

THE KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 24 Issue 05

May 2024



A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



Commander Leo Jaime



May is our “home stretch” month to make final efforts and turn all our program progress indicators to “MET” on the VFW site dashboard. We are doing great, with one exception: Membership. Despite the efforts of many of you, we were just shy of 97% as of late April, meaning we would need to sign up approx. 20 new members in about one month. A tall task, but achievable if we pull together.

The month of May brings us great opportunities to get our message out there and find those veterans that deserve to be members of our Post. During the week leading to Memorial Day, together with American Legion post 43, we will participate in events honoring our fallen. There are two specific tasks for our Post: The placing of American Flags on every veteran gravesite at the Naperville Cemetery on Saturday, May 25th, and the Buddy Poppy fundraising campaign, from May 22nd through May 26th. We will need all hands-on deck to accomplish our missions. Please look out for separate communication via email-blast from our service officer with additional details and instruction on how to sign up to volunteer.

Then, on Monday May 27th, our patriotic Naperville community looks for our Post to lead with the organization and execution of the Memorial Day Parade. On this solemn day, we will render honors to our fallen heroes at various sites around the city and parade route, and end with ceremonies at Central Park. We look forward to your attendance.

At the April Post Meeting, we nominated and voted on our new slate of officers for the upcoming fiscal year. I am proud to report we have a full roster, thanks to the commitment of our returning officers and the initiative of our fresh electees.

As such, I am pleased to introduce our 2024-2025 Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873 Officers as follows:

Commander: Stacy Boyer (Promoted)	Surgeon: Ingrid Kanady (new)
Sr Vice Commander: Jennifer Slown (New)	Service Officer: Dennis Lukavsky (returning)
Jr Vice Commander: Josh Warner (New)	Officer of the Day: Lou Kuelczo (returning)
Quartermaster: Phil Maughan (returning)	Guard: Roger Budny (returning)
Asst. Quartermaster: John Shaw (returning)	Chaplain: Bob Grember (returning)
Asst. Quartermaster: Tom Parker (returning)	1 Year Trustee: Roger Budny
Adjutant: David Jones (New)	2 Year Trustee: Craig Frier
Judge Advocate: Dominic Guerrieri (returning)	3 Year Trustee: Leo Jaime (off-going commander)

Please join me in congratulating and thanking our electees, new and returning, and please plan to attend the Installation Dinner planned for June 4th at 5 PM at the Post. More details forthcoming.

Senior Vice Commander Staci Boyer



May is the month of great reflection on those that gave the ultimate sacrifice. It is a time for our veteran community to come together to honor the fallen. Through this time we will have many opportunities as a post to connect with fellow Veterans that may be curious or could benefit from what our VFW post can offer. During our events, parades and ceremonies, please invite those that show interest, to the canteen, or event that you are a part of. If anyone has questions about how they can volunteer, give back or join - please feel free to share my contact information.



Use this QR code to go to a form to input your information regarding joining VFW post #3873! We will get back to you within 24 hours!

Please continue to help with our post membership recruiting efforts. You can always just connect someone interested directly with me or direct them to this handy QR code! We have two upcoming events where we will be set up to answer questions and sign people up that are interested:

5/4/24 at The Phoenix Natural Noble Warrior - YellowBox community theatre - all day and our **8/17** Veteran Owned Business Resource Fair. Contact me to register for this.

Click this link to RSVP for our upcoming June 30th Officer Induction Dinner for the VFW and Auxiliary:

<https://www.ticketsource.us/naperville-vfw-3873>.

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! I have everything set up at my studio and will setting up the store at the Post for events.

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. The Illinois State Legislature is passing legislation that will be exciting for this project. NNHS Veterans club has raised the money to refurbish the grave of Edward Hiltz WWI Army and we are installing 28 engraved bricks to honor those with illegible grave markers and unreachable next of kin. Stay tuned for more on this.

"A leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go, but ought to be." —Rosalynn Carter

Business of the Post

Post Meeting 3/14/2024 Highlights



The meeting was opened at 1900 hrs Commander Jaime according to ritual.

New members proposed and accepted:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| John Foley, Army, new | John Horning, Army, transfer |
| Martin Fuger, Navy, transfer | Jeffrey Nelson, Navy, new |
| Joseph Furgal, Army, transfer | Joe Perusich, Marines, transfer |

Acting Adjutant read Minutes. Motion to approve passed.

Commander Jaime propose the new slate of officers. Motion to approve and passed.

Quartermaster reported good Hall and Canteen revenues.

