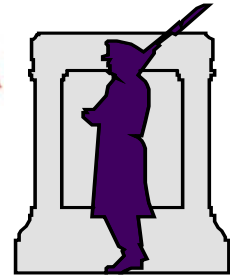




# KEEPING POSTED



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

## Celebrating 105 Years of Service to Veterans, U.S. Military, Youth, & Community **COMMANDER'S CALL**

Post 43 Legion Members, Sons of the Legion, Legion Riders, and Families,

We had a fun evening at our February dinner social where we had the privilege of honoring some of Naperville's First Responders. The dedication and bravery of our local First Responders is truly inspiring, and it was a privilege to recognize their contributions to our community. Thank you to everyone who attended and made the event memorable.

Please mark your calendars for our **March dinner social on Saturday, March 15th**. Past Commander Nadia Baran will be cooking a delicious menu featuring traditional corned beef and cabbage, shepherd's pie, and assorted side dishes. **We will also be honoring our local educators**, acknowledging their work and the positive impact they have on our youth. If you would like to nominate a local educator, please contact me. We look forward to seeing you at our March dinner social and enjoying an evening of great food, camaraderie, and gratitude.

**Daylight Savings Time Reminder:** Daylight savings time begins on Sunday, March 9th. Don't forget to set your clocks one hour ahead!

We are looking for members to help out on some of our great programs. If you would like to help with our Poppy Art Contest, Boys State, Girls State or our Oratorical Contests, please contact me.

Thank you for being part of American Legion Post 43. We are stronger together.

Semper Fidelis,

Tom Jorstad

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



Tom Jorstad

## Sr. Vice Commander

### Strengthening Our Ranks: A Call to Action

As we continue to honor the proud traditions of the American Legion, it is crucial to focus on growing our membership to sustain our mission of supporting veterans, engaging youth, and serving our communities. Recruiting new members is essential for continuing our legacy and expanding our impact.

Membership in the American Legion offers many benefits, including:

As Senior Vice Commander, I am dedicated to leading our recruitment efforts. Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant Naperville Post 43 that continues to honor and serve our Veterans, our communities, and our Nation. We are always looking for suggestions on activities. Please keep a look out on our social calendar for the exciting events we have coming up. We are currently at 78% if your card still reads 2024 reach out and renew.

Jennifer Slown  
Senior Vice Commander, Post 43



## Jr. Vice Commander

Dear Post 43 Membership,

Thursday, March 6, 2025 is the Post 43 monthly meeting at 7:00 p.m. Daylight savings time is almost here. We are "springing forward" one hour. Sunday, March 9<sup>th</sup> is the first day of daylight savings time.

The evening of Saturday, March 15<sup>th</sup> is the monthly American Legion dinner. Social hour begins at 6:00 p.m. dinner will be served at 7:00 p.m. There will be an Irish theme to the event. St. Patrick's Day is Monday, March 17<sup>th</sup>.

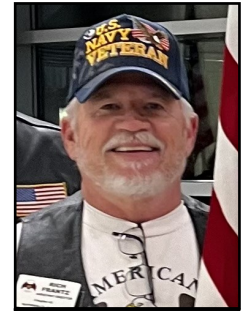
March dates of note in U.S. history include: March 3<sup>rd</sup> is the birth of the U.S. Naval Reserve; March 21<sup>st</sup> is "Rosie the Riveter Day."; March 25<sup>th</sup> is Medal of Honor Day; and March 29<sup>th</sup> is Vietnam War Veteran's Day. Sincerely,

Dan Sullivan  
Junior Vice Commander  
American Legion Post 43, Naperville





## Riders Newsletter Report – March 2025



Rich Frantz

While the riding season has not yet arrived, we continue to support American Legion activities by performing set up for all the dinners and attending them as well. We also attend the Post Walk-throughs for our veterans who have passed on. It is our honor to do so.

We will be attending the upcoming Friday Fish Fry events at the VFW Post starting March 7<sup>th</sup> through April 18, to sell our Remember Everyone Deployed (RED) apparel to support Camp Hometown Heroes. So please come out and enjoy good food and support this charity by buying our T-shirts and hats.

