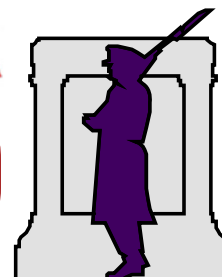




KEEPING POSTED

American Legion Post #43
Naperville, IL
www.naperlegion.org



Volume 26 Issue 12
JAN 2024

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

COMMANDER'S CALL

Greetings fellow Veterans and Happy New Year!

As we usher in the new year, I am filled with a sense of gratitude for the incredible community we have here at the American Legion Post 43. Together, we've accomplished so much, and I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead for us in 2024.

Reflecting on the past year, our post has continued to be a beacon of support for our veterans, their families, and the broader community. From hosting memorable events to actively engaging in local initiatives, we have truly made a positive impact. Let's carry this spirit of camaraderie and service into 2024!

One of our key focuses for the new year will be community engagement. I would like to strengthen our ties with local organizations. Whether it's collaborating with schools, participating in charitable events, or supporting fellow veterans, we have the power to make a lasting difference. To that end, **we are seeking volunteers to form a Community Engagement Committee**, the goal of which is to build on what we've done over the past few years and keep the momentum going.

In addition to community engagement, I would like to increase the social aspects of our post. In the past we've held karaoke nights, cornhole / bags tournaments, trivia nights and coordinated trips to baseball and football games. **In accordance with this goal, we are seeking volunteers to form a Social Committee.**

As we embark on this new year, I encourage each and every one of you to get involved. Your ideas, energy, and commitment are what make Post 43 thrive. If you have suggestions for events, projects, or ways we can better serve our members or our community, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Let's make 2024 a year of growth, service, and unity. Together, we can continue to honor the legacy of our veterans and strengthen the bonds that make American Legion Post 43 exceptional.

Semper Fidelis!
Tom Jorstad
Commander Post 43
(630) 215-3592
Tom.jorstad@yahoo.com



Tom Jorstad



Please note that the Newsletter will be going Digital.
They can be found at www.naperlegion.org

Sr. Vice Commander

Happy 2024! Hopefully everyone was able to enjoy some downtime over the holidays and found time to relax and recharge for the upcoming year.

If you haven't made it out to one of our dinners recently, please mark your calendars for Saturday, January 20th and Saturday, February 17th. We're also planning additional activities so be sure to watch for e-mail blasts with specifics – and if you have any ideas, please let me know so we can work to coordinate even more!



Jennifer Slown

Since it is 2024, it's a good time for all members to check your member ID cards. If your card has "2023" across the top, it's time to **renew your membership**.

Please remember that your dues go toward providing support programs and care for fellow Veterans as well as supporting important youth programs, educational opportunities and scholarships that help educate our youth about Americanism and our form of government. Your dues also work directly for you through our national organization and the lobbying efforts that provide more benefits and exposure to issues that affect all Veterans.

Membership can be renewed in one of the following ways:

Pay your dues in person at the next meeting by cash, check or credit card

By mailing a check in the amount of \$45 to:

American Legion – Post 43 Naperville
PO Box 4
Naperville, IL 60566

I look forward to seeing everyone at one of our upcoming social gatherings.

Semper Fidelis!

Jennifer Slown

Senior Vice Commander, Post 43



Jr. Vice Commander

This Months Social Saturday, January 20th where we will be swearing in officers for our Legion Riders and Sons of the American Legion.

In February our dinner/social will be on February 17th. 2023. We will be once again honoring our First Responders. More information will follow on how to nominate our hometown hero's

We are **looking for volunteers** to assist with replenishing the serving trays as well as some clean up after the dinner.

For reservation, please contact Kristen Jungles at kristenjungles@kw.com Kristen Jungles Junior Vice Commander Post 43 and also mention if you can volunteer to assist during the dinner.

Kristen Jungles
Junior Vice Commander Post 43
kristenjungles@kw.com



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER 43

We got a good turnout at Quigley's selling our RED t-shirts and hats Friday, December 15th; we took in over \$420.00.



Steve Strickland

The Riders "Rang the Bells" for the Salvation Army on December 23rd at the Jewel on Ogden and Washington. Good turnout by the Riders to volunteer to work from 11am to 5pm.

Best Wishes to Everyone for a Happy Holiday!

Steve Strickland
Director
American Legion Riders



Vietnam Wall of Remembrance

Our Vietnam Wall of Remembrance has now spread through-out the State of Illinois. The picture accompanying this article is from Jim Hoch and is of his grandson viewing the Wall up close. This picture is on the front cover of our Department of Illinois "Insider" Newsletter and is mailed to all American Legion Posts plus many other individuals in the State of Illinois. Included in this newsletter on pages 9&10 (centerfold) is a picture of the Wall at night along with pictures of the plaques of our 11 Naperville Fallen. Then on the pages 11 & 12 are more pictures and what the Vietnam Wall of Remembrance means to all that served.

