

# THE KENDALL-GRAM

Volume 26 Issue 02

February 2026



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



**Commander  
Staci Boyer**



January was an incredible month for our Post and our community. I was honored to speak and represent our Post during Naperville's 250th celebration at Naper Settlement, alongside Mayor Wehrli and Congressman Foster. Our combined Post—VFW 3873 and American Legion Post 43—was proud to raise the official 250th Commemorative Flag for the City of Naperville. It was a meaningful moment of patriotism and remembrance.

We also celebrated outstanding participation this year in both the Patriot's Pen, Voice of Democracy and Teacher of the Year, with record numbers of entries this year for VOD and TOY. A huge thank you and congratulations to Mark Overstreet and Ingrid Kanady for their leadership and dedication to these important programs.

And, of course, what a fun season it has been watching the Chicago Bears with our Post members! One moment I know I'll never forget was standing room only in our Canteen during the playoff game against the Rams. When Jim Cornelison sang the National Anthem, the room fell completely silent. It was a powerful and moving reminder of why we gather together as veterans and patriots. God Bless America—and Bear Down!

Looking ahead, we have an exciting lineup of events coming soon! Event details and ticket links can be found on our website and through TicketSource for the following and more:

- National Home Fundraiser
- Live Music in the Canteen
- VFW Fish Fry starting 2/20
- Naperville Responds for Veterans – Mardi Gras Night
- Legion Riders Special Olympics Fundraiser
- Our Combined Post Veterans Suicide Prevention Ruck March

Finally, legislative advocacy remains a top priority this year. One critical issue is the **Major Richard Star Act**. Veterans have made it clear for years—this policy is unfair, and it must be fixed. The Major Richard Star Act is how Congress can finally address this injustice.

Commander's Reflections - "Service teaches us that love and friendship are not conveniences—they are commitments."



**Senior Vice Commander  
Jennifer Slown**



**Make 2026 the Year You Get Involved at Post 3873!**

Our Post thrives because of its members, and there has truly never been a better time to get more involved. Whether you attend one of our engaging social events or volunteer behind the scenes to help plan, organize, and execute activities, your participation makes a meaningful difference in the strength and success of our Post.

We offer a wide variety of events designed to bring members together and welcome the community. From our popular fish fries and lively karaoke nights to our annual car show, golf outing, and many other activities, there really is something for everyone. These events aren't just fun, they help build camaraderie, support our Veteran connection mission, fundraiser for worthy causes, and keep our Post active and growing.

Getting involved doesn't require a big commitment. Attending an event, lending a hand for a few hours, or sharing your ideas all contribute to the energy of the Post. Volunteering is also a great way to meet fellow members, build friendships, and ensure our traditions continue for future generations.

Have an idea for a new event or activity? We would love to hear it. Fresh ideas and new perspectives are always welcome. Please feel free to reach out to me or Commander Staci Boyer to share your thoughts or learn how you can help.

Together, we can continue making VFW Post 3873 a vibrant, welcoming place for Veterans and the greater Naperville community!

**Business of the Post**

**Post Meeting January 8, 2026 Highlights**



Commander Staci Boyer opened the meeting according to ritual at 1903 hours.

One new member voted in, Navy. No new members sworn.

Quartermaster: Canteen and hall rental were strong. We took in more than \$5,000 in donations toward the Adopt-a-Grave project; Funds will be used to install the gravestones to those that need it. We have also received the Lisle VFW Post's bank balance for the consolidation of the Posts. We spent around \$4,000 on snow and ice treatments for December, which is lower than average. We spent around \$2,000 on a warming cabinet for the kitchen.

Service Officer: The VA is asking older veterans that are members of the VFW to take part in a program called the Million Veteran Program. They do surveys and testing and take your history and medical reports and make some statistical analysis on the data.

Membership: We are at 98.7%. We have 637 members and need 645 to make All American.

Honor Guard: Last month had 3 graveside services. 1 WW2 Air Force, 1 Army, 1 Korea Army.

Color Guard: Many events for the first half of 2026 and so they may need additional support. More to follow.

Trustees: Requested three donations for a total of \$1500. Motioned, voted, and passed.

Commander Boyer closed the meeting according to ritual at 1957. Next meeting is Thursday, February 12, 2026.



**Junior Vice Commander  
Josh Warner**



In 1718, the Alamo was established as a Catholic mission in the northern region of New Spain, known as Coahuila y Tejas (Texas). The chapel itself was built in 1758 and the mission had grown to 3 acres with walls surrounding an inner courtyard. The interior included residences and barracks. The walls deterred attacks from Native Americans.

