

THE KENDALL-GRAM



Volume 20 Issue 01
January 2020

A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873

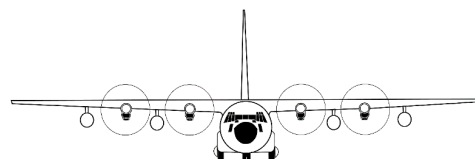


Commander Pablo Araya



We're on the cusp of a new decade and everywhere you look, you'll see one of those worn out "End-O-Year" reviews, highlighting a laundry list of "incredible" milestones from 2019. Well, let me say from the start, I refuse to rehash the Post's amazing year last year. Who wants to revisit January 2019, when we held the fantastic 75th Anniversary Gala in honor of our namesake and simultaneously marked the 100th anniversary of WWI? And no one wants to read about last year's best, most attended Fish Fry season in Kendall history. Certainly no one wants to hear me go on about Memorial Day and the many solemn, well attended remembrance ceremonies. While they were a perfect tribute to those that gave their all, followed by a parade that was second to none, I'm not going to mention it. Nor will I bring up the festive 4th of July Post celebration and two raucous and delicious pig roasts in 2019. If I were to review the year, I would definitely highlight the 2019 record breaking Judd-A-Thon, where nearly \$30,000 was raised for the VFW National Home for Children. But I'm not going to do that. Just as I won't note the best golf outing EVER! And Veterans Day? Sure, it was cold, and the Post sponsored the Healing Fields once again. Our members were busy visiting local schools to attend a myriad of ceremonies and the Kendall Cooks out did themselves at our annual Veterans Day dinner. But who wants to hear about that, right? It's in the rearview mirror and I'm not going to write about it. Then there was the Turkey Raffle. Sure, we hit record numbers in both revenue and attendance, but it's already been talked about and rehashed. Frankly, this column is not the appropriate place to brag about it. Our bi-monthly Band of Brothers and Sisters Breakfasts, the donations we've received for the Canteen's display case, the Post's All-State designation which keeps the Kendall streak going, the Hines visits, the Saturday morning senior residential visits...they are all old news. No one wants to hear about all that, right? So, I'll just keep this column short and to the point this month. I hope you all had a wonderful Christmas and Hanukah. I pledge to make 2020 an even better year than 2019, even if no one fully realizes what we accomplished last year while continuing to be the best VFW Post in the country. I'd also be happy to give you the details of last year's achievements when we see each other during any of the many events occurring in the coming year.

Fly Navy!

Junior Vice Commander**Todd Schuneman**

This past holiday season, I had the pleasure to participate in several veteran holiday events. The first one was Operation Christmas Cheer (OCC), held at Lovell VA hospital. The VFW, along with many volunteers, have delivered gifts and holiday cheer to the Veteran's Administration hospital in North Chicago for over fifty years. During the day, the volunteers sing Christmas carols and deliver presents, seeing about 300 patients. The gift boxes contain approximately sixty-five items, including fresh fruit, socks, games, books, gift cards, and other items to make the holidays a little nicer for the veterans. This would not be as wonderful an event if it were not for the support of many individuals and local businesses donating the gift items, craft groups making homemade cards, and the church groups, JROTC, caring citizens, and Legion and VFW members assembling the gift boxes and visiting the veterans.

The second event was a Christmas party held for sailors awaiting orders for school or PCS who are currently stationed at Great Lakes Naval Training Base and who could not go home for the holidays. Winthrop Harbor Memorial Post 7448 hosted its annual party for approximately 200 sailors. All the food was donated and prepared by the Post and Auxiliary members. Those sailors who were 21 or older were able to partake in a little libation. The extra food was sent back to base for the sailors standing watch to enjoy in lieu of having to eat chow hall food. There was a DJ, karaoke, and dancing where Santa, Mrs. Claus, and Santa's little helpers also made an appearance. All-in-all, they had a great time decompressing for a little while.

In addition to enjoying both events, these experiences reinforced to me that no one takes care of veterans better than veterans. Happy New Year Everyone!

