

THE KENDALL-GRAM



Volume 22 Issue 02

February 2022

A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



Commander Todd Schuneman



Since becoming Commander, I have been exposed to and learned about the programs and intricacies of the VFW. One of the programs I have discovered is the Veterans of Foreign Wars Foundation. The Foundation is the official 501(c)(3) of the VFW. It exists to provide financial resources to the vital assistance programs of the VFW. It has created relationships and gathered supporters to fill in governmental assistance gaps for troops abroad, military families back in the U.S., and America's often-forgotten veterans. The programs are provided at no cost to the recipients nor Veterans of Foreign Wars affiliation.

The Foundation supports the following programs:

- Grants to VFW Posts, Auxiliaries, and Departments as well as qualifying nonprofits providing the vital support veterans and their families deserve.
- Scholarships to student veterans. The financial assistance they need to complete their educational goals without incurring excessive student loan debt.
- Support troops and their families in need of financial assistance for housing, medical or basic life needs with a grant.
- Sponsors "Welcome Home" and "Send Off" events to boost the morale of returning or deploying military units.
- Offer military veterans, regardless of when or where they served, with counsel and assistance to successfully navigate VA entitlement and disability claims.
- Sponsor admission to popular entertainment events and attractions for veterans and their families.

There are several ways we as VFW members and the community can support the VFW Foundation. The Foundation accepts monetary donations online, by mail, or via texting VFW to 80888. If you shop with Amazon, it receives money from the AmazonSmile program. Even your old car can be accepted as a donation. As a nonprofit organization, the VFW Foundation receives no government funding. It relies solely on individual donations and corporate sponsorships. Donations are tax-deductible charitable contributions and make a direct impact on how much help and financial support it can provide to veterans, service members, and their families in their time of need. .

Senior Vice Commander
Leo Jaime



Being a member of the Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873, our Post, means much more than having a place to hang our hats. It's also a place where we collaborate to ensure no veteran is left behind. In a recent meeting, one of our comrades shared a personal story that exemplified the VFW motto: No One Does More for Veterans. The comrade, a longtime member of the Legion, had recently joined our Post as a veteran of Desert Shield/Desert Storm. Just like many of us vets of the Gulf War, and not having served the full 20, he was under the impression he did not rate any VA benefits. But, after a brief conversation with some of our members, he learned that he did, in fact, rate VA Healthcare benefits regardless of income or employment status. Just like many of us, he may not "need" these benefits now, considering that there may be other healthcare options available through an employer or family member, but he will most likely need it in the future. Not having learned of his VA options and forfeiting what he rightly rates could have resulted in costly medical bills during retirement. This is just one single example of the intangible effects of being a member of our Post. There are many more stories that we can all share, not just on something we personally benefited from, but of the more fulfilling rewards of giving to and assisting each other. These are the stories we need to share with our local veterans who are not yet members of our Post. We owe it to them to ensure they are aware of available programs that could make their lives or the lives of their families more enjoyable.

Which brings me to Membership. We are at 93.6% with only four months to reach our goal of 100% plus. We can reach it, but (bear with me) I can't do it alone. I need your support. If you have not yet renewed your annual membership, please do so now. You can call me, and I can help you accomplish it. I need you to also continue to reach out to qualifying veterans in our community and have them join. We need between 17 and 20 new members. I have both printed and electronic literature to help us educate our yet-to-join vets. Call me at 773-441-3887 or email me at leo.jaime@gmail.com and I'll work with you on any prospect. Thank you, in advance.