When Mexico won its independence from Spain, the government invited Anglo-Americans to settle in Texas. The Americans were used as a buffer between southern Mexico and the Natives. Although the Texas Revolution “officially” began with the Battle of Gonzales on October 2, 1835, Anglo-Americans began resistance to Mexican law with the Anahuac Disturbances of 1832 and 1835.

Throughout the months of October and December 1835 the Texans won every battle. Supporters of the Texan cause believed the war was over after the Siege of Bexar, which forced the surrender of the Alamo and withdrawal of General Martin Perfecto de Cos from the Texas region. However, Colonel James C. Neill, now commander of the Alamo garrison, believed General Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, General Cos’ brother-in-law, would return to retake Texas.

General Sam Houston agreed with Neill’s presupposition and sent James ‘Jim’ Bowie to San Antonio in January of 1836 to commandeer the artillery and anything else of used left behind and destroy the Alamo. Bowie and Neill had other plans. They wanted to fortify the Alamo and use it as the first line of defense against Santa Anna and his forces. Going over Houston’s head, Neill and Bowie appealed to the newly elected Governor Henry Smith. Smith approved their plan. Regular Army and volunteers were added to the garrison in February. Santa Anna arrived San Antonio de Bexar on February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 1836 and raised the red flag, meaning “no quarter.” His reply was a shot from the Alamo’s 18-pounder cannon. The siege of the Alamo begins.

### Posters for Upcoming Events

Click on the image to go to the [TicketSource](#) page

**MEMBERS FAMILY  
BREAKFAST**  
1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH  
9AM-12PM | KENDALL HALL

**VFW** AMERICAN LEGION

JAN. 4TH		FEB. 1ST
MARCH 1ST		APRIL 5TH
MAY 10TH		JUNE 7TH
JULY 5TH		AUG. 2ND
SEPT. 6TH		OCT. 4TH
NOV. 1ST		DEC. 6TH

Breakfast includes eggs, bacon/or sausage biscuits & Gravy & Milk, Water, Orange Juice & Coffee  
Free for Members & Families  
ENJOY COMARADERIE WITH FELLOW VETERANS, MAKE NEW FRIENDS & SHARE STORIES IN A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT!

**Disney Karaoke Fundraiser  
for the VFW National Home  
for Children**  
February 7, 2026

**VFW FISH FRY**  
FOOD PROVIDED BY  
**DRAFT PICKS**  
Fridays 2/20 - 4/3  
**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!**  
\$15 a plate | 4 pieces of Fish & Fries  
\$5 added for pizza or shrimp



## Benefits Advisor Updates Dennis Lukavsky



### MVP! MVP!

At a recent Post meeting I talked a bit about the Million Veteran Program (MVP). The program consists of several surveys and a blood sample from as many as veterans as possible. Once the data is assembled, statistical analysis will be used to anticipate future illnesses in the veteran population. The goal is to improve the quality of VA Health care.

The program has already yielded some significant benefits. At that Post meeting I talked about the blood sample being self-administered. For those of you a little squeamish, I can report I took the sample myself and it was easy and not painful (the kit used suction) to draw the blood.

After completing the process. I felt good about my participation.

I was left with the feeling I was doing something good for my fellow veterans. Please consider doing the same. For more information go to <http://www.mvp.va.gov/pwa/>

### Benefits Advisor Email Blast Distribution List

Our Service Officer sends out several emails per month with updates on events at the Post, important details from the State and National VFW offices, and other information of interest to members of the Post. If you would like to receive the Blasts, please send an email to [dlukavsky@yahoo.com](mailto:dlukavsky@yahoo.com).

### Key VA Links

VA organizations

[Veterans Health Administration](#)

[Veterans Benefits Administration](#)

[National Cemetery Administration](#)

[VA Leadership](#)

[Public Affairs](#)

[Congressional Affairs](#)

[All VA offices and organizations](#)

Innovation at VA

[Health research](#)

[Public health](#)

[VA open data](#)

[Veterans analysis and statistics](#)

[Appeals modernization](#)

[VA Innovation Center](#)

[Recovery Act](#)

Learn about VA

[About VA](#)

[History of VA](#)

[VA plans, budget, finances, and performance](#)

[National cemetery history program](#)

[Veterans legacy program](#)

[Volunteer or donate](#)

### Patriot's Pen Pizza Party

On Sunday, January 25<sup>th</sup>, VFW Illinois 19<sup>th</sup> District held the Patriot's Pen Pizza Party in Kendall Hall at the Post. Our Patriot's Pen winner, Olivia Zhao, 6<sup>th</sup> grade from Kennedy, earned 4<sup>th</sup> place among the 13 entries at the District level.

Photo at left: Past Post Commander Leo Jaime, Olivia Zhao, Olivia's mother Fiona Zhao.