Dates to Remember

Jan 1 – New Year's Day

Jan 4 – Visit with Vets at Monarch Landing, 10:00 am

Jan 7 – Hines Outreach Team, 9:00 am - 1:30 pm

Jan 8 – Yoga for Veterans, 9:30 am

Jan 9 – VFW Meeting, 7:00 pm

Jan 11 – Visit with Vets at Brookdale, 10:00 am

Jan 14 – Hines Hospital Visit, 6:15 pm

Jan 15 – Yoga for Veterans, 9:30 am

Jan 16 – Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00 pm

Jan 18 – Visit with Vets at Independence Village, 10:00 am

Jan 18 – Legion Dinner, 6:00 pm

Jan 18 – 19th District VOD Awards Dinner

Jan 22 – Yoga for Veterans, 9:30 am

Jan 25 – Visit with Vets at Tabor Hills, 10:00 am

Jan 26 – 19th District Patriot's Pen Award Lunch

Jan 29 – Yoga for Veterans, 9:30 am

Turkey Raffle

The annual Post and Auxiliary Turkey Raffle was held on November 23rd. Every year we have a tremendous turn out from the local community and this year proved to be no different. Both the upstairs hall and downstairs areas were packed with people hoping to win turkeys, prime ribs, and various other prizes from the many raffles held throughout the evening. The final numbers are in and this Turkey Raffle set a new revenue record that will be used to cover our operating expenses for the coming year. Thanks to all who came out to participate and a special thank you to all who helped sell raffle tickets and distribute prizes.

Auxiliary Report from President Kathy McNally

With a Merry Ho Ho Ho, Santa and his elves visited the adults and children at our Post this Christmas. Our Post party was well attended, and we are grateful to Kathy Thornton and her crew for organizing the Commander's Children's Party, which was a great success! Isn't it nice to be able to gather with our brothers and sisters at this time of year and celebrate the season?

Our Turkey Raffle results are in! With Kristen Jungles' leadership on the Auxiliary Turkey Raffle Committee, we are still light years ahead of previous Turkey Raffle earnings and almost equal to last year's record-breaking total. Still waiting for one more corporate donation to meet and exceed. Next time you see them, be sure to thank our veteran and Senior Vice Kristen and her team: Berni Budny, Mary Ellen Dimatte, Darlene Kwarta, Marti Lennert, Nancy Marinello, Bertha Novaczyk, Mary Talerico, Kathy Thornton, and Amy Yore -- the hardest working girls in tutus (and other such finery at the event). There were many other members who participated and we are grateful to everyone who helped us to raise funds for our veterans at this, the biggest fundraiser of the year for our Post.

January brings with it snow and blowing cold...and a quiet month where we can reflect on our successes as an Auxiliary and look forward to a new year of opportunities to serve our veterans. Come out to our next meeting on January 16th. Our business meeting is brief and our follow-up meeting in the Canteen offers your first beverage - on the house! Make this one of your resolutions -- attend an Auxiliary meeting soon.

And at this time, I join our Commander in wishing all of our members and families the very best of blessings and happiness in the New Year. Happy 2020!

National Home for Children by Mike McGrath

The first weekend of December was an exciting time for the staff, the families, and especially the kids at the National Home. The kids were treated to a Christmas party hosted by the Military Order of the Cootie, including a visit from Santa, himself. That evening, Santa travelled by fire truck to the various houses around the campus to visit with families and to give out presents to the kids. Needless to say, there was a lot of excitement and happiness.

Many thanks to all who helped support the National Home for Children in 2019. Let's do it again in 2020.



You can see additional photos at:

Cootie Christmas Party: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/vfwnationalhome/albums/72157712161986473>

Santa Visits: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/vfwnationalhome/albums/72157712158766511>

Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen

During December, Post Commander Pablo Araya, Auxiliary Senior Vice President Kristen Jungels, and Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen Chairman Carmen Iacullo recognized this year's Post winners of the Voice of Democracy audio-essay and Patriot's Pen written essay scholarship competitions. Each winner was presented with an award certificate and monetary award in their classrooms in front of their teachers and peers. Allie and Sophia will represent the Post at the upcoming District 19 competitions in January.

