

THE KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 24 Issue 08

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A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



**Commander
Staci Boyer**



As we head into August -

I am calling all members of the Naperville VFW Post 3873, our Auxiliary, American Legion, Sons of the Legion, Legion Riders, and Friends of the Post! We are embarking on the celebration of the VFW's 125th Birthday.

In 1899, thirteen Spanish-American War veterans gathered in a small tailor shop in Columbus, Ohio, to discuss how they could assist their fellow veterans and the dependents of their fallen comrades.

The ideals of this small group of war Veterans that banded together for change were realized by the creation of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Your presence is highly desired as we celebrate. Events will include a city proclamation and dedication of an honorary street! These events are among hundreds that will take place across the U.S. and around the world in honor of our organization's landmark anniversary and its storied history of service and advocacy to Veterans, service members, their families and the communities the VFW serves.

On September 17, 2024, we invite you to join us at City Hall for the reading of our 125th Anniversary Proclamation and on September 26th please attend our celebration in our Post Canteen. We have some wonderful events planned! Member slide show and museum of military memorabilia along with food and live music by Joe Cantafio. [CLICK HERE](#) for all the details of this awesome event!

Please keep an eye out for all of the events that we have planned this year. Dennis's email blasts are full of invaluable information along with our social media platforms! I look forward to everything we are doing this year along with the powerful collaborations with our community!

Thank you for your ongoing support of our post and all we strive to accomplish.

Once again please celebrate 125 years of one million members being a fierce advocate and the trusted voice for Veterans, service members, and their families!



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!

Senior Vice Commander

Jennifer Slown



RECRUITMENT! Our goal this upcoming membership year is 623 members. A good percentage of that number will come from existing members that are “Paid Up for Life” (PUFL) or current yearly paying members. We will likely still have to recruit, though, to make up for comrades we lose throughout the year to illness, to transfer out of state, or to their final duty station at the Pearly Gates.

This makes recruiting an all hands effort and I encourage you to be the face of VFW 3873 when out and about. Whether in the hardware store checkout line, in a restaurant, or just in passing, if you see someone with a Veteran ballcap, license plate, or other identifying item, take the time to introduce yourself and find out if they are a VFW member. Naturally a Veteran may ask “Why should I join the VFW?” which is the WIIFM (what’s in it for me?). “The best Post in the nation” isn’t just a tagline we throw around. It is a reflection of the incredible roster of events we offer, with something for everyone including the Veterans, their families, and their friends. Whether they might be interested in entertainment, community service, patriotic events, or something else, we have it on the calendar.

Exciting and fun events are what bring many new members into our Post. We are always on the lookout for new ways to engage our current members as well as prospective members. In early July, our Post participated in the SALUTE event sponsored by Naperville Responds. Our Post had the opportunity to engage with fellow Veterans and our local community members. It was quite apparent that everyone had a great time. On August 17th, we will be hosting our second Veteran Owned Business Showcase Fair at the VFW. This event allows Veteran-owned businesses the opportunity to get in front of their community and demonstrate their products and services through a unique Veteran approach. The event is open to the public and is shaping up to be an awesome event. These types of community engagement events allow us to connect with our local community and fellow Veterans. If you have an idea for an event that our post should be involved in or sponsor, let us know!

We can’t meet our membership and recruitment goals without you!

Business of the Post

Post Meeting 7/11/2024 Highlights



1900 Commander Staci Boyer opens the meeting according to ritual.
Three new members proposed: Two New Life Members, Arnoldo Almodovar, Air Force, and Steven Rubin, USMC, and one Life Member Transfer in: Justin Palmer, USMC. Motion made and approved.
Quartermaster reported a strong month with overall increase in funds on hand. Comparison of the last 4 weeks shows year over year 28% increase in Canteen revenue. Additional repairs needed to the coolers and some plumbing repairs were unexpected costs.
Recruitment for the 2023-2024 year fell slightly short of the goal. We are set up for strong recruitment this year. We have a number of initiatives with the QR codes and business cards. Everyone is a recruiter so look for ways to help us find new members.
Trustees proposed total of \$5,700 in donations to eight organizations. Motion passed.
Next meeting will be held Thursday, August 8, at 7:00 pm.

Junior Vice Commander

Josh Warner



Well, first thing’s first... We had a great turn out for the Installation Dinner. A lot of folks will talk about the number of guests, which warrants mention, I’m sure. But, personally, I was moved by the diversity of our guests. I’m not speaking of what we’ve been told about diversity, I mean it wasn’t just a bunch of old warriors standing around slapping ourselves on the back and congratulating ourselves. We had members of our community. Naperville residents. Yes, the civvies came to celebrate with us and got an inside look at who we are... The VFW and Auxiliary. This is another good step with the Post’s relation with the Community. Maybe only topped by the wonderful turnout at Naperville Salute.

I’ll quickly touch on a couple of upcoming events. First, the Veteran-owned Business/ Resource Fair at the Post on August 17th. Also, VFW Post 3873 will host the VFW/ Auxiliary District Meeting on the August 18th.