Membership recruitment for this year is at about 97%, so there is still work to be done. Use QR Code or put prospects directly in touch with Senior Vice Boyer.

Volunteer opportunities to participate in Memorial Day Parade. Contact Tom Parker.

Meeting closed. Next meeting Thursday, May 9th, 1900 hours.

Service Officer Updates
Dennis Lukavsky



Let’s talk a bit about VA's claim processing. When we file a claim, it seems forever before we receive a decision. We wait and wait and the response never comes. It’s very easy to say the VA is a big bureaucracy that is bogged down to a crawl in red tape.

The reality is pretty much the opposite. The VA has processed more than one million Veteran benefit claims in fiscal year 2024, the fastest rate in VA history. Through February of this fiscal year, the VA provided \$69 billion in earned compensation and pension benefits to 6.5 million Veterans and survivors.

The PACT Act has brought a whole new dimension to the scene. Veterans apply for benefits at record rates, with VA receiving 4.5% more claims thus far in fiscal year 2024 than at this point in 2023. Since the PACT Act was signed into law, Veterans and their families have filed more than 3.5 million claims.

As a result of this record pace, the number of Veteran claims pending for more than 125 days – known as the backlog – has decreased by more than 42,000 claims over the past three months. Due to the record number of claim applications, the backlog is still expected to grow in 2024 before decreasing at the end of this year.

It seems to me we have to give the VA a little credit for working hard to keep up with the demand caused by the PACT ACT. Remember, patience is a virtue.

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.

2024 Memorial Day Parade Information

Submitted by Tom Parker

Members of VFW Post 3873 and American Legion Post 43 will participate in Memorial Day services and the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, 27 May 2024. We will observe our regular schedule of events that day, so please plan to join us as we honor our fallen brothers and sisters. The schedule for Memorial Day is:

- 0745 Service at City Hall (Dan Shanower Memorial)
- 0815 Service at G.A.R. Monument in Naperville Cemetery (south side)
- 0835 Service at Veterans Park (100 E. Gartner Road)
- 0900 Service at Ss Peter & Paul Cemetery (911 North Avenue)
- 0925 Burlington Square (307 N. Ellsworth Street)
- 1000 Parade Line-up (vicinity of West St. and Jackson)
- 1015 Veterans step off to start parade
- 1020 Service at Riverwalk Memorial (during parade)
- 1200 Ceremony at Central Park Bandshell (approximate start time)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

There is no parking in the VFW lot until after 11:00 am. Parking is available at City Hall and at other locations in the downtown area. Please be at City Hall by 7:30 am to participate in the morning's activities. Trolleys will provide transportation as we go to each location for the memorial services. There will also be transportation at Central Park to get you back to City Hall after the ceremony at the bandshell. Feel free to join us at any location, even if you are not able to start the morning with us. The preferred uniform of the day is khakis with a Post polo shirt and cover, but you can still join in if you don't have these.

Lunch will be provided at the Post for veterans and their families following the ceremony at Central Park. The RTC Band from Great Lakes will be joining us during lunch, and they will have priority for going through the food line first. The canteen will not be open until the Colors are returned to the Post following the ceremony at Central Park.

Only veterans and Active Duty personnel will be walking in the veteran's group during the parade. Anyone with children or other family members will be able to ride the Veteran Trolley.

Veterans who are unable to walk the parade route and would like to ride in a car should submit their name, branch of service, conflict, and contact phone number to Paul Hinterlong at paulhinterlong@yahoo.com. Requests for a car should be made by May 17th. Anyone not requesting a vehicle by the 17th will be able to ride in the Veteran Trolley on the day of the parade.



Taps

Donald W. O'Reilly, 102. US Army Air Forces, WWII.

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.

National Home Chairman Mike McGrath



As we conclude another great year for our Judd Kendall VFW Post, I want to thank you all for your great support for our National Home.

We will look forward to attending our 2024 Illinois State Convention (June 6-9) in Springfield and hope to see many of you there. We can all be proud of our post's many achievements and "kudos" to our Commander Leo Jaime and all of our dedicated post officers for their great work!

"Save the date!"

Illinois Day 2024 at the National Home is Saturday, September 21! We'll be looking forward to the 100th Anniversary year.

The tentative program is as follows:

Friday, September 20:

Time TBD: "Meet and greet" dinner at the Maple City VFW Post 2406 located in nearby Charlotte, Michigan

Saturday, September 21: Overall program from 9:00am-2:00pm

10:00am-12:00pm, Guided campus tours

12:00pm, Lunch followed by a program

More on the 2024 "Judd-A-Thon" next time as the team is already in planning mode!

