

# THE KENDALL-GRAM



Volume 22 Issue 01

January 2022

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



## Commander Todd Schuneman



Happy New Year! As we begin 2022, we once again are faced with uncertainties. It seems that every other week the government is announcing a new Covid variant and threatening more restrictions and lock downs, thus, challenging the mission of our organization. Despite these challenges we must continue to find creative means by which to do more for veterans than anyone else. As members of the VFW, we understand first-hand the essence of rallying community support and the positive, life-changing impact we have on the world around us. That is why VFW members volunteer more than 9 million hours to community service projects annually. Volunteerism benefits morale, education, health services and civic projects. Making the decision to volunteer your time to our fellow veterans is an amazing way to give back and thank those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom. Everyone can help make a difference to a veteran and there are many opportunities to volunteer. One such way is the VA Voluntary Service program.

Since the VA's Voluntary Service (VAVS) program's inception in 1946, our members and supporters have been volunteering their time at VA medical facilities nationwide. They have donated hundreds of thousands of service hours annually and provide much needed support and companionship to our nation's heroes and their families. Making the decision to volunteer and donate your time to our brothers and sisters while they are receiving care at a VA facility is an amazing way to give back and thank those who have sacrificed so much for our freedom. The VFW VA Voluntary Service program offers a unique level of support and experience that only an organization with a strong service history like ours can provide. From experienced VFW mentors with a clear understanding of VA infrastructure and providing the support you need, to national recognition for volunteer accomplishments and dedication, we're here to ensure sure you get the most out of your volunteer service experience.

We have over 6,000 regular volunteers at over 150 health care facilities, our volunteer representatives perform a vital role at VA health care facilities nationwide. We can help identify volunteer opportunities that align with your interests, such as sports and recreation, social work, arts and music, personal assistance, writing, chapel services, companionship, transportation, and escort services, and so much more. This is just one of many ways in which we can volunteer our time and do more for veterans than anyone else.

**Senior Vice Commander****Leo Jaime**

Happy 2022! We made it!! I hope everyone had joyous and peaceful holidays.

I have good news and bad news. The good news is that we are close to 93% of membership. The bad news? We are only close to 93% membership. We need to step it up a notch, so that we can avoid the late spring crunch to get the numbers up to where we need them to be. The low hanging fruit is to have all our annual members pay their dues, or better yet, become life members. I need your support.

Our Post is recognized as a strong presence in Naperville, not just because we have the best bar in town, but because we provide a haven for veterans. There is not another place I'd rather go to, to feel welcome and comfortable among my peers, yes even among the Army guys. There are many vets in our community that are looking for that same type of place and it's our duty to let them know we are here to welcome them.

Realistically, having our annual members renew or convert to life membership will not, unfortunately, get us over the line this year. We need new members. We have young vets in our community coming back from conflicts in the Middle East that we endured these last 20 years. These young men and women need to tell their story, and what better place to tell it than at our Post. I need everyone to reach out and let our young vets know we are here for them. I may be sounding like a broken record by now, but it is a simple task. If you notice a young man or woman that has that certain walk, wears that certain hat or shirt, or displays a motivating bumper sticker, say hello, and let them know about our Post.

Thank you, and happy New Year. Ooh Rah!

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## Dates to Remember

Jan 1 – New Year's Day

Jan 4 – Hines Outreach Team Visit, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Jan 5 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am

Jan 8 – Visit Vets at Brookdale, 10:00 am

Jan 8 – District 19 VOD Awards Dinner, 6:00 pm

Jan 12 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am

Jan 13 – VFW Meeting, 7:00 pm

Jan 15 – Visit Vets at Independence Village, 10:00 am

Jan 15 – Legion Dinner, 6:00 pm

Jan 17 – Martin Luther King Jr. Day

Jan 19 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am

Jan 20 – Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00 pm

Jan 22 – Visit Vets at Story Point, 10:00 am

Jan 23 – District 19 Patriot's Pen Awards, 1:00 pm

Jan 26 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am

**Junior Vice Commander****Mike McGrath**

Army-Navy Game

A great game, great camaraderie, food, fun, and prizes! Congratulations on a hard-fought victory for the midshipmen of Navy and a great time for all at our Post's annual Army-Navy game extravaganza on December 11. What a great time and thanks to everyone for coming out to cheer on the teams and for bringing the delicious goodies to share.

National Home News

The National Home Board of Trustees has announced the selection of Michael Wilson as the new Executive Director of the VFW National Home for Children. Mr. Wilson is a retired Army National Guard Command Sergeant Major and is a veteran of both Operation Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom. He brings both a wealth of experience and a desire to help veterans and their families. Michael will begin his new role on January 3, 2022 and succeeds Fred Puffenberger, who retired in October.

