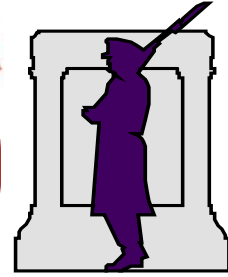




KEEPING POSTED

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



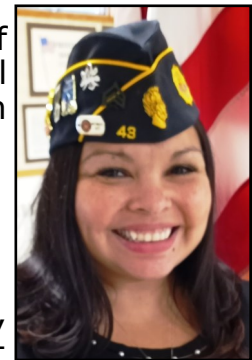
Volume 21 Issue 4
April 2023

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

COMMANDER'S CALL

Nadia Baran - Post Commander

We have some exciting events coming up in the month of April. First of all, we are having our "Paint and Sip" on April 21st., down in the VFW Post 3873 Patio. Hope you guys can make it. The Event is from 7pm to 9 pm. To RSVP for the evening, please go to:
<https://www.pinotspalette.com/naperville/event/681761>
All the proceeds will be donated to charity.



Our Next Dinner/Social will be taking place on April 15, 2023. Here we will be Honoring our Naperville American Legion Post 43 Past Commanders, and our 2023 Post 43 Citizen of the Year. During the Program, we will be acknowledging our Post 43's rich history and how these amazing leaders have shaped our Post. It is due to their Leadership that Our American Legion Post 43 is what it is today! So, thank you from all of us.

I would also like to thank all those who came out to our last month's Dinner/Social Honoring Naperville Educators. Per review, the dinner was a huge success, and a special thank-you goes out to those who worked all day to cook the meal, namely Bob Rechenmacher and Friday Bob.

Also, if you have not done so, please don't forget to renew your 2023 Post 43 Membership! It is our goal this year to hit 100%. However, we cannot do this without your help! So, take out your Membership Card, and if it still reads 2022, contact Senior Vice Tom Jorstad to get renewed. There are several ways to do that. We want to be sure all our Post 43 Members are current for the year to maintain your American Legion Benefits.

Semper Fidelis!

Nadia Baran
Post 43 Commander



Sr. Vice Commander

Winter is in our rear view mirror and we can start doing more outdoor activities! It's been great to see and spend time with our members at our dinner / socials and, if you haven't been able to make it out to one, please attend in April or May (or both). Make sure to mark your calendars for Saturday, April 15th. Look for the e-mail blasts with the details.

While we've made some progress toward our goal of 100% member retention from last year, our progress has certainly slowed the last two months. To paraphrase an old quote "there are months where not much happens, and there are weeks where months happen". That's how I would describe our membership renewals these past two months - with hope that a lot of progress will be made in the coming weeks. We're currently hovering just below 84% but need help bridging the gap. 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!**



Tom Jorstad

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

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 things like Americanism. Your dues also work directly for you through our national organization and efforts that lead to providing more benefits and exposure to issues that affect all Veterans.

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/

Here are the membership retention numbers by branch as of March 22nd

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

Branch	Unpaid	Paid	Percent
Army	50	180	78%
Marines	18	78	82%
Navy	16	74	83%
Airforce	15	64	81%
Coast Guard	1	4	80%
Blank	6	43	88%

Jr. Vice Commander

I hope this newsletter finds you in good health as we begin our beautiful all weather. Hope you are enjoying that it is finally Spring. Woo Hoo, now we just need the weather to start to cooperate with us.

April 15 dinner is our celebration of the of our Post History, on this dinner we celebrate our Past Commander.

Social hour begins at 6:00 PM, Dinner Starts at 7:00 PM

The Cost is \$15.00 Per Person, \$7.00 for Kids, and children under 6 Eat Free!

This Dinner will be Catered by **Mission Barbeque!**

We are greatly looking forward to the amazing food as always.

Menu: Pull Pork, Pull Chicken, Oak Smoked Beef Brisket, Cheese Jalapeno Sausage, Brisket Bake Beans, Creamy Cheese Macaroni, Cole Slaw, Corn Bread, Slider Rolls.

