

THE

A Monthly Publication for the Members of VFW Post 3873



KENDALL-GRAM



Volume 11, Issue 5
May, 2008

Around the Post with Commander Mike McGrath

Welcome

Welcome to our newest Post Members, Asif Beg, Teresa Stone, and Mickey Guth. Thank you for your service to our Country. All of our Post members and our Auxiliary members join together in extending the hand of friendship to you and your families.

Congratulations

Congratulations and our very best wishes to our newly elected Post Officers. We are so very proud of you all and will look forward to working together with you in the coming year.

PLEASE NOTE that our Installation Dinner will be held on Sunday, May 18 at 5:00 PM. The Amigos, including Commander-elect Charlie Vladika, tell me dinner will be special so don't miss it. Cost will be \$12.00.

Blue Star Memorial

This year, as a tribute to honor the men and women of our Armed Forces, our VFW Post, in conjunction with American Legion Post 43 and the Naperville Garden Club will participate in a Blue Star Memorial marker dedication ceremony at Burlington Square Park at 2:00 PM on Saturday, May 17... Armed Forces Day. We look forward to this ceremony and invite your participation and assistance.

Rainy Night Bingo

Thank You to our Hospital Committee members for the April visit to Hines. Even though it was a rainy night, everything went very well and the guys at Hines greatly appreciated the camaraderie. It's great to know that we do make a difference for the guys at Hines.

Belated Thank You

..to everyone who pitched in and made our 20th annual Ham and Prime Rib raffle a great success.. Thank you especially to Kathy McNally and all the GREAT GALs from our Ladies Auxiliary for all their hard work... you gals made everything special.

Post Blood Drive

Our Post would like to especially thank Bernie Berkes for her great work on our Blood Drives for so many years and we welcome Nina Petru who will be taking care of our Post Blood Drives in the future. The blood drive of April 12 went very well and we thank all who participated and helped out. The pancakes were great and this is such a good cause!!!! Thanks again to everyone.

What's Next

As Memorial Day is fast approaching, be sure to read the Kendall-Gram and come to our Post meetings. This will help you to keep informed and involved. Don't forget to sign up for Poppy Sales and you'll need to keep track of all the many events we've planned at the Post. Our Post now has over 700 members and the scope of our activities also has grown tremendously. What we do is VERY IMPORTANT so we appreciate your involvement

and participation and so do all of our troops around the world. Let us never forget them, or their families !

SAFETY MAN encourages everyone to be alert behind the wheel...watch out for the KIDS !! and SGT ROCK hopes you're all keeping up with your workouts. Good, I knew I could count on you.

Well G.I. looks like that's it for now so let me just thank everyone for all you do! And we'll be SEEING YOU AROUND THE POST.

Together Then, Together Again Senior Vice Commander Chuck Vladika

We are still holding at 104% membership. Thanks to all of our 700 members for continuing your membership. We will continue to pay the dues for our members who are on Active Duty. Do keep them all in your prayers. Please continue getting the word out to these Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans that we, at our VFW, are here to help them. We can help direct their VA benefit inquiries to the right resources.

A hardy and humble Thank you goes out to all our members supporting my election to Commander for the 2008 - 2009 year. My goals for the next year are to encourage recruitment of Active Duty and returning Veterans. Also, we encourage any of our great Country's Veterans from previous conflicts to join the VFW. We will always be "Veterans helping Veterans". Of course we will be actively pursuing more participation on our various committees. These committees are the strength of our Post. Please, join in....Don't forget to mark your calendar and join in the Memorial Day weekend VFW activities.

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

Another successful year of the Fish Fry's come to an end. Thanks to **Belgio's** for another great year. Also, thanks to the Kitchen Committee for all that you do to make it successful. It's always good to see the families come in and enjoy a night out at the Post. Last, it wouldn't be successful without the volunteers. The work they do makes the event enjoyable, keeping the hall clean, helping to seat people, helping with kids and everything else. This is what drives the word of mouth and keeps them coming back. I was extremely proud to be there when the Veterans from the Blind Unit at Hines came out.

What a great bunch of folks who were so appreciative. A couple of them did not want to leave. One gentleman was taking pictures and said that he did not want to "Eat and Run". I recalled from last year how excited they were to be served beer by a Colonel. When I told him that he could get a picture with the Colonel, but the Colonel was standing outside the bus, he couldn't grab his stuff fast enough. Thanks **Colonel Dawley** for helping make that day special. This is truly one of those moments that define us as a Post and why we are the best!



We are entering a very busy time of year with the Installation Dinner, Memorial Day activities including Poppy Sales, Grave decorations, and the Parade. I look forward to seeing all of you out supporting the Post and our effort to support veterans! Please participate in at least one of our activities this month.