Best wishes to everyone in the new year. Thank you for all you do, and we'll look forward to seeing you around the Post.

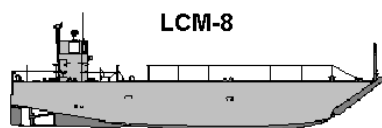
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## Auxiliary Report from President Kathy Thornton

Happy New Year to all Auxiliary and Post members and your families. May 2022 bring each of you good health and God's blessings. Wishing you peace in the new year. "Let there be peace on Earth and let it begin with me." (credit: Sy Miller, Jill Jackson). May God bless our veterans and those who continue to serve our Country.

A quick update on our "Painting on the Porch" event with Pinot's Palette on December 15. The event was very well attended, and many gave their paintings as Christmas presents. What a thoughtful and personal gift. Pinot's Palette also donated \$10 per painting to the Auxiliary. A fun night and a win-win for everyone.



**Service Officer Updates****Dennis Lukavsky**

This is a very helpful set of links offering information pertaining to burial honors that we are entitled to receive. If you are considering a National Cemetery as your final resting place and you're about my age, your time would be well spent looking through what the VA offers in terms of Military Honors. You can also check with the cemetery of interment for State VA benefits and for additional benefits, including a headstone placement marker. Thanks to George Cramer for sharing this valuable information.

**If the family needs the veteran's military records**

<https://www.va.gov/records/get-military-service-records/>

**Other forms**

<https://www.va.gov/find-forms/>

**Veteran headstones, markers, & other**

<https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/memorial-items/headstones-markers-medallions/>

**Frequently asked questions**

<https://www.cem.va.gov/faq.asp>

**Burial Flags**

<https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/memorial-items/burial-flags/>

**Presidential Memorial Certificate**

[https://www.cem.va.gov/docs/factsheets/Presidential\\_Memorial\\_Certificate.pdf](https://www.cem.va.gov/docs/factsheets/Presidential_Memorial_Certificate.pdf)

**National Cemetery Administration**

[https://www.cem.va.gov/docs/factsheets/NCA\\_Brochure.pdf](https://www.cem.va.gov/docs/factsheets/NCA_Brochure.pdf)

On a happier note, as the cost of living goes up, the VA ensures your benefit rates do, too. As of December 1, all compensation benefits rates increased by 6% to match adjustments made to Social Security benefits. If you receive VA compensation benefits, take a look at your new rates by going to [Compensation Graphs](#).

For those of you who have claims in progress and have received notification letters from the VA, you may have a 90-day extension added to your timeline. For claimants who received notification letters between July 2021 and December 31, 2021, the VA has added 90 days to your due date to file your response. This is due to delays in the Government Publishing Organization.

I wish each and every member of my VFW family a very safe, happy, and healthy New Year. HAPPY NEW YEAR!

## Patriotism in the Schools Update from Bob Colby

If you missed the joint Veterans Day dinner hosted by VFW Post 3873 and American Legion Post 43, you not only missed a great dinner but also several hundred “Thank You” notes written to us by local schoolchildren. Several schools participated, but most came from Maplebrook Elementary School here in Naperville. Most were what we are used to. Pictures from the kindergarteners, simple words of thanks from the first graders, etc. But then there was this gem. The author, Andrew Stiers, is a fifth grader at Maplebrook. We appreciate his powerful words.

### Sacrifice

*You Risked your life, all for the greater good.  
You did all of that, to give us a good childhood.  
You’ve made our country shine like a million stars.  
You’ve seen bloodshed, lost new friends,  
All to bring multiple wars to an end.  
You tend to your wounds,  
And I write this to whom,  
Devoted their life,  
To protect me, every day of my life,  
And rid me of troubles.  
Thank you, for your sacrifice.*

Thank you, Andrew, for your wonderful tribute to veterans! We have a long history with Maplebrook school. For many years, they have hosted a Buddy Poppy campaign around Memorial Day. This year, the staff and students distributed 750 poppies and raised over \$460! Thank you, students, faculty and staff of Maplebrook!

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## Children’s Christmas Party

Santa made an appearance at the Post’s Children’s Christmas Party on December 5. Santa had presents for all the children in attendance and thanks to Bertha for helping Santa distribute them. Games and prizes were part of the festivities, and the kids had a great time. Special thanks to Marty’s grandson Hayden for assisting with the games



## A Little Something From Your Editor

For those that know a little about me, you know there is an unshakeable part of my DNA that causes me to go a little crazy once a year, usually near the beginning of December. It's not because I know Christmas is right around the corner, but because of something even bigger - the Army-Navy football game. To be honest, I can't put my finger on the exact moment it started. I suspect that during those first few hours after having arrived at West Point so many years ago, not only did I receive my official haircut and issue of approved cadet clothing, but I was secretly exposed to a substance that even to this day causes me to blurt out "Beat Navy" anytime I hear someone say Go Army. This past year was no different and I took great joy in talking smack and taunting the Marines and Navy members of the Post. To be perfectly fair, Navy played an excellent second half and dominated the Army team. To all those rooting for Navy, congrats on a well-earned win.