Here is how you can find this newsletter on our American Legion Department website @ "www.illegion.org". Then scroll down and click onto **"News"** and then to **"Department Newsletters"**. From there click on to **"Nov-Dec"** Newsletter. Enjoy and **"THANKS TO ALL THAT WERE PART OF THE VIETNAM WALL OF REMEMBRANCE"**

Wayne Fischer



Sons of the American Legion

Please mark your calendars for February 25th 2024. The Naperville SAL Squadron 43 will be hosting our 6th annual Pancake breakfast fundraiser. This is open to the public so please tell your family, friends, neighbors, and anyone you walk past! In past years we have been able to generate over \$2,000 which is donated to various local veteran organizations.

We held elections last month and want to send out a big congratulations to our 2024 officers:

- Commander: Chris Lance
- Vice-Commander: Joe Vanden Houton
- Adjutant & Treasurer: Mike Calabrese
- Sergeant of Arms: John Kunsch



Chris Lance

Our stated SAL meeting is every **THIRD** Tuesday at 7:00PM. Our next stated meeting is 1/16/2024. We met in the lower level "patio" at the VFW hall. All members of the Legion and Legion Riders are welcome and encouraged to attend.

We are always welcoming new members and transfers. Many Legionnaires hold dual memberships in SAL 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 SAL Squadron 43's main goals are to support our Post and support our community.

The Naperville SAL Squadron 43 would like to wish all a safe and happy holiday!

Regards,
SAL Commander, Post 43
Chris Lance
630.926.1177

6th Annual
Pancake Breakfast
Fundraiser
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 25th
8AM – 11:30AM

LOCATION:
VFW
908 Jackson Ave.
Naperville, IL



MEAL INCLUDES:
PANCAKES, SAUSAGE
OJ, MILK, COFFEE

Portion of the proceeds will help
out a veteran organization



Historian Report

Significant dates in military history

- On Jan. 10, 1776, Thomas Paine released his pamphlet, *Common Sense*, that urged an American declaration of independence from Great Britain.
- John Rosbrugh became the first army chaplain to be killed in action. On Jan 2, 1777, the Presbyterian minister was captured by Hessian troops near Trenton, N.J., and shot as he knelt in prayer.
- On June 27, 1836, Archibald Henderson became the first Marine Corps officer to be brevetted (temporarily promoted without accompanying increase in pay and allowances) to the rank of brigadier general for his service during the Second Seminole War.
- The Monitor, the first turreted warship, was launched on Jan. 30, 1862, at Greenpoint, Long Island, N.Y. Two guns were mounted on the ship's armored, revolving turret.
- U.S. troops withdrew from Cuba on Jan. 28, 1909, following the Spanish American War and an independent Cuban republic was established.
- On Jan. 28, 1915, the U.S. Coast Guard was created, replacing the U.S. Revenue Cutter Service. It would act as a unit of the Treasury Department except in times of war when it is directed by the Navy.
- The U.S. Army Tank Corps was created on Jan. 26, 1918. Its first engagement during WW I took place at St. Mihiel, followed by 90 separate engagements by the Allies during the war.
- The first American troops arrived in Europe on Jan. 26, 1942, with a landing in Northern Ireland. The advance party of 18 officers and 18 enlisted personnel would grow to more than 1.5 million troops in the United Kingdom by the time of the Normandy landing in 1944.
- On Jan. 16, 1944, Gen. Dwight Eisenhower took command of the Allied Invasion Force in London in preparation for D Day – the largest amphibious assault in the history of warfare.
- North Korea and Chinese forces captured the South Korea capital of Seoul on Jan. 4, 1951.
- On Jan. 30, 1968, the Vietcong launched the Tet Offensive with attacks against the seventh largest cities and 30 provincial capitals throughout South Vietnam.



AMERICAN LEGION POST 43 CALENDAR



Jan 4, 2024
Jan 6, 2024
Jan 13, 2024
Jan 16, 2024
Jan 20, 2024
Jan 20, 2024
Jan 24, 2024
Jan 27, 2024

Thursday
Saturday
Saturday
Tuesday
Saturday
Saturday
Wednesday
Saturday



Post Meeting 7:00 PM
10 AM Coffee at Monarch Landing
10 AM Coffee at Brookdale
S.A.L. Squadron Meeting 7 PM
10 AM Coffee at Tabor Hills
Legion Dinner 6:00PM
Legion Riders Meeting 7:00PM
10 AM Coffee at Story Point

Feb 1, 2024
Feb 3, 2024
Feb 10, 2024
Feb 10, 2024
Feb 13, 2024
Feb 17, 2024
Feb 17, 2024
Feb 21, 2024
Feb 24, 2024

Thursday
Saturday
Saturday
Saturday
Tuesday
Saturday
Saturday
Wednesday
Saturday



Post Meeting 7:00 PM
10 AM Coffee at Monarch Landing
10 AM Coffee at Brookdale
Disney Kareoke 7:00 PM
S.A.L. Squadron Meeting 7 PM
10 AM Coffee at Tabor Hills
Legion Dinner 6:00PM
Legion Riders Meeting 7:00PM
10 AM Coffee at Story Point



Mar 2, 2024
Mar 7, 2024
Mar 9, 2024
Mar 16, 2024
Mar 16, 2024
Mar 19, 2024
Mar, 23, 2024
Mar, 27, 2024

