

THE KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 24 Issue 02

February 2024



A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



Commander Leo Jaime



Welcome to February... The other morning, I woke up to a windchill temp of -30°F and 6 inches of snow. I put on my boots and gloves and set out to clear the driveway before anyone drove on it and packed it down. Half-way through the job of shovel-plowing I started to feel lightheaded and realized I haven't had any breakfast (or coffee). So, I stopped, and likely avoided a trip to the ER. Safety lessons of the month: 1) listen to your body before your heart reminds you how old you really are! 2) get a snow blower.

But February is not all about winter blues, we also enjoy some of the most heartwarming events that support our veterans and our community. On Feb 3rd, we will gather to recognize the 500th Honor Guard Service executed by our combined Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873 and American Legion Post 43 Combined Honor Guard Team. This milestone was accomplished this past January during a ceremony honoring a fellow veteran and demonstrates the commitment and leadership of Honor Guard Team Commander, Jim Oftedal, and his team. Please join us at the Post (at 2 PM) to congratulate and thank the members of the team, 20 in all, for their selfless dedication to honor our best.

And then there is the return of a community-favorite: the Fish Frys. This year, rather than offering a full catered affair commanding a hefty meal-ticket price (inflation killed this option), we have decided to simplify the menu and be able to keep prices down so that all our members and friends feel welcome. We will run for seven Fridays from Feb 16th to March 29th. Please look out for further communications on our email blasts and social media; we will be looking for volunteers to help with set up, clean up and break downs. I'd like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our Senior Vice, Staci Boyer, and her network of community donations and support, for making these events possible.

February is also a great time to frequent our canteen, enjoy a few of your favorite beverages, meet new members or reconnect with old ones. And, afterwards, I invite you to enjoy the refurbished facilities! If you haven't already, please take a peek. I assure you, you will be impressed (and relieved). We owe this amazing improvement to our friends at Naperville Responds For Veterans, who generously donated funds, labor and leadership. Please join me in thanking this group of patriots who continuously demonstrate their unwavering commitment to bettering veterans' life.

Senior Vice Commander Staci Boyer



What a January we had! We have new members joining our post and our Veteran Owned Business fair was a huge success. So much so we are already planning for another. If you would like to be on the list, please contact Jennifer Slown or me as soon as possible. We have some new ideas for marketing for you along with some other fun additions. Jennifer and I are always coming up with ideas. Thank you to everyone that participated, showed up, commented on social media & shared our posts & videos! Jim Hoch, as always, came in clutch with his camera stylings. We also have amazing digital wizards in our VBC that produced awesome content to showcase the event! One of the highlights was our Veteran Business Registry. We have them over at Rosie's if you want to pick them up and grab a meal!

QR Code links to an information form for recruitment



As the biggest post in the state we have big numbers to hit. In all seriousness, this takes a village. We have added easy links to our website & created QR codes to help YOU facilitate membership questions! You can always connect anyone with me directly!

Our Fish Fry is back! They will be on Fridays from 2/16 - 3/29. We still need some volunteers for a few key positions. Please reach out to me directly if you or anyone you know wants to help out! Look for our flyers EVERYWHERE!!!! Let's have a great February!! New members, Valentines Day, Super Bowl, Fish Fry, Disney Karaoke & events in the canteen!! See you at the post!

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: "It's ok to have a fake Xmas tree. My perfect may not be yours. There's true warmth in your community if you allow yourself to feel it. Allow yourself grace as u weather different storms, and never miss an opportunity to stay up all night for drinks and conversation with your mom." #ThePeopleTree



Taps

[John William Kunsch](#), 83, Army.

Please submit information to the Post at vfwpost3873@sbcglobal.net or call (630) 355-7664. Contact the Quartermaster for mailing addresses if you wish to send a sympathy card.

Patriot’s Pen and Voice of Democracy Competitions **Mark Overstreet, Chair**

This year was an excellent year for both the [Patriot’s Pen and the Voice of Democracy](#) competitions.

The Patriot’s Pen Competition is open to students in grades 6-8 who each wrote a 500 word (maximum) essay on the topic "How Are You Inspired by America?" Our Post received had a total of 307 entries from 9 schools.

This year's top three essays came from Scullen Middle School (#1) and Kennedy Junior High School (#2-3). Our Post winner, Samarth Agrawal, placed 8th of 16 at the District level in strong competition!

The Voice of Democracy Competition is open to students in grades 9-12 who each record an audio essay on the topic "What Are the Greatest Attributes of Our Democracy?" This year we received 8 entries. Our Post winner, for the second year in a row, was April Zhang, who went on to place 2nd of 16 overall at the District competition.