**National Home Chairman**  
**Mike McGrath**



## **VFW National Home News - Board of Trustees (2026 is Illinois' turn to fill a vacancy)**

### **Summary of Board Structure and Trustee Responsibilities:**

The VFW National Home Board of Trustees is comprised of 12 elected district trustees, one Board appointed Secretary/Treasurer and 7 ex-officio trustees and serves as the governing body of the corporation.

### **Are you interested in becoming a member of the VFW Board of Trustees?**

#### Trustee Qualifications, Recommendation Procedures and Elections

Dedicated, hardworking individuals are encouraged to seek election to these esteemed positions to promote awareness, understanding and support of the VFW National Home. Candidates with expertise in business, fundraising or social work as well as previous Board member experience are especially encouraged. It is essential that candidates have access to, and are comfortable with doing business via email and other assorted technology. Candidates should have email proficiency, be able to comfortably use a computer and be able to have access to printing materials when needed.

Here is more "[News in a Nutshell](#)" about the National Home Board

And here is the [National Home Trustee Candidate Application](#)

## **#StillServing: The VFW Podcast®**

*#StillServing: The VFW Podcast®* is a show for veterans, by veterans. The VFW is in the midst of a paradigm shift and it's an exciting time to be a part of this transformational change within our organization.

Every VFW member shares a powerful legacy of serving in combat to defend our nation. By choosing to join the VFW, we also extended that legacy through our commitment to assist veterans, their families, and our communities. The VFW has a unique program which enables us to further our legacy in another important way. **Legacy Life Membership** allows you to upgrade your life membership for a fixed amount of money that will create a perpetual income stream to the VFW at the Post, State and National levels. There are three levels (Bronze, Silver, and Gold) that range from \$400 to \$1,200. Donations can be made all at once or over time until you reach your desired amount. The various benefits associated with Legacy Life Membership include a tax deduction, discounts on purchases from the VFW Store, and more. The greatest benefit, however, is the knowledge that you are helping to provide a perpetual source of income to ensure the important work of the VFW in assisting veterans, their families, and our communities will continue forever.

Please contact Post QM Phil Maughan at (630) 383-1974 for additional information.



**Auxiliary President**  
**Maryann Groner**



Thank you to all the volunteers who helped judge the Patriots Pen essays. A pizza party celebration for the District 19 winners was held on January 25 in Kendall Hall. Our Auxiliary greeted winners and their families as well as served pizza to these amazing students.

In a few short weeks, we will again be at the table greeting and acting as cashiers for the fish fry. This is a wonderful way for us to become more involved with the community diners who have been coming to support the Post for years. If you are interested in helping, Sign Up Genius will get you to a shift. Those who prefer a personal touch can contact Trish Krenick and she will help you to get signed up.

The upcoming Ruck March is an opportunity to join post members in raising funds to combat Veteran suicide. The March is actually an easy-paced, 2.2-mile paved loop starting and ending at the Post. Your Ruck (backpack) doesn't have to be heavy and can carry things important to you or the Veteran you support. Add March 22 to your calendar and look for the sign-up sheet.

Have you ever considered becoming an Auxiliary officer? We will be holding elections in a few months. You can log into Malta and go to the on-line ritual book which lists all the offices as well as the expectations for each office or committee. See if one of these is a good fit for you and become a more active member.

Don't forget to wish your special Veteran a Happy Valentines Day!

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## Members Family Breakfast, Jan 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026

Photos courtesy of Jim Hoch. See the full gallery on his [SmugMug](#) page.



**Post Information**

Mailing Address: Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873  
908 W. Jackson  
Naperville, IL 60540

Phone Number: **(630) 420-9820**

Website: <https://www.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.**

**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. Send articles and photos to the email address below. Photos MUST include location, date, event, names. All submissions may be edited for length and content as needed.

**Kendall-Gram Link Policy:** Live links are provided for convenience and information only and are consistent with the mission of the Post and VFW. However, the appearance of external hyperlinks does not constitute endorsement by the Post or the VFW of the information, products, or services contained therein.

**Kendall-Gram Email:** kendallgramvfw3873@gmail.com

**Hines Hospital Visits**

Hines Hospital visits will take place on the second Tuesday of each month from September through June. Due to Hospital requirements face masks will be required for all participants when they enter. The bus will leave from the Post promptly at 6:30PM and we should return before 9PM.

