

# THE KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 25 Issue 12

December 2025



**A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873**



## Commander Staci Boyer



This month is a call to action as we prepare for 2026. Our Post is thriving and growing, and we need all of you to help keep this momentum going. Below is a list of committees where we're looking to add members. Please reach out to me if you'd like to get involved or if you're interested in eventually stepping into a leadership role.

### Committees & Volunteer Opportunities:

- Hines Hospital Visits
- School Visits / Veterans Day Events
- Blood Drive
- Poppy Program
- Color Guard / Honor Guard
- Fish Fry
- Car Show
- Golf Outing
- Army–Navy Game
- Membership Team
- Assisted Living Home Visits / Events
- Memorial Day
- Americanism
- Voice of Democracy / Patriot's Pen
- Teacher of the Year
- Turkey Raffle
- Miscellaneous (new ideas welcome)

In addition, we have volunteer sign ups for Veterans Breakfasts ([Sign Up Here](#)) and the 2026 Fish Fry ([Sign Up Here](#)) available now!

Thank you to **Mark Overstreet** and **Ingrid Kanady** for going above and beyond with VOD/PP and Teacher of the Year. You have both done an amazing job growing these programs in our community!

As we head into December and our holiday celebrations, please see our Ticket Source link and social media pages for agendas and event timelines.

Together, let's be the change we seek.

I encourage everyone to follow us on our social media channels to stay connected and engaged with all of our upcoming events. Whether you are a veteran, family member, or community supporter, there are many ways to get involved, and we welcome you with open arms.

Quote of the month "This season, we celebrate not only joy and togetherness, but the brave men and women who defended our right to both."



**Senior Vice Commander  
Jennifer Slown**



**Strengthening Our Ranks and Our Mission**

As we continue our community service and Veteran outreach at Post 3873, one of our most important responsibilities is ensuring our Post remains vibrant, engaged, and ready to serve. Recruiting new members isn't just about growing our numbers and paid dues, it's about welcoming fellow Veterans into a place where their service is honored, their experiences are understood, and they are able to make a positive impact within the community.

Every new member brings fresh perspectives, new energy, and a renewed sense of purpose to our post. Many Veterans in our community are still unaware of the support, camaraderie, and opportunities the VFW offers. It's up to us to reach out, connect, and remind them that they are not alone. That Naperville Post 3873 is a place where they can continue serving with pride.

To support this effort, I'm pleased to introduce our new Membership Committee Chair, Michael Kidd. Michael will take a leading role in coordinating with prospective and newly-approved members. His duties will include greeting newcomers at our meetings, guiding them through the swearing-in process, and pairing them with a current VFW member who will serve as a mentor. This "battle buddy" approach ensures that every new member feels welcomed, informed, and fully integrated into our post's culture and mission.

I encourage all members to assist Michael in this important work. If you know a Veteran who qualifies, invite them to an event, introduce them to the team, and help us strengthen the future of Post 3873.

Together, we honor the past—and build the future.

**Business of the Post**

**Post Meeting November 13, 2025 Highlights**



The meeting was opened at 1903 hours by Commander Staci Boyer according to ritual.

No new members proposed; No new members voted; No new members sworn.

Commander Boyer drew everyone's attention to the sign up folders on the front table. We are in recruitment mode for all committees. Please sign up where you are interested and encourage others to do the same

Quartermaster report: Total funds this month showed a slight decrease, which is common for October. Good Canteen month; above average Hall rental. Final from the Car Show and Pig Roast. No unexpected expenses. We will order Poppies in November to ensure supply. Big news it that new Post shirts are available for purchase, both men's and women's sizes. Each shirt is \$32.00

Service Officer report: We have a visit the first Tuesday of every month from 10:00am-2:00pm. This is a fantastic opportunity to talk with someone in person who can help you figure out your benefit eligibility. In addition, there is a Hines rep with information about VA Healthcare, and the DuPage Co VAC.

Membership: New Membership Chair Michael Kidd talked about some of the upcoming initiatives, including the Recruitment Coin and New Member Battle Buddy.

