

THE KENDALL-GRAM



Volume 22 Issue 06

June 2022

A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



Commander Todd Schuneman



This is my last article as Commander. Most of you know that I am retiring and moving to Georgia. I hope this time I can actually stay retired. As I prepare to pass the gavel to your next Commander, I want to take a moment to reflect on what our organization strives to achieve and how our Post has done the past year.

As you know, the mission of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is “to foster camaraderie among United States veterans of overseas conflicts and to serve our veterans, the military, and our communities and advocate on behalf of all veterans.” How do we do this? As an organization we foster veteran fellowship through events at the Post and throughout the community. We have social events such as karaoke nights, pig roasts, dinners, and parties. These events strengthen comradeship among our members and their families.

Secondly, we perpetuate the memory and history of those who served. Those who came home and those who didn't. Thank them for their patriotism. Promulgate patriotism and help the surviving spouses and orphans of our fallen comrades. Finally, we advocate for justice for the veterans, service members, and military families on an array of issues and continue to be the voice of veterans everywhere. Our voice is louder with more members. All of this we do to preserve the memory of those who went to battle in pursuit of fighting for the rights of the people that they serve through their loyalty and love for our country. Their utmost dedication cannot be forgotten, and it is in this light that their memory, spouses, and orphans be given the proper respect and benefits that they truly deserve.

Post 3873 has a distinguished lineage of serving veterans and the community. And as we look back at the past year, I have no doubt that we once again accomplished our goals and completed our mission. This is due to the members of our Post being passionate about serving our community and veteran causes. The cadre of officers that have been elected to serve the next two years are dynamic and passionate. There is no doubt that they will serve the Post well. Thank you all for the support that I have received during my tenure as Commander. I hope that I have served and represented the Post well during my term. I wish you all the very best.

Senior Vice Commander
Leo Jaime



We are a few weeks away from closing the membership year, and we remain 32 members short of our goal of 100%. It doesn't look like we are going to make it, despite the great efforts of all (heartfelt Thank You). I take full responsibility for the shortcoming but will accept the results and learn from it. In a few weeks we'll begin a new membership year, and I am confident with the efforts and the lessons of these past year, it'll be a successful one.

A new slate of officers will be installed this month as well, including our new Senior Vice Commander Kim Woods. Kim will need all hands on deck to help attract new members and make the coveted 100% goal. There are many veterans in our community who deserve to be members of our Post, but for one reason or another they have not taken steps to join. We can help these veterans by inviting them to visit the Post. Usually, that is all it takes. Once they experience the comradery and friendliness, they sign up. We have a great Post but need to do a better job of spreading the word about who we are and what we do.

Lastly, with the installation of the new slate of officers, I will be assuming the role of your Post Commander. I want to sincerely thank all who supported the decision and afford me this great responsibility and honor. I commit to work as hard as our past Commanders have and continue to elevate the high standards of our Post.

Dates to Remember

Jun 1 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am

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

Jun 5 – Installation Dinner, 5:00 pm

Jun 7 – Hines Outreach Team Visit, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Jun 7 – Auxiliary Social, 5:00 pm

Jun 8 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am

Jun 9 – VFW Meeting, 7:00 pm

Jun 11 – Visit Vets at Brookdale, 10:00 am

Jun 14 – Flag Day

Jun 14 – U.S. Army Birthday

Jun 15 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am

Jun 16 – Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00 pm

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

Jun 22 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am

Jun 25 – Visit Vets at Story Point, 10:00 am

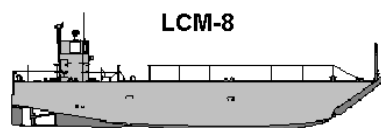
Jun 29 – GI Yoga, 9:30 am

Junior Vice Commander**Mike McGrath**

Thank you to all our Post members and Officers for another great year. We welcome our incoming leadership team and look forward to the year ahead with enthusiasm and dedication. Words are hard, but I want you all to know that it has been an honor for me to be your Junior Vice Commander for the past year. Thank you for all your support as we planned and conducted our many events. I've really enjoyed working for and with you.

As I write this, we are beginning our traditional Memorial Day activities. If you've ever wondered what our community thinks of us, come out to be part of the ceremonies and parade. In the past we've had tens of thousands come out to support us and as we get back to a "normal" day of events, I suspect the streets will once again be crowded with people showing their support for the veterans.

As we move into the summer months, be sure to keep in touch and stay involved. We are a very active Post, so come out to be a part of it ... and bring a buddy. Thanks again for all each of you do and I'll be seeing you around the Post.

Service Officer Updates**Dennis Lukavsky**

Just a quick thought as I begin this month's column. Take the opportunity to create and build good solid relationships among our fellow Post members. We all share similar backgrounds due to our military service, so we all have something in common. I also think these relationships and friendships are a critical part of creating an environment that allows our Post to thrive. And as we have seen, our Post continues to do many great things for veterans and the community because of the bonds we've built through the VFW.

If you have noticed, our fellow veterans in the American Legion have been working to that end. They have been sponsoring Cornhole tournaments and Trivia Nights. I have attended both and did have a good time. At the same time, I was able to meet new people, to learn about their backgrounds, and ultimately make new friends. These events are open to all VFW members, so think about attending one or some of the many events we sponsor. You'll gain an opportunity to have fun and at the same time, create new friendships, build on old ones, and have a few additional stories to tell.

