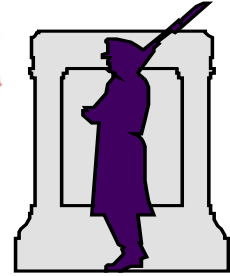




**KEEPING
POSTED**

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



Celebrating 107 Years of Service to Veterans, U.S. Military, Youth, & Community

COMMANDER'S CALL

Dear Legion Members,

It is my absolute honor (and genuine joy!) to once again serve as your Commander. As we kick off this new Legion year, I'm excited to keep the momentum going and continue building on the incredible spirit of Post 43. Our Post is more than just a meeting place—it's a powerhouse of patriotism, service, and community pride, and that's all thanks to YOU.

This year brings something especially exciting... drumroll please... 🥁 the launch of our **American Legion Auxiliary**! This is a huge milestone for our Post and opens the door to even more support for the American Legion's Four Pillars: Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth. In short: more impact, more energy, and more ways to serve.

And we're not wasting any time getting started!

To celebrate and grow our mission, the Auxiliary will host its very first event: **Prom Night on September 25**. Get ready for a fun, memorable evening—yes, there will be dancing, laughter, and probably a few questionable dance moves (we fully support all of them). We hope you'll join us for this exciting kickoff!

Next up—mark your calendars for one of our favorite traditions: the **Annual Charity Golf Outing on Thursday, September 3, 2026**. Whether you're a seasoned golfer or someone who just enjoys riding in the cart for snacks and moral support, this day is all about camaraderie, fun, and purpose. And the best part? **100% of proceeds go directly to local veterans and veteran-focused organizations**. We are currently looking for golfers, sponsors, donors, and volunteers—so if you're in, or know someone who is, let us know! Every swing, every sponsorship, and every helping hand truly makes a difference.

Looking ahead, my goals remain simple but powerful: more member engagement, a bigger community impact, and even more visibility for the amazing work happening at Post 43. We have so much talent, heart, and energy in this Post—and I want the world to see it.

And as always, I want to hear from YOU. Got an idea for an event? A fundraiser? A wild (but doable) community project? Send it my way. The best parts of Post 43 have always come from our members stepping up and saying, "Let's do something great."

Thank you for your continued dedication, service, and spirit. I can't wait to see what we accomplish together this year—because if history tells us anything, it's that Post 43 knows how to get things done... and have a little fun while doing it.

For God and Country,

Nadia Baran
Commander
Naperville American Legion Post 43

Senior Vice Commander

Dan Sullivan



Thank you to all members who have completed the process for becoming a member for 2027! Thank you for being a part of the nation's largest veterans group—The American Legion! In my new role as Senior Vice Commander, I will be primarily responsible for membership, both renewals and new members. You will be receiving your 2027 membership cards shortly. Please continue to encourage other veterans to consider joining Post 43. Thank you in advance for helping me in my new role. Everyone has been very helpful in my time with the post. Who wouldn't want to join our post?

Dan Sullivan
Senior Vice Commander
Naperville American Legion Post 43

Junior Vice Commander

Dear Legion Members,

Our next monthly meeting will be held on **Thursday, August 7, at 7:00 p.m.** Come on out—yes, *you*—for updates, upcoming events, Post business, and the always thrilling opportunity to sit in a room where important decisions are made (and snacks may or may not appear).

August is also a month packed with major moments in U.S. military history. Most notably, **August 6 and August 9, 1945**, when the United States dropped atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, bringing World War II closer to its end. As Legionnaires, we take time to honor the sacrifices of all who served and reflect on the profound impact these events had on our nation and the world.

Now, shifting from history to *happiness*—while our first monthly dinner won't be until **Saturday, September 19**, we've got plenty of fun lined up to keep you busy (and out of trouble) until then!

First up, join us on **Sunday, August 16, 2026**, for our **Freedom Tailgate**—an afternoon packed with great food, live music, fellowship, and camaraderie. Think of it as the perfect mix of veterans, sunshine, and just enough music to make you forget you're not at a concert.

Then, on **Thursday, September 3**, we'll host our **Annual Charity Golf Outing**. Whether you're a seasoned golfer or someone who mostly just enjoys riding in the cart and offering "helpful advice," you're welcome to join us. Expect a full day of golf, laughs, and friendly competition—all while raising funds for local veteran charities and community programs.

We look forward to seeing you at these events and will continue to share more details as they become available.

