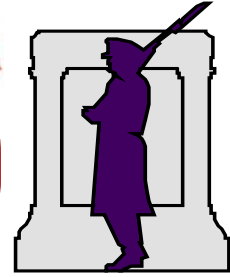




# KEEPING POSTED

American Legion Post #43  
Naperville, IL  
[www.naperlegion.org](http://www.naperlegion.org)



Volume 22 Issue 7  
Aug 2023

**Celebrating 104 Years of Service to Veterans, U.S. Military, Youth, & Community**

## COMMANDER'S CALL

Thank you for allowing me the privilege of being your Commander for the 2023 – 2024 Legion Year! It's truly an honor and I look forward to serving you.

Before we start to look ahead at the coming year, I'd like to share some highlights from this past year:

- \* We started several new activities that we'll continue this coming year
- \* We grew our sponsorship of Scouting by adding 2 Scout Troops to the Post 43 family
- \* We achieved 101.5% membership on year end. (we grew from 547 members to 555 members)
- \* We were recognized by the American Legion Department of Illinois for our outstanding support of the Boys State program, our excellent Newsletter and last but not least, Commander Baran's tireless recruiting efforts were recognized as she won the Gold Brigade Membership Award and Recruiter of the Year Award!



Tom Jorstad

While my main focus for the upcoming year will be serving the members of Post 43, I would also like to increase engagement between and amongst our members, improve community awareness of Post 43 (and all the great work that we do) and lastly, I would like to grow our American Legion family by starting an American Legion Auxiliary (more details to come in the next couple of months). Any suggestions that you have for activities, events, sponsorships, fundraisers, or any suggestions on how to improve Post 43, please let me know.

Let's have fun this year, let's work as a family and if you need help, reach out. We should all strive to make a positive difference in the lives of our fellow veterans and in our community.

Semper Fidelis!

Tom Jorstad  
Commander Post 43  
(630) 215-3592  
[Tom.jorstad@yahoo.com](mailto:Tom.jorstad@yahoo.com)

## Sr. Vice Commander

"First, I want to thank each and every Legion member for supporting my nomination and selection as this year's Senior Vice. I know the role comes with great responsibility and I am excited for the challenge! The first order of business? "Numbers! Numbers! Numbers!" That will be the echo you'll hear over the next recruiting year as we strive to meet and EXCEED the 2022-2023 year's membership number of 555 paid members!



I will rely heavily on each of you, our dedicated Legionnaires, to help accomplish this mission. And it is a mission like any other we were tasked with completing during our time in service, that each of us are responsible for. It ensures the future of not only our American Legion Post, but the American Legion as a national organization that ardently supports Veterans and Veteran causes. Each of us is a recruiter for the Legion. You meet and see fellow Veterans in everyday passings, when chatting about your service, a simple "oh are you a member of the American Legion?" is a great conversation segue to sell our post and the importance of the American Legion mission. We're in this together, and I'm eager to get after it!

Oh, and if you have a particular idea for a recruiting opportunity, a way to bolster our numbers, or a recruiting incentive idea, please reach out to me directly!

Semper Fidelis,

Jennifer Slown  
Senior Vice Commander, Post 43  
(630) 215-3592  
jenniberbslown@gmail.com





### AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER 43



Steve Strickland

The Riders were there to Welcome Home the Chicago Honor Flight-July 14<sup>th</sup>.

Welcome Home Mike Rechenmacker!

The Riders were asked again to participate in the Annual India Day Parade on August 13. The Naperville India Day Celebration Event is the largest in the Country.

We have led the parade for 8 years.

We'll be there to Welcome Home Honor Flight Chicago on August 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Respectfully submitted,  
Steve  
Steve Strickland  
Director  
American Legion Riders  
Post 43, Naperville, IL



Photo Credit Jim Hoch

## Sons of the American Legion

Hope everyone is enjoying the summer thus far. With all the many activities the Legion Family has going on this summer, the SAL Squadron 43 has taken a pause in having our monthly stating meetings. We will regroup after Labor Day, our next stated meeting is scheduled for September 19<sup>th</sup>. Our stated S.A.L. meeting is on the **THIRD** Tuesday at 7:00PM, and all members of the Legion and Legion Riders are welcome and encouraged to attend. We met in the lower-level patio at the VFW hall.



Chris Lance

We are always welcoming new members and transfers. Many Legionnaires hold dual memberships in S.A.L. All male descendants, adopted sons, and stepsons of members of The American Legion, and such male descendants of veterans who died in Service, are eligible to join. The S.A.L. Squadron 43 main goals are to support our Post and support our Community.