And in June, don't forget our Annual Golf Outing. More information and sign up sheets are in the Canteen.

Over and Out

Dates to Remember

- May 6th _ Plant Pickup Day 1-6 PM**
- May 8th – Post Meeting , 7 PM
- May 13th – Hines Hospital Visit, 6:30 PM
- May 11th- Mothers Day
- May 15th – Auxiliary Meeting, 7 PM
- May 16th - Kennedy Jr High kids will plant VFW, 9-11AM
- May 17th - Clean up of exterior grounds, spread mulch 8:30AM
- May 17th -Armed Forces Day
- May 17th - Blue Star Marker Dedication at Burlington Park, 2 PM
- May 18th - Installation Dinner 5 – 9, cost is \$12.
- My 21- 25th - Poppy Sales
- May 24th – Grave Decorations for Memorial Day
- May 26th - Memorial Day Parade – luncheon
- June 7th – Golf Outing, Sign up sheet in Canteen
- June 7th - Boy Scout Pancake Breakfast
- June 10th – Hines Hospital visit, 6:30 PM
- June 12th – Post Meeting, 7 PM
- June 15th – Life Members Breakfast, 9 AM
- June 19th- Auxiliary Meeting, 7 PM
- June 20th - State Convention
- June 21st - State Convention
- June 22nd – State Convention

Dates of Interest

- May 1st 1970 – Cambodia Campaign Began
- May 5th 1968 – Mini-Tet Began
- May 8th 1945 – V-E Day: German Unconditional Surrender Signed
- May 8th 1972 – US Navy Mined North Vietnamese Ports

Buddy Poppy News by Jan and Mike Barbour

Well, Comrades and Sisters, not much more can be said about Buddy Poppy Sales. The sign up sheets are posted in the canteen; the poppies are available for pick up in the card room. Our goal is \$30,000 this year and we can reach that goal with your support. As I have said many times in the past few months the only thing that limits our success is butts on the street. If you can't make it to the post to signup call one of the following comrades or sister for information:

George McKissick	961-2030	Southern Region
Mike and Jan Barbour	527-0738	Central Region
John Baber	420-7594	Northern Region



IF YOU CAN'T FIND 2 HOURS TO GO OUT AND SELL POPPIES WE WILL ALWAYS TAKE A CHECK. MAKE THE CHECK OUT TO: POST 3873 POPPY RELIEF FUND

A good rule of thumb is that every 2 hours yields \$75 to \$100 in Buddy Poppy Sales.

Plant Sale

The plant sale was very successful this year, even if everyone waited till the last minute to get their orders in and nearly caused me heart failure. Pickup is May 6, from 1-6 PM. Please pick up your orders on time; I am not responsible for any orders not picked up by 6 PM. Thanks to everyone who ordered flowers. We really do appreciate all your support. The money we raised is used to beautify the grounds here at the VFW. We are very proud of our site and think it is one of the best! Your support helps keep it looking great!

WE NEED HELP! We need people to DIRECT the Kennedy Jr. High Students on May 16th from 9 till about 11 AM. They will do the planting and hard work. We need you to keep the kids on task. Also on May 17th we need some volunteers to spread mulch on the flower bed and perhaps do some light trimming.

Auxiliary Report by President Kathy McNally

April showers — be gone! And May flowers will be here soon.....particularly because of the special work and dedication of our Sister Marcy Maughan. Marcy has volunteered to manage our annual plant sale for quite a few years - and this year was panicking at the last minute, as we need a minimum dollar amount in order to get the flowers delivered. We increased our orders over the last deadline weekend by more than 600% - thus Marcy was able to place the entire order AND our profit will be seen blooming around the Post grounds soon. Marcy extends her grateful thanks for all those Sisters who encouraged plant sales at the Fish Fries this year and for all who sent Marcy an order.

Now, Marcy asks us for two things - and since she has been taking the lioness' share of this project over the years, we are certainly going to do all we can to accommodate her! First, Marcy needs help on May 6th, pickup day, any time at all from 7 AM to 6 PM. Even if you only have your lunch hour free, all hands are appreciated. Marcy's second request is to pray for nice weather for pickup day...We'll be counting on you!

We also extend our grateful thanks to all our Sisters who helped cashier or bus tables at our Fish Fries this year. It certainly was odd to have started Fridays so early in the year, wasn't it? But once again, many hands made light work - and we couldn't have done it without you!

May is such a busy month for us, and if you're unable to come out to plant pickup day, there will be plenty of opportunity to give a hand. Our next meeting is Thursday, May 15th at 7 PM. Installation of our new officers is Sunday, May 18th at 5:00 PM. And we'll be decorating our Sisters' graves again this year on Friday, May 23rd after school. We have a committed group of young people including Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts - but all young people are welcomed! We meet at the Post for our assignments, then rejoin on the back deck afterwards for treats and a special guest speaker. All this leads up to our Parade and Luncheon on Monday, May 26th. If you can't march, you can ride the Ladies Auxiliary trolley!

