

THE

A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



KENDALL-GRAM



Volume 11, Issue 3
March, 2008

Around the Post with Commander Mike McGrath

WELCOME

Welcome to our newest Post members Sean Groves, Tony Mihalo, and Scott Zaur. Thank you for your service to Our Country and welcome to Our Post. ALL of our Post MEMBERS and our LADIES AUXILIARY MEMBERS join together in extending the hand of friendship to and your families. Membership truly means friendship.

FISH FRYS

Our Friday night Lenten Fish Frys are now in full swing, so please stop over. The food is GREAT and what a great way to beat the WINTER BLAHS!!!

VOD AND PATRIOTS PEN

We recently attended the District and State VOD Dinners as well as our District Patriot's Pen Dinner. As our VOD and Patriot's Pen participation continues to grow, it's just great to see the enthusiasm of all of the young student contestants. In a world filled with cynical sarcasm and scornful put downs, these kids set a great example not only through their forthright positive and enthusiastic attitudes but also thru their modesty and diligence as well. Our State VOD Dinner is held each year in Springfield Il, home of the Abraham Lincoln Museum. And what a great backdrop to understand all the many sacrifices that were made through the Lincoln years to protect our freedom. Our State VFW Convention will be held in Springfield this year and the Lincoln Museum is a "Must See" for everyone.

ELECTION YEAR

2008 is an election year for our Country and the month of March marks the beginning of the election process at our Post as well. We will begin NOMINATIONS for Post Officers for the coming year at our March post Meeting. Please plan on attending as our Post welcomes your participation. The ELECTION takes place at our April meeting and the installation of new officers will be held on Sunday, May 18. As our Post is growing tremendously, there are some great opportunities to get involved. We especially want to help and support our young servicemen and women...our IRAQ and AFGHANISTAN VETERANS. So if you'd like to help, then this is the Post for you.

SGT ROCK SAYS

Spring is right around the corner, (we hope) so now is the time to shed those extra winter pounds...Take Pride in your Appearance GI... remember that our young Servicemen and Women have to "work out" every day...and if they can do it, so can you. So "Let's go GI, it's good for you.

SAFETY MAN SAYS

Winter's almost over so remember that the warmer weather will bring out the kids. So watch your driving GI.

A REMINDER

All of our Post Officers and Auxiliary Officers work hard to keep you informed and involved...but WE CAN'T READ THE KENDALL GRAM FOR YOU. And we cannot attend the monthly Post Meetings or Auxiliary meetings for you either. That part is your responsibility. We appreciate your comments and suggestions as we welcome your help. As always, this is YOUR POST. The more you pitch in and help out, the better it will be for everyone. We work together,

and with teamwork and cooperation everyone benefits. Our Post has been and continues to be one of the best Posts in the Country. This is a good outfit- one you can be proud of ... So GET involved and bring a buddy with you... you'll be glad you did.

Thank you all for all you do and we'll be seeing you "AROUND THE POST."

Together Then, Together Again Senior Vice Commander Chuck Vladika

For those who were not able to attend our last Post Meeting; District 19 Commander Paul Kalembach spoke and praised our Post. We were the first Post in the District to achieve a 100% membership renewal. We also achieved other number one positions in various areas the VFW sets goals for Posts to achieve. All this of course was capable because of the dedication our members have. Congratulations, we are considered to be one of the best Posts in our District, in the State and throughout the nation.

When we state that Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873 is a hard working Post dedicated to "Veterans Helping Veterans", these goal achievements back us up. Thanks to all 700 of our members. This is truly YOUR POST. Keep up the great work. Hooooora.

A 'Scoche' more from the Signal Corp by Junior Vice Scott Holley

Thanks to Terry, Mike, Charlie, Sue for putting together a wonderful spread for the **Super Bowl!** Attendance was down, but that did not dampen the spirit and comradeship of watching a great game at the Post on the new TV's or the big screens upstairs. If you haven't been down to the Canteen lately, you may enjoy watching the new TV's in a smoke free environment. I would like to thank those who do smoke for handling this change so well. We know you enjoy coming down to the Post and hanging out and we want you to continue to do so.