Dates to Remember

Feb 1 – Hines Outreach Team Visit, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Feb 2 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am

Feb 5 – Carey-oke (in the Canteen), 5:30 pm

Feb 9 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am

Feb 10 – VFW Meeting, 7:00 pm

Feb 12 – Visit Vets at Brookdale, 10:00 am

Feb 16 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am

Feb 17 – Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00 pm

Feb 19– Visit Vets at Independence Village, 10:00 am

Feb 19 – Legion Dinner, 6:00 pm

Feb 20 – District 19 Meeting, 1:00 pm

Feb 21 – President's Day

Feb 23 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am

Feb 26 – Visit Vets at Story Point, 10:00 am

Junior Vice Commander**Mike McGrath**

On Saturday, January 8, the District 19 Voice of Democracy Awards Banquet was held at the West Chicago Post. Even though we experienced bad weather that evening, there was a great turnout. Also, the District Patriot's Pen Award Ceremony was held on January 23. Our Post winner in this competition was selected as the second-place winner at the District level. Many thanks to all the committee members who support and run these competitions each year. Not only do we get to award scholarship money to deserving students in our area, but it's a great way to see and hear some wonderful essays and speeches from the youth in our community.

"Karaoke Night" at the Post is scheduled for Saturday, February 5. A Disney themed event will be held in the upstairs Kendall Hall area, while "Carey-oke" for the adults will be held in the Canteen. Both promise to be a great time and an excellent way to beat the winter blahs.

I'm sure there will be other great events at the Post as we move into March and we're already looking forward to March 29, which marks the 5th anniversary of Vietnam War Veterans Day.

Thank you for all you do, and we'll look forward to seeing you around the Post.

Patriot's Pen Update

On Sunday, January 23, District 19 recognized and presented awards to its recent Patriot's Pen winners. Post 3873 winner, Sydney Marie Queen, was selected as the 2nd place winner at the District level, earning her additional scholarship money.



From left to right: Mike McGrath, Bernadette Budny, Heather Queen, Post Winner Sydney Marie Queen, Chris Queen, Leo Jaime, and Todd Schunemann

Auxiliary Report from President Kathy Thornton

Membership is now over 100% (101.3%)! Welcome to our newest members. Remember, the Auxiliary meets on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm. Also, a reminder that we have monthly "Tuesday Socials" on the 1st Tuesday of the month at 5:00 pm in the Canteen. These have been highly successful, so stop on down if you find yourself free one evening! Hope everyone is staying warm. Speaking of staying warm, please join us for a HOT time in the old town on Saturday, February 5, in the Canteen. We are hosting a karaoke event that night to get people into the Canteen and out of the cold. Plan to join us for a nice hot toddy and sing a few bars if the spirit moves you.

Also, I received this nice letter from Keri Wright (Service Coordinator VOA Illinois Support Services in Joliet) as way of thanks for our recent donation of winter coats to veterans in need. Be on the lookout for an upcoming fundraiser for this most worthy cause (March timeframe). Stay tuned and stay warm!

It is the community of donors, such as the VFW, who so generously give to help their mission and make a difference in the lives of the veterans. As the weather became cold, veterans began to flood the calls and texts requesting jackets to stay warm during the extreme cold temperatures. As I began scrambling around searching for jackets, I happened to be connected with the Naperville VFW Post 3873 Auxiliary who made the decision to donate a car full of jackets to veterans in the program. I must say that this made my veterans beyond happy. The jackets and clothing items that were donated were delivered to veterans currently residing in hotels awaiting housing and several went to veterans currently residing in uninhabitable locations such as a train. Upon dropping off jackets for a single mother, a veteran with her daughter, the veteran shared that she couldn't afford to buy jackets due to losing her job due to Covid. She was feeling down because she couldn't provide for herself or her child. The veteran stated that the donations gave her hope that she is not forgotten. Another veteran who had an upcoming job interview was embarrassed to wear his old jacket. He received a very nice jacket that gave him the confidence he needed. For those that wonder, he did get the job. That one donated jacket gave this veteran the confidence he needed to walk into the interview with his head held high and he walked out with the job offer. Never stop doing little things for others. Sometimes those little things occupy the biggest part of their hearts. Sometimes when we are generous in small, barely detectable ways, it can change someone else's life forever.

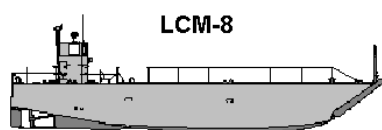
(Volunteers of America Illinois is federally funded and works with the VA to provide housing for veterans that are homeless or living in crisis. Our program is not long term, but given certain situations and circumstances, the case managers typically make attempts to link the veterans with the HUD-VASH, or Section 8 voucher programs, which is a long-term option. We have the ability to do Homeless Prevention and Rapid Rehousing.)