Honor Guard report: 6 graveside services: 5 Army, 1 Navy.

Color Guard report: Participated in numerous events around Veterans Day. Upcoming Rotary Parade of Lights.

Hines Visit report: December visit will include holiday carols! Join us to sing with the veterans in the spine unit.

VOD/PP/TOY: VOD had 15 entries, highest anyone can remember; PP had 80, TOY had 15, we awarded at HS, Junior High, and Elementary.

Trustees report: Accounts in good order. Requested funds for two charities, total of \$780. Motion and pass.

Meeting closed according to ritual at 1957 hours. Next meeting is Thursday, December 11, 2025.



**Junior Vice Commander  
Josh Warner**



It was 1969 when, through a military coup, Mohammed Siad Barre took control and became the leader of Somalia. He was finally overthrown in January 1991, after a tumultuous twenty-two-year regime, by a coalition of opposing clans calling themselves the United Somalia Congress. It wasn't long before the coalition to split into two separate factions, one led by Ali Mahdi, the other led by Mohammed Farah Aidid. The ensuing inter-clan war resulted in the ravaging of Somalia's agriculture, leading to starvation of many Somali citizens. Power, it would seem, rested with whom controlled the food supplies.

However, much of this food was hijacked and often exchanged to other countries for weaponry. Up to 80% of food from other nations' humanitarian aid was stolen in the early 1990s. In July 1992, the United Nations sent military observers in accordance with the ceasefire agreement between the clan factions and in August, Operation Provide Relief officially began. However, the U.N.'s inability to secure delivery routes led to Provide Relief's failure.

As one of his last acts as the President of the United States, George H. W. Bush proposed that U.S. combat troops would intervene and secure trade routes in Somalia to ensure the delivery of the much-needed food. December 5, 1992, marked the beginning of Operation Restore Hope with the deployment of 25,000 U.S. troops. The Somalia Campaign was not to be an "open-ended commitment" as Bush stated.

After President Clinton's inauguration, the U.S. presence in Somalia was drawn down and U.N. forces officially took over the operation in March of 1993.

### Posters for Upcoming Events

Click on the image to go to the [TicketSource](#) page



### Taps

- Norman McBride, age 76, Army, Vietnam
- Rowland Milburn age 95, Army, Korea

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



## Service Officer Updates Dennis Lukavsky



### Importance of Hines Outreach Visits

I think all of you have heard me mention the Hines Outreach visits that take place each month at the Post. As you all know, they take place the first Tuesday of each month from 10AM to 2PM. I have also mentioned that if you are entitled to benefits you should get those benefits.

Our resident VSO, Russ Meredith is salaried by the VFW. He is an employee of the VFW. I just saw a memo from the VFW National Office documenting that VSOs like Russ have recovered \$16.2 Billion in FY 2025. This is not money "stolen" from the government but rather money owned to veterans who have earned it.

Here is the point of this little note: If you are on the fence about filing for VA benefits because you think you do not deserve them, come to the Post and talk to us about it. We can help you make a sound decision. Sometimes there are gray areas that can be clarified. Remember getting what you are entitled is the right thing to do.

### 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](mailto:dlukavsky@yahoo.com).

## 2025 Healing Fields and Vietnam Memorial Wall

Photos courtesy of Jim Hoch. See the full gallery on his [SmugMug](#) page.





**National Home Chairman**  
**Mike McGrath**



There are currently 80 kids and 50 parents on campus for a total of 130 residents. Illinois Home # 1 is occupied and #2 is being applied for.

Santa's annual Christmas visit will be on December 5 and Cootie Christmas is on December 6 this year.

Some great pics on the [National Home website](#) showing both the new mower and 4- wheeler. Also, a nice "thank you" to our Post for the 12th Annual Judd-a-Thon.

Don't forget the Helpline at 800-313 4200!

Thank you for the great support and "blessings" to all and to our National Home.