Thank you for your continued support of Post 43. Together, we continue to make a difference—and occasionally have a little fun doing it.

For God and Country,

Kristen Jungles
Junior Vice Commander
Naperville American Legion Post 43

American Legion Riders Report – June & July 2026

The Riders had a busy and rewarding June and July, supporting our sponsored charities, honoring veterans, and representing our Post throughout the community.

Our first major event was the **Special Olympics Summer Games** in Bloomington on **June 13**. We were warmly welcomed by the athletes and their families, and many of the children were excited to sit on our motorcycles and have their pictures taken. Photos from the event were shared on our Facebook page. Riders from several other American Legion Posts joined us, with a total of **22 Riders** in attendance. During the event, we proudly presented two checks totaling **\$4,000** to Department Commander **Roy Smith** and Department Adjutant ****Joshua Thielen**. We would also like to thank our Post for matching our donation. They were truly impressed by our commitment and dedication to this outstanding cause.



On **June 29**, we traveled to **Camp Hometown Heroes** in Campbellsport, Wisconsin. Despite the extreme heat, it was an incredible experience. The Riders presented the camp with a **\$3,000 donation**, along with an additional **\$500 contribution** from our Post. We were given a tour of the facility, and photos from the visit are available on the Riders' Facebook page.

We would also like to recognize **Steve and Jennifer Stribley** for their extraordinary generosity. Through Steve's company, they donated candy to the camp, and they personally drove to Camp Hometown Heroes to deliver toiletries and other much-needed supplies, all purchased with their own funds. Their kindness and dedication exemplify the spirit of service. Well done, Steve and Jennifer!

On **July 4**, we participated in the annual **RUCK March**, once again selling RED apparel and supporting this meaningful event honoring our nation's heroes.

The Riders also attended the quarterly **Unaccompanied Honors** ceremony at **Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery**, paying tribute to veterans who had no family present to honor their final journey.

On **July 19**, we participated in the **Elburn Toys for Tots Ride**, continuing our support for children and families in need.

Finally, on **July 30**, the Riders completed a walkthrough with **Mike McCollough** as part of our ongoing planning and preparation for upcoming events.

Thank you to all of our Riders and supporters for your continued commitment to serving veterans, our community, and the organizations that make such a positive difference in the lives of others. Your dedication makes our Post proud.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Frantz
Director
American Legion Riders Post 43, Naperville, IL



Members Sunday Breakfast

Please join us on the 1st Sunday of the month for our Members, Family and Friends breakfast!

And a continued Thank You to all who come out and make these breakfasts a success!

Teamwork at its finest!



Coffee With Vets

Saturday Morning 10 AM



The DEC dates are:

August 1st—Monarch Landing

August 8th—Brookdale (Lisle)

August 15th—Tabor Hills

August 22nd—Story Point-Naperville

August 29th—Location TBD

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

Naper Nights Volunteer Crew!



“Operation Carmel Corn” aboard the “USS Comstock”

I just want to share a story that started locally a number of years ago by Dominique Martucci, owner of “Naper Nuts and Sweets”. She started “Operation Carmel Corn” which involves sending bags of her favorite Carmel Corn to our troops overseas. Local Families would stop by her store and share their family members, serving abroad, name and address. She handled the rest.

Here is one real story:

Major Scott Baleske: USMC-XO-Marine Combat Logistics Battalion-11 stopped by one day and shared his story of his Marines serving aboard the USS Comstock. **Included are several pictures of this piece of history. You can see how much these Marines enjoy this very special treat.**

I am sure many Naperville residents already enjoy the treats sold at Naper-Nuts and Sweets. But if you have a family member serving overseas, stop by the store and arrange a shipment of Carmel Corn for them to enjoy.

Naperville American Legion Post 43 has supported this Program for years and we look forward to continuing. This gives our Men and Women serving overseas a treat to enjoy!!!!

**Semper Fidelis (Always Faithful)
Wayne Fischer-USMC Vietnam**



Historian Report

This Month in History:

Post 43's history began with the founding of The American Legion at the Paris Caucus of March 15–17, 1919.

In June of 1919, 15 WWI Veterans from Naperville, IL, met to form a local Post. Led by Chauncey W. Reed, the group applied to the state Legion on June 25th, **receiving its state charter on July 5, 1919, and its National Charter on August 1, 1920.**

Post 43 began with 126 charter members, representing the more than 300 Naperville Veterans of World War I — roughly 10% of the town's population at the time. Seven Napervillians died in the conflict.

