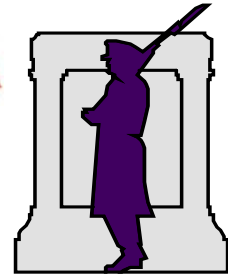




American Legion Post #43
Naperville, IL
www.naperlegion.org



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,

As we close out 2025, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to each of you for your dedication and contributions throughout the year. Your commitment helps strengthen Post 43, our members, local veterans, their families, and the Naperville community.

Mark your calendars for our **annual Christmas Party on Saturday, December 20th**. This free event is open to all members and a guest. Join us for an evening of pizza and snacks, camaraderie, laughter, and holiday cheer - highlighted by our traditional white elephant gift exchange. Participation in the exchange is optional. If you wish to participate, bring a wrapped gift of approximately \$20 in value, otherwise simply enjoy the fun as gifts are opened, swapped, and "stolen." Please check the **American Legion Post 43 Calendar** in this newsletter for details on upcoming events and opportunities to stay engaged.

As the holiday season unfolds, I wish you and your families a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a Happy New Year. May this season bring joy, peace, and prosperity to all.

And as always, if you need help, reach out. Together, let us continue to make a positive difference in the lives of our fellow veterans, their families, and our community.

Semper Fidelis!

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



Sr. Vice Commander

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

As we approach the end of 2025, I want to remind everyone of the importance of **membership renewal**. Our strength as a post depends on each of us staying active and engaged. If you haven't yet renewed your membership, please take a moment to do so before the year closes. Timely renewals ensure that Post 43 can continue to serve our post members, veterans, their families, and the Naperville community with the programs and support we are known for.

Membership is also about growth. I encourage each of you to reach out to friends, neighbors, and fellow veterans who may not yet be part of our Legion family. A personal invitation goes a long way - let's show them the camaraderie, service, and purpose that Post 43 offers.

Currently, Post 43 has no **Senior Vice Commander**. This is a vital role, focused on membership growth and retention. To keep our post strong, we are seeking a volunteer to serve as **interim Senior Vice Commander**. If you have a passion for building connections and helping our post thrive, I invite you to step forward. Your leadership will make a meaningful difference.

Together, through renewals, recruitment, and volunteer leadership, we can ensure Post 43 continues to grow and serve our community with pride. Thank you for your dedication, and let's finish 2025 strong.



Jr. Vice Commander

Dear Post 43 Membership,

The December monthly meeting is Thursday, December 4th at 7:00 p.m. (we will be holding the meeting in the patio area near the VFW bar, lower level southside of the building) The next Members Family Breakfast is Sunday, December 14th. 9:00 a.m. – Noon (Thank you so much Nadia and Jason!). The December dinner is Saturday, December 20th it is the Combined Post Holiday Party 7:00 p.m. *Please bring a gift that others will be excited to steal worth a minimum \$20.*

RSVP for dinner to kristen@junglesgroup.com The December dinner is free for members

Dan Sullivan

Junior Vice Commander

American Legion Post 43, Naperville



Dan Sullivan

Riders Newsletter Report – November 2025

As the Riders season comes to a close, we enjoy the changing colors of the leaves and are ready to continue our support of the American Legion Post 43 activity.

We had a very productive year attending various events and rides to support our Veterans and Children. Just to recap a few events and some upcoming volunteer work.

- The Riders just had our Annual Fundraiser Dinner with Prime Rib, Chicken Picatta, Live Music and a few raffles. The Riders thank all the Sponsors and individuals who contributed to what turned out to be a very successful and wonderful evening with friends and family.
- The Riders participate monthly from April through October in the [Honor Flight](#) program. The veterans are flown to Washington D.C for the day to see the memorials affiliated with their time in service. They come home to a warm welcome home by our Legion Riders along with their fellow veterans and their families.
- This year, the Riders held a Chili dinner at the Post with the proceeds going to the [Special Olympics](#) and then we rode down to the Special Olympics event in Bloomington IL to see the kids. We plan on making this an annual event. Please come out and have some great chili.
- We supported [Toys for Tots](#) at various ride events and volunteer time at their DuPage branch distribution warehouse.
- We rode in the Naperville Parades. We volunteer to help with flags and wreaths presentations at the cemeteries on Memorial and Veterans Day.
- We will volunteer to bell ring at our local Jewel Osco location on Ogden and Washington for the [Salvation Army](#) during the Christmas season. This year it will be on December 19th from 10:00am to 6:00pm.
- The Riders performed walkthroughs for American Legion and VFW post members at the wake of veterans when requested.
- We also have been selling **Remember Everyone Deployed** T-shirts and Ball caps at various fests and Quigleys Irish Pub with the proceeds going to [CampHomeTownHeroes](#).

