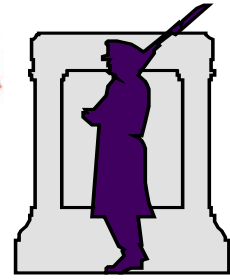




KEEPING POSTED

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



Volume 30 Issue 15

Celebrating 105 Years of Service to Veterans, U.S. Military, Youth, & Community

COMMANDER'S CALL

Dear Legion Members, Sons of the Legion, Legion Riders and Friends of Post 43,

Thank you to everyone who came out for our last dinner / social where we honored past Post 43 Commanders and awarded our Citizen Of The Year award (and congratulations to our honoree, Senior Vice Commander Jennifer Slown). We are honored and fortunate to have her returning as Senior Vice Commander for the upcoming Legion Year!

Please review the calendar contained in this newsletter as it will give particulars for upcoming events but of course the big date is **Monday, May 27th, Memorial Day** when we all come together to honor and remember those who gave everything for our freedom.

At Post 43 we are proud to carry on the legacy of service and sacrifice that defines the American Legion. Through our programs and initiatives, we strive to support veterans, servicemembers, and their families, and to ensure that the sacrifices of our fallen heroes are never forgotten.

I encourage you to join us in honoring our fallen heroes by taking part in the various festivities we have planned. Whether it's assisting in flag placement at local cemeteries, participating in the Naperville Memorial Day Parade (space is always available if you want to ride on the trolleys), attending the various wreath laying ceremonies or attending the speeches and band concert at the Naperville Bandshell, it is always a great opportunity for fellowship and comradery followed by a free lunch back at the VFW building. Exact details will be sent out as we approach the date.

May we never forget their sacrifice, and may we always strive to be worthy of the legacy they have left us.

With deepest respect and gratitude.

Semper Fidelis!

Tom Jorstad
Commander Post 43
(630) 215-3592
Tom.jorstad@yahoo.co



Tom Jorstad

Sr. Vice Commander

Dear Fellow Legionnaires,

Please check that you have a current membership ID card. **If your ID card doesn't show 2024 across the top, please take a few minutes and renew your membership.**

One benefit of maintaining your membership is that you are eligible to receive **\$1,000 of AD&D insurance coverage**. If the accidental loss occurs when on official Legion Family Business, you will be covered for \$5,000.00 of AD&D. **You pay nothing for this coverage.**

To activate this coverage you can call 1-800-235-6943 or activate online at:

www.TheLIT.com/LegionCare2

Your continued membership also ensures that we can uphold the proud traditions and vital services provided by the American Legion to include:

- **Providing all Veterans with a strong voice in our nation's capital**
- **Advocating for Veterans rights**
- **Increasing VA benefits and healthcare coverage**
- **Offering a community that fosters a sense of family and camaraderie**

Renewing your membership is quick and easy and you can renew in one of two ways:

- 1) Renew on-line on our Department of Illinois website: [Renew – American Legion Department of Illinois](#)
- 2) Please mail a check for \$45 (for 1 year) to:

**American Legion Post 43
PO Box 4
Naperville, IL 60566-0004**



Thank you for your support and dedication to Post 43 Naperville.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Slown
Senior Vice Commander, Post 43



Jennifer Slown

Jr. Vice Commander

Greetings Fellow Veterans,

Thank you to everyone who attended our April dinner where we honored our past Post 43 Commanders as well as presented our Post 43 **Citizen of the Year Award** to our own Senior Vice Commander, Jennifer Slown. A good time was had by all and it was a nice way to end this Legion Years' dinner socials.

We are still looking for a member to volunteer their time and be our next Junior Vice Commander.

As Junior Vice Commander, you will coordinate Post 43's dinners and social programs. This is a unique opportunity to make a meaningful impact, connect with fellow veterans, and contribute to the legacy of service that defines American Legion Post 43.

If you are interested in helping your fellow veterans and are ready to take on a leadership role within Post 43, I encourage you to step forward and volunteer for the position. There will of course be plenty of assistance by membership as well as all Post officers (both past and present).

To volunteer or learn more about the responsibilities of the Junior Vice Commander position, please contact me.

Warm regards,



AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER 43

The first Honor Flight Chicago was on Wednesday April 10th, The Rider's where there in the Flag Line greeting the Veterans as they returned home.

We sold a lot of RED hats and T-shirts at the VFW Fish Fry's; we plan on selling them at "The Salute" and "The Last Fling".

The Naperville American Legion Riders will be leading the way on the Motorcycle Run from Fox River Harley-Davidson to the DuPage County Fairgrounds for the Honor Flight Fundraiser on Saturday, May 4th.

