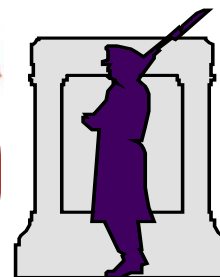




KEEPING POSTED

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



Volume 21 Issue 5
May 2023

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

COMMANDER'S CALL

Nadia Baran - Post Commander

Wow has this year flown by, can you believe it is already May.

As the weather starts to get nicer, we are hoping to start our Summer activities soon. We have a couple of things planned already.

On May 27th at 1400, the American Legion will be participating in the Gold Star Family Monument Dedication at Veterans Park. To RSVP: Please contact Jennifer Slown at JenniferBSlown@gmail.com. We truly hope that everyone attends this important event.



Please mark your Calendars for our Post 43 annual visit to the Kane County Cougar Game on July 1st, 2023 at 6 pm.. If you would like to attend, please contact me at rios.nadia@gmail.com.

I want to thank all of you who came to our last Dinner/Social of the year, honoring Past Commanders and our amazing Citizen of the Year Jim Hoch.

If you have not done so, don't forget to renew your 2023 membership! It is our goal this year to hit 100%. However, we cannot do this without your help! So take out your card, and if still says 2022, contact Senior Vice Tom Jorstad.

Semper Fidelis!

Nadia Baran
Post 43 Commander



Sr. Vice Commander

Thanks to everyone who has come out to our dinner socials this past year. Turnout has been great - we had over 110 people attend the April dinner. I especially enjoy seeing the increased comradery among the membership. Please note that we have several new members so, if you don't recognize someone or if you see an unfamiliar face at one of our meetings or events, please take the time to introduce yourself and make them feel welcome.

In case you didn't know, as a member of the Legion Family, you are eligible for up to \$5,000 in **NO COST To You ACCIDENTAL DEATH INSURANCE PROTECTION.**

To be eligible, you must:

Be a current member, and

You must confirm / accept the coverage

Please contact me for further details or attend the May meeting to receive a flier with the details.

Regarding membership, we're currently at 86.3% of our goal to reach our membership number from 2022, so there's a little work to do and a short time to do it. To that end, **please check your member ID cards. If your card has anything other than "2023" across the top, it's time to renew your membership!**

Renew your membership 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

Pay online by going to: www.illegion.org/membership/renew/

Please note that we have a program in place for those members who need assistance with their dues. All requests will be treated confidentially!

Here are the membership retention numbers by branch as of April 19th:

Tom Jorstad
Senior Vice Commander, Post 43
(630) 215-3592
tom.jorstad@yahoo.com



Branch	Unpaid	Paid	Percent
Army	42	188	82%
Marines	15	90	86%
Navy	13	81	86%
Airforce	12	67	85%
Coast Guard	1	4	80%
Blank	4	45	92%

American Legion Post 43 2023 Poppy Days

Post 43 is again asking everyone, including businesses, to consider a donation to Naperville Post 43 via a check or donate thru our Post 43 website @ www.naperlegion.org/poppy-day at any time. Our Post home mailing address is Naperville American Legion Post 43; PO Box 4; Naperville, IL 60566-0004. Please note on your check memo line that this donation is for **"Operation Comfort Warriors"**.

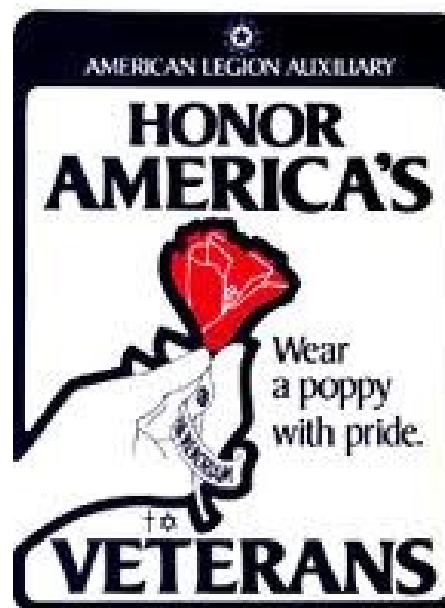
Prior to Covid that year's donations exceeded \$4500, and all proceeds went to the American Legion **"Operation Comfort Warrior"** Program. This year we hope to do even more. This program, **OCW**, was created after **"9/11"** to provide **"comfort items"** that help our wounded warriors in their recovery at VA Hospitals, but are not covered as a budget item on government spreadsheets. For more information on **"Operation Comfort Warrior"**, please go to www.legion.org.ocw.