Respectfully,  
SAL Commander  
Squadron 43  
Chris Lance  
(630) 926-1177  
[chrisjlance@gmail.com](mailto:chrisjlance@gmail.com)



## Burial Allowance

As a reminder to our membership, once a veteran has passed, another important aspect of our government's "Allowed Benefits" comes into play for which the veterans family must apply. These benefits (burial and plot costs) are offered to help cover some burial costs. The Veterans Family/NOK (Next of Kin) must apply for these allowances. Use the link for description and steps to request benefits up to 2 years after death of your veteran.

<https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/veterans-burial-allowance/>

The items for verification which the family/NOK must provide are:

- DD-214 and Death Certificate.

- Receipts of expenditures paid.

- Statement of Account (preferably with the letterhead of the funeral director or cemetery owner)

It is imperative that you, the VFW/AL veteran, provide this information to someone in your family to apply for these benefits. Our government has a 2 year limit, **from date of death**, for these allowances to be paid to the deceased veterans family/estate.

If the veteran is to be buried at Abe Lincoln National Cemetery, or any other national cemetery, review their requirements at:

[https://www.cem.va.gov/burial\\_benefits/index.asp](https://www.cem.va.gov/burial_benefits/index.asp)

Jim Oftedal - Honor Guard





## AMERICAN LEGION POST 43 CALENDAR



Aug 3, 2023  
 Aug 5, 2023  
 Aug 12, 2023  
 Aug 13, 2023  
 Aug 18, 2023  
 Aug 15, 2023  
 Aug 19, 2023  
 Aug 23, 2023  
 Aug 27, 2023

Thursday  
 Saturday  
 Saturday  
 Sunday  
 Friday  
 Tuesday  
 Saturday  
 Wednesday  
 Saturday



Post Meeting 7:00PM  
 10 am Coffee at The Springs  
 10 am Coffee at Brookdale-Lisle  
 Post Fundraiser at the VFW  
 Volunteer Nights at Naper Settlement  
 S.A.L. Squadron Meeting 7 PM  
 10 am Coffee at Tabor Hills  
 Legion Riders Meeting 7 PM  
 10 am Coffee at Story Point-Naperville



Sep 4, 2023  
 Sep 7, 2023  
 Sep 9, 2023  
 Sep 16, 2023  
 Sep 16, 2023  
 Sep 17, 2023  
 Sep 19, 2023  
 Sep 22, 2023  
 Sep 23, 2023  
 Sep 27, 2023

Monday  
 Thursday  
 Saturday  
 Saturday  
 Saturday  
 Saturday  
 Tuesday  
 Friday  
 Saturday  
 Wednesday



Labor Day Parade  
 Post Meeting 7:00PM  
 10 am Coffee at Monarch Landing  
 10 Am Coffee at Brookdale-Lisle  
 Legion Dinner 6:00PM  
 10 am Coffee at Tabor Hills  
 S.A.L. Squadron Meeting 7 PM  
 Toys for Tots Golf Outing Bliss Creek  
 10 am Coffee at Tabor Hills  
 Legion Riders Meeting 7 PM



Oct 5, 2023  
 Oct 7, 2023  
 Oct 14, 2023  
 Oct 17, 2023  
 Oct 21, 2023  
 Oct 21, 2023  
 Oct 25, 2023  
 Oct 28, 2023

Thursday  
 Saturday  
 Saturday  
 Tuesday  
 Saturday  
 Saturday  
 Wednesday  
 Saturday



Post Meeting 7:00PM  
 10 am Coffee at Monarch Landing  
 10 Am Coffee at Brookdale-Lisle  
 S.A.L. Squadron Meeting 7 PM  
 10 am Coffee at Tabor Hills  
 Legion Dinner 6:00PM  
 Legion Riders Meeting 7 PM  
 10 am Coffee at Tabor Hills

## Meet our Scouts Pack

Cub Scout Pack 87 meets at Kingsley Elementary School near Washington & Ring Rd, where most of our roughly 40 cub scouts attend school. Our Pack is very active, hosting Spring and Fall weekend campouts at nearby preserves and parks, a pinewood derby competition in January, floating down the DuPage in the summertime, going to local sporting events, fundraising with popcorn sales, taking charge of keeping our local streets clean, and much more. We're happy to count Nadia's son as an alumni of our Pack and appreciate American Legion Post 43 sponsoring us!



Photo Credit Jim Hoch



I know that as veterans we are sort of semi proud of the motto "hurry up and wait". It showed some of the pain the military hit us with. It has become somewhat of a "red badge of courage". As a result we sort of carried that forward to today and spent time (some folks) complaining that our veteran resources are not doing enough or are inadequate to handle the work load of the aging veteran population. Below is your opportunity to be heard and offer you views and offer your input about what the IDVA should be doing for us. If you don't bother to offer your input you have no reason to complain.