Voice of Democracy



1st Place - Allie Conwell (left) and 2nd Place - Mia Fitzgerald (right)
(Naperville North High School)



3rd Place - Erin Alcott
(Nequa Valley High School)



1st Place - Sophia Wang
(Scullen Middle School)

Patriot's Pen



2nd Place - Olivia Moore
(Granger Middle School)



From left: 5th Place - Emma Orend, 3rd Place - Aaron Hunter,
5th Place - Alex Kang, and 4th Place - Claire Chen
(Kennedy Junior High School)

Pearl Harbor Day Luncheon

The Aurora Council of the Navy League sponsored its 50th annual Pearl Harbor Day Memorial Luncheon last month. The luncheon originally observed Pearl Harbor Day by honor local Pearl Harbor survivors and recently evolved to recognize and honor all WWII veterans. Many members of Post 3873 were in attendance as several of our own WWII veterans were honored. Pictured from left to right are WWII veterans Joe Marinello, Don O'Reilly, and Dick McLaughlin. (photo by Jim Hoch)



Auxiliary Recognizes Naperville Fire and Police



The Auxiliary recently recognized members of the Naperville Fire Department and Naperville Police Department for their ongoing support of our veterans and veteran related activities. Members of both departments have participated in many activities including writing letters to Honor Flight veterans and providing Christmas cards for veterans in local senior centers. Certificates of Appreciation were presented to both departments by Kathy Thornton and Dar Kwartka. Pictured from left to right are Bureau Chief James Kubinski, Dar Kwartka, Deputy Chief Amy Scheller, Naperville Fire Chief Mark Puknaitis, and Police Commander Sherry Meine. (photo by Kathy Thornton)

Children's Christmas Party



On December 8th, the Auxiliary hosted a Christmas Party for children and grandchildren of Post and Auxiliary members. The children participated in a gift-wrapping activity for others who are less fortunate before engaging in games and crafts of their own. The kids were then treated to a special visit from Santa, who made a special trip to the Post to meet with them. Each child received a special gift from Santa and had the opportunity to let him know how good he or she had been throughout the year. Special thanks to Auxiliary member Es Marti for delivering all of the gifts wrapped by the children to the Midwest Shelter for Homeless Veterans.



Important: Contact Me If You Still Need a Printed Newsletter

The Post is happy to continue mailing copies of the Kendall-Gram to members who do not have internet access. Over the years our printing and postage costs have risen dramatically. To the extent possible, we much prefer to spend our money on veterans, their families, and worthy community initiatives rather than on printing and postage. The Kendall-Gram is available at the Post website (www.napervfw3873.org) and each month a link directly to the newsletter is e-mailed to members who have updated their e-mail addresses with Mike Barbour. We encourage each member with internet access to read the Kendall-Gram in that fashion. If you have internet access and are not receiving Post information from Mike Barbour, please let us know your email address so we can add you to Mike’s distribution list.

And most importantly, if you currently receive a printed Kendall-Gram through the mail and would like to continue receiving it in that manner, please let me know by March 1, 2020. You may call me directly at (630) 280-9347 or you may contact me through regular mail (908 W. Jackson; Naperville, IL 60540) or e-mail (vfwpost3873@sbcglobal.net). If we don’t hear from you by that date, we will assume you no longer wish to receive a copy through the mail. Thanks for your help!

Band of Brothers and Sisters Breakfast

Those attending the December Band of Brothers and Sisters Breakfast received a special treat. Santa was TDY to the Post to ensure our veterans and their families and friends had been nice throughout the year. These breakfasts are free to attend and are held on the second Sunday of each even numbered month in the upstairs hall of the Post. Members, other veterans, family, and friends are all invited to share a meal while socializing with others who share our common interest in helping veterans. The next breakfast is scheduled on February 9th at 9:00 am.