Half way through the **Fish Frys!** If you haven't made it down for a great meal at a great price, please come down and support the post. If you haven't had the Pasta with the Vodka cream sauce or the garlic mashed potatoes you don't know what you are missing! Show up on March 14th and you'll see what I am talking about. We can always use some help clearing tables and directing traffic. It's a little bit of work but we make it fun with the good natured ribbing that goes on throughout the night. Also, you never know what might happen at the **Fish Fry**. Yours truly, thought it would be funny to put my Birthday on the calendar in the Kendallgram. Well, Marcy put it out there and then coordinated having a giant Birthday cake at the **Fish Fry** on Feb 8th. Jack got the entire hall to sing Happy Birthday. I guess I asked for it!! You just can't beat fun at the house that Judd built. Thanks Marcy!!! I know to be more careful going forward!

The **Ham Raffle** is on March 15th so please spread the word. Word of mouth is the best method to bring the masses down to support the best Post around. This is a very fun event in which you can win a lot of great food items such as hams, prime rib, sausage, cheese and a slew of other prizes for all. Upstairs is kid friendly with prizes for the kids to win as well! Nobody goes away a loser at the Judd Kendall Ham Raffle! This is the Post's 2nd biggest fund raising event, so please come down and help even for a short time and enjoy the fun. That helps give everyone a chance to take a break or participate in the many fun goings on! I look forward to seeing you there!

Over and Out

Dates to Remember

March 7th - Fish Fry (Coast Guard) 5-8 PM
 March 8th – Recognition Dinner – (Police – Fire – Teacher)
 6 PM
 March 9 - Daylight Savings Begins
 March 11th – Hines Hospital Visit, 6:30 PM
 March 13th – Post meeting, 7 PM
 March 14th – Fish Fry – (Auxiliary)
 March 15th – Ham Raffle, 6 PM
 March 17th - St. Patrick’s Day
 March 20th – Auxiliary Meeting, 7 PM
 March 21st - Fish Fry (All Branches) 5-8 PM
 March 23 - Easter Sunday
 April 8th – Hines Hospital Visit, 6:30 PM
 April 10th – Post Meeting – (Vote for New Officers), 7 PM
 April 12th - Blood Drive 8 Am till noon
 April 17th – Auxiliary Meeting, 7 PM
 April 20th – Life Members Breakfast, 9 AM

Dates of Interest

March 2nd 1965 – Raid on North Vietnam began
 March 2nd 2002 – Operation Anaconda begins
 March 3rd 1931 – “Star Spangled Banner” Made
 US National Anthem
 March 4th 1966 – Operation Utah
 March 7th 1951 – Operation Ripper began
 March 11th 1968 – Operation Resolve to Win
 began
 March 12th 1912 – Girl Scouts of America Founded
 March 18th 1969 – Operation Breakfast
 March 22nd 2002 – Operation Anaconda ends

POST 3873 Dominates

February 2nd, 2008 will be a day that will long be remembered by the Post 3873 Patriot Pen chairpersons. At the Patriot Pen awards banquet held at the Villa Park post on that date our Post took the first five places in District 19. We had 4 students from Kennedy Junior High, our business partner, garner 1st through 4th and a young man from Calvary Christian School earn 5th place honors. Unfortunately we didn’t get the 6th place award which would have made it a clean sweep. Darn it!

This accomplishment is unprecedented in the history of Patriot Pen competition. Our hats are off to the teachers who made the students realize this contest is important. More importantly, kudos go to the students who took so much of their valuable time to write these essays. We had 400+ entries this year and sent 26 essays to the District judging committee for their consideration. The district had 1200 total entries and managed to get it down to 77 for the final judging. Our students blew them away. Not only does this reflect well on the Post but it reinforces the fact that the education our students get in Naperville is second to none.

The first place winner, Tina Xu, read her winning entry and received a standing “O”. Way to go Tina!!!!!!!!!!!!

Her entry is below. I ask you to read it and realize what a great country we have.

Why I am an Amercian Patriot by Tina Xu

Many may find it strange how someone who wasn’t even born in America can be patriotic. Being Chinese, I was born in China and same to the United States when I was two. And yet, I don’t feel that this changes my feelings of patriotism. Knowing that my life could have been so different from what it is today, I feel that I have a greater respect towards this country and towards those who have helped make this country so great.