In addition, all **"OCW"** administrative and marketing costs are paid from our American Legion Membership dues received, meaning that 100% of donated funds go directly to purchasing comfort items for Our Troops!!! Operation Comfort Warriors represents your expression of gratitude to our men and women who have sacrificed to protect our freedoms!!!!

Thank you for taking the time to read this and consider a donation to this year's Naperville **"American Legion Post 43 Poppy Days"**. Every year since Post 43 has held their Poppy Days, all proceeds have always gone to support our fellow Veterans. Several years ago, we as Post 43 decided to support the **"Operation Comfort Warrior"** Program and will continue.

In addition, we will be promoting this Program at various Naperville Community Events this year. Supporting our **"Veterans in Need"** has been our intent since the inception of the American Legion Poppy Program in 1921 and will continue.

Thanks, and stay safe-
Wayne Fischer





AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER 43



Steve Strickland

May 6th – Honor Flight Fundraiser at the Field house, DuPage County Fairgrounds. The Riders will stage out of Heritage Harley-Davidson, Lisle. A police escort will lead the motorcycles to the Fairgrounds. Staging is at 10am, “Kickstands Up” at 11am.

May 10th – “First” Honor Flight for 2023. The Riders will be there to Welcome Home the Veterans including our own Bob Burch and Doug Deetjen!

May 27th – Gold Star Families Memorial Dedication.

May 29th – Memorial Day Parade, Wreath Laying Ceremonies.

Respectfully submitted,

Steve

Steve Strickland

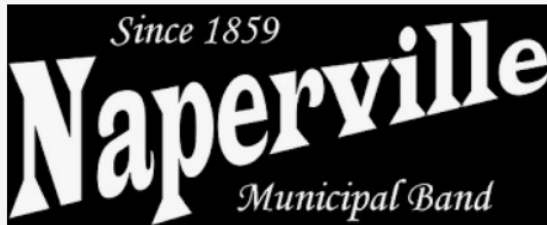
Director

American Legion Riders

Post 43, Naperville, IL



Events for our Members



Message from Ron Keller:

On Thursday night, June 1, 7:30 pm, Our first summer concert will be "A Salute to the Armed Forces". It will be all music honoring our armed forces, Navy, Army, Marines, Coast Guard and Air Force.

We would be honored to have as many veterans as possible, to attend this event.

Veteran Health & Wellness Fair

5/16/23

5:30-8:30pm

Join us for a fun, interactive & informative evening! Lotus Vibrations will start off the event with a group meditation.

Attendees will then be able to participate in chair massages by Intrinsic Massage, fitness & nutrition Q&As with Staci of Motiv8nu, & gain knowledge on mental health resources & stroke awareness with Ingrid Kanady. We will also offer unique ideas to help cope and navigate through PTSD.

We will close out the evening with a group yoga session appropriate for any fitness level!

FREE

FOR ALL VETERANS & ACTIVE DUTY

Email Staci@Motiv8nu.com with questions
LOCATION: Naperville VFW Post #3873
908 Jackson St. Naperville, IL 60540



Jim Hoch honored as 2023 Citizen of the Year

(Pictured L to R: Commander Nadia Baran, Cindy Hoch-wife, Jim Hoch, and Rich Yndestad-Chairman.)



AMERICAN LEGION POST 43 CALENDAR



May 4, 2023
May 6, 2023
May 6, 2023
May 13, 2023
May 16, 2023
May 20, 2023
May 24, 2023
May 27, 2023
May 29, 2023

Thursday
Saturday
Saturday
Saturday
Tuesday
Saturday
Wednesday
Saturday
Monday



Post Meeting 7:00PM
10 am Coffee at Monarch Landing
Honor Flight Chicago 11 am to 3 PM
10 am Coffee at Brookdale-Lisle
S.A.L. Squadron Meeting 7 PM
10 am Coffee at Independence Village
Legion Riders Meeting 7 PM
10 am Coffee at StoryPoint-Naperville
Memorial Day Parade