Thank you to the 12 judges who gathered on November 4th to read the essays and listen to the recordings! The competition was fierce in the final for both competitions rounds, and I appreciate their diligence and their time.



PP 1st Place Samarth Agrawal, his parents, teacher, and principal.



PP 2nd Place Joseph Andrusenko (r) and 3rd Place Nasiba Sayfdeen (l) with Mark Overstreet and Bernadette Budny



Voice of Democracy Presentation
L to R:
Staci Boyer, Senior Vice;
Hayden Linnert (2nd);
April Zhang (1st);
Deborah George (3rd);
Mark Overstreet



April Zhang receiving her 2nd Place award at the District VOD Dinner

Have You Heard About the VFW’s Partners in Patriotism? – Would you like to support the VFW’s life-changing programs for veterans, service members and their families without receiving all of the unwanted mail? The VFW has developed an option that lets you support VFW programs on a monthly, quarterly, or yearly basis, as well as reduce expenses and eliminate National’s mailed solicitations for donations. It is called Partners in Patriotism. As a member of Partners in Patriotism, you choose a set dollar amount for your donation (minimum amount of \$10) that is either charged to your credit card or set up as an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) from your bank account. If you are interested in joining Partners in Patriotism, you may contact the VFW Development Department Donor Services at 816-756-3390, ext. 6318, or email partners@vfw.org with “Partners in Patriotism Application” in the subject line.

Service Officer Updates

Dennis Lukavsky



Just recently George Cramer supplied information about filing a claim with the VA. I think it might be a good time to expand on that topic a bit and talk about filing a disability claim.

To start off, I think it is a good idea to use a VSO to help with the process. A VSO will make sure you have all the necessary information to support your claim BEFORE you file. This saves months by eliminating the need to supply supplemental information in support of your claim. Keep in mind that the **services provided by the VSO are absolutely free**, not true when hiring a Veterans attorney or other company to help with the same services.

Before you meet with the VSO you should gather together a copy of your DD 214 and also any non-military documents (e.g., private medical reports) supporting the claim. The VA will recover any military documents.

Typically, the VSO will ask you to immediately complete 2 VA forms: VA Form 21-22 authorizes the VSO to review your private information and act on your behalf and VA Form 21-0966 is called an intent to file form and it is a place holder for your claim. When you finally file your claim, it will be treated as though it was submitted the day the 21-0966 was submitted. If you want to take a closer look at the forms they can be found [on the VA website](#).

At your initial meeting with the VSO, the VSO will review your records and if there is enough proof of your claim, file it for you at that time using VA form 21-526EZ. Of course, the alternative is that more information may be needed. It is much better to submit a complete package than having to supply supporting information. The average claim takes about 5 months to process. So you can see you only want to supply information ONCE.

Feel free to get in touch with me if you have any questions about the process.

National Vietnam War Veterans Day, Friday March 29th

Submitted by Wayne Fischer

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! National Vietnam War Veterans Day. Friday, March 29th, to be honored by a ceremony at Veterans Park from 11:00-11:30am.

This day marks the 51st Anniversary of our departure from Vietnam. We will be holding a brief program honoring all that served back then in our United States Military. This will be our 3rd year honoring this occasion. More details will follow.

This is not just limited to those that served in Vietnam, but to "All Who Served" our country back during the Vietnam War. In addition, we will recognize our "11 Naperville Fallen", as they each paid the ultimate price for our Freedoms, and we recognize all the Men and Women that paid the ultimate price because of their Service in Vietnam.

This will be open to the public, especially all Veterans. There will be parking available across the street at Grace United Methodist Church.

National Home Chairman Mike McGrath



National Home ... 99 years and counting!

The origins of the National Home can be traced to a 23-year-old woman named Amy Ross who wanted to help the thousands of unemployed World War I Veterans in Michigan and around the country.

News of Amy's efforts reached millionaire cattleman Corey Spencer, who gifted 472 acres of land near Eaton Rapids, Michigan to help support this cause. On January 7, 1925, the National Home was founded. Later that spring, the home welcomed its first family in an old frame farmhouse as Mrs. Pollett, with six children, had become suddenly widowed and lost her late husband's military pension benefits.



Today's all volunteer military and Veterans' families can face challenges as well. Reintegration, PTSD, injury rehabilitation, and multiple tours of duty can take a toll. And through the years, the National Home has grown and continues to provide needed help and hope for military and Veteran families.

Thank you all for the great support you have given to the National Home and "Happy 99th Birthday."

Don't forget the national home helpline 800-313 4200! Could this help someone you know?

Veteran Owned Business Fair

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



Auxiliary President

Maryann Groner



We welcomed a new sister to the Auxiliary during our January meeting. The membership and I look forward to having Gerry Tice join us in future activities. Lucy Hoy suggested we send pizza to Hines, and with the help of John Shaw on logistics, we were able to treat the blind unit to a pizza party.

