

THE

A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



KENDALL-GRAM



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Commander Tom Parker



In the coming months, we have a number of major activities occurring. I'll be addressing those in future columns and yes, I'll be asking you to volunteer a few hours of your time to help us out with each event. But this month, I wanted to take the opportunity to share a few other random items and thoughts.

At the National VFW Convention held in July, the Post was recognized for its steadfast commitment to our community and was awarded the 2017 National Outstanding Community Service Award. This award is given to less than 1% of the VFW Posts nationwide, so to receive it is quite an achievement. It is a testament to the dedication and determination of each of you in ensuring that we are helping veterans, sponsoring programs that recognize outstanding achievement by teachers and youth in our community, and working with our schools, our City, and various other organizations to promote patriotism. Being selected to receive this award would not have been possible without your efforts and I'd like to thank all you for your contributions in helping us receive it. We plan to have a formal ceremony in the coming weeks to unveil the award as it is added to the many others along our back wall and will notify everyone when that is planned. (There are currently 10 signs displayed on the Post outside and cover the years 2005-2016, which is a huge accomplishment!!)

If you've been to the Post canteen lately, you might have noticed a few changes. The majority of them have subtly occurred over time. There are new pictures on the walls, patches lining the soffits along the bar, and other tweaks to update the room a bit. Your Senior Vice Commander and I have been making these changes to not only make it feel more like a military club, but to include items that are about you, our current members. The comments have been overwhelmingly supportive and folks like the new ideas and look. That's not to say that anything was wrong with the previous decor, but we want to include items that mean something to each of you - unit patches, photos, etc. If there's something you think would look good, talk with either myself or the Senior Vice and we'll see what we can do. Also keep your eyes and ears open as we have additional ideas that we think you'll like and will need your help with.

We are attempting to have more events this year that are family/kid friendly. We started with an end of summer cook-out that you read about in last month's Kendall Gram. We had a great turn out and both the kids and parents had a great time. We're planning more events as the year progresses and hope to see more of you bring the families out to join us.

As I said, many of our major events will be occurring in the next few months (Turkey Raffle, Veterans Day, etc.) and we'll need your help. Start thinking about attending and helping out if only for an hour or two. Until then, enjoy the end of summer, the onslaught of football games, and stop by the canteen for a drink and a look around.

Senior Vice Commander Pablo Araya

The way I see it, September seems to be the best time of year in this fickle state of ours. Winter's cold is looming and summer's humid heat is behind us. So we get about a month to enjoy just about as perfect weather as we ever get. But it's also the time I get that niggling feeling, that prodding and poking that won't end until we reach our goal of 100% membership. Yep, the new membership year has started, and unlike last year, I won't take my eye off the prize. To that point, we are nearly at 90%, and the first month isn't even over. So what should we do now? How about continue as we have the past two months, where we've seen some new members signed up, and others renewing their yearly memberships on a timely basis. But that's not enough. In the coming months, I will be rolling out a couple of new ideas to really kick start the recruiting process. I will be counting on each of you to ensure we not only reach our goal, but surpass it. And by all means, if any of you have an idea that might serve to recruit a few new members, by all means let me know. I'm open to all suggestions. My self imposed goal is a 2% -3% monthly increase. Do I hear a challenge out there?



On a different note, our 4th Annual 0.1K Judd-A-Thon is behind us, and a huge thanks goes out to everyone who helped with its success. (Editor's note: And a special thank you to Pablo Araya, who chaired this event again this year!) I'll have the exact numbers for you in next month's Kendall-Gram, but suffice it to say 3873 out did itself again.

Thanks, and FLY NAVY!

Junior Vice Commander Dave Angelus

The days are getting shorter, the nights are brisk, and Fall is right around the corner. Hopefully everyone had a good Summer. Heading into Fall the Post has several events that we sure could use a hand with.



Our Judd A Thon is over and I am sure the VFW National Home for Children will be putting the money raised to good use. We look forward now to the Pig Roast in October, and Veterans Day ceremonies. Volunteers are needed to visit the schools. We have our annual Turkey Raffle in November. If anyone would like to donate and raffle prizes or assist with the event please let me know. We had a fantastic turn out in the past and would like to continue our success. In December we have the annual Christmas party and the much loved Army-Navy Game. More details to follow.