Post 3873 Calendar of Events January 2020



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 New Year's Day	2	3	4 10:00 am - Visit Vets at Monarch Landing
5 1:00 pm - Take Down Christmas Decorations	6	7 9:00 am - 1:30 pm Hines Mobile Outreach Team Visit	8 9:30 am - Yoga for Vets	9 7:00 pm - VFW Meeting	10	11 10:00 am - Visit Vets at Brookdale
12	13	14 6:15 pm - Hines Hospital Visit	15 9:30 am - Yoga for Vets	16 7:00 pm - Auxiliary Meeting	17	18 10:00 am - Visit Vets at Independence Village 6:00 pm - Legion Dinner
19	20	21	22 9:30 am - Yoga for Vets	23	24	25 10:00 am - Visit Vets at Tabor Hills
26	27	28	29 9:30 am - Yoga for Vets	30	31	

Hines Hospital Visits

The Chairman of the Hospital Committee would like to remind everyone that the Post visits the Hines VA Hospital every second Tuesday of the month. Visits are not made in July and August. We leave the Post at 6:15 p.m. and return at approximately 9:15 p.m. Transportation is provided. Everyone is invited to attend, so why not come out to spend quality time with some very appreciative veterans?

Canteen Hours

	Open	Close
Mon—Thur	3:00 p.m.	10:00 pm/Midnight
Fri—Sat	Noon	10:00 pm/2:00 am
Sunday	Noon	5:00 pm/6:00 pm

If at any time between the first close hour and the second, listed above, there are no more than four customers in the Canteen, 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. Give the article and/or your photo to the on-duty bartender. It is important to put your name and phone number on the item in case there are any questions. All photos MUST include where and why it was taken and the names of those in the picture. Photos without captions will not be used. Please submit all articles by the 10th of the month. Items submitted after the 10th will be considered for the following month.

Kendall-Gram Editor: Tom Parker
(630) 280-9347

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	Pablo Araya	(312) 505-4377
Sr. Vice Commander	Brian Byrne	(630) 901-6758
Jr. Vice Commander	Todd Schuneman	(815) 791-4178
Quartermaster	Phil Maughan	(630) 383-1974
Ass't Quartermaster	John Shaw	(630) 961-3479
Ass't Quartermaster	Paul Quinn	(312) 340-4424
Adjutant	Josh Kramer	(440) 864-6988
Judge Advocate	Leo Jaime	(773) 441-3887
Surgeon	Bill Howland	(630) 369-0087
Service Officer	Mike Barbour	(630) 240-1645
Officer of the Day	Lou Kuelto	(630) 898-8760
Guard	Tom Scott	(815) 577-7748
Chaplain	Jim Oftedal	(630) 357-4030
1-Year Trustee	Lloyd McKee	(630) 922-8804
2-Year Trustee	Tom Parker	(630) 280-9347
3-Year Trustee	Bob Bronson	(630) 978-2143

Committees

Americanism		
Blood Drive	Nina Petru	(630) 871-9596
Buddy Poppy	Bob Colby	(630) 301-2664
Building	Mike Rechenmacher	(630) 961-1377
Color Guard	Jim Sarns	(630) 234-6292
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) 961-3479
House	Ron Beata	(630) 717-9007
House	Bob Colby	(630) 301-2664
House	Wick Kirby	(630) 864-7574
Membership	Brian Byrne	(630) 901-6758
Legislative	Frank Haynes	(630) 357-2906
National Home	Mike McGrath	(630) 357-2680
Patriot's Pen	Carmen Iacullo	(708) 969-7143
Public Relations	Mike Barbour	(630) 240-1645
Safety	Mike McGrath	(630) 357-2680
Scout Liaison	Todd Schuneman	(815) 791-4178
Social Media	Dave Angelus	(630) 596-3245
Voice of Democracy	Carmen Iacullo	(708) 969-7143

Auxiliary Officers

President	Kathy McNally	(708) 642-5986
Sr. Vice President	Kristen Jungles	(630) 816-6841
Jr. Vice President	Bernadette Budny	(630) 717-9471
Treasurer	Peggy Beata	(630) 717-9007
Secretary	Peggy Beata	(630) 717-9007
Chaplain	Nancy Marinello	(630) 464-3696
Guard	Margaret Linnert	(630) 596-9930
Conductress	Bertha Novaczyk	(630) 998-6186

Veterans of Foreign Wars
Judd Kendall Post 3873
908 W. Jackson
Naperville, IL 60540

PRESORT STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
Fox Valley IL
Permit #441