Questions: John Shaw, theshawsjb@aol.com

**Judd Kendall Post 3873 Officers**

Commander	Staci Boyer	(773) 351-4646
Sr. Vice Commander	Jennifer Slown	
Jr. Vice Commander	Josh Warner	
Quartermaster	Phil Maughan	(630) 383-1974
Ass't Quartermaster	John Shaw	(630) 253-3318
Adjutant	Jason Sharpton	
Judge Advocate	Dom Guerrieri	(630) 207-3100
Surgeon	Ingrid Kanady	(847) 951-3300
Service Officer	Dennis Lukavsky	(630) 272-9064
Officer of the Day	Lou Kueltz	(630) 898-8760
Guard	Roger Budny	(630) 205-8745
Chaplain	Bob Grember	(630) 960-1998
1-Year Trustee	Craig Frier	(630) 373-1186
2-Year Trustee	Leo Jaime	(773) 441-3887
3-Year Trustee	Jan Schrader	

**Committees**

Americanism	Leo Jaime	(773) 441-3887
Blood Drive	Ingrid Kanady	(847) 951-3300
Buddy Poppy	Bob Colby	(630) 301-2664
Building	Mike Rechenmacher	(630) 244-3747
Color Guard	Dennis Regan	(630) 361-4644
Communications	Dennis Lukavsky	(630) 272-9064
Eighth Grade Awards	Tom Benton	(630) 579-8514
Grounds	Phil Maughan	(630) 357-3440
Honor Guard	Jim Oftedal	(630) 357-4030
Hospital	John Shaw	(630) 253-3318
House	Mike McGrath	(630) 357-2680
House	Bob Tallon	(630) 561-9902
House	Mike Rechenmacher	(630) 244-3747
Membership	Jennifer Slown	
Legislative	Staci Boyer	(773) 351-4646
National Home	Mike McGrath	(630) 357-2680
Patriot's Pen	Mark Overstreet	(773) 517-7346
Safety	Mike McGrath	(630) 357-2680
Social Media	Staci Boyer	(773) 351-4646
Voice of Democracy	Mark Overstreet	(773) 517-7346

**Auxiliary Officers**

President	Maryann Groner	(630) 363-8138
Sr. Vice President	Bernadette Budny	(630) 717-9471
Jr. Vice President	Debbie Smith	
Secretary	Nancy Marinello	(630) 420-1717
Treasurer	Leo Hart	(630) 816-0506
Chaplain	Geri Tice	(630) 201-4852
Guard	Mary Ellen DiMatteo	(630) 664-1612
Conductor	Kathy Thornton	(630) 667-6740
3 yr Trustee	Brenda Hasler	
2 yr Trustee	Julie Cunningham	
1 yr Trustee	Amy Ownby	



**VFW Post 3873  
Upcoming Events**



**February 2026**

- Sun 02/01: Members Family Breakfast, 9:00am-12:00pm, Post
- Mon 02/02: Auxiliary Bingo, Arista Healthcare, 2:00pm
- Tues 02/03: Hines Outreach, 10:00am-2:00pm, Post; Veteran Business Connection After Hours, 6:00pm, Canteen
- Wed 02/04: Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Fri 02/06: Ross Sings the Classics, Canteen
- Sat 02/07: Monarch Landing Visit, 10:00am; Disney Karaoke National Home Fundraiser
- Tues 02/10: Hines Hospital Visit, 6:15pm Meet at Post, back by 9:00pm
- Wed 02/11: Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Thurs 02/12: VFW Post Meeting, 7:00pm, VFW Post
- Sat 02/14: Brookdale Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am
- Mon 02/16: Veteran Business Connection Meeting, 8:00am, Rosie's 2155 City Gate Lane Naperville
- Wed 02/18: Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Thurs 02/19: Auxiliary Meeting, 7:00pm, VFW Post
- Fri 02/20: Fish Fry 2026 Opening Night
- Sat 02/21: Tabor Hills Visit, 10:00am
- Sun 02/22: Lotus Vibrations
- Wed 02/25: Yoga for Vets, 9:30am, VFW Post
- Thurs 02/26: Mardi Gras Casino Night Fundraiser for Naper Responds
- Fri 02/27: Fish Fry 2026
- Sat 02/28: Story Point Retirement Home Visit, 10:00am

Follow us on Instagram and Facebook. Look for highlight buttons for what we have been doing and what is upcoming labeled by the month. On Facebook we pin upcoming events for easy access. You can also find past KendallGram links on all of our social media channels as well. ALL upcoming events are also on this [Ticket Source link!](#)

**Upcoming Events**

- 3/1 Members Family Breakfast
- 3/3 Veteran Business Connection After Hours
- 3/6 Fish Fry
- 3/13 Fish Fry
- 3/14 Saint Patrick's Day Parade
- 3/16 Veteran Business Connection, Rosie's
- 3/15 Lotus Vibrations
- 3/20 Fish Fry
- 3/22 Veteran Suicide Prevention Ruck March
- 3/23 Lotus Vibrations
- 3/26 Joe Cantafio
- 3/27 Fish Fry
- 4/3 Fish Fry Closing Night