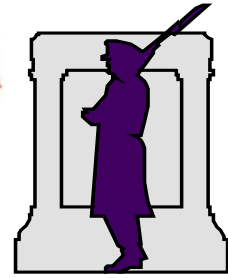




KEEPING POSTED



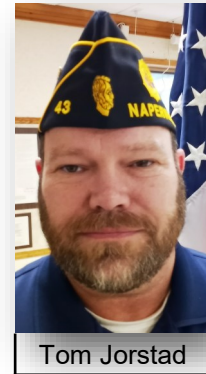
American Legion Post #43
Naperville, IL
www.naperlegion.org

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

Greetings Legion Members, Sons of the Legion, and Legion Riders,

Although I was unable to attend our March dinner social, I've heard nothing but wonderful feedback about the evening. Many members shared how meaningful it was to recognize this year's recipients of our Post 43 Excellence in Education Awards.

I also understand that the McNulty Irish Dancers delivered a lively and memorable performance, and that everyone enjoyed a traditional Irish meal of Corned Beef & Cabbage and Shepherd's/Cottage Pie—prepared with great care by Nadia and Jason Baran, Bob and Ed Colby, Matt Shiffer, and Jennifer Phillips. My sincere thanks to each of them for making the evening special for all who attended. I look forward to joining you at our April 18th dinner.



Tom Jorstad

A few important upcoming programs deserve your attention:

Boys State and Girls State Programs

These exceptional leadership programs are open to current high school juniors who will enter their senior year in Fall 2026. Both offer impactful leadership experiences and scholarship opportunities. If you know a student who may be interested, please direct them to the program websites below:

- Boys State Program: <https://illinoisboysstate.org/>
- Girls State Program: <https://alaigns.org/>

Post 43 Annual Scholarships

Post 43 will again award four \$3,000 scholarships to deserving students who meet our criteria. Full details and application information can be found at: www.naperlegion.org/scholarship

Thank you for helping make American Legion Post 43 one of the most active, welcoming, and service-driven posts in Illinois. Your continued dedication strengthens our mission and our community.

Lead with heart, act with courage, and stand firm in integrity.

Semper Fidelis!

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



want to take a moment to emphasize the importance of renewing your membership for 2026. As of today, we still have quite a few members whose membership have lapsed. Renewing ensures you remain connected, informed, and fully engaged in everything we do at Post 43.

Renewals help us plan more effectively, expand our support for veterans, and keep our programs running.

Why Renew? Here's What Membership Offers You:

- **Continued camaraderie:** Stay part of a supportive community of fellow veterans who understand you service and share your values
- **Advocacy for veterans:** Your membership strengthens national efforts to protect veterans' benefits and influence legislation that matters.
- **Access to resources:** From career support to VA assistance, members gain access to valuable tools, guidance, and information.
- **Community impact:** Be part of local initiatives that support youth, honor fallen heroes, and strengthen civic pride throughout Naperville.

Renewing your membership is more than checking a box—it's a commitment to **service, community, and legacy**. For those who have already renewed, thank you for your continued dedication. If your membership has lapsed, please take a moment to renew today so you can stay active with Post 43 and help us reach our 100% goal. And if you know a fellow member who hasn't renewed yet, a friendly reminder can make all the difference.

Together, we can make 2026 a year of growth, unity, and impact for Post 43.

Jr. Vice Commander

The April Monthly Post 43 Members Meeting will be held on Thursday, April 2nd at 7:00 p.m. at the Judd Kendall VFW Post.

The April American Legion Post 43 Dinner is Saturday, April 18th. At the dinner we will be honoring Past Commanders and the American Legion Post 43 Citizen of the Year. Social hour is 5:30-6:30 p.m. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m. The cost is \$15 per person. \$7.00 for kids, children under 6 eat free. Location is the Judd Kendall VFW Post, 908 W. Jackson Ave. Naperville, IL 60540. Please RSVP to Kristen Jungles (call or text) 630-816-6841 or email Kristen@junglesgroup.com

A big thank you to Nadia and team for cooking the March dinner! Also, a big thank you to the McNulty Irish Dancers for their performances. Additionally, the teachers who were recognized were very appreciative for the support of public education from Post 43.

