

THE KENDALL-GRAM



Volume 20 Issue 05
May 2020

A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



Commander Pablo Araya



I've had enough bad news for 2020. A few days ago, I turned off the TV and quit watching the 24-hour news cycle. I haven't missed it. I have instead been bidding my time with the occasional work request, exercise, reading, and I have started on my second jigsaw puzzle! I am also spending a lot of time completing many of the Post projects I had set for myself when I became Commander in 2018.

We recently hired an outside vendor to come in and give the Post a top to bottom cleaning. This included not just dusting and mopping, but disinfecting tables, chairs, and other surfaces. All the mats were removed, washed, and they were also disinfected. This past week we decided to strip and wax the entire first floor. Bear in mind that we run a seven day a week, 52 week a year operation and don't get the chance to do this kind of extended work in the Canteen very often. As a matter of fact, the best guess on when it was last done was 25 years ago! Bob Rex is putting on the final coats of wax this week and the floor shines like a skating rink! A few weeks ago, Chris took it upon himself to repaint the parking lot and Mike continues to maintain the front yard, making it look like the approach to a short par 3! Carey has also used the down time to come in to reorganize and spruce up both the upstairs and downstairs bars.

Our goal was to have the Post disinfected, gleaming, and shiny new in time for our Memorial Day observances. But, as you have all heard by now, the parade and follow-on ceremonies have been cancelled for this year. That is not to say we have stopped considering viable options for remembering and recognizing our fallen. Nor have we made a decision on decorating the numerous grave sites of Naperville's veterans. Regardless of our planned or cancelled activities, we must all, collectively and individually, keep the memories of the service men and women who gave their last full measure of devotion for our freedom in the forefront of our thoughts and prayers as we approach Memorial Day 2020.

Fly Navy!

Senior Vice Commander
Brian Byrne



Well, we all thought May would be off to a merry start. As I write this, I am deeply engaged in our nation's new fight against COVID-19. I work for a medical supplies company, so we have gone full speed ever since mid-March when the first steps were taken by the government in this battle. My work force and I were designated as essential workers even before the State announced it (kind of funny thinking that the private sector is a few steps ahead of the government).

One thing this has brought back to mind is the immediate aftermath of 9/11. I was stationed on the DMZ of Korea at the time and we joked about being in the safest place we could possibly be at that time. Back then, we knew where the 2 million North Koreans were who wanted to do us harm, thanks to satellite technology, but this time our enemy is harder to find. Another thing I have been reminded of is the power of selflessness. I remember how on my first day in the Army my fellow Lieutenants and I were introduced to the Army Values, namely selfless service. I have used that term a lot with my work force and my direct staff, and talked about how in times like this, selflessness is a requirement rather than an option to get through a crisis. At my workplace, we have witnessed firsthand the selflessness of others as we received a large donation of girl scout cookies and my company has spared no expenses on providing us with box lunches (no buffet style of course).

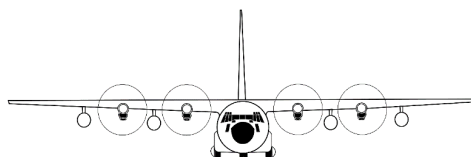
All in all, it's been kind of funny that the same values and habits that made me successful in the Army are resurfacing now. Hopefully, we will all be back together soon and can get back to business as usual. Until then, I hope everyone is safe and stays healthy!

National Home for Children by Mike McGrath

Michigan's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" directive has impacted several things at the National Home for Children. The directive precludes the acceptance of any new residents at the current time. Rest assured that current residents and families are being cared for and as always, the National Home will continue to do so.

During this time, we ask that any donations to the National Home be earmarked for the General Operations and Maintenance Fund. This will help us pay our ongoing bills. Due to Michigan's directive, the National Home has been required to temporarily furlough staff to help minimize costs. Illinois Homes I and II are well funded, but because we receive no government funding, donations are extremely helpful and important to help us continue our day to day operations.

The Helpline at the National Home for Children continues to be up and running during these difficult times. The number is (800) 313-4200. As always, we are very appreciative for your efforts and generosity during these difficult times. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at (630) 357-2680 or mackcav1@sbcglobal.net.

Junior Vice Commander**Todd Schuneman**

May 8th commemorates the 75th anniversary of V-E Day, the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany to the Allied forces in 1945, thus ending World War II in Europe. For almost six years the war had been raging in Europe beginning with Germany's invasion of Poland on September 1, 1939. After the first American forces arrived in Great Britain on January 26, 1942, slowly, but surely the Allies closed the ring on Nazi Germany after decisive battles at El Alamein and Stalingrad. Once Italy quit the Axis in 1943 and the Allies landed successfully at Normandy, it was only a matter of time before the Nazi machine was smashed.