June 1, 2023
June 3, 2023
June 10, 2023
June 16, 2023
June 17, 2023
June 20, 2023
June 24, 2023
June 28, 2023
June 30, 2023

Thursday
Saturday
Saturday
Friday
Saturday
Tuesday
Saturday
Wednesday
Friday



Post Meeting 7:00PM
10 am Coffee at Monarch Landing
10 Am Coffee at Brookdale-Lisle
Naper Night Volunteer Night
10 am Coffee at Independence Village
S.A.L. Squadron Meeting 7 PM
10 am Coffee at Tabor Hills
Legion Riders Meeting 7 PM
Salute To Veterans Volunteer Night



July 1, 2023
July 1, 2023
July 8, 2023
July 15, 2023
July 22, 2023

Saturday
Saturday
Saturday
Saturday
Saturday



Kane County Cougar Baseball Game
10 am Coffee at Monarch Landing
10 am Coffee at Brookdale-List
10 am Coffee at Tabor Hills
10 am Coffee at StoryPoint-Naperville

The DuPage Veterans Foundation's Fundraiser to benefit Honor Flight Chicago is back and we are eager to once again pay tribute to our Military Veterans! NOTE: The 2023 event will take place at the DUPAGE COUNTY FAIR-GROUNDS. Please join us in celebrating our Veterans on Saturday, May 6th!



**DUPAGE COUNTY
FAIRGROUNDS**

2015 Manchester Rd.
Wheaton, IL 60187

FEATURED EVENTS: Period Military Vehicles •
Patriotic Program • Lunch • Bagpipers • Vintage
Military Uniforms • Memorabilia • Silent Auction

WWII & Korean War Vets: FREE ENTRY

\$35 in Advance • \$45 At The Door • \$20 Child



**LIVE
MUSIC!**

MAY 6, 2023 • 11AM - 3PM

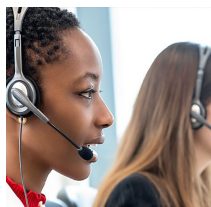


Usually in this section, I highlight VA benefit information or VA health care news I think would be of interest to all of you. I'm going to step away from that this month.

Since we are about to observe Memorial Day this month, I wanted to share a personal Memorial Day experience. This happened about six or seven years ago. A friend of mine had an old 1946 Chevy pickup and he decided to drive it in the Memorial Day parade. He asked if I would care to ride along, I reluctantly agreed. We got down to Jackson and got in line. The folks there asked me my name and made a sign that said "SGT Dennis Lukavsky." They mounted it on the side of the truck along with a sign for my friend. As we slowly made our way along the parade route something happened I will never, ever forget. I became very, very emotional, and it became impossible for me to hold back the tears. To put it simply, I cried like a baby. It was caused by the outpouring of gratitude, the shouts of "thank you" and "thank you for your service," and of course the cheering of the parade viewers. Clearly, I did not know most of these people but here they were, cheering me along as if they had known me their whole lives. As we turned down Benton, the cause of my tears dawned on me. This was the first time in 50 some years the public ever said "THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE" to me. It touched my heart deeply and was one of the best experiences of my life. Besides honoring the fallen, Memorial Day also helps lift up those of us who remember our collective experience while serving.

If you have not participated in the parade in the past this would be a great time to start. You never know, you may find some long lost feeling surfacing in you that you have missed.

Dennis Lukavsky
Service Officer:
VFW Post 3873
Legion Post 43



VA Caregiver Support Line
☎ 1-855-260-3274 (toll-free)

Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-10 p.m. ET
Saturday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m. ET