VFW National Home for Children by Mike McGrath

September 2017 was a great month Starting with our post Judd a Thon on the 17th - what a blast with many participants, young and old and many zany costumes as well. This was followed by our visit to the National Home on Illinois day, September 23, and a great time as always.

The National Home is open to families of active duty military personnel, veterans, and descendants of VFW and auxiliary members. War takes a terrible toll. The helpline 800 313 4200.

The helpline is a great resource. Maybe it could help someone you know! We are so very grateful to everyone for supporting our National Home for Children. Thank you

Fall Blood Drive

Due to a scheduling conflict, the fall blood drive has been postponed until January 13, 2018.



Veteran of the Month

Name: William Ott
Rank: Air Force – SSGT (E-5)
 Navy – AD2 (E-5); Captain (O-6)
Branch of Service: United States Air Force and United States Navy
Current Age: 69
Total years Served: 34 (4 years active duty USAF; 30 years Navy Reserve)
Served from USAF – 1968 – 1972
 USN Reserve (Enlisted) – 1978 – 1980
 USN Reserve (Officer) – 1980 – 2008

Places Served:

USAF: Amarillo AFB, TX; Chanute AFB, IL; Travis AFB, CA; Hurlburt Field, FL; 20th TASS – Da Nang AB, Vietnam; NKP, Thailand; Ubon, Thailand; Takli, Thailand.

USN: NAS Glenview, IL; Forest Park Reserve Center, IL; Great Lakes, IL; Rock Island, IL; NWSC Crane, IN; NWS Yorktown, VA; NUWC Indian Island, WA; PACOM, HI; ONR (Office of Naval Research) Arlington, VA; SPAWAR (Space and Naval Warfare) San Diego, CA.

Job or Specialty:

USAF – Aircraft Mechanic: C-141 Starlifter; Cessna O2-A Skymaster.

USN Enlisted – Aviation Machinist Mate (AD2): P3 Orion.
 USN Officer – EDO (Engineering Duty Officer); SPECOPS EOM (Special Operations – Expendable Ordnance Management).

Fondest Memory while Serving: The people I’ve met and worked with provided the fondest memories. My greatest memories come from being able to achieve recognition, through awards and promotions, for motivated, deserving young sailors. Memorable moments were also landing in, serving in, and leaving Vietnam. It was ALL good!

Quote: *Twenty years from now, you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn’t do than by the ones you did do. So throw off the bowlines. Sail away from the safe harbor. Catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore. Dream. Discover.* – Mark Twain



Dates to Remember

Oct 3 - Hines Community Outreach, 9:30-2:30

Oct 4 - Yoga for Vets, 9:30 a.m.

Oct 4 - Aux Visit to Nursing Home

Oct 5 - American Legion Meeting, 7 PM

Oct 6 - Pig Roast, 6 PM

Oct 7 - Visit the Vets at Monarch Landing, 10 a.m.

Oct 7 - Flip Flop Night in the Canteen, 6 PM

Oct 9 - Columbus Day

Oct 10 - Visit to Hines Hospital, 6:15 PM

Oct 11 - Yoga for Vets, 9:30 a.m.

Oct 12 - VFW Meeting, 7 PM

Oct 13 - US Navy Birthday

Oct 14 - Visit the Vets at Brookdale 10 a.m.

Oct 15 - Life Member Breakfast, 9 a.m.

Oct 18 - Yoga for Vets, 9:30 a.m.

Oct 19 - Auxiliary Meeting, 7 PM

Oct 21 - Visit the Vets at Independence Village 10 a.m.

Oct 21 - Legion Dinner, 6 PM

Oct 25 - Yoga for Vets, 9:30 am.

Oct 25 - Online Registration begins for the Naperville Turkey Trot

Oct 28 - Visit with Vets at Harbor Chase, 10 a.m.

Oct 31 - Halloween

Veterans Day 2017 by Terry Jelinek

We will be conducting flag raisings at all of the District 203 schools on Friday, November 10th. The day will start with a breakfast at the District office located at the corner of Webster and Hillside at 7am (Invites will be out shortly). If you are planning to attend and you have not already been in touch with me, please give me a call so that I can give the District your name and address so that they can mail you a personal invitation to the breakfast and I can assign you a school to go to. (My number is 630-357-5366). After breakfast we will all head out for our respective schools. Please remember to wear your Legion/VFW cover.