On 8 May 1945, huge crowds took to the streets to drink and dance the night away in Paris and Brussels, just as they did in London. In Rome, it was reported that the atmosphere was sober and calm, even among the civilians. Meanwhile, in some parts of Europe, there were no celebrations at all. On the other hand, in the United States, with flags still at half-mast to mark the passing of President Roosevelt just a few weeks earlier, thousands crowded into New York's Times Square with news of the surrender. Other celebrations took place in cities across the nation. But, in general, the reaction to V-E Day was more muted than in Europe. President Truman's message to the American people was clear. "If I could give you a single watchword for the coming months, that word is work, work, and more work. We must work to finish the war. Our victory is only half over."

The hardships of life form our true character. The Americans who were born between the two World Wars and saved the world from tyranny have certainly earned their character badges. For this, they are the "Greatest Generation."

Dates to Remember

May 2 – Post Blood Drive, 7:30 am - 1:00 pm

May 10 – Mother's Day

May 12 – Plant Sale Pick-up, 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

May 25 – Memorial Day

Two Bits from Quartermaster Phil Maughan

The ramifications of the pandemic currently sweeping across the globe are serious and broad in scope. Our first concern, of course, is the threat of death and the severity of the illness even for those who survive. The shelter at home and extended business closures have had a dramatic impact on society. The unprecedented explosion in employment claims is a personal crisis as well as an economic one. We have all heard of the number of businesses, not for profits, and other organizations who have suffered greatly from a total or near total loss of revenue. Many will not be able to reopen once the shutdown orders are lifted. I want to assure you that our Post will survive this difficult period. Our Post has been shut down since March 16 and clearly, our revenue has been affected. Since that date, we have had no fish fries, no hall rentals, and no canteen sales. While we have cancelled or reduced all external services wherever possible, there are still a number of bills each week that must be paid. Fortunately, we have had elected officers for many years who were careful stewards of the Post's financial affairs. Recognizing that difficult times can occur at a moment's notice, we built a financial reserve (a rainy day fund) to ensure the continued existence of our Post should we encounter a difficult situation. While it is too early to know how much longer our Post may be shut down or how long it may take for our business to grow back to our normal levels, I am confident that our Post will continue to make a difference in the lives of veterans and their families and in our community for many years to come.

Auxiliary Report from President Kathy McNally

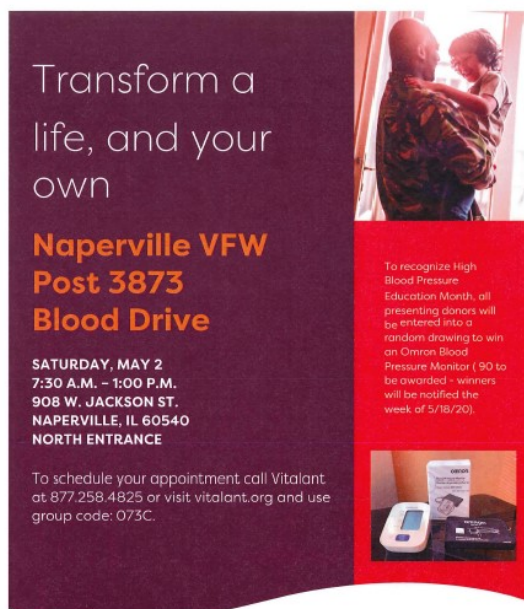
These are unprecedented times. We are living history. I wonder if our WWII families recognized that THEY were living history when they were going through the war efforts to support victory gardens, rubber, tin, newspaper drives, and more. We likely remember family stories of "recycling" and doing without during those years. One particular memory which my mother shared with me: they had to use one meat ration coupon for a can of pork 'n beans because of that little piece of bacon at the top. So, no pork 'n beans at THEIR war-time table!

Our member meetings have been postponed for now. We all miss social contact and are hopeful the window will soon open when we can see each other and conduct our normal business meetings. May is usually the busiest month of our Auxiliary calendar. With the Memorial Day Committee cancelling this year's events, it seems as if we will have a very different summer. Here we sit with our idle hands - or do we?

Our most vulnerable, the elderly and compromised, are foremost in our thoughts. I've heard from members who report that they are checking up on these, our Veteran families, with phone calls. They are volunteering for Meals on Wheels, they are helping out at the Food Pantry, and they are delivering meals and shopping for groceries for those unable to go outside. Our members who are adept at sewing are whipping up batches of masks! We are not idle.