One other thing, in case you are unaware, are the opportunities at Cantigny. There are a lot of wonderful summertime activities at Cantigny. There are tours, concerts, nature hikes, historical displays, and golfing, just to name a few. Veterans can join the Honor Club simply by signing up, which entitles you to receive discounts at the park. Once you sign up, the \$5 parking fee is also waived for veterans.

Auxiliary Report from President Kathy Thornton

Thank you to all Auxiliary members for making this a memorable year. Post-Covid proved to be bit of a challenge, but we persevered.

Allow me to introduce our new slate of Auxiliary officers for the upcoming year:

President: Bernadette Budny
Secretary: Jan Barbour
Senior Vice: Maryann Groner
Junior Vice: Darlene Kwarta
Chaplain: Nancy Marinello
Treasurer: Leo Hart
Conductress: Lucy Hoy
Guard: Carol Gloor
1-year Trustee: Joe Stacho
2-year Trustee: Brenda Hasler
3-year Trustee: Amy Ownby

On Sunday, June 5, at 5:00 pm we will install the above officers. We will also recognize our Auxiliary Charter's 75th anniversary with an anniversary cake. Please plan on joining us! Illinois President Rhonda and her Chief of Staff, along with 19th District President Mary Ellen and her husband, will be in attendance. If you are able to attend, please RSVP to me at kmrthornton@sbcglobal.net.

Hats off to Carey for a very successful fundraiser for our bartender Eileen. The event was a bit hit and very successful. Sending healing prayers to Eileen! More hats off to Marcy and her "garden party" on a super successful plant sale! And rain it did!

It has been an extremely rewarding experience to have served as your Auxiliary President. My sincere thanks to my brother, Mike Rechenmacher and my dad, Richard Rechenmacher (deceased) for their service, which has allowed me to be part of this great organization.

Scout of the Year



At the May meeting, the Post congratulated Sean Brennan for being selected as the Post's 2022 Scout of the Year. Sean was selected due to his outstanding patriotism and citizenship in school, scouting, and the community. He will be recognized at the District level and will move on to compete at the State level for possible advancement to National, where he could receive a scholarship of up to \$5,000.

Sean is pictured with his Scoutmaster, his parents, and Post Commander Todd Schunemann.

A Final Note From the Editor

It seems like only yesterday I was sitting down to complete my first edition of the Kendall-Gram. When I took over as the editor, I knew I had some pretty big shoes to fill. Marcy Maughan had been the editor for two decades and had won numerous awards at the State level for what she was producing each month. My biggest concerns were making sure I could put something together that readers would find informative, that provided accurate information about what the Post and our members were doing, and most importantly, that it was something people would actually want to pick-up.

Even with all the careful attention to detail and scrutiny of every line, I still managed to miss a keystroke in my very first issue and referred to the Kendall-Gram as the Kedall-Gram. For an Army guy, not bad – only one mistake. Over the months, there would be more mistakes here and there, and I do appreciate the phone calls and emails from those who caught them in time for me to make corrections prior to sending the newsletter to the printers. During this time, I also received messages from some of our members who no longer live in the area. They contacted me to say thanks for providing something they could read to keep up with what we were doing. These all served as a reminder that the Kendall-Gram plays a key role in our Post and in keeping everyone informed, whether they can visit the Post or not.

Now, three and a half years later, I find myself putting my last edition together. Beginning with the July edition of the Kendall-Gram, you will have a new editor who I am convinced will do an excellent job of keeping you informed about the Post and our events. Mark Overstreet will be the new editor as I transition into the Assistant Quartermaster position. It has been fun and extremely rewarding to put the Kendall-Gram together for you each month. Thanks to Marcy for having the faith in me to let me follow her in this role and thanks to our Post Commanders, Auxiliary Presidents, and everyone else who contributed over the past few years for putting up with the incessant reminders that “I need your column now!” Finally, thanks to all who read this for letting me bring the Post’s news to you each month. It has been a pleasure.



Memorial Day Thanks

On behalf of the Memorial Day Parade Committee, the Post Poppy Committee, and our Post and Auxiliary leadership teams, we would like to thank everyone who came out this year to assist with our various Memorial Day events. This is our busiest week of the year and the greatest opportunity to be seen in the community. Without your assistance and dedication, it would be difficult to raise donations through our Poppy Days program, to honor our fallen brothers and sisters through participation in our morning ceremonies, and to honor the fallen during the parade and ceremony at Central Park. Thank you for all you do to support veterans and to remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country.



Post 3873 Calendar of Events June 2022



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 9:30 am - Yoga for Vets	2		4 10:00 am - Visit Vets at Monarch Landing
5 5:00 pm - Installation Dinner	6	7 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Hines Community Outreach Team Visit 5:00 - Auxiliary Social	8 9:30 am - Yoga for Vets	9 7:00 pm - VFW Meeting		11 10:00 am - Visit Vets at Brookdale
12	13	14 Army Birthday Flag Day	15 9:30 am - Yoga for Vets	16 7:00 pm - Auxiliary Meeting		18 10:00 am - Visit Vets at Independence Village
19	20	21	22 9:30 am - Yoga for Vets	23	24	25 10:00 am - Visit Vets at Story Point
26	27	28	29 9:30 am - Yoga for Vets	30		

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	

Veterans of Foreign Wars
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