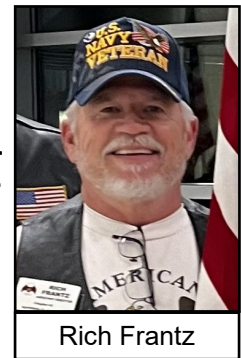
****We are always looking for veterans or affiliates who enjoy riding. We are looking for members who own a motorcycle that is 350cc or larger. If you are a member of the American Legion, Sons of American Legion or Auxiliary or know someone who would be interested, I encourage you to come see what we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

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Frantz

Director

American Legion Riders Post 43, Naperville, IL



Rich Frantz



Sons of the American Legion

Our stated SAL meeting will be combined with the Legion Riders which is every **4th Wednesday** at 7:00PM. 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



Coffee With Vets
Saturday Morning 10 AM



The DEC dates are:

Dec 6th— Monarch Landing
Dec 13th—Brookdale - Lisle
Dec 20th—Tabor Hills
Dec 27th—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

Joined Annual Christmas Party

MERRY Christmas

Join us for our annual Post
Christmas Party.
Saturday December 20,2025

Bring a gift others will be
excited to steal (minimum \$20).
Appetizers will be served!

Time: 7:00PM to 10:00PM
Where: 908 Jackson Avenue.
rsvp : kristen@junglesgroup.com



Healing Fields Memories



Historian Report

Our country's history contains many events that are sources of pride. There are others, however, that are more ignominious.

The Wounded Knee Massacre is solidly in the latter category.

The confrontation between Lakota tribe members and the U.S. Army took place on December 29, 1890, and followed decades of tensions between Indigenous People of the Great Plains and white settlers who relentlessly pushed westward.

These tensions intensified in the late 19th Century as the U.S. government repeatedly reneged on agreements to grant Native Americans ownership of sizeable tracts of land. For example, the Treaty of Fort Laramie in 1868 established a 60-million acre reservation for the Lakotas. Over the years, however, the government shrank the area in a series of moves that ended with the original area down to less than 13 million acres of about 20 percent of the original allotment.

Resentment by Plains Indians over the loss of territory grew and intensified with the development of a religious movement known as the Ghost Dance. Among the elements of this creed was the belief that the Creator would return the earth to its condition before the arrival of European settlers. Ghost Dance adherents also believed that they would be protected from bullets if they wore "ghost shirts." These were white garments decorated with various symbols supposedly lending protection to the wearers.

The territorial implications of the Ghost Dance caused anxiety and government agents and they sought to reduce its influence and potential to inspire resistance among Native Americans. Just prior to Wounded Knee, a large deployment of federal troops arrived in the vicinity. There they confronted Sitting Bull, the leader of the 1876 victory at the Little Bighorn. Although not himself a Ghost Dance adherent, the Indian leader resisted government efforts to repress the movement.

Against this backdrop, the U.S. 7th Cavalry became apprehensive over the movement of some 350 Sioux people from their reservation to the Pine Ridge reservation. The Cavalry commander ordered his soldiers to confiscate all the weapon held by the band and escort them to prison. As the troops carried out this order and were searching for hidden weapons, they attempted to disarm a deaf warrior who did not understand their intent. While some confusion exists, it is believed that his weapon accidentally discharged setting off an attack by the 7th Cavalry troops.

Although there is disagreement over the sequence of events and accounts of the conflict differ, there is no disputing the result: some 350 Native Americans – most of whom were previously disarmed – and including many women and children were killed.