Respectfully submitted,

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Strickland
Director
American Legion Riders



Steve Strickland



American Legion Post 43 2024 Poppy Program

For this year, we still do not have a Poppy Chairman. If anyone wants to step up or if you know of anyone that might be interested, please let Commander Tom Jorstad know.

Again, this year we will be donating all our proceeds to the American Legion **“Operation Comfort Warriors”** Program. “This Program (OCW) gives comfort items to our Veterans that are confirmed to VA Hospitals. OCW is a Program dedicated to meeting the needs of wounded, injured, or ill military personnel by providing them with comfort items not usually supplied by the government. OCW ensures that patients at U.S. military hospitals and warrior transition units are given items like sweat suits, DVD’s, puzzles, electronic devices, books, calling cards and more. OCW also provides larger items such as ping pong tables, entertainment centers, computers, kayaks, and other recreational goods for use by wounded warriors in common areas”.

We will have poppies available at upcoming events, including our May Post meeting. Also, you can donate online to “<https://www.naperlegion.org/poppy-day>” or send a check to-

Naperville Post #43
PO Box 4
Naperville, IL 60566

Any amount is appreciated. Thank you for considering this Program. Feel free to past this onto your friends and your workplace.

Thanks-Wayne Fischer
wayne.L.fischer@gmail.com

630-240-8868



Memorial Day 2024

Members of VFW Post 3873 and American Legion Post 43 will participate in Memorial Day services and the Memorial Day Parade on Monday, 27 May 2024. We will observe our regular schedule of events that day, so please plan to join us as we honor our fallen brothers and sisters. The schedule for Memorial Day is:

- 0745 Service at City Hall (Dan Shanower Memorial)
- 0815 Service at G.A.R. Monument in Naperville Cemetery (south side)
- 0835 Service at Veterans Park (100 E. Gartner Road)
- 0900 Service at Ss Peter & Paul Cemetery (911 North Avenue)
- 0925 Burlington Square (307 N. Ellsworth Street)
- 1000 Parade Line-up (vicinity of West St. and Jackson)
- 1015 Veterans step off to start parade
- 1020 Service at Riverwalk Memorial (during parade)
- 1200 Ceremony at Central Park Bandshell (approximate start time)

IMPORTANT INFORMATION:

There is no parking in the VFW lot until after 11:00 am. Parking is available at City Hall and at other locations in the downtown area. Please be at City Hall by 7:30 am to participate in the morning's activities. Trolleys will provide transportation as we go to each location for the memorial services. There will also be transportation at Central Park to get you back to City Hall after the ceremony at the bandshell. Feel free to join us at any location, even if you are not able to start the morning with us. The preferred uniform of the day is khakis with a Post polo shirt and cover, but you can still join in if you don't have these.

Lunch will be provided at the Post for veterans and their families following the ceremony at Central Park. The RTC Band from Great Lakes will be joining us during lunch, and they will have priority for going through the food line first. The canteen **will not** be open until the Colors are returned to the Post following the ceremony at Central Park.

Only veterans and Active Duty personnel will be walking in the veteran's group during the parade. Anyone with children or other family members will be able to ride the Veteran Trolley.

Veterans who are unable to walk the parade route and would like to ride in a car should submit their name, branch of service, conflict, and contact phone number to Paul Hinterlong at paulhinterlong@yahoo.com. Requests for a car should be made by May 17th. Anyone not requesting a vehicle by the 17th will be able to ride in the Veteran Trolley on the day of the parade.

American Legion Post 43 Citizen of the Year 2024

The American Legion Post 43 Citizen of the Year for 2024 is Jennifer Slown. Jennifer and her husband Scott and three children (Riley, Madison, & Luke) live in Naperville, IL. Jennifer joined the Marine Corps in 2009. She later attended Officers Candidate School and was commissioned in 2016. Jennifer is currently a Captain in the Marine Corps reserves.

Jennifer was co-chairman of the Woody Williams Medal of Honor foundation's Gold Star Family Memorial initiative in Naperville, from March 2020 through May 2023. During this period of time, this committee faced immense world supply chain challenges due to the Pandemic. Her leadership and expertise in helping to coordinate the off-shore vendors, shipping companies, domestic Port Authorities, and transportation carriers, contributed to the success of this project. Jennifer's dedication and determination to America's fallen, the unintentional victims of war, and their families was unwavering. The six-foot-tall granite monument was installed in Naperville's Veterans Park, and dedicated on Memorial Day weekend in 2023.