Weather permitting, we will ride in the St. Patrick Day Parade which is held this year on March 15<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to this event as it serves as a kickoff that the riding season is close at hand.

And we are always looking for veterans or affiliates who enjoy riding. We are looking for members who own a motorcycle that is 350cc or larger. If you are a member of the American Legion, Sons of American Legion or Auxiliary or know someone who would be interested, I encourage you to join our group.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Frantz

Director

American Legion Riders

Post 43, Naperville, IL



## Sons of the American Legion

I would like to thank all those who came out and supported the 7<sup>th</sup> annual Sons of the American Legion Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser.

Our stated SAL meeting will be combined with the Legion Riders which is every **4th Wednesday** at 7:00PM. Our next stated meeting is **3/26/2024**. We met in the lower level "patio" at the VFW hall. All members of the Legion 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.

Regards,  
SAL Commander, Post 43  
Chris Lance  
630.926.1177  
[chrisjlance@gmail.com](mailto:chrisjlance@gmail.com)



### **Coffee With Vets** **Saturday Morning 10 AM**



The Mar dates are:

**MAR 1st—Monarch Landing**  
**MAR 8th—Brookdale - Lisle**  
**MAR 15th—Tabor Hills**  
**MAR 22nd—Story Point-Naperville**  
**MAR 29th—Independence Village**

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

## **Naperville Post 43 Donations to help fellow Legionnaires in need**

Your American Legion Naperville Post 43 has stepped up again with 2 major donations to help fellow Legionnaires personally deal with severe weather issues across our county. Post 43 has donated \$4,500 so far, this Legion Year.

Earlier this year we donated \$1,500 to help Hurricane victims that were caught in hurricanes in the SE US. We donate through our American Legion Department of Illinois and they in turn donate to our American Legion National Relief Fund. This way we do not have to worry about scammers as they are everywhere, and we want to be sure none of our donations end up in their hands.

Secondly, our Post 43 donated \$4,000 to help victims of the California Fires. We donated again through our Illinois Department and they in turn foreword our donation along with others, to our American Legion NEF. They in turn determine where these dollars go. The American Legion does donate to assist individual members and, in some cases, assist a local Post that was seriously impacted by weather issues.

As we get further down the road, I will get more information regarding donation amounts and where they were given from across our great country. As you already know, one of our American Legion 4 Pillars is "Veterans". What better way to help, is when any Veteran is in need for anywhere in the US, the American Legion is there to help. Any one can donate to help a fellow Veteran anywhere across our country through the American Legion NEF. You can google that for more information. Your donations are tax deductible.

This money was in our account and what better way to invest, that for our Fellow Veterans!!!!

Semper Fi-Wayne Fischer

## Citizen of the Year

Naperville American Legion Post 43 began naming a Citizen of the Year in 1986. We are again asking for community assistance to identify deserving candidates, and we especially would like input from our own American Legion and VFW members.

**Nominee's service must be in support of the Naperville area or its bordering communities. Members of the American Legion, Sons of the Legion, VFW, and Auxiliary are eligible, but it is not limited to. The service must have been performed in a volunteer capacity, rather than as part of compensated employment.**

Anyone may nominate a candidate by sending a letter or email that includes a comprehensive description of the services the nominee performed, the time frame, duration, and significance of the service to others, and the category they are being nominated for, along with the name and contact information for the nominee and the person offering the nomination. Letters from others endorsing the nominee are encouraged.

Naperville is blessed with people who serve their fellow citizens. Typically, the judges have a very difficult task. Comprehensive information, attachments, and endorsements may be included, and are of great help to the committee in selecting the winner. Nomination may be mailed to The American Legion Post 43, Citizen of the Year, Post Office Box 4, Naperville, 60566 or emailed to [r.yndestad@yahoo.com](mailto:r.yndestad@yahoo.com) or [rios.nadia@gmail.com](mailto:rios.nadia@gmail.com) to arrive no later than March 31, 2025.

The winner will be announced in the local media and honored at The American Legion's Awards and Recognition Banquet on April 19th, 2025. So, fire up your keyboard; sharpen your pencil; and make sure the selection committee knows about your candidate.