August 7, 1782: “The General ever desirous to cherish virtuous ambition in his soldiers, as well as to foster and encourage every species of Military merit directs whenever any singular meritorious action is performed, the author of it shall be permitted to wear on his facings, over his left breast, the figure of a heart in purple cloth or silk edged with narrow lace or binding.”

The Badge of Military Merit, (later to be known as the Purple Heart,) was established by General George Washington’s General Orders. Originally only to be awarded to enlisted men, the Badge allowed recipients to pass all guards and sentinels as commissioned officers did, unchallenged. It was not until 1932 that the modern Purple Heart was created on the bicentennial of Washington’s birth, by General Douglas MacArthur. Sadly, 182 years after it’s original inception, the Vietnam War began and would see the Purple Heart awarded to 350,000 service member, second only to the number of World War II recipients.

Officer Installation Dinner 2024

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



Service Officer Updates Dennis Lukavsky



Honor Flights, Sign up TODAY

I know I'm supposed to talk about VA benefits and Health Care and general Service Officer topics in this column, but, this month, I plan to digress.

In June I was privileged to travel to Washington DC on a trip sponsored by Honor Flight Chicago. This article is being written to convince those of you who have not signed up for this wonderful experience to do so. I have heard many arguments from many veterans on why they will not sign up, but here is **WHY YOU SHOULD SIGN UP!**

When I came home from Viet Nam I had no pride in the work I did while overseas. Too many people were calling me a baby killer, etc. Even today when people thank you for your service you can tell some of them are doing it to be fashionable and not sincere. As a result, I think some of us are still not satisfied with their efforts overseas.

The Honor Flight folks accomplish an important goal for every veteran on the flight. Their efforts tell you they remember the sacrifices you made for freedom and they very much appreciate your service to our country. Their actions will tell you that when you were getting shot at, freezing during the monsoon season, dying of thirst in the dry season, and starving (or just plain tired of "C's") that they understand it and are very grateful for your efforts. The Honor Flight will convince you that people really care about you and are very appreciated. They do it not with words but with their actions.

I think buried in many Viet Nam Veteran sub consciences is the resentment over no proper homecoming. Sign up for Honor Flight and get the homecoming celebration you **NEED** and **DESERVE**.

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

Robert Fisher, 81. Vietnam Veteran

Contact the Quartermaster for mailing addresses if you wish to send a sympathy card.

National Home Chairman Mike McGrath



Forwarding along a report from Nancy Archambeau at the National Home

The 4-H kids at the National Home, known as the VFW Dynamos, had another successful 4-H season. Here is how they "fared" at the Eaton County Fair this year!

Nobody placed especially high for hogs this year, but for their age brackets, Brooklyn and Holly placed 1st in rabbit showmanship, Blake placed 3rd, and Justice placed 4th. Alex and Justice's rabbits both won 2nd place for best of breed for their age bracket.

The team of talented and hardworking young members put on a show-stopping performance and came out on top in multiple categories. From impressive livestock displays to breathtaking handicrafts, the VFW Dynamos left a lasting impression on everyone who attended the fair. The National Home couldn't be prouder of our team for their dedication and passion for 4H. Congratulations to the VFW Dynamos on a job well done and thank you to our generous supporters who make participating in the Fair possible!



Naperville Salute 2024

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



Auxiliary President

Kathy Thornton



Full Speed Ahead!

So much is happening at our Post, and so excited to be a part of it!

We have our Freedom Tailgate (August 4 at the Post from 2p to 6p), which is a fundraiser for new bar stools in the Canteen. Come on out and enjoy the bands, food, raffles etc. \$10.00 per person or \$25.00 per family.

Then our crown jewel fundraiser: Judd-A-Thon is on Sunday, September 15. Start your fitness regimen now to be in top form for this grueling run, a 0.1 run. Family fun, fly over, raffle prizes, all in support of the National Home. All ages welcome. Such a great cause.

Did I mention there is karaoke night every Wednesday in the Canteen? Don't have to tell me twice!

I still have several committees open for chairpersons. Why not team up with a friend and take the reins of a committee. Lightens the load. Please contact me if interested at kmrthornton@sbcglobal.net.

Please note the Auxiliary meets the 3rd Thursday of every month, upstairs at the Post at 7pm. Join us as we discuss how to support our veterans.

Special prayers for those serving. God bless all our veterans.

Posters for Upcoming Events

Click Judd-A-Thon Poster

11TH ANNUAL JUDD-A-THON
IT'S A 0.1K FUN RUN AND FUNDRAISER

A short run that will go a long way to help Veterans and Military Families at the VFW National Home for Children!