Speak up and be heard, improve the support Illinois Veterans deserve. (You even get a \$50. Gift Card)

Dennis Lukavsky  
Service Officer:  
VFW Post 3873  
Legion Post 43

Calling all Illinois veterans and veteran family members!  
**Help shape the future of the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs by participating in a paid research opportunity.**

We are seeking feedback from veterans and their family members about accessing veteran services and benefits.

Participation entails:

- 1-hour interview by phone or video call
- Findings will remain anonymous
- Participants that complete an interview will receive a \$50 Amazon gift card

Interested? Use the QR code or the link below to fill out your information.



<https://tinyurl.com/ILVetResearch>

#### About this research

The Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs (IDVA) is working with a group of researchers at the University of Illinois Chicago to better understand the needs of veterans throughout Illinois.

The results of this study will help the IDVA better serve veterans and their families in Illinois.

#### Questions?

Contact the team at [ilvetresearch@uic.edu](mailto:ilvetresearch@uic.edu)



**Illinois**  
Department of  
Veterans' Affairs



**Institute for  
HEALTHCARE  
DELIVERY DESIGN**



**VA Hotline**  
**1-855-948-2311**





## Volunteer Nights a Naper Settlement



The post will be working the Beer tent at the August 18th Naper Nights Concert at the Naperville Settlement. It will be a tribute to Neil Young and John Prine. It will be a time commitment of from 4PM to 10PM. We expect it to be a very busy night so lots of help is needed. To adequately handle the expected traffic through the beer tent we will need 25 folks to step up and help work the tent. If you can support this activity, please sign up at: <http://vhub.at/AmericanLegion0043>.

Keep in mind that all funds raised will be donated to Operation Comfort Warrior

## Coffee With Vets

**Saturday Morning 10 AM**



The Aug dates are:

**Aug 5 - The Springs**

**Aug 12 - Brookdale - Lisle**

**Aug 19- Tabor Hills**

**Aug 26 - Story Point-Naperville**

Don't forget our monthly visits with Veterans at Monarch Landing, Brookdale - Lisle, Independence Village, and Story Point-Naperville. Join us on the 1st Saturday at Monarch Landing, 2nd Saturday at Brookdale in Lisle, 3rd Saturday at Independence Village, and 4th Saturday at Story Point-Naperville. All are welcome to Attend!!

Information: Jim Stoffregen 630-430-4966 or Jerry Cooney 630-995-5053

# Summer Events



**American Legion Post #43**

PO Box 4, Naperville, IL 60566

**MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS** are the first Thursday of every month at 7 PM, at the VFW Hall, 908 W. Jackson Naperville, IL

Special Meetings are held at the Post Home, 10 W. Chicago Av., Naperville, IL

[www.naperlegion.org](http://www.naperlegion.org)

**Post Officers****Commander**

Tom Jorstad 630-305-8803

**Sr. Vice-Commander**

Jennifer Slown 630-803-2251

**Jr. Vice-Commander**

Kristen Jungles 630-816-6841

**Sgt.-At-Arms**

Glenn Granat 630-209-2834

**Finance Officer**

John Noll 630-881-6718

**Service Officer**

Dennis Lukavsky 630-272-9064

**Chaplain**

Tom Richert 630-921-4511

**Historian**

Joe Strebel 630-369-3846

**Judge Advocate**

Don Hennessy 630-355-4679

**Adjutant**

Rita Kollias 630-362-7210

**Immediate Past Commander**

Don Chasteen 630-833-6102

**Public Relations Officer**

Jennifer Slown 630-803-2251

**Bugler**

Rich Yndestad 630-698-6444

**Legion Rider Director**

Steve Strickland 630-453-0095

**Honor Guard Commander**

Jim Oftedal 630-357-4030

**Color Guard Coordinator**

Dennis Regan 630-361-4644

**Sons of the American Legion**

Chris Lance 630-926-1177

**Legion Trustees of Post #43**

Nadia Baran

Richard Karbarz

John Noll

Tom Jorstad

Wayne Fischer

Don Chasteen

Todd Bertulis

**Newsletter Editor**

The American Legion Post 43

Jason Baran

630-768-9805

E-mail: [jason.baran@gmail.com](mailto:jason.baran@gmail.com)

**Please send your reports to Jason by Aug 15th for Sep Newsletter**

**Post 43 Webmaster**

Liz Michalski

E-mail: [lizmichalski@yahoo.com](mailto:lizmichalski@yahoo.com)**Aug 2023****Activities - Opportunities**

Aug 4 - Post Meeting 7pm

Aug 6 - Coffee-Monarch Landing

Aug 13 - Coffee-Brookdale in Lisle

Aug 20 - Coffee-Tabor Hills

Aug 27 - Coffee-Story Point

**Selected Thursdays & Saturdays:**

Help **OSOT America** sort & pack boxes at the Lisle warehouse.







**American Legion Post #43**  
*PO Box 4, Naperville, IL 60566*



**Photo credit Jim Hoch**