If you decide that morning you can attend just come to the District Office for breakfast and see me there. I will make sure that you are assigned a school. This year we will be spread very thin since we have been requested to attend some of the District 204 schools as well. We will not be able to have more than two veterans at each school so it will be first come first served. I will have sign up sheets at the next meeting or you can call me with your request.

Our Veterans Day Memorial service will be held at 11am at Veterans Park located on Gartner Rd. You may park across the street in the church parking lot. Please plan on arriving at least fifteen minutes early.

Later that night we will have our Veterans Day social. Our social hour will commence at 6 PM followed by our traditional Turkey dinner at 7 PM.

Auxiliary Report Respectfully submitted by President Kathy Thornton

MALTA update: For all members who pay dues annually, have you logged onto vfwauxiliary.org to pay your membership dues for 2018? You should have received an email advising direction. If the membership chair (me) missed you, please reach out to her (kmrthornton@sbcglobal.net) and she will advise how to log in and pay dues. This saves a lot of time and expense (mailing, stamps, etc). So kudos to MALTA!



Hope everyone has rested up from the grueling 0.1 Judd A Thon. Congrats to the Post on a job well done. And to all the runners/walkers/crawlers, you done good. All proceeds benefit National Home. Feels good to help.

We are hosting a fundraiser on **Saturday, October 7: 2nd annual Flip Flop Dave Night**. This year we are refocusing our fundraising efforts to include Smiles for Veterans. This is a program started by the Montgomery Auxiliary to help those veterans in dire need of dental care. The Senior Vice of the Montgomery Auxiliary came and spoke at our last meeting to tell us about her mission, Smiles for Veterans. We were surprised to learn that dental care is unattainable for many veterans. How sad! To date, the program has helped over 60 veterans get their smiles back. She had pictures of veterans who have been helped showing before and after. What a difference this program has made in their daily lives. With the help of our fundraising efforts, we hope they are able to help many more veterans smile. So please join us Saturday, October 7 at the Post (downstairs) for a night of fun, raffles, food for purchase and great music.

If you are unable to join us, and want to make a donation, send a check to the Post at 908 Jackson, Naperville, IL 60540 made out to VFW Auxiliary #3873 and we will see that Smiles for Veterans gets your donation.

Lastly, Sunday, October 15 the Auxiliary will be celebrating our 70th year (new date!) We will also recognize important milestones for members who achieve 5, 10, 15 etc years as part of our organization. Did I hear we have an original charter member among us?

The weather is a reminder we are heading into our busy season here at the VFW. May you and your family grab these last few snippets of summer and enjoy them!!

And as always, I thank God for our veterans and for all of you that make my job as president exciting and fulfilling.

Auxiliary Member of the Month for October

Joining the Auxiliary under her father's WWII service in the Pacific our October Member of the Month can best be described as "complicated". Trained as a teacher for the deaf, she is fluent in sign language (meaning she knows all the dirty words) and throughout a series of health issues manages to keep a somewhat deranged outlook on life. **Darlene Kwarta** has mastered the art of arm twisting anyone with an arm in order to obtain donations for her beloved Honor Flight Chicago. By seeing her guys (and gals) off and welcoming them back to Midway whenever she is able and soliciting notes, cards and letter for the travelers to read during Mail Call, Darlene stays very busy. She will no doubt be at the Turkey Raffle in November, and trust me, she will not be ignored. Just buy whatever she is selling and thank her for all she does for veterans.



picture by Jim Hoch

Midwest Shelter For Homeless Veterans

John Dixon (Volunteer and Freedom Commissary Coordinator) at the Midwest Homeless Shelter greets Dorothy Kulir (VFW Judd Kendall Post #3873 Auxiliary Veterans and Family Support Representative) as she delivers one of two car loads of items for the homeless on Friday, September 15, 2017.

The 72 items contained such items as stainless steel tableware, table lamps, comforters with matching sheet sets, and much more. John expressed his gratitude for all the "new" items which were going to make the veterans in need very happy.