Jr. Vice Commander

Kristen Jungles/ Gary Michalowski



**AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER 43**

Steve Strickland

March 29 – The Riders will be attending the National Vietnam Veterans Day Service at Veterans Park and Mission BBQ for lunch
April 5 – First Honor Flight for 2023. The Riders will be there to Welcome Home the Veterans including our own Bob Burch and Doug Deetjen!

Now we hope the Skies Will Shine Upon Us!

Steve Strickland

Director

Naperville American Legion Riders

Post 43

Naperville, IL

Steve Strickland
Director ALR
Chapter 43
630-453-0095



Sons of the American Legion Squadron



I would like to send out A BIG THANK YOU for all that came out to the pancake breakfast last month. Between donations and patrons, we were able to raise almost \$2,000.00. The money will be donated to local veteran's organizations.

As we have in past years, this month the SAL will be assembling tricycles for the Therapy Oriented Tricycles ("TOT") program run by Gordon and Connie Hankins in their home. These custom tricycles help active children who are physically challenged who are unable to sit up on their own or keep their feet on the pedals. The pictures are from last year's build.

Our stated S.A.L. meeting is every **THIRD** Tuesday at 7:00PM. We meet in the lower-level patio at the VFW hall. Our next stated meeting is scheduled for April 18th and 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 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,

Chris Lance
SAL Commander, Squadron 43
(630) 926-1177





AMERICAN LEGION POST 43 CALENDAR



April 01, 2023	Saturday		10 am Coffee at Monarch Landing
April 06, 2023	Thursday		Post Meeting 7 pm
April 08, 2023	Saturday		10 am Coffee at Brookdale-Lisle
April 15, 2023	Saturday		Dinner/Social at 7pm
April 15, 2023	Saturday		10 am Coffee at Independence Village
April 18, 2023	Tuesday		S.A.L. Squadron Meeting 7 pm
April 21, 2023	Friday		Paint and Sip at VFW Porch 7:00PM
April 22, 2023	Saturday		10 am Coffee at StoryPoint-Naperville
April 26, 2023	Wednesday		Legion Riders Meeting 7 pm
April 28, 2023	Friday		Legion Bag tournament Post home

May 4, 2023	Thursday		Post Meeting 7:00PM
May 6, 2023	Saturday		10 am Coffee at Monarch Landing
May 6, 2023	Saturday		Honor Flight Chicago 11 am to 3 PM
May 13, 2023	Saturday		10 am Coffee at Brookdale-Lisle
May 16, 2023	Tuesday		S.A.L. Squadron Meeting 7 PM
May 19, 2023	Friday		Post Karaoke at VFW Canteen
May 20, 2023	Saturday		10 am Coffee at Independence Village
May 24, 2023	Wednesday		Legion Riders Meeting 7 PM
May 27, 2023	Saturday		10 am Coffee at StoryPoint-Naperville
May 29, 2023	Monday		Memorial Day Parade

June 1, 2023	Thursday		Post Meeting 7:00PM
June 3, 2023	Saturday		10 am Coffee at Monarch Landing
June 10, 2023	Saturday		10 Am Coffee at Brookdale-Lisle
June 16, 2023	Friday		Naper Night Volunteer Night
June 17, 2023	Saturday		10 am Coffee at Independence Village
June 20, 2023	Tuesday		S.A.L. Squadron Meeting 7 PM
June 24, 2023	Saturday		10 am Coffee at StoryPoint Village
June 28, 2023	Wednesday		Legion Riders Meeting 7 PM

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



This month I would like to talk about the Caregiver Support Programs offered by the VA. More and more of the Viet Nam era veterans are relying on assistance so I thought it time to broach this subject.

To qualify, the veteran MUST be enrolled in the VA Health Care program. The VA offers two programs. The General care giver support program and the Comprehensive care giver program.

The general program offers various sorts of educational opportunities, support groups, one on one coaching, and respites to name a few. To be eligible for the comprehensive program a veteran must be on VA Health Care, at least 70% disabled, and have difficulty performing daily activities. Your primary caregiver may qualify for CHAMPVA (Civilian Health Care), a monthly stipend, 30 days of respite care, and more.