Nor are we idle on the administrative front. Our Department President, Billie Guthalls, recently phoned to check in on our Auxiliary. I was happy to report our health and activity. Our District is also busy planning for contingency. Our Memorial Service, Poppy Display Contest and May meeting will happen all in one day, currently scheduled for May 31 at the Downers Grove American Legion.

We have been living this quarantine for a little more than a month. There seem to be good signs on the horizon that social distancing has helped to stem the tide. Compare this to the four-year efforts and sacrifices made during WWII. There is no comparison in time, but we can stand proud among our patriots for how we've taken up the cause to fight this new enemy. And I'm proud to stand with all our Sisters and Brothers in the Auxiliary and Post. Keep safe and keep healthy!



Transform a life, and your own

**Naperville VFW
Post 3873
Blood Drive**

SATURDAY, MAY 2
7:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
908 W. JACKSON ST.
NAPERVILLE, IL 60540
NORTH ENTRANCE

To schedule your appointment call Vitalant at 877.258.4825 or visit vitalant.org and use group code: 073C.

To recognize High Blood Pressure Education Month, all presenting donors will be entered into a random drawing to win an Omron Blood Pressure Monitor (90 to be awarded - winners will be notified the week of 5/18/20).

Post Blood Drive

Saturday, May 2, 2020

7:30 am - 1:00 pm

Donations by Appointment Only

Contact Vitalant at (877) 258-4825 or Vitalant.org

To Schedule Your Donation Time

Please Wear a Face Mask or Face Covering

If you have recovered from Covid-19, please consider signing up to donate plasma

Food Pantry Fish Fry

When the Post fish fries were cancelled, Belgio's Catering was left with hundreds of pounds of cod and potatoes and gallons of chili fixings. Rather than let this go to waste, Commander Araya, Phil Maughan, and Tom Parker joined the Belgio's team to surprise clients of the West Suburban Community Pantry with hot meals as families received food boxes from the pantry. Meals were provided to almost 120 families while Pablo, Phil, and Tom helped load groceries into everyone's cars.



Memorial Day 2020

As most of you know, this year's Memorial Day parade and associated activities have been cancelled. This year, we won't be able to come together as a group to conduct our morning remembrance ceremonies, to walk or ride in our outstanding parade, or participate in the ceremony at Central Park just before enjoying a meal together at the Post. Even though we won't be together this year, let's not forget the meaning of Memorial Day. This is the day we memorialize the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country, our freedoms, and our way of life.

Given the recent extension of the stay at home order, it is unlikely that we will be able to conduct any kind of ceremony to honor our fallen comrades. There is a possibility that we will place flags at the gravesites of veterans in our local cemeteries, but that will be determined and communicated at a later date. Regardless of what we are allowed to actually do on Memorial Day this year, please take time out of your day to remember those that lost their lives in the service of our country. As veterans, we understand all too well the meaning of their sacrifices and our fellow brothers and sisters in arms deserve nothing less than a little of our time, if even in the security of our homes.

Plant Sale by Marcy Maughan

This is my 20th year of having the plant sale and thanks to everyone who ordered plants, this will be the largest plant sale ever! This means that we will need help more than ever before. Volunteers will be needed at 7:00 am on Tuesday, May 12 to help unload the truck. This will take about an hour and is a relatively straightforward process. If you have or know of older kids who are looking for a break from their studies, encourage them to come out to help. After the truck is unloaded, we will sort the plants and start pulling the orders. If you want to help with this, but don't know one plant from another, don't worry. We will pair you up with someone that does.


At 1:00 pm, we will need volunteers to help people get their orders to their cars. Everything is being done on the front lawn of the Post, so there aren't any hills to walk up or down. Again, having younger folks available to help in the afternoon would be great, especially if they don't want to get up early to help unload the truck. If you have a wagon, wheelbarrow, or cart we can use, bring it along as that will make work easier for everyone.

There has been no hall rental, no canteen proceeds, and no income since the shelter in place order began, so this will be our first opportunity to bring revenue into the Post. So, bring your mask and volunteer if even for an hour or two. We will maintain social distancing protocols as much as possible and welcome all who can come out to help. It's a one-day event, but it takes the help of everyone to make it happen.



Post 3873 Calendar of Events May 2020



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--------------------|---|---|-----------|----------|--------|---|
| | | | | | 1 | 2 7:30 am - 1:00 pm Blood Drive at Post |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 |
| 10 | 11 | 12 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm Plant Sale Pick-up | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 |
| Mother's Day 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 |
| 24 | 25  Memorial Day | 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 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) 886-9102 |

Committees

| | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|----------------|
| Americanism | Tom Parker | (630) 280-9347 |
| Blood Drive | Ingrid Kanady | (847) 951-3300 |
| 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