America is the land of the free, and the home of the brave. Yet, it is the people, not the land itself, that makes the United States such an amazing place. This country would have been nothing without the people’s overwhelming

support. These people were willing to risk their lives for their belief in freedom, liberty and the people's rights. The efforts of ordinary, everyday people are also responsible for creating such a wonderful country. Soldiers, firemen, policemen, men and women alike, are risking their lives day and night, dedicated to maintaining the safety of citizens. I am especially thankful towards each and every one of these admirable people, because they are ordinary Americans just like us, who were just so motivated that they were inspired to make a difference.

Although this country may not be my birth country, I have come to call this place home. There will always be a special place in my heart for America, because the people here are determined, courageous, and forever free, and it is because of them, my life is full of happiness and light. It is because of the American people, and the sacrifices that they have made, that I am proud to say that I am an American patriot.

The Poppies Have Arrived by Mike and Jan Barbour

Comrades and Sisters, our basement is filled with Buddy Poppies, 23,000 to be exact. With all the \$5.00, \$10.00, and \$20.00 bills we get, our goal of \$30,000 can be reached with only that low number of Poppies. As I have said so many times we are only limited by bodies on the street. **NAPERVILLE SUPPORTS VETERANS!** It is up to us to take advantage of that fact. Many of our members are getting a little older and can't spend as much time selling Poppies as they would like. It is time for our younger members and those who can't help as much at the Post to step up and sign up for a few hours to sell Poppies. We had 60 members last year collect over \$19,000. If we can get 100 to 150 comrades and sisters out there is no limit to what we can collect to support veterans' causes.

Laury Dobson, the Seabee, has said he doesn't feel quite as good this year and won't be able to break last year's mark of about \$7,000. He has still staked out his favorite area and it is sacred. When you are the Lead Dog that is a perk you have earned. However, there will probably be space available at Laury's favorite spot Casey's this year. The sign up sheets will be available the end of April down in the canteen or you can call the Poppy Prince or Princess at 630-527-0738 to reserve your spot.

The challenge is out there comrades. Make plans now to sell Poppies over the Memorial Day time frame.

Auxiliary Report by President Kathy McNally

And just when you thought there was no end to the snow and blowing cold...our Annual Ham Raffle is this month! That means Easter is right around the corner. But there are are still a few Fish Fry Fridays to enjoy.

It's great to see all our neighbors and friends at the Fish Frys. The Ladies have again this year volunteered to "man" the cash registers - no more dishpan hands! We're still looking for Sisters to help. There are two shifts (so you can plan on dining with your family): 5:00 PM to 6:30 PM or 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM. Please call me to donate 90 minutes of your time at least once this Lenten season (630 305 8196). Remember that all proceeds go to funding our Veterans and their families' needs. Plus, it's a great excuse to get out of the house!

Our Ham Raffle is another fun fundraiser. We still need donated items for the Ladies raffles. And note the date in your calendar: Saturday, March 15th at 6:00 PM to 9:00 PM. We'll also be looking for help in the kitchen and would like to see some new faces this time. Are you game?

Did you know that the VFW and the Ladies Auxiliary are hosting the first-ever Kendall Honors banquet? We will be honoring:

Police Officer of the Year

Firefighter of the Year
Educators from Districts 203 and 204
Our youth essay winners.

The menu is Prime Rib with a side order of very short speeches (we promise!). Make plans now to attend - Saturday, March 8th - 5pm social hour, 6pm dinner, 7pm awards — and you can still get home in time for Lawrence Welk!

Since this is the season and you're eating a lot of it, don't forget to drop off your Campbell's soup labels (entire label). They go towards funding the National Home.

Hope to see you at a Fish Fry or two and then again at the Ham Raffle. Meantime, Beannachtaí na Féile Pádraig! (St. Patrick's Day Blessings to You!)

KENDALL HONORS

Naperville VFW Post 3873 And its Ladies Auxiliary

Invite you to attend
**Kendall Honors
Banquet and Awards Ceremony**

Saturday, March 8, 2008
Kendall Hall
908 West Jackson
Naperville, Illinois

5 o'clock Social Hour
6 o'clock Dinner
7 o'clock Awards
Cost is \$15 per person
Checks payable to VFW Post 3873
RSVP to Terry Jelinek (630) 355-7664
By March 1, 2008

E-Mail is vfw3873@sbcglobal.net

Plant Sale

Plant Sale forms are included in this month's newsletter. We realize that the present weather is hardly conducive to thinking about spring planting, but spring will come and NOW is the time to order your annuals and specialty plants for the flower beds, and pots, as well as the hanging baskets you need. The money raised from the plant sale is used to enhance the grounds of the VFW. Please have your order in by the deadline, April 7. Pickkup will be May 6 from 1-6 PM. We appreciate your support.