Please consider coming out to a meeting, the Parade or luncheon. Volunteers are a very powerful force that make a difference on all our lives — and especially for our Veterans and their families.

Run with a View

Coming off a successful outing at the Cantigny 5K last fall, the Judd Kendall Racing Team has decided to add the Memorial 8K race to its annual schedule. The Illinois Tollway and the VA are combining to sponsor an 8K race on June 15 on I-355's new Des Plaines River Valley Bridge. That section of the Veterans Memorial Tollway will be closed to vehicles that morning and we will have more time to enjoy the expansive views from bridge than we do at our usual driving pace. The race starts at 8:00 AM on June 15th at I-355 and 127th St. in Lemont. Proceeds from this race will benefit Salute, Inc. which supports various veterans initiatives in this area. You can find more information and a registration form at www.saluteinc.org or register on line at www.active.com. All post and auxiliary members and their families and friends are invited to participate. The event is open to walkers but do note that at 8K (almost 5 miles), this is a longer distance than most walking events. Call team captain Phil Maughan (630-357-3440) for car pooling details.

Blood Drive

Our Blood Drive was held on April 12 and we had 38 donors. Thanks to all the donors. A special thanks to Nina Petru for taking on this committee and to Charlie Vladika and Ken Garhan for their help in the kitchen. Our next blood drive will be in December.

Memorial Day Schedule

May 26, 2008

8:00 – Flag raising and service at 9/11-Cmdr. Dan Shanower Memorial – (taps & volley)

8:30 – Service at Veterans Park (Gartner Rd.) – (taps & volley)

8:50 – Service at Burlington Park Doughboy Monument – (taps & volley)

9:15 – Service at St. Peter & Paul Cemetery (taps & volley)

10:00 – Service at GAR Monument in Naperville Cemetery – (taps & volley)

10:30 – Advance section of parade steps off from Jackson and Ewing



10:40 – Service at plaza, corner of Webster & Jackson

Main Parade steps off from Jackson & West St., East to Washington, North to Jefferson, East to Brainard, North to Van Buren, West to Court Place, North to Benton, East to St. Peter & Paul parking lot.

12:15 – Program at Community Concert Center

Selections by Naperville Municipal Band

Invocation – Star Spangled Banner

Municipal Band – Medley of Service Songs

Service at Blackhawk Monument/Silver Star Memorial – prayer, volley, taps & Star Spangled Banner

Municipal Band – Patriotic Medley

12:45 – Closing Ceremony

If it is raining at 9:00 AM – the decision to cancel will be made at that time by Parade committee and Naperville Police Department. **Memorial Day Parade has been a Naperville tradition for over 80 years. Let us all thank a veteran on this special day!!**

Busses will take veterans and Military units back to City Hall for their vehicles or directly back to Judd Kendall VFW Post 3873 where lunch and refreshments will be provided for participants and their families.

Do not park in the VFW parking lot before noon on Memorial Day! We suggest you park at City Hall and ride the busses provided to all the ceremonies.

We will decorate graves on Saturday, May 24th, starting at 9 AM at the Naperville Cemetery.

Anyone wishing to ride in a car for the parade should contact either Jack Shiffler, 630-357-4615 or Terry Jelinek at 630-357-5366. All Veterans are invited to march in the parade, regardless if they belong to a veterans organization or not.

Date with History at the First Division Museum

The First Division Museum at Cantigny will be offering two programs of interest to Veterans. They include:

Perspectives of the Tet Offensive
Friday, May 2, 2008
7:30pm

Battlefield Nursing: Medics in Iraq
Wednesday, May 7, 2008
7:30pm

The First Division Museum at Cantigny is located at 1S151 Winfield Road, Wheaton, Illinois , 630.260.8227. Free parking and admission . Doors open at 6:45 pm . Refreshments and hors d’oeuvres will be served. Teacher CPDUs available For more information see www.FirstDivisionMuseum.org.

Operation Support Our Troops

Operation Support our Troops, Illinois needs volunteers to help direct traffic flow at the external parking lots for the OSOT-IL Gary Sinese Concert on July 19, 2008.

We will have two external lots within about two miles of Cantigny Park in Wheaton, one North and one South. The first is at International Truck Lot @ I-88 and Winfield Rd., while the other is at County Complex Lot on County Farm Rd., just north of Roosevelt Rd. There will be free shuttle buses between these lots and Cantigny Park. The Park opens at noon and the concert ends at 9:30 PM. We expect to move all attendees back to the external lots by 10:30 or 11 PM There will be about six shifts throughout the day.