Welcome to new American Legion members: Kevin Carroll, Edwin Kane and Anna Barbhart.

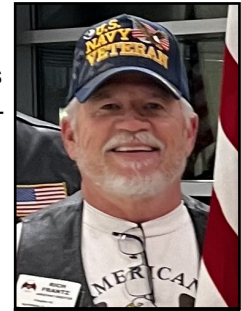
Dan Sullivan
Junior Vice Commander

Dan Sullivan



Hello everyone

We had a very nice time on Saturday, February 28th, with the Special Olympics Chili Dinner. The folks turned out to support this event, and the Special Olympic Athletes gave those who attended a warm introduction about the Special Olympics. And we had a special treat when we were honored with Tory singing the National Anthem. We look forward to going down there in June to present them with the check from the proceeds of the evening.



Rich Frantz

RED Apparel Sales have been going well with the help of Jennifer and Steve Stribley. We will be selling a new design soon to celebrate the 250 Years of our nation. So look for us at the various dinners and events.

We had a few Riders participate in the Naperville St. Patrick's Day parade. The weather was a little cool but dry.

And just a reminder about Friday, April 10th - Riding with the Ramblers. The Riders will be presenting Matt Shuken and the Ramblers at the Post. The proceeds from this night will go to AllenForce. AllenForce assists veterans who are injured, visibly or invisibly, through positive health and fitness training and social networking. This will be a live music event, and we will have pizza and desserts with a few raffles. Flyers will be posted at the VFW and Dennis already sent out a blast.

Our next Rider's meeting is April 22nd.

***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.*

Our next Rider's meeting is February 25th

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Frantz

Director

American Legion Riders Post 43, Naperville, IL



Members Sunday Breakfast

A huge thank you to our Sunday Family Members Breakfast kitchen crew! Our first breakfast on the new date was a tremendous success, and we couldn't have done it without your hard work and dedication.

We'd also like to thank the team for helping take down the Christmas decorations in Kendall Hall.

Teamwork at its finest!



Coffee With Vets Saturday Morning 10 AM



The DEC dates are:

April 4TH— Monarch Landing
April 11th—Lisle Creek Estate-
Lisle

April 18—Tabor Hills

April 25—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

March Dinner Social Teacher Appreciation



Veteran Suicide Prevention Ruck



Veteran Suicide Prevention Ruck

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's ruck. With the incredible support of our sponsors, we were able to donate over \$7,000 to 22 Until None. Your dedication and generosity made a meaningful impact, and we are truly grateful for each and every one of you.

We would also like to extend our sincere appreciation to our amazing sponsors: Naperville Responds to Veterans, WMA Osborne Chapter, KW Infinity – The Veteran Team, Action Print & Screen, Mission BBQ, Chicago Police Marines, Stephanie Kifowit, and the American Legion Riders Naperville. Your support made this event possible, and we are deeply thankful for your continued commitment to our mission and community

Historian Report

This Month

April is designated as Month of the Military Child – a time to honor the sacrifices made by military families worldwide, with an emphasis on the experience of the dependent children of military members serving at home and overseas. Month of the Military Child is sponsored by the Department of Defense Military Community and Family Policy and supported by many other organizations such as the DoDEA.

Military Saves Week has transitioned to [Military Saves Month](#). The Military Saves campaign encourages military families to save money every month. The purpose is to assist servicemen and women and their immediate family members in their efforts to build personal wealth by reducing debt and establishing savings goals.

Gold Star Spouses day will be observed on Saturday, April 5, 2026. The terms Gold Star family, Gold Star Spouses, and Gold Star Wives traditionally refer to the surviving loved ones of military members who lost their lives in the line of duty. Gold Star Spouses Day was created to honor these loved ones.