Finally, don't forget the helpline (800) 313-4200. Could this help someone you know?

Honor Flight Chicago Fundraiser Submitted by Wayne Fischer



Please mark your Calendar for **Saturday, May 4th.**

We will be holding our Annual Fundraiser for Honor Flight Chicago. It will be held again at the DuPage County Fairgrounds 11am through 3pm. As in years past, we will be having live entertainment, lunch, and a Silent Auction. Parking will be in the west lot next to the Fairgrounds. More details will follow.

[The Flyer is available online.](#) Please Be sure to read the 2d page as it covers "How You Can Help"!!!!

Here we list many ways to donate: Tickets; Silent Auction Items; Sponsorships; and Monetary Donations.

Please keep in mind that ALL PROCEEDS go to Honor Flight Chicago. As a Board Member of this great organization since its beginning, I have noticed that we have more Naperville Veterans going to see their Memorials than in the early years and we want that trend to continue. The Honor Flight provides a day our Veterans will never forget and they appreciate the opportunity to go.

Auxiliary President

Maryann Groner



A very special thank you to all the Auxiliary members who helped with the Fish Fry and to Trish Krenick for being the coordinator. We had some special guests at the last Fish Fry. Joining the Easter Bunny were District President, Meggan Denny, and past District President, Kathy Cumberland.



Auxiliary members have been busy playing Bingo with the residents at Arista as well as visiting with the Vets in the spinal ward for Bingo. It's always fun to hear "Bingo!" and to hand out some cash winnings.

In just a few weeks, we will be joining members of the Garden Club to get the orders of flowers and plants ready for pickup. Join us on the lawn and be sure to sign up for a week of watering.

With Memorial Day coming up at the end of the month, there are many ways to help. Why not sign up for a shift of Poppy distribution, to place flags on our deceased sisters and brothers, or to join in a fun Parade? The trolley is available for those who would rather ride than walk.

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.

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



May 2024

- Wed 5/1: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post
- Sat 5/4: **10:00am**, Monarch Landing Visit; **11:00am-3:00pm** Honor Flight Fundraiser, see p. 5; Phoenix Natural Noble Warrior, see p. 2
- Tues 5/7: **10:00am-2:00pm**, Hines Outreach, VFW Post; **5:00pm**, Auxiliary Social, Canteen
- Wed 5/8: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post
- Thurs 5/9: **7:00pm**, VFW Post Meeting, VFW Post; Crossing Guard Recognition
- Sat 5/11: **10:00am**, Brookdale Retirement Home Visit
- Sun 5/12: Mother's Day
- Wed 5/15: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post
- Thurs 5/16: **7:00pm**, Auxiliary Meeting, VFW Post
- Sat 5/18: Armed Forces Day; **10:00am**, Tabor Hills Visit
- Mon 5/20: **8:00am**, Veteran Business Networking, Rosie's Diner
- Wed 5/22: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post
- Sat 5/25: Placing Flags at Naperville Cemetery; **10:00am**, Story Point Retirement Home Visit
- Mon 5/27: Memorial Day, see full list of events on p. 4

Monthly Recurring Events

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

Upcoming events:

- 5/4 The Phoenix Natural Noble Warrior, YellowBox Community Theater
- 6/30 Officer Induction Dinner, [Link to RSVP](#)
- 8/17 Veteran Owned Business & Resource Fair, VFW Post



OFFICER INDUCTION DINNER

June 30, 2024

6pm | Social hour

7pm-9pm | Dinner & Ceremony

SPACE IS LIMITED RSVP REQUIRED.
TICKETS ARE FREE ALTHOUGH A SMALL
DONATION AT THE DOOR IS APPRECIATED

RSVP VIA
WWW.TICKETSOURCE.US/NAPERVILLE-VFW-3873

908 Jackson ave.
Naperville, Illinois 60540



Use this QR code to go to a form to input your information regarding joining VFW post #3873! We will get back to you within 24 hours!

SAVE THE DATE: 8/17/24
12-4PM
 FOR THE
VFW & VBC Veteran Business Connection
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS, Naperville Post 3873

VETERAN OWNED BUSINESS

VETERAN RESOURCE BUSINESS

FAIR

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
908 JACKSON AVE
NAPERVILLE, IL 60540
815.241.8181

TO REGISTER -CONTACT:
STACEY@MOTHSR.COM OR
BOBBER@MOTHSR.COM