Trish Krenick is looking for Auxiliary members to act as cashiers for the upcoming Fish Fry events. We will need 4 people each Fish Fry, split into 2 shifts. If you haven't ever worked the Fry, it is a good opportunity to get to see your friends and neighbors and enjoy a meal at the Post. The shifts begin on February 16. If you haven't signed up yet, I hope you will.

It's not too soon to be thinking of those beautiful plants that are offered for sale, so be sure to pick up an order form at the cashier table.

If you have children or grandchildren aged 3-5, the Auxiliary is sponsoring a coloring contest for this age group. We will have the sheet and crayons available and are hoping to see many entries. This is a District wide contest.

There are some great opportunities to get more involved in the Auxiliary. Some of our standing committees, Veterans and Family Support, Americanism, Legislative and Membership are in need of chairman. Being the chair of one of these groups will have you giving a report at monthly meetings. These committees keep our members informed of ways to help Veterans. I want to say a special "Thank You" to all those who are already Chairmen. You're doing a great job!

See you at the Social at 5:00 on February 6 in the Canteen!

Honor Guard



As a reminder to our membership, once a veteran has passed, another important aspect of our government's "Allowed Benefits" comes into play for which the veteran's family must apply. These benefits (burial and plot costs) are offered to help cover some burial costs. The Veterans Family/Next of Kin (NOK) must apply for these allowances. Use the link for description and steps to request benefits up to 2 years after death of your veteran.

<https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/veterans-burial-allowance/>

The items for verification which the family/NOK must provide are:

- DD-214 and Death Certificate.
- Receipts of expenditures paid.
- Statement of Account (preferably with the letterhead of the funeral director or cemetery owner)

It is imperative that you, the VFW/AL veteran, provide this information to someone in your family to apply for these benefits. Our government has a 2 year limit, from date of death, for these allowances to be paid to the deceased veterans family/estate.

If the veteran is to be buried at Abe Lincoln National Cemetery, or any other national cemetery, review their requirements at https://www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits/index.asp

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 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	(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



February 2023

- Sat 2/3: **10:00am**, Monarch Landing Visit
- Tues, 2/6: **10:00am-2:00pm**, Hines Outreach, VFW Post; **5:00pm**, Auxiliary Social, Canteen
- Wed, 2/7: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post
- Thurs 2/8: **7:00pm**, VFW Post Meeting, VFW Post
- Fri 2/9: **7:00pm**, Ross Sings the Classics, Canteen
- Sat 2/10: **10:00am**, Brookdale Retirement Home Visit; **6:00pm**, Disney Karaoke, Canteen
- Wed, 2/14: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post
- Thurs 2/15: **7:00pm**, Auxiliary Meeting, VFW Post
- Fri, 2/16: **4:30pm**, Fish Fry, VFW Post
- Sat, 2/17: **10:00am**, Tabor Hills Visit
- Mon, 2/19: **8:00am**, Vet Biz Breakfast, Rosie's
- Wed, 2/21: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post
- Fri, 2/23: **4:30pm**, Fish Fry, VFW Post
- Sat 2/24: **10:00am**, Story Point Retirement Home Visit
- Wed, 2/28: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post

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



A new year and new needs. More and more of our troops are being placed in harm's way around the world. Both the Naperville VFW and American Legion posts are supporters of the mission of Operation Support Our Troops-America to improve the morale and well-being of our troops by sending a "touch of home" with 25-pound boxes of comfort items to individuals stationed around the world. Please join the OSOT-America task of creating these comfort boxes with your donations. A list of needed items can be found on the Canteen bulletin board and [online](#). There are donation boxes located at the VFW Post 3873 upper-level entrance and in the Post Canteen. Fill-up the boxes!

We invite you to **BE OUR GUEST!**

Come be our guest and join a night of reminiscing to your favorite Disney musicals while your crew takes to the stage for sing along songs on KARAOKE!

You can expect an array of appetizers and OPEN BAR!

- Face painting
- Balloon animals
- Photographer
- Crafts galore
- Silent auction

DETAILS:

Date: Saturday, February 10th
 Time: 6-9PM
 Location: Naperville VFW Hall
 908 Jackson Avenue
 Naperville, IL 60540

Scan Code to RSVP



COSTUMES ENCOURAGED!

VFW FISH FRY

Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873 announces that our **Fish Fry is BACK!**

Fridays beginning February 16th - Easter weekend

4:30pm - 7:30pm
 Located at 908 W. Jackson Ave
 Naperville

\$15 a plate | 4 pieces of Fish & Fries
 \$5 added for pizza or shrimp