The responsibilities are simple:

- a. Ability to handle crowd control: direct people from their cars to the buses and vise-versa. Detail instructions will be given; night shift will have night jackets & flash lights; will direct traffic only on private property parking lot
- b. Be familiar with lot layout to direct traffic, will explain to all volunteers
- c. Will take ticket stub prior to bus entry and answer simple concert questions
- d. Should have cell phone for communication of possible issues

All volunteers will be trained. For more information call Al Keener, event coordinator, 630-355-0310.

Troop 111 Takes Cantigny! By Larry Spencer

In March, Troop 111 set out to work on scout skills and rank advancements for our newest members of our troop. To do this we camped out at Cantigny Park. While camping we taught our newest members basic skills such as knot tying, fire building, safe handling of tools such as knives and saws, and of course, building a tent and sleeping in it. At the park our troop toured the First Division Museum, and had a great time climbing the tanks. It is easy to say that this campout was a great success with a lot accomplished.

This May we will be going on our mountain biking trip to earn our cycling merit badge. We will also be doing a service project at Loaves and Fishes to give food to members of our community who are in need of it. Our troop continues to work hard to improve our community and work for the people who need our help.

Coming up on Saturday June 7th, we will be holding our annual Pancake Breakfast. This is one of the two of our troop's fund-raisers for the year. Pancakes and sausages will be served by the hardworking members of our troop. We from troop 111 thank you for all your support and we hope that you have a great spring.



Mark Your Calendars for May 17, 2008

Do you know anyone currently serving in the Military or National Guard and have family members, spouses or loved ones in the local area?

The Naperville American Legion and VFW are sponsoring another Blue Star Reception for the family members of those currently serving. This event will be held in Burlington Square Park across the street from the 5th Avenue Train Station. The festivities begin at 2 PM with a dedication and presentation of a Blue Star Memorial Marker erected in the Park and donated by the Naperville Garden Club. Individual Blue Star Banners will be given to the immediate families of those serving currently in our Armed Forces. This reception will begin around 3 PM. Ample parking is available in the nearby parking lots for the train station.

Families have been displaying these banners for their loved ones serving our Country since World War I and we again are trying to keep this tradition alive. The war on terrorism will be with us and the display of a blue star banner in a family's front window is a constant reminder to our neighbors that this war touches everybody.

We will also have members who have recently served in Iraq and or Afghanistan to answer any questions on their service, members from Operation Support our Troops-Illinois about sending packages overseas and local recruiters to answer any questions regarding the military ways. Refreshments will be served.

We have a joint committee of both Legion and VFW men and women working hard to get this reception together and locating the families that currently are in need of a blue star banner. Again, the Post motto for both the American Legion and the VFW is VETERANS STILL SERVING.

Please help us get the word out about this reception and help us to contact as many families as possible. The date again is Saturday, May 17th. Contact Priscilla Laubscher at 305-8271 or 176200pl@att.net for further information or to register with her for receiving your Blue Star Banner.



NEWSFLASH!!!!!!!!!!

BINNY'S BBQ WINE TASTING

FRIDAY, MAY 23, 2008

6:00-8:30PM

OVER 40 WINES TO START YOUR BBQ SEASON

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO VFW POST 3873

\$10 MEMBERS \$15 NON-MEMBERS

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

Post Mailing Address: VFW Post 3873,
908 W Jackson
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		
Junior Vice	Jenny Dawley	428-3494
Treasurer	Debbie Obourne	
Secretary	Jan Barbour	527-0738
Chaplain	Dorothy Garhan	355-2493
Guard	Mary Lou Miller	226-9767
Conductress	Fran McGrath	357-2680

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



PRSRT STD
US Postage Paid
Naperville, IL
Permit #2978

Congratulations to the new Officers elected for the 2008-2009 calendar year. They will be installed at the intallation dinner on May 17th, at 5 PM. Cost of the dinner is \$12. Come and show your support for the new officers.

Post Officers

Commander: Charlie Vladika
Sr. Vice Commader: Scott Holly
Jr Vice commander: John Kolby
Quartermaster: Terry Jelinek
Asst Quartermaster: Phil Maughan
Service Office: Ken Garhan
Judge Advocate: Nina Petru
Surgeon: John Dawlwy
Chaplain: Jay Johnson
3 Year Trustee: Mike McGrath
3 Year House Committee: Kag Cagnolia

Auxiliary Officers

President: Kathy McNally
Senior Vice-President: Fran McGrath
Junior Vice : Jenny Dawley
Guard: Mary Lou Miller
Treasurer : Deb Obourne
Chaplain : Dorothy Garhan
Conductress: Sue Jelinek
Secretary: Jan Barbour
Trustees: Miriam Ferguson
2 year : Dorthy Garhan
3 Year Trustees: Melba Scofield