Iraq, Jeremy Francis, Navy Persian Gulf. Quartermaster reported strong end of year, with good hall rental and canteen revenues. The Turkey Raffle was among the top three in net proceeds. The only non-routine expense was a new riding mower, but a donation offset more than 1/3 of the total cost. Membership is strong. We are at 589 and need to get to 625. Keep up recruiting! Good of the Order: Staci Boyer: NNHS and NCHS both have strong veteran support clubs looking for service hours. If you have an event where they could help, reach out to her to be connected. Dom Guerrerri: Local veteran repaired the Post laptop for free. Shows the strength of the community.

Service Officer Updates Dennis Lukavsky



Have you ever wondered if there are benefits from the VA that you have earned but not yet capitalized on?

Well there is a sure fire way to find out. The VA has published a [Benefits Eligibility Matrix](#) that will tell you exactly what you are entitled to based on your service for your country. It provides benefits in terms of service-connected and non-service-connected disabilities, the percentage of disability, as well as listing benefits available to those with no disabilities. It is actually a rather comprehensive piece of work and worth a look.

The screenshot shows the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs website. The header includes the VA logo, the text "U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs", and a search bar. A navigation menu contains links for Health, Benefits, Burials & Memorials, About VA, Resources, News Room, Locations, and Contact Us. The main content area is titled "Service Connected Matrix" and includes a sub-header "VA » Veterans Benefits Administration » VA Derivative Benefits Eligibility Service Connected Matrix". Below the title, there is a paragraph explaining that these are additional benefits based on a favorable decision for a VA benefit and/or based on special circumstances. Three buttons are provided: "Service Connected Matrix", "Non Service Connected Matrix", and "Circumstance Matrix". A table with two columns, "BENEFIT" and "DERIVATIVE", is partially visible. Under "BENEFIT", it lists "Non-Compensable 0 percent disability rating". Under "DERIVATIVE", it lists several benefits: "10 point Veteran preference in federal hiring", "No cost health care and prescription drugs for service connected disabilities (if income limits are met)", "Travel allowance for scheduled appointments for care at a VA medical facility or VA authorized health care facility", "Commissary and Exchange Privileges", and "Use of commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online."

National Home Chairman Mike McGrath



"Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!"

The kids at the Home had a great time at Cootie Christmas and we hope you've had a chance to see the pictures on Flickr: [Santa Firetruck Delivery](#) and [Cootie Christmas Party](#).

And recently there was a nice article in the Illinois VFW news about our visit to the Home on Illinois Day and about the Judd-a-Thon 0.1k. We especially want to thank Race Director Pablo Araya and all who have participated through the years!

As noted, the Judd-a-Thon proceeds have provided more than \$250,000 in donations to the National Home. It's been just a great event which also has brought our Post and Auxiliary members and their families together in friendship.

We look forward to the coming year and wish holiday blessings to everyone. And don't forget the National Home's helpline 800-313 4200, could this help someone you know?

Auxiliary President

Maryann Groner



Just what has the Auxiliary done this past year? We celebrated at a pizza party with our Patriots Pen winner and enjoyed dinner with the Voice of Democracy winners.

We sponsored two fundraisers that directly benefited Veterans. K9s for Vets raised money to train dogs, and Legacy Ranch provided horse therapy for four Vets. We stood in front of stores and distributed poppies for the donations that allow us to support Veteran causes. Memorial Day had us marching or riding in the parade and enjoying the concert in the park. We attended the State convention, won awards (including Circle of Excellence), and connected with other Auxiliary members across the state. You saw us distributing shirts for the Judd-a-Thon and selling basket tickets to earn money to support the National Home. Seeing the new playground that our donations helped build and the kids having such fun playing was a plus. Post 3873 wound up in the Department of Illinois VFW Newsletter presenting our donation! We went to Arista healthcare and played Bingo, handed out winnings and cookies to our players as well as going to Hines to play bingo with the Vets in the spinal ward. Many of us attended the Veteran's Day ceremonies as Naperville hosted the Wall of Remembrance. The Turkey Raffle was a big success for us. Our donations to Wreaths Across America at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery and Arlington helped to honor the Vets buried there. Finally, we turned out to help decorate the post for the holidays. Yes, it has been a busy year for us with all we have done.

And now, on to a new year just begun. I'm hoping seeing all the things we do will inspire more of our members to take a more active part in 2024. I am excited for you to join us and learn more about what you can do to help make the Auxiliary the best it can be. Opportunities are endless, so join in!

December Photos From the Christmas Party and Don O'Reilly's 102nd Birthday

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) 253-3318
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	(630) 373-1186

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) 253-3318
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	Staci Boyer	(773) 351-4646
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



January 2024

- Tues 1/2: **10:00am-2:00pm**, Hines Outreach, VFW Post; **5:00pm**, Auxiliary Social, Canteen
- Wed 1/3: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post
- Sat 1/6 **10:00am**, Monarch Landing Visit
- Tues 1/9: **6:30pm-9:00pm**, Hines Hospital Visit (POC [John Shaw](#))
- Wed 1/10: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post
- Thurs 1/11: **7:00pm**, VFW Post Meeting, VFW Post
- Sat 1/13: **10:00am**, Brookdale Retirement Home Visit
- Wed 1/17: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post
- Thurs 1/18: **7:00pm**, Auxiliary Meeting, VFW Post
- Sat 1/20: **10:00am**, Tabor Hills Visit; **12:00pm-3:00pm**, Veteran Owned Business Connection (POC [Jennifer Slown](#) or [Staci Boyer](#))
- Wed 1/24: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post
- Sat 1/27: **10:00am**, Story Point Retirement Home Visit
- Wed 1/31: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post

Veterans Owned Business Showcase Fair!



The Naperville based Veteran Business Connection (VBC) networking group is hosting a Veteran Owned Business Fair **Saturday, January 20th from 12-3pm** at the Naperville VFW.

This event is **FREE and open to the public!** It will showcase local Veteran owned businesses and the services and goods they offer. With over 25 Veteran owned businesses from a variety of industries registered, this event is one you won't want to miss! We have crafters, restaurateurs, contractors, consultants, producers, marketing companies and many many other Veteran owned businesses registered!

If you are a Veteran business owner and interested in participating in this free event, please contact Jennifer Slown at jenniferslown@kw.com or Staci Boyer at staci@staciboyer.com.

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

Unaccompanied Honors

Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery

The Abraham Lincoln Memorial Honors Squad holds quarterly military honors ceremonies at 9:00 am in Committal Shelter C. Honors run ~30 minutes. Memorial Honors are held for Veterans buried but for whom no one requested Honors for various reasons, such as no next of kin, homeless, etc.

Point of contact:

Jack Picciolo, VFW Post 5788, (815) 919-7507

2024 Dates:

Monday, January 8 (50 Veterans)

Tuesday, April 9

Thursday, July 11

Friday October 11