In addition to raising three children and working with her husband in real estate, Jennifer organizes the Disney Karaoke Fundraiser at the VFW Post each year. This event has raised money for the VFW National Childrens Home in Eaton Rapids, MI. She also volunteers her time and serves as Sr. Vice Commander for The American Legion Post 43 and is an active member also in VFW Post 3873. Jennifer started the Veteran Business Connection, which helps promote Veteran owned businesses. She is a Marine for Life and helps coordinate Marines with the transition from active duty to civilian life. Jennifer also is a member of the Women Marines Association and Toys for Tots organizations.

Congratulations!



Photo Credit by Jim Hoch





AMERICAN LEGION POST 43 CALENDAR



May 2, 2024
 May 4, 2024
 May 4, 2024
 May 11, 2024
 May 14, 2024
 May 18, 2024
 May 18, 2024
 May 22, 2024
 May 25, 2024
 May 27, 2024

Thursday
 Saturday
 Saturday
 Saturday
 Tuesday
 Saturday
 Saturday
 Wednesday
 Saturday
 Monday



Post Meeting 7:00PM
 10 AM Coffee at Monarch Landing
 Honor Flight Chicago
 10 AM Coffee at Brookdale
 S.A.L Squadron Meeting 7:00PM
 10 AM Coffee at Tabor Hills
 Armed Forces Day Mission BBQ
 Legion Riders Meeting 7:00PM
 10 AM Coffee at Story Point
 Memorial Day Parade



June 6, 2024
 June 8, 2024
 June 15, 2024
 June 18, 2024
 June 22, 2024
 June 26, 2024
 June 29, 2024

Thursday
 Saturday
 Saturday
 Tuesday
 Saturday
 Wednesday
 Saturday



Post Meeting 7:00pm
 10 AM Coffee at Monarch Landing
 10 AM Coffee at Brookdale
 S.A.L Squadron Meeting 7:00PM
 10 AM Coffee at Tabor Hills
 Legion Riders Meeting 7:00PM
 10 AM Coffee at Story Point



July 5, 2024
 July 6, 2024
 July 6, 2024
 July 7, 2024
 July 13, 2024
 July 13, 2024
 July 20, 2024
 July 27, 2024

Friday
 Saturday
 Saturday
 Sunday
 Saturday
 Saturday
 Saturday
 Saturday



Salute to Veterans
 Salute to Veterans
 10 AM Coffee at Monarch Landing
 Salute to Veterans
 Kane County Cougar Game 6:00PM
 10 AM Coffee at Brookdale
 10 AM Coffee at Tabor Hills
 10 AM Coffee at Story Point

Sons of the American Legion

Our stated SAL meeting is every **THIRD** Tuesday at 7:00PM. Our next stated meeting is **5/21/2024**. We met in the lower level "patio" at the VFW hall. 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 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
chrislance@gmail.com



Coffee With Vets Saturday Morning 10 AM



The MAY dates are:

MAY 4th—Monarch Landing
MAY 11th—Brookdale - Lisle
MAY 18th—Tabor Hills
MAY 25th—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



VA Claim Processing

Lets talk a bit about VA's claim processing. When we file a claim it seems forever before we have a decision.

We wait and wait and the response never comes. Its very easy to say the VA is a big bu-reaucracy that is bogged down to a crawl in red tape.

The reality is pretty much the opposite. The VA has processed more than one million Veteran benefit claims in fiscal year 2024, the fastest rate in VA history. Through February of this fiscal year, the VA provided \$69 billion in earned compensation and pension benefits to 6.5 million Veterans and survivors.

The PACT Act has brought a whole new dimension to the scene. Veterans apply for benefits at record rates, with VA receiving 4.5% more claims thus far in fiscal year 2024 than at this point in 2023. Since the PACT Act was signed into law, Veterans and their families have filed more than 3.5 million claims.

As a result of this record pace, Veteran claims pending over 125 days – known as the backlog – has decreased by more than 42,000 claims over the past three months. Due to the record number of claim applications, the backlog is still expected to grow in 2024 before decreasing at the end of this year.

It seems to me we have to give the VA a little credit for working hard to keep up with the demand caused by the PACT ACT. Remember, patience is a virtue.



April Dinner Social Memories



Photo Credit by Jim Hoch



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	
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	
Joe Strebel	630-369-3846
Judge Advocate	
Don Hennessy	630-355-4679
Adjutant	
Rita Kollias	630-362-7210
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	
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	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 MAY 15th for JUNE Newsletter

Post 43 Webmaster

Nadia Baran
 E-mail: Rios.Nadia@gmail.com

MAY 2024

Activities - Opportunities

- MAY 2nd Post Meeting 7pm
- MAY 4th Coffee-Monarch Landing
- MAY 11th Coffee-Brookdale in Lisle
- MAY 18th Coffee-Tabor Hills
- MAY 25th Coffee-Story Point

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





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

April Legion Dinner– Past Commanders



Photo Credit by Jim Hoch