Looking around the Canteen during the Post Army-Navy party caused me to reflect on a few things, hence my reason for writing my own column this month. There were groups of people cheering for either Army or Navy, not daring to sit too close to people from the other team. As I looked around the room, I couldn't help but to think back to the many gatherings I've attended over the past four decades where I sat with fellow members of the Army, hoping for another win, even if we did so while stationed or deployed overseas. It was a similar experience in that I was watching the game with friends and fellow veterans who had some sort of connection to one side or the other. Sure, comments were being tossed around like used face masks as people attempted to goad and ridicule each other, but there was no mistaking that it was all part of the bond and camaraderie we share at the Post. For one day, we draw a line in the sand and stand for one side or the other. But for the remainder of the year, we put all that aside and come together to support each other, to offer friendship, and to share something that no one in the civilian world can understand. The members of the Post have been there, have done that, and "get it" regardless of which branch they served in. While we all know in the backs of our minds that this bond exists, for me, it was rewarding to specifically take some time to think about it. Call it a silver lining we enjoy during these challenging and difficult times. Thanks to all of you for what you did while serving and for what you continue to do for veterans and the Post. I'm proud to be part of such a great group of men and women.

Here's wishing you all a prosperous 2022 but be forewarned. Sometime around Thanksgiving, the genetics will take over and I'll be back to ending every sentence with "Beat Navy!"



Unbeknownst to most, Jolly Old St. Nick made an unannounced visit to the Post only days after attending the Children's Christmas Party. Thankfully, Past Post Commander Pablo Araya was on hand to welcome him and to share stories of holiday cheer. While the full content of their conversation is not known, it is rumored that Santa remarked, "I don't always stop for a drink during the holidays. But when I do, I like to do it at VFW Post 3873."



# Post 3873 Calendar of Events January 2022



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1 New Year's Day
2	3	4 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Hines Community Outreach Team Visit	5 9:30 am - Yoga for Vets	6	7	8 10:00 am - Visit Vets at Brookdale 6:00 pm - District 19 VOD Awards Dinner
9	10	11	12 9:30 am - Yoga for Vets	13 7:00 pm - VFW Meeting	14	15 10:00 am - Visit Vets at Independence Village 6:00 pm - Legion Dinner
16	17 MLK Day	18	19 9:30 am - Yoga for Vets	20 7:00 pm - Auxiliary Meeting	21	22 10:00 am - Visit Vets at Story Point
23	24	25	26 9:30 am - Yoga for Vets	27	28	29
30 1:00 pm - District 19 Patriot's Pen Awards	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	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. 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](http://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	Todd Schuneman	(815) 791-4178
Sr. Vice Commander	Leo Jaime	(773) 441-3887
Jr. Vice Commander	Mike McGrath	(630) 357-2680
Quartermaster	Phil Maughan	(630) 383-1974
Ass't Quartermaster	John Shaw	(630) 961-3479
Adjutant	Matt Hoyt	(630) 362-5564
Judge Advocate	Lawrence Goss	(630) 728-9641
Surgeon	Bill Howland	(630) 369-0087
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	
1-Year Trustee	Bob Bronson	(630) 886-9102
2-Year Trustee	Craig Frier	
3-Year Trustee	Pablo Araya	(312) 505-4377

**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	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) 961-3479
House	Bob Colby	(630) 301-2664
House	Bob Tallon	(630) 561-9902
House	Tom Parker	(630) 280-9347
Membership	Leo Jaime	(773) 441-3887
Legislative	Frank Haynes	(630) 357-2906
National Home	Mike McGrath	(630) 357-2680
Patriot's Pen	Leo Jaime	(773) 441-3887
Safety	Mike McGrath	(630) 357-2680
Scout Liaison	Todd Schuneman	(815) 791-4178
Social Media	Dave Angelus	(630) 596-3245
Voice of Democracy	Leo Jaime	(773) 441-3887

**Auxiliary Officers**

President	Kathy Thornton	(630) 667-6704
Sr. Vice President	Bernadette Budny	(630) 717-9471
Jr. Vice President	Darlene Kwarta	
Treasurer	Leo Hart	
Secretary	Nancy Marinello	(630) 464-3696
Chaplain	Maryann Groner	(630) 363-8138
Guard	Mary Davidowski	
Conductress	Lucy Hoy	

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