Want information on recent Citizens of the Years and their contributions? Go to our Post website at: [naperlegion.org](http://naperlegion.org)

Contacts:  
Rich Yndestad [r.yndestad@yahoo.com](mailto:r.yndestad@yahoo.com)

## Historian Report

This month marks the beginning of a controversial and unfortunate period in U.S. history.

Two months after the Dec. 7, 1941 Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, in a nation wracked with anxiety, President Franklin Roosevelt issued Executive Order 9066. That order authorized the Secretary of War to evacuate anyone deemed a threat from our country's West Coast.

Army Lt. Gen. John L. Dewitt, head of the Western Defense Command, was tasked with executing the order. His effort began with curfews for Japanese Americans, followed by encouraging voluntary evacuations. Approximately 11 percent of the Japanese American population complied with the voluntary evacuation.

However, on March 29, 1942 DeWitt moved to force the evacuation and detention of Japanese American West Coast residents upon 48-hour notice. The affected people had only that limited time to arrange for the care of their property. If they were unable to meet this tight deadline, their homes, farms, businesses and private belongings were permanently forfeited.

From March to August, some 112,000 persons were sent to assembly centers – typically racetracks or fairgrounds – and subsequently sent to relocation centers. The centers were located in remote areas in seven states from California to Arkansas. Of those incarcerated, nearly 70,000 were American citizens and no actual charges of disloyalty were filed against any of the evacuees.

In the relocation centers, also known as internment camps, four or five families usually shared single, non-insulated barracks. Most internees lived under these conditions for nearly three years with limited opportunity for schooling, work or social activities. Families had meals in common areas and shared restrooms. Many never returned to their prior homes.

The circumstances of the internment and the harsh conditions at the relocations centers raised political questions and officials debated the constitutionality of the forced relocations without any evidence of disloyalty and with no legal process to justify the action.

As the war drew closer to an end, the internment camps were gradually shut down. Also, in recognition of the loyalty of its Japanese American citizens, the government assembled combat units from the internees to fight in Europe. The 442<sup>nd</sup> Regimental Combat Team made up of Japanese Americans became one of the highly decorated units of World War II.

In the years since World War II, the injustice of the Japanese American internment became increasingly recognized. In 1988, Congress passed for President Ronald Reagan's signature the Civil Liberties Act that acknowledged the racist error, issued an official apology and allocated compensation for these incarcerated.



## MARK YOUR CALENDER!!!!!!

***National "Vietnam Veterans"-Veterans Day-Saturday, March 29<sup>th</sup>, 2025***

This day marks the 52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of our departure from Vietnam. While this has been a well-kept secret, we will be holding a program honoring all that served back then in our United States Military. This will be our 4th year honoring this memorable occasion. We plan to start promptly at 10:30am regardless of weather.

This is not just limited to those that served in Vietnam, but to ***"All Who Served"*** our Great Country during the Vietnam War.

In addition, we will recognize our ***"11 Naperville Fallen"*** as they each paid the ultimate price to protect our Freedoms, and we recognize all the Men and Women that paid the ultimate price because of their Service in Vietnam.

Also, we will be laying a wreath at the Veterans Park wall and after this Service we will move to our ***"Gold Star Family Memorial"*** to lay a wreath at our Memorial in honor of all that paid the ***"Ultimate Sacrifice"*** while serving in All Wars.

As in the past, this will be open to the public, especially all Veterans. Seating will be available for those that need to sit and there will be ample parking available across the street at Grace United Methodist Church.

Thank you and see you then-

Wayne Fischer; VN '67-68-USMC







## 2025 VA Benefits Handbook

### VA Staffing

**VA dismisses more than 1,000 employees**, was a headline in a recent news release from the VA. This of course spawned the rumor mills. The most recent being the VA will start limiting services and reduce the overall level of current service.

Let me try to allay your fears. Keep in mind the VA organization is very, very large. A quick google search reveals there are currently approximately 473,000 employees serving veterans. Let's do some simple math:

$$1000 / 473000 \times 100 = 0.2\%$$

Keep in mind the staff released were all probationary people. All still in the early stages of learning their jobs.. So, if the departed staff are all new and way less than 1% of the staff are released, I think the VA performance in the coming months will remain unchanged. Be the one to stop the rumors and thus scaring and angering your fellow veterans.