The United States Air Force Reserve celebrates its birthday every year on April 14, but according to the Air Force official site, Air Force Reservists can trace their heritage all the way back to the National Defense Act of 1916. The Air Force Reserve Birthday will be on Friday, April 14th

The Army Reserve celebrates its birthday on April 23 each year, celebrating contributions to two World Wars, the Cold War, Korea, Vietnam, Persian Gulf War, and many other missions.

The phrase “military brat” is one long associated with the family members of those in uniform. It can be used in a derogatory sense, but in recent decades the phrase has been used more to self-identify as being part of a military family.

Military Brats Day will be observed on Tuesday, April 30



PRESENTS

SHUKIN
AND THE
RAMBLERS
CHICAGOLAND ROOTS ROCK

FRIDAY APRIL 10TH
6:00PM TO 10:00PM

JUDD KENDALL VFW
908 Jackson Ave, Naperville

\$25

All Proceeds go to
AllenForce

PIZZA - DESSERTS - RAFFLE - 50/50

Please email ALRiders43@gmail.com
with subject line "RAMBLERS" to RSVP





VA May Contact You By Email and SMS Text About Your Claim - Respond Securely through the new Claim Assist Portal

In this day and age when scammers are an ever present danger, we are taught over and over again to be cautious of email and text messages That is certainly *still* the rule to follow but keep in mind the VA is making a little change to way they process claims. They are starting to communicate with veterans through either/or emailings or texts. Keep in mind you may get a valid email for the VA asking you for more information about your claim, provide status etc. The correspondence is safe because you do not respond to the mailing. You respond by logging into the VA ***Claim Assist Portal*** at VA.gov which is of course secure. So, even though we all say scammers doing their phishing through emails, these emails from the VA are legitimate and need to be answered.

What is the Claim Assist Portal?

The Claim Assist Portal is a secure online tool that makes it faster and easier for you to respond when VA needs more information for your claim. You can securely provide the requested details, complete short forms, or verify information online—no printing, mailing, or scanning needed.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 43 CALENDAR



April 2, 2026	Thursday	Post Meeting 7:00PM
April 4, 2026	Saturday	10:00 AM Coffee at Monarch Landing.
April 10, 2026	Friday	Shuken and the Ramblers
April 11, 2026	Saturday	10 AM Coffee at Lisle Creek Estate
April 12, 2026	Sunday	Members Breakfast 9:00AM to 12:00PM
April 18, 2026	Saturday	A.L Dinner Social
April 18, 2026	Saturday	10 AM Coffee at Tabor Hills
April 22, 2026	Wednesday	Legion Riders/Sons Meeting 7:00PM
April 25, 2026	Saturday	10 AM Coffee at Story Point
April 26, 2026	Sunday	1:30PM Veterans Club Party
May 2, 2026	Saturday	10:00 AM Coffee at Monarch Landing
May 7, 2026	Thursday	Post Meeting 7:00PM
May 9, 2026	Saturday	10 AM Coffee at Lisle Creek Estate.
May 10, 2026	Sunday	Members Breakfast 9:00AM to 12:00PM
May 16, 2026	Saturday	10 AM Coffee at Tabor Hills
May 23, 2026	Saturday	10 AM Coffee at Story Point
May 25, 2026	Monday	Memorial Day Parade
May 27, 2026	Wednesday	Legion Riders/Sons Meeting 7:00PM
May 30 2026	Saturday	10 AM Coffee at Independence Village
June 4, 2026	Thursday	Post Meeting 7:00PM
June 6, 2026	Saturday	10:00 AM Coffee at Monarch Landing
June 13, 2026	Saturday	10 AM Coffee at Lisle Creek Estate.
June 20, 2026	Saturday	10 AM Coffee at Tabor Hills
June 24, 2026	Wednesday	Legion Riders/Sons Meeting 7:00PM
June 27, 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 April 15th for May Newsletter

Post 43 Webmaster

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

APRIL

Activities - Opportunities

- April, 2 Post Meeting 7pm
- April, 4 Coffee-Monarch Landing
- April, 11 Coffee-Lisle Creek Estate
- April, 18 Coffee-Tabor Hills
- April 25 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

22 day Suicide Prevention
Ruck