VA Hotline
1-855-948-2311



Significant Dates in History

Joe Strebel

- ◆ On May 10, 1775, the Green Mountain Boys, led by Col. Ethan Allen, captured the British fort at Ticonderoga, N.Y. Col. Benedict Arnold assisted Allen.
- ◆ Benjamin Stoddard was appointed by President John Adams as the nation's first Secretary of the Navy on May 18, 1778. Within months Stoddard drafted legislation for the organization of the U.S. Marine Corps.
- ◆ Poet Edgar Allen Poe enlisted in the Army on May 26, 1822 and was discharged in 1829 with the rank of Sergeant Major. In 1830, Poe was appointed to West Point but was later dismissed for deliberately breaking regulations.
- ◆ On May 13, 1846, Congress declared war on Mexico at the request of President James Polk. The war ended with the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo in 1848.
- ◆ The longest battle of the Civil War began on May 21, 1863, with the Union siege of Port Hudson, La. Fighting continued until July 8.
- ◆ On May 7, 1915, a surprise German submarine attack sunk the British passenger ship, Lusitania, with the loss of 128 American lives. The action led to the loss of U.S. neutrality during WW I.
- ◆ Germany unconditionally surrendered on May 7, 1945, at General Eisenhower's headquarters at Rheims, France, with all military actions on European fronts ending at midnight on the following day.
- ◆ On May 10, 1959, the USS Triton (SSN 586) was commissioned at Groton, Conn. It was the first submarine equipped with twin nuclear reactors.
- ◆ The USSR shot down a U.S. reconnaissance plane and captured the U-2's pilot, Francis Gary Powers on May 1, 1960. Powers was freed in a prisoner exchange for Soviet KGB Col. Rudolf Abel on Feb. 10, 1962.
- ◆ On May 10, 1972, U.S. Navy pilot Lt. Randall Cunningham and his Radar Intercept Officer Lt (jg) William Driscoll became the first American aces of the Vietnam War. Flying an F-4 Phantom from USS Constellation they shot down three MIG 17's.
- ◆ On May 12, 1975, Cambodian Communist gunboats seized the U.S. freighter Mayaguez in the Gulf of Siam and taking its 39 crewmembers captive. President Gerald Ford sent U.S. air, naval and marine forces to free the ship and crew on May 14 with the action resulting in 15 Marines killed and 50 wounded, mostly due to an accidental explosion during the attack.
- ◆ On May 26, 2004, U.S. troops captured a key lieutenant of radical Shiite leader Mugtada al-Sadr during a nighttime action in Najaf, Iraq, that killed 24 people and wounded 50.

Coffee With Vets

Saturday Morning 10 AM



The May dates are:

May 6 - Monarch Landing

May 13 - Brookdale - Lisle

May 20 - Tabor Hills

May 27 - StoryPoint-Naperville

Don't forget our monthly visits with Veterans at Monarch Landing, Brookdale - Lisle, Independence Village, and StoryPoint-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 StoryPoint-Naperville. All are welcome to Attend!!

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



Honoring our Fallen Veterans

Yes, we will again be placing Flags on our Veterans Gravesites prior to Memorial Day in Honor of their Service to our Country. We will start this on **Thursday, May 25th**. On that day we go to all our smaller cemeteries in the Naperville area and to our various Memorials. We will only need 5-6 helpers. If you can assist, please plan to meet at the VFW by 8:30am and we will proceed first to Big Woods and then to the rest.

On **Friday, May 26th**, please plan to be at St. Peter and Paul Cemetery no later than 9am so we can render honors to those Veterans interred at that Cemetery. Then on **Saturday, May 27th**, please plan to be at Naperville Cemetery by 9am so we can proceed with the flag placement there. We will do this rain or shine and can always use help. We currently have approximately 3,000 gravesites to place a flag. Thanks to Jim Hoch, all our Veteran Gravesites have been identified and are compiled by Cemetery Section's, so they are easy to use and to locate.

Then on Tuesday, May 30th, starting no later than 9am, we will be picking up all the flags starting at St. Peter and Paul and then to Naperville Cemetery.

For additional Information contact: Gary Michalowski 630-988-0106

**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**

Nadia Baran 630-728-7519

Sr. Vice-Commander

Tom Jorstad 630-305-8803

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

Arvin Verma/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 Don Potoczny

Wayne Fischer Don Chasteen

Don Hennessy

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The American Legion Post 43

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Please send your reports to Jason by May 15th for June Newsletter

Post 43 Webmaster

Liz Michalski

E-mail: lizmichalski@yahoo.com

May 2023**Activities - Opportunities**

May 4 - Post Meeting 7pm

May 6 - Coffee-Monarch Landing

May 13 - Coffee-Brookdale in Lisle

May 20 - Coffee-Tabor Hills

May 27 - Coffee-StoryPoint

Selected Thursdays & Saturdays:
Help OSOT America sort & pack boxes at the Lisle warehouse.





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



Post 43 Past Commanders
Photo credit Jim Hoch