From its founding, Post 43 has supported programs serving our Country, Veterans, young people, and Community. In 1920, the Post spearheaded fundraising for the Spirit of the American Doughboy statue in Burlington Park, dedicated on Memorial Day 1926. The six-foot copper statue, created by sculptor E. M. Viquesney, is one of over 100 installed nationwide and is noted for its precise uniform detail — down to, as the sculptor put it, "every buckle, every snap, every strap."

In the 1920s, Post 43 took over organizing Naperville's Memorial Day parade from the Grand Army of the Republic. The Legion still co-sponsors this event with the VFW, including placing flags on Veterans' graves. In the 1940s, the Post's annual carnival and car raffle funded community projects, including playground equipment and books for Nichols Library, and — most notably — an emergency rescue vehicle for the Naperville Fire Department.

Nearly a century later, Post 43 carries that same spirit forward. Guided by the American Legion's four pillars — Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation, National Security, Americanism, and Children & Youth — the Post continues to earn awards and recognition for its contributions to Naperville and the Veteran community. Today, Post 43 stands as one of the most active American Legion Posts in the State of Illinois, and its members remain proud to continue making a meaningful and lasting contribution to the Naperville community.



VA Post Card Scam

The scammers are at it again!

Have you received a “Veterans Savings Program” postcard? It’s not from VA. It’s a **scam**! The latest scam circulating involves fraudulent postcards claiming you (or your spouse) are entitled to “extra VA benefits” or additional payments, including CHAMPVA, TRICARE, and dental coverage, regardless of a VA disability rating.

These scammers misrepresent themselves as being affiliated with VA. They might instill a sense of urgency, pressuring you to contact them within five days, or as soon as possible. Their goal is to get you to call the number provided. Once you do, they will often use flattery and praise of your military service to gain trust. The scammer will attempt to obtain personal identifying information like your Social Security number and other sensitive information.

The VA urges you to remain vigilant against these fraudulent attempts to steal personal information:

- Refuse to engage with bad actors.
- Do not call unverified numbers.
- Hang up immediately if you are contacted by unsolicited numbers.

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

AMERICAN LEGION POST 43 CALENDAR

August 6th
 August 16th
 August 17th

Legion Meeting
 Freedom Tailgate party
 CrossTown Classic at the Post

September 3rd
 September 3rd
 September 6th
 September 10th
 September 18
 September 19th
 September 25th

Legion Golf Outing
 Legion Meeting
 Members Breakfast
 FOP golf outing (we are sponsors)
 T4T golf Outing (we are sponsors)
 Legion Dinner Social
 Prom Party (Legion and ALA Sponsored)

October 1st
 October 4th
 October 9th
 October 17th

Legion Meeting
 Members Breakfast
 UFO Party at the Canteen
 Legion Dinner Social (OktoberFest)

November 5th
 November 7th
 November 11th
 November 14
 November 20

Legion Meeting
 USMC Ball
 Veterans Day / Dinner Social
 NRFV Gala
 Toys For Tots Costume Party

December 3th
 December 4th
 December 11th
 December 12th

Legion Meeting
 Cookie Party (ALA and Legion Hosted)
 Possible Spaghetti Fundraiser
 Post Christmas Party

**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

Dan Sullivan 708-6010292

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

Dick Komarek 630-983-6403

Judge Advocate

Lee Gunter

Adjutant

Anna Barnhart 401-603-6339

Immediate Past Commander

Tom Jorstad 630-215-3592

Public Relations Officer

Jennifer Slown 630-803-2251

Bugler

Rich Yndestad 630-698-6444

Legion Rider Director

Rich Frantz 630-300-8189

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

Tom Jorstad

630-215-3592

E-mail: tom.jorstad@yahoo.com

Please send your articles to Tom by April 15th of each month!

Post 43 Webmaster

Nadia Baran

E-mail: Rios.Nadia@gmail.com

August**Activities - Opportunities**

August 1st—Monarch Landing

August 6th—Legion Meeting

August 8th—Brookdale (Lisle)

August 15th—Tabor Hills

August 16th—Freedom Tailgate

August 22nd—Story Point-Naperville

August 29th—Location TBD

Selected Thursdays & Saturdays:

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



NAPERVILLE POST 43





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

Chaithrika Sripathi, our 2025 & 2026 Post 43 Oratorical winner and a two-time Illinois champion addresses the Department of Illinois American Legion Convention in July