Dennis Lukavsky  
Service Officer:  
VFW Post 3873  
American Legion Post 43

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 43 CALENDAR**



Mar 1, 2025	Saturday	10 AM Coffee at Monarch Landing
Mar 6, 2025	Thursday	Post Meeting 7:00PM
Mar 8, 2025	Saturday	10 AM Coffee at Brookdale
Mar 15, 2025	Saturday	10 AM Coffee at Tabor Hills
Mar 15, 2025	Saturday	St Patrick's Day Parade
Mar 15, 2025	Saturday	Post Dinner at 7:00PM
Mar 19, 2025	Wednesday	S.A.L Squadron Meeting 7;00PM
Mar 19, 2025	Wednesday	Legion Riders Meeting 7:00PM
Mar 22, 2025	Saturday	10 AM Coffee at Story Point
Mar 29, 2025	Saturday	10 AM Coffee at Independence Village

April 3, 2025	Thursday	Post Meeting 7:00PM
April 5, 2025	Saturday	10 AM Coffee at Monarch Landing
April 12, 2025	Saturday	10 AM Coffee at Brookdale
April 19, 2025	Saturday	10 AM Coffee at Tabor Hills
April 19, 2025	Saturday	Post Dinner at 7:00PM
April 23, 2025	Wednesday	S.A.L Squadron Meeting 7;00PM
April 23, 2025	Wednesday	Legion Riders Meeting 7:00PM
April 26, 2025	Saturday	10 AM Coffee at Story Point

May 1, 2025	Thursday	Post Meeting 7:00PM
May 3, 2025	Saturday	10 AM Coffee at Monarch Landing
May 10, 2025	Saturday	10 AM Coffee at Brookdale
May 17, 2025	Saturday	10 AM Coffee at Tabor Hills
May 23, 2025	Friday	Flags Placement at St Peter & Paul 9:00AM
May 24, 2025	Saturday	Flag Placement at Naperville Cemetery 9:00AM
May 26, 2025	Monday	Memorial Day Parade
May 28, 2025	Wednesday	S.A.L. Squadron Meeting 7:00PM
May 28, 2025	Wednesday	Legion Riders Meeting 7:00PM



**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**

<b>Commander</b>	
Tom Jorstad	630-215-3592
<b>Sr. Vice-Commander</b>	
Jennifer Slown	630-803-2251
<b>Jr. Vice-Commander</b>	
Dan Sullivan	
<b>Sgt.-At-Arms</b>	
Glenn Granat	630-209-2834
<b>Finance Officer</b>	
John Noll	630-881-6718
<b>Service Officer</b>	
Dennis Lukavsky	630-272-9064
<b>Chaplain</b>	
Tom Richert	630-921-4511
<b>Historian</b>	
Joe Strebel	630-369-3846
<b>Judge Advocate</b>	
Don Hennessy	630-355-4679
<b>Adjutant</b>	
Nadia Baran	630-728-7519
<b>Immediate Past Commander</b>	
Nadia Baran	630-728-7519
<b>Public Relations Officer</b>	
Jennifer Slown	630-803-2251
<b>Bugler</b>	
Rich Yndestad	630-698-6444
<b>Legion Rider Director</b>	
Rich Frantz	630-300-8189
<b>Honor Guard Commander</b>	
Jim Oftedal	630-357-4030
<b>Color Guard Coordinator</b>	
Dennis Regan	630-361-4644
<b>Sons of the American Legion</b>	
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 MAR 15th for April's Newsletter**

**Post 43 Webmaster**

**Nadia Baran**  
 E-mail: [Rios.Nadia@gmail.com](mailto:Rios.Nadia@gmail.com)

**MAR**

**Activities - Opportunities**

- Mar 6th Post Meeting 7pm
- Mar 1st Coffee-Monarch Landing
- Mar 8th Coffee-Brookdale in Lisle
- Mar 15th Coffee-Tabor Hills
- Mar 22nd Coffee-Story Point
- Mar 29th Coffee -Independence Village

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





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

## Honoring our First Responders