In Our Thoughts...

The members of Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873 and its Auxiliary would like to extend their sympathies to:

The family of Ray Baumgartner, member of VFW Post 3873 and Korean War veteran, on his recent passing.

The family of Alan Taylor, member of VFW Post 3873 and Vietnam War veteran, on his recent passing.

Service Officer Updates**Dennis Lukavsky**

This month, as we slowly progress through winter, I have some interesting tidbits about VA benefits. This month's column also has some interesting job opportunities to serve our fellow veterans

How to File a Disability Claim:

VA disability compensation benefits are a monthly, tax-free payment to veterans who were injured, sustained a long-term illness, or experienced a worsening medical condition during their military service to include mental health injuries.

https://blogs.va.gov/VAntage/98484/filing-a-va-claim-for-disability-compensation/?utm_source=middle&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=VetResources&utm_id=05JAN2022

Increase in VA Disability Compensation:

(This link may take some time to come up, but it does WORK)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kOBBEekT4Cw>

VA Summary of ALL YOUR Benefits:

The VA link below is the best summary I have found that contains ALL the benefits available to veterans. It contains links to health care, compensation, pensions, and death benefits. You might want to bookmark this page for future reference.

<https://www.va.gov/opa/persona/index.asp>

A message from Judge Marchese:

Veteran mentors need to commit to be available to talk with and meet with participants in the Veteran Court program. They need to complete training before they can participate. They work with the Court and veteran mentor coordinator (Deena Kuranda) to stay abreast with the needs and problems of the vet. I learned a few weeks ago that we received a federal grant so that we can proceed with training for mentors. We will begin to move quickly to set up training soon.

If interested, please contact: Paul Marchese
Judge, Micap and Veterans Court
18th Judicial Circuit Court
505 N. County Farm Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60187

The VFW Department of Illinois Service Offices is accepting inquiries for the position of **Assistant State Service Officer** (please [download the job description here](#)). Anyone applying must be VFW eligible to serve in this position. The Director and staff will train & help with VA certification of the individual.

Please contact Director Giffin if interested. Derek.Giffin@va.gov
Phone: 312-980-4284

Post Running Team

It's a New Year, and we all have our resolutions to keep. Whether getting fit or shedding a few Covid pounds is on your list of promises to yourself, the Judd Kendall VFW Running Team would like to extend this invitation to join Phil, Mike, and Pablo as we represent the Post, rehydrate with some green beer, and enjoy some camaraderie at the 13th Annual Sunrise Rotary St. Paddy's Day 5K. It will be held in person beginning at 0800 on Saturday, March 12, 2022, in downtown Naperville. Registration is now underway and it's one of the first certified 5K's of the running season in the area. And, yes, it often sells out. So don't delay. Join us as we set new land speed records, break all existing age group times, and celebrate being Irish, if just for a day! Here's a few pictures of past St. Paddy's 5K's.



“Carey-oke” in the Canteen



Saturday, February 5th

5:30 pm - 9:00 pm

(Singing starts at 6:00 pm)

\$5 Cover Charge at the Door

includes snacks and one free

Hot Toddy prepared by the Post's very own mixologist extraordinaire Carey



Cash bar and drink specials throughout the evening

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

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	



Post 3873 Calendar of Events February 2022



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Hines Community Outreach Team Visit	2 9:30 am - Yoga for Vets	3	4	5 5:30 pm - Carey-oke in the Canteen
6	7	8	9 9:30 am - Yoga for Vets	10 7:00 pm - VFW Meeting	11	12 10:00 am - Visit Vets at Brookdale
13	14	15	16 9:30 am - Yoga for Vets	17 7:00 pm - Auxiliary Meeting	18	19 10:00 am - Visit Vets at Independence Village 6:00 pm - Legion Dinner
20 1:00 pm - District 19 Meeting	21 President's Day	22	23 9:30 am - Yoga for Vets	24	25	26 10:00 am - Visit Vets at Story Point
27	28					

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