This video does a very good job of explaining the programs: [Caregiver Support Video](#)

Here is a link to VA Home page for Caregivers: [VA Caregiver link](#)

Dennis Lukavsky
Service Officer:
VFW Post 3873
Legion Post 43
cell:630 272 9064
[email:dlukavsky@yahoo.com](mailto:dlukavsky@yahoo.com)



VA Hotline
1-855-948-2311



Significant Dates in History

Joe Strebel

- ◇ The first chaplain to serve in the Revolutionary War, Chaplain William Emerson, reported for duty at the Battle of Lexington on April 19, 1775.
- ◇ On April 27, 1805, U.S. Marines raised the American flag for the first time over an old world fort at Derna, Tripoli, during the Barbary Wars.
- ◇ The Civil War began on April 12 1861, with the firing on Fort Sumter, S.C., by Confederate forces. Union officer Abner Doubleday – later credited as the inventor of baseball – fired the first shot in defense.
- ◇ The first compulsory recruitment of manpower went into effect on April 1, 1863. The Draft Act applied to males aged 20 to 45 but allowed draftees to hire substitutes to serve in their place or pay a \$300 fee for release from service.
- ◇ On April 5, 1869, Daniel Blakeman, the last surviving veteran of the Revolutionary War, died at the age of 109.
- ◇ The Army Reserve was established on April 23, 1908, with the mission of providing “trained units and qualified persons available for active duty in the armed forces in time of war or national emergency . . .”
- ◇ Top WWI ace Captain Edward Rickenbacker shot down the first of 26 enemy aircraft on April 29, 1918.
- ◇ The U.S. invasion of Okinawa began on April 1, 1945. It was the last and bloodiest amphibious operation in the Pacific Theater.
- ◇ The U.S. Air Force Academy was established at the temporary location of Lowry Air Force Base, Colo., on April 1, 1954.
- ◇ On April 17, 1961, the Bay of Pigs invasion began in a failed, U.S.-backed attempt to overthrow Cuban dictator Fidel Castro.
- ◇ On April 12, 1966, B-52s of the Strategic Air Command hit targets in North Vietnam for the first time.
- ◇ Communist forces captured the South Vietnam capital of Saigon on April 30, 1975
- ◇ On April 12, 1979, Lt(jg) Beverly Kelley became the first woman to command a U.S. warship when she took command of the U.S. Coast Guard Cutter Cape Newagen.
- ◇ U.S. 3rd Infantry troops entered Baghdad for the first time on April 5, 2003, taking several objectives around the Iraq capital. On the same date U.S. warplanes struck the city of Mosul

Coffee With Vets

Saturday Morning 10 AM



The April dates are:

April 1 - Monarch Landing

April 8 - Brookdale - Lisle

April 15 - Independence Village

April 22 - 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 Independence Village, and 4th Saturday at StoryPoint-Naperville. All are welcome to Attend!!

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



G.I. Yoga is free to all Veterans and their family members. G.I. Yoga teaches stress relief methods by using the practice of Yoga to ease aches and pains, lower blood pressure, and increase strength, flexibility, and balance. G.I. Yoga also teaches participants how to use Yoga to manage symptoms of PTSD and TBI. All classes are taught by certified Yoga Instructors.

G.I. Yoga is Live in person on Wednesdays, 9:30-10:30 am, at the VFW.

Also, Kate has many videos on YouTube, so check them out. Copy and paste this link below into your browser:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxBk498oH94Dir8KMRPjdug>

Kate Fleming: kdflemingyoga@gmail.com

G.I. Yoga is a program of osotAmerica.org

There is also a Saturday morning class at 9:30 am at Forthill Fitness Center in Naperville, led by Chitra Singh: mailofchitra@gmail.com.

**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

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
Mar 15th for April Newsletter**

Post 43 Webmaster

Liz Michalski

E-mail: lizmichalski@yahoo.com

April 2023**Activities - Opportunities**

April 7 - Post Meeting 7pm

April 1 - Coffee-Monarch Landing

April 8 - Coffee-Brookdale in Lisle

April 15 - Legion Dinner

April 15 - Coffee-Independence Village

April 22 - 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



2nd Annual Dinner Honoring Naperville Educators
Photo credit Jim Hoch