Saturday
Thursday
Saturday
Saturday
Saturday
Tuesday
Saturday
Wednesday



10 AM Coffee at Monarch Landing
Post Meeting 7:00 PM
10 AM Coffee at Brookdale
10 AM Coffee at Tabor Hills
Legion Dinner 6:00PM
S.A.L. Squadron Meeting 7 PM
10 AM Coffee at Story Point
Legion Riders Meeting 7:00PM

Coffee With Vets **Saturday Morning 10 AM**

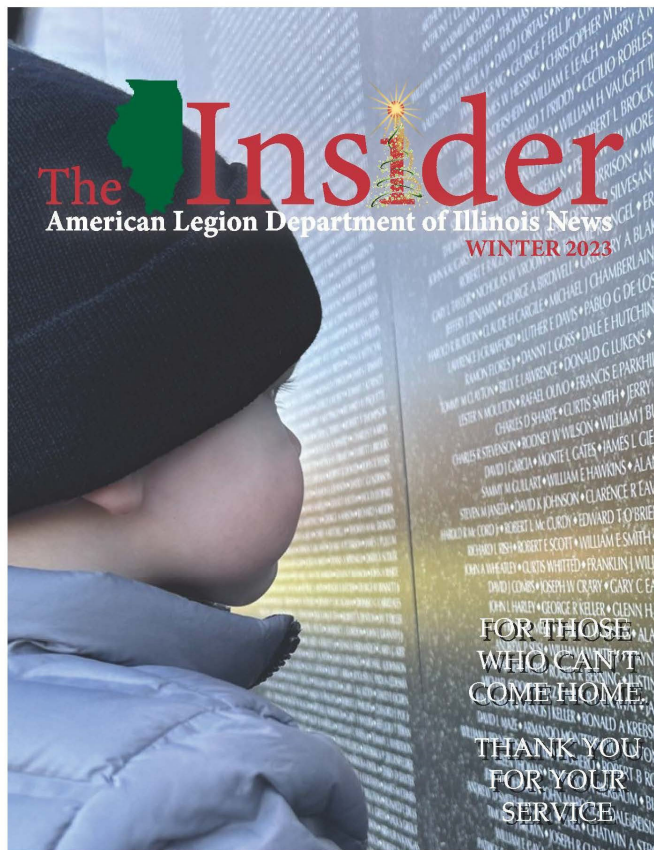


The DEC dates are:

JAN 6- Monarch Landing
JAN 13- Brookdale - Lisle
JAN 20- Tabor Hills
JAN 27 - Story Point-Naperville

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

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



American Legion Department of Illinois newsletter Cover

Jim Hoch Precious Grandbaby taking in our history. Nothing better than looking at life thru a kids eyes. Gives me hope for the future.



Have you ever wondered if there are benefits from the VA that you have earned but not yet capitalized on? Well there is a sure fire way to find out. The VA has published a Benefits Eligibility Matrix that will tell you exactly what you are entitled to based on your service for your country. It provides benefits in terms of service connected and non-service connected disabilities, the percentage of disability, as well as providing benefits with no disabilities. It is actually a rather comprehensive piece of work and worth a look. https://www.benefits.va.gov/BENEFITS/derivative_sc.asp

Dennis Lukavsky
Service Officer:
VFW Post 3873
Legion Post 43

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

VA - Veterans Benefits Administration - VA Derivative Benefits Eligibility Service Connected Matrix

Service Connected Matrix

There are additional benefits that you may be eligible for that are based on a favorable decision for a VA benefit and/or based on special circumstances. These are known as derivatives.

Service Connected Matrix Non Service Connected Matrix Circumstance Matrix

BENEFIT	DERIVATIVE
Non-Compensable 0 percent disability rating	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 10 point Veteran preference in federal hiring No cost health care and prescription drugs for service connected disabilities (if income limits are met) Travel allowance for scheduled appointments for care at a VA medical facility or VA authorized health care facility Commissary and Exchange Privileges Use of commissaries, exchanges, and morale, welfare and recreation (MWR) retail facilities, in-person and online.



VA Hotline
1-855-948-2311



Toys for Tots 2023



This year members of the American Legion Naperville Post 43 played Santa's Little Helpers. Our Adjutant Rita Kollias was The Toy for Tots DuPage County Coordinator. Her hard work and dedication helped deliver over 35,000 toys throughout our county. Our past Commander Nadia Baran was the Toy Request Coordinator and A.J. Aporangao was our Event Coordinator. Not only did we provide support for over 70 non profit organizations, we also served over 500 individual families with holiday help. All of this would not be possible without the help of all of you. We are grateful for all the support you guys gave us.

Rita Kollias, A.J. Aporangao, Nadia Baran



**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
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

Nadia Baran 630-728-7519

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

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

Post 43 Webmaster

Liz Michalski

E-mail: lizmichalski@yahoo.com**JAN 2024****Activities - Opportunities**

Jan 4- Post Meeting 7pm

Jan 6- Coffee-Monarch Landing

Jan 13- Coffee-Brookdale in Lisle

Jan 20- Coffee-Tabor Hills

Jan 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

Toys For Tots DuPage County 2023