Although the government initially described the confrontation as a battle, eyewitness accounts and later investigations established Wounded Knee as a massacre.

We have many reasons to be proud of our country. It's also responsible to acknowledge that our government has sometimes erred and took part in regrettable actions such as Wounded Knee.

Veterans Day Dinner





I think all of you have heard me mention the Hines Outreach visits that take place each month at the post. As you all know, they take place the first Tuesday of each month from 10AM to 2PM. I have also mentioned that if you are intitled to benefits you should get those benefits. Our resident VSO, Russ Meredith is salaried by the VFW. He is an employee of the VFW. I just saw a memo from the National office of the VFW documenting that VSO's like Russ have recovered \$16.2 Billion in FY 2025. This is not money "stolen" from the government but rather money owned to veterans who have earned it.

Here is the point of this little note. If you are on the fence about filing for VA benefits because you think you do not deserve them, come to the post and talk to us about it. We can help you make a sound decision. Some times there are gray areas that can be clarified. Remember getting what you are entitled is the right thing to do...

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



AMERICAN LEGION POST 43 CALENDAR

Dec 4, 2025	Thursday	Post Meeting 7:00PM
Dec 6, 2025	Saturday	10:00 AM Coffee at Monarch Landing.
Dec 6, 2025	Saturday	Breakfast with Santa
Dec 12, 2025	Friday	Chilli Fundraiser with NCHS 5-7 PM
Dec 13, 2025	Saturday	10 AM Coffee at Brookdale
Dec 13, 2025	Saturday	Army/Navy Game
Dec 14, 2025	Sunday	Members Breakfast 9:00AM to 12:00PM
Dec 20, 2025	Saturday	10 AM Coffee at Tabor Hills
Dec 20, 2025	Saturday	Combine Post Christmas Party
Dec 27, 2025	Saturday	10 AM Coffee at Story Point

Jan 1, 2026	Thursday	Post Meeting 7:00PM
Jan 2, 2026	Saturday	10:00 AM Coffee at Monarch Landing.
Jan 10, 2026	Saturday	10 AM Coffee at Brookdale
Jan 11, 2026	Sunday	Members Breakfast 9:00AM to 12:00PM
Jan 17, 2026	Saturday	10 AM Coffee at Tabor Hills
Jan 17, 2026	Saturday	A.L Dinner Social
Jan 21, 2026	Wednesday	AL. Riders– Sons Meeting 7:00PM
Jan 24, 2026	Saturday	10 AM Coffee at Story Point
Jan 21, 2026	Saturday	10 AM Coffee at Independence Village

Feb 5, 2026	Thursday	Post Meeting 7:00PM
Feb 7, 2026	Saturday	10:00 AM Coffee at Monarch Landing.
Feb 14, 2026	Saturday	10 AM Coffee at Brookdale
Feb 15, 2026	Sunday	Members Breakfast 9:00AM to 12:00PM
Feb 21, 2026	Saturday	10 AM Coffee at Tabor Hills
Feb 21, 2026	Saturday	A.L Dinner Social
Feb 25, 2026	Wednesday	AL. Riders– Sons Meeting 7:00PM
Feb 28, 2026	Saturday	10 AM Coffee at Story Point

**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 630-215-3592

Sr. Vice-Commander

Jennifer Slown 630-803-2251

Jr. Vice-Commander

Dan Sullivan

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

Nadia Baran 630-728-7519

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

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

Jason Baran

630-768-9805

E-mail: jason.baran@gmail.com

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

Post 43 Webmaster

Nadia Baran

E-mail: Rios.Nadia@gmail.com**DEC****Activities - Opportunities**

Dec 4th Post Meeting 7pm

Dec 6th Coffee-Monarch Landing

Dec 13th Coffee-Brookdale in Lisle

Dec 20th Coffee-Tabor Hills

Dec 27th Coffee-Story Point

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



**AMERICAN
LEGION**
NAPERVILLE POST 43



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

PROUD SPONSORS OF
DUPAGE COUNTY
TOYS FOR TOTS