Sunday, September 15th, 2024
Race Starts Promptly at 10:01 AM

To register, make your check (or cash) payable for \$20 (\$25 on Race Day) to:
VFW Post 3873, and mail or drop off form and fee to:
Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873

To Register, make your check (or cash) payable for \$20 (\$25 on Race Day) to:
908 W. Jackson Avenue, Naperville, IL 60540

EARLY REGISTRATIONS: \$10 (not included by VFW) Starts 8:00 AM (open to all ages) Available Aug 14th - 14th, 15th, 16th, 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th, 21st, 22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th, 26th, 27th, 28th, 29th, 30th, 31st.	DAY OF RACE: Registration and packet pick-up 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	EARLY RACE PACKET PICK-UP: 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM (not open to all ages) Starts from 8:00 AM - 8:00 PM on Friday Sept. 13th.
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Name _____ Check #/Member ID _____
Phone _____ Email _____
T-Shirt Size (Circle One Size For Entry Fees):
SMALL Med Lrg XL XXL XXXL

Signature _____ Date _____

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4TH
2-6PM

FREEDOM TAILGATE

LIVE MUSIC - 3 BANDS!
50/50 & GREAT RAFFLES

\$10/person OR \$25/family
Burgers & Hot Dogs for sale.
Please bring a dish to pass.

Funds raised will be used for new VFW Post barstools!

VFW - 908 JACKSON AVENUE - NAPERVILLE

Questions? Contact Relation 600-800-6641

VETERANS CONCERT

Thursday, August 8 @ 8:00pm
Immediately following VFW Meeting

VFW Center Naperville
908 W Jackson Ave, Naperville, IL 60540

Contact: Julie Berkowicz
Julie@berkowicz.net
630-881-3139
www.napopus.org

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	Staci Boyer	(773) 351-4646
Sr. Vice Commander	Jennifer Slown	
Jr. Vice Commander	Josh Warner	
Quartermaster	Phil Maughan	(630) 383-1974
Ass't Quartermaster	John Shaw	(630) 253-3318
Ass't Quartermaster	Tom Parker	(630) 280-9347
Adjutant	David Jones	
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	Roger Budny	(630) 205-8745
2-Year Trustee	Craig Frier	(630) 373-1186
3-Year Trustee	Leo Jaime	(773) 441-3887

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	Kathy Thornton	
Sr. Vice President	Kristen Jungles	
Jr. Vice President	Elizabeth Kuhn	
Secretary	Nancy Marinello	
Treasurer	Leo Hart	(630) 816-0506
Chaplain	Maryann Groner	(630) 363-8138
Guard	Mary Ellen DiMatteo	
Conductress	Sue Hoffman	



VFW Post 3873 Upcoming Events



August 2024

- Sat 8/3: **10:00am**, Monarch Landing Visit
- Sun 8/4: Coast Guard Birthday; Barstool Fundraiser
- Tues 8/6: **10:00am-2:00pm**, Hines Outreach, VFW Post; **5:00pm**, Auxiliary Social, Canteen
- Wed 8/7: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post; **7:00pm** Karaoke, Canteen
- Thurs 8/8: **7:00pm**, VFW Post Meeting, VFW Post
- Sat 8/10: **10:00am**, Brookdale Retirement Home Visit
- Wed 8/14: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post; **7:00pm** Karaoke, Canteen
- Thurs 8/15: **7:00pm**, Auxiliary Meeting, VFW Post
- Sat 8/17: **10:00am**, Tabor Hills Visit; 12:00pm, Veteran Owned Business and Resource Fair, VFW Post
- Sun 8/18: VFW Post 3873 hosts the 19th District Meeting
- Mon 8/19: **8:00am**, Veteran Business Networking, Rosie's Diner
- Wed 8/21: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post; **7:00pm** Karaoke, Canteen
- Sat 8/24: **10:00am**, Story Point Retirement Home Visit
- Wed 8/28: **9:30am**, Yoga for Vets, VFW Post; **6:30pm**, CPR/AED Training; **7:00pm** Karaoke, Canteen

Monthly Recurring Events

- First Tuesday: Hines Outreach; Auxiliary Social
- Second Tuesday: Hines Hospital POC John Shaw (not July, August)
- Every Wednesday: Yoga in the morning; Karaoke in the evening
- Second Thursday: Post Meeting
- Third Monday: Veteran Business Network
- Third Thursday: Auxiliary meeting
- Every Saturday: Retirement home visit



Upcoming Events

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>9/5</u> Legion Golf outing <u>9/7</u> Resilience Tactic Workshop at Little Friends <u>9/11</u> Ceremonies <u>9/12</u> VFW Meeting <u>9/15</u> Judd-a-thon <u>9/16</u> Veteran Business Connection at Rosie's <u>9/17</u> 125th VFW Anniversary Proclamation and Dedication <u>9/17</u> VFW Golf outing <u>9/20</u> Stephen Chasse. Toys for Tots Golf outing <u>9/21</u> National Home Day | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>9/26</u> Joe Cantafio 125th celebration (Curated museum display and slide show) <u>10/5</u> VFW CarTober extravaganza <u>10/10</u> VFW Meeting <u>10/21</u> Veteran Business Connection at Rosie's <u>10/31</u> TEACHER OF THE YEAR deadline for submission |
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