Hines Hospital Visits

The Chairman of the Hospital Committee, Mike McGrath, would like to remind everyone that the Post visits the Hines VA Hospital every second Tuesday of the month. We will not be going during the months of July and August but our visits will resume in September. We hope you will join us then.

Canteen Hours

	Open	Close
Mon-Thurs	3:00 PM	10:00 PM/Midnight
Friday	Noon	10:00 PM/2:00 AM
Saturday	Noon	10:00 PM/2:00 AM
Sunday	11:00 AM	5:00 PM/6:00 PM

If at anytime between the first close hour and the second close hour listed above, there are no more than four customers in the Canteen, the bartender will give a last call and close the Canteen 15 minutes later.

NO ONE is allowed behind the bar, except the Bartenders. This includes any children in the bar!

Remember: THE BARTENDER IS BOSS!

Submission Policy

The Kendall Gram encourages Post members to submit articles and photos. Simply give the article or photo to the on-duty bartender. It is important that you put your name and phone number on the item in case there are any questions. Please ensure that names are legible. Your article may be edited for clarity and space considerations. All photos MUST have the following information with it: where and why the picture was taken, and who is in the picture. Photographs without captions will not be used. Please submit all articles by the third of the month for next month's publication.

Kendall-Gram

Editor Marcy Maughan 357-3440

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Naperville, IL 60540

POSTNUMBER 420-9820

Website Address: napervfw.org

Judd Kendall Post 3873 Officers

Commander	Mike McGrath	357-2680
Sr. Vice Commander	Charlie Vladika	357-8615
Jr. Vice Commander	Scott Holley	369-1912
Quartermaster	Terry Jelinek	357-5366
Ass't Quartermaster	Phil Maughan	357-3440
Adjutant	Bob Bronson	978-2143
Judge Advocate	John Shaw	961-3479
Surgeon	John Dawley	428-3494
Service Officer	Ken Garhan	355-2493
Officer of the Day	Jack Shiffler	357-4615
Guard	Harry Brozynski	961-9245
Chaplain	Jay Johnson	355-5522

Trustees

1 year	Phil Maughan	357-3440
2 year	Mike Barbour	527-0738
3 year	George McKissick	

Committee	Chairman	Phone
Americanism	Jack Shiffler	357-4615
Blood Drive	Bernie Berkes	357-0547
Buddy Poppy	Mike Barbour	527-0738
Building	Mike Rechenmacher	961-1377
Color Guard	Jack Shiffler	357-4615
Eighth Grade Awards	Tom Benton	
Grounds	Phil Maughan	357-3440
Facilities Manager	Ken Garhan	355-2493
Hospital	Mike McGrath	357-2680
	John Shaw	961-3479
House	Ken Garhan	355-2493
	Mike Rechenmacher	961-1377
	Bob Tallon	357-8134
Kitchen	Ken Garhan	355-2493
Life Membership		
Membership	Charlie Vladika	357-8615
Legislative	Frank Haynes	357-2906
National Home		
Nursing Home		
Public Relations	Mike Barbour	527-0738
Safety	Jim Morsovillo	204-0599
Voice of Democracy	Mike Barbour	527-0738
Youth Activities		

Auxiliary Officers

President	Kathy McNally	305-8157
Senior Vice	Donna Morsovillo	302-2638
Junior Vice	Jenny Dawley	428-3494
Treasurer	Debbie Obourne	
Secretary	Jan Barbour	527-0738
Chaplain	Ginny Arbogast	355-5406
Guard	Mary Lou Miller	226-9767
Conductress	Fran McGrath	357-2680

KENDALL-GRAM
Veterans Of Foreign Wars #3873
908 W Jackson
Naperville, IL 60540

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VFW Ham Raffle
March 15, 6 PM
Everyone Welcome
Open to the Public