## **Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy Competitions**

### **Mark Overstreet, Chair**

On November 15<sup>th</sup>, nine judges gathered to score the Patriot's Pen and Voice of Democracy entries. This year's theme for both competitions was "How are you showing patriotism and support for our country?"

We had a total of 80 Patriot's Pen entries. The following schools participated:

- Bethany Lutheran School
- Crone Middle School
- Granger Middle School
- Gregory Middle School
- Kennedy Junior High School
- St. Raphael Catholic School

Our top three Patriot's Pen Essays were the following:

1. Olivia Z, Kennedy Junior High, 6th Grade
2. Aarya S, Gregory Middle School, 8th Grade
3. Grace B, St Raphael School, 7th Grade

We had a total of 15 Voice of Democracy entries. The following schools were represented:

- East Aurora HS (1)
- Montini Catholic (1)
- Naperville Central HS (5)
- Naperville North HS (3)
- Neuqua Valley HS (1)
- Oswego East HS (1)
- Plainfield East HS (1)
- Waubonsie Valley HS (2)

Our top three Voice of Democracy Audio Essays were the following:

1. Moiz H, NCHS, 11th Grade
2. Shriya T, WVHS, 9th Grade
3. Samarth A, WVHS, 9th Grade

We will be presenting awards to the Post winners immediately prior to the December 9 Post meeting. The VOD Post first place earns an award of \$1000, second \$500, third, \$250. The PP Post first place earns an award of \$500, the second \$250, and third \$150.

Our first place winner in each competition will advance to District. The VOD District winner will be announced on January 10<sup>th</sup>, PP District winner will be announced on January 25<sup>th</sup>.



**Auxiliary President  
Maryann Groner**



District 19 welcomed National Auxiliary President Lois Callahan and Department of Illinois Auxiliary President Diane Aherns to the annual steak fry. Besides a delicious meal, the community supported our fund-raising efforts with chances to win baskets and a 50/50 drawing as well as purchase tasty bake sale items. District Jr. Vice President /Auxiliary Sr. Vice President Berni Budny's table decorations made the event more festive. Berni and Auxiliary President Maryann Groner are pictured with Lois.

November started off with Bingo at Arista Health care. Each month Lucy Hoy and volunteers Kathy Lukavsky, Kathy Thornton, and Maryann Groner spend an hour of community outreach with the residents who enjoy cash prizes and cookies. Join us on the first Monday of the month at 2:00.

The Veterans Day ceremonies were held on Rotary Hill this year. Besides a field of American flags, the moving Vietnam Memorial Wall was on display.

Our usual visit to the Veterans at Hines will be on December 9. Arrive at the Post at 6:15 for bus transportation and spend an evening with the men and women in the spinal ward assisting in bingo.

The Turkey Raffle, our biggest general fund raiser, was held on November 22. The Auxiliary again had an array of baskets as well as our popular lottery board, booze basket, 50/50 drawing and gift cards. Everyone had a wonderful time. Please consider signing up to help to make next year's an even bigger success for us.

## 2025 Veterans Day

Photos courtesy of Jim Hoch. See the full gallery on his [SmugMug](#) page.



**Post Information**

Mailing Address: Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873  
908 W. Jackson  
Naperville, IL 60540

Phone Number: **(630) 420-9820**

Website: <https://www.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.**

**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 Email:** kendallgramvfw3873@gmail.com

**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

**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
Adjutant	Jason Sharpton	
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 Kueltz	(630) 898-8760
Guard	Roger Budny	(630) 205-8745
Chaplain	Bob Grember	(630) 960-1998
1-Year Trustee	Craig Frier	(630) 373-1186
2-Year Trustee	Leo Jaime	(773) 441-3887
3-Year Trustee	Jan Schrader	

**Committees**

Americanism	Leo Jaime	(773) 441-3887
Blood Drive	Ingrid Kanady	(847) 951-3300
Buddy Poppy	Bob Colby	(630) 301-2664
Building	Mike Rechenmacher	(630) 244-3747
Color Guard	Dennis Regan	(630) 361-4644
Communications	Dennis Lukavsky	(630) 272-9064
Eighth Grade Awards	Tom Benton	(630) 579-8514
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	Mike Rechenmacher	(630) 244-3747
Membership	Jennifer Slown	
Legislative	Staci Boyer	(773) 351-4646
National Home	Mike McGrath	(630) 357-2680
Patriot's Pen	Mark Overstreet	(773) 517-7346
Safety	Mike McGrath	(630) 357-2680
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	Debbie Smith	
Secretary	Nancy Marinello	(630) 420-1717
Treasurer	Leo Hart	(630) 816-0506
Chaplain	Geri Tice	(630) 201-4852
Guard	Mary Ellen DiMatteo	(630) 664-1612
Conductor	Kathy Thornton	(630) 667-6740
3 yr Trustee	Brenda Hasler	
2 yr Trustee	Julie Cunningham	
1 yr Trustee	Amy Ownby	



# VFW Post 3873 Upcoming Events



## December 2025

- Mon 12/01 : Auxiliary Bingo, Arista Healthcare, 2:00pm
- Tues 12/02 : Hines Outreach, 10:00am-2:00pm, Post
- Wed 12/03 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post; Veteran Business Connection After Hours, 6:00pm, Canteen
- Sat 12/06 : Breakfast with Santa, Post; Monarch Landing Visit, 10:00am
- Tues 12/09 : Hines Hospital Visit, 6:15pm Meet at Post, back by 9:00pm
- Wed 12/10 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Thurs 12/11 : VFW Post Meeting, 7:00pm, VFW Post
- Sat 12/13 : Brookdale Retirement Home, 10:00am; Army/Navy Game, 1:30pm Canteen OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
- Sun 12/14 : Members Family Breakfast, 9:00am-12:00pm, Post
- Mon 12/15 : Veteran Business Connection Meeting, 8:00am, POST (note change)
- Wed 12/17 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Thurs 12/18 : Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00pm, VFW Post
- Sat 12/20 : Space Force Birthday; Tabor Hills Visit, 10:00am
- Mon 12/22 : Veteran Business Connection Meeting, 8:00am, POST (note chage)
- Wed 12/24 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Sat 12/27 : Story Point Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am; Turkey Raffle, 6:00pm-9:00pm, VFW Post
- Wed 12/31 : Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post

## Upcoming Events

- 1/7 Veteran Business Connection after hours - Canteen 6-9pm
- 1/8 Holiday Decor take down
- 1/20 Veteran Business Connection Meeting at Rosies 8am
- 1/28 Healing Fields Committee Meeting 11am Fort Hill
- 2/4 Veteran Business Connection after hours - Canteen 6-9pm
- 2/7 Ross singing classics 7-9pm
- 2/8 Disney Karaoke - National Home Fundraiser
- 2/15 Veteran Owned Business Fair / Resource Fair 12-4
- 2/17 Veteran Business Connection Meeting at Rosies 8am
- 2/18 - 4/3 Fish Fry 2026: 2/20,2/27,3/6,3/13,3/20,3/27,4/3
- 2/21 Mardi Gras Casino Night. Fundraiser for Naperville Responds

Follow us 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 for easy access. You can also find past KendallGram links on all of our social media channels as well. ALL upcoming events are also on this [Ticket Source link!](#)



### November/December 2025

- [National Convention Returns to VFW Founding City](#)
- [Leading the Organization](#)
- [Fighting Hunger at VFW's Convention](#)
- [VFW Launches Combat Tested Gaming](#)

\*\*Attention VFW members: If you have written a book or an e-book during an IDW or AGW, submit a nonreturnable copy (on a disc to the e-book) with a brief description (submitted as a Microsoft Word doc or .rtf) to other queries to [marketing@vfw.org](mailto:marketing@vfw.org). Deliver the book or book, nonreturnable, or e-book; and include VFW specific details. The authors name, book title and cover, publisher, and ISBN will appear in the online VFW magazine paper to help our members access, share.