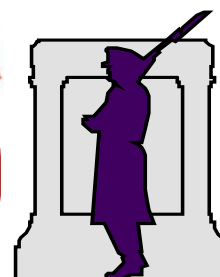




KEEPING POSTED

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



Volume 21 Issue 2
February 2023

Celebrating 104 Years of Service to Veterans, U.S. Military, Youth, & Community

COMMANDER'S CALL

Nadia Baran - Post Commander

We have some Exciting new events coming up in the month of February. First: one of our Post members, Jennifer Slown, is having a Disney Themed Karaoke Night on February 4th. All proceeds will benefit the VFW Children's home.

Our Next Dinner/Social will be taking place on February 18, 2023. The Naperville American Legion will be honoring Naperville's Finest: our very own Fire department and Police Department. This event will be catered by Angeli's Italian Catering.



On March 3rd The American Legion will be have a St Patrick's Day Karaoke Night, at the VFW Canteen. More details and information on this event will follow.

If you have not done so, don't forget to renew your 2023 membership! It is our goal this year to hit 100%. However, we cannot do this, without your help! So takeout your card, and if still says 2022, contact Senior Vice Tom Jorstad.

It is my great pleasure to announce that the American Legion will be Re-chartering The American Legion auxiliary. Who is qualified you ask well

- Mother of a Legion Member
- Daughter
- Sister
- Grandmother
- Granddaughter
- Self-Female Veteran
- Spouse of a Legionnaire (male or female)

If you are interested in the auxiliary, send me an email at rios.nadia@gmail.com

Semper Fidelis!

Nadia Baran
Post 43 Commander

 **AMERICAN**
LEGION
AUXILIARY

Sr. Vice Commander

Happy February! I'm reminded that Winter can cause a lot of people to stay inside and not be as active as they are throughout the rest of the year. Please reach out to members you haven't seen or heard from in a while and let them know you care. In that same vein, please don't be shy about saying hello and striking up a conversation with members you haven't met or haven't talked to in a while. Little things can make a big difference and we're all here to support each other.

We've made some progress toward our goal of 100% member retention from last year. We're currently hovering around the 78% but need help bridging the gap. Please check your member ID cards. If your card has "2022" across the top, it's time to **renew your membership**.

In addition to enjoying the general comradery of that membership brings, please remember that your dues go toward providing support programs and care for fellow Veterans as well as supporting important youth programs, educational opportunities and scholarships that help educate our youth about Americanism and our form of government. Your dues also work directly for you through our national organization and the lobbying efforts that provide more benefits and exposure to issues that affect all Veterans.



Tom Jorstad

Membership can be renewed in one of the following ways:

- Pay your dues in person at the next meeting by cash, check or credit card
- By mailing a check in the amount of \$45 to:
American Legion – Post 43 Naperville
PO Box 4
Naperville, IL 60566



Please note that we have a program in place to waive dues for those members who need assistance. All requests will be treated confidentially!

Branch	Unpaid	Paid	Percent
Army	58	171	75%
Marines	25	80	76%
Navy	20	74	79%
Airforce	22	56	72%
Coast Guard	1	4	80%
Blank	6	43	88%

Here are the membership retention numbers by branch. Remember, the branch that reaches 100% membership retention first will get a free drink at the VFW Canteen at the meeting following their achievement. The results as of January 16th:

I look forward to seeing everyone at one of these upcoming social gatherings!

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

**AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS CHAPTER 43**

Steve Strickland

Please welcome our new slate of Officers:

Steve Strickland – Director

Rich Frantz – Assistant Director

Don Doty – Finance Officer

Tony Giudice - Secretary

Steve Stribley – Safety Officer

Chris Lance – Sgt. at Arms

Roger Treend- Legislative Liaison

We're hoping for an early Spring for the St. Patrick's Day Parade on March 11th . It was too cold for the bikes last year.

Steve Strickland
Director ALR
Chapter 43
630-453-0095



Sons of the American Legion Squadron



Please mark your calendars for the FIFTH annual SAL pancake breakfast. This year's event will be on Sunday, February 26th. The pancake breakfast will be at the VFW hall starting at 8am until 11:30am. Meal includes, Pancakes, sausage, OJ, milk, coffee. Please spread the word to ALL. Tell your family, friends and neighbors to come on by. The funds raised last year helped donate to multiple Veteran organizations. Last year we had an amazing turnout, but with the Legion's help we can make this year even better!

Our stated S.A.L. meeting is every THIRD Tuesday at 7pm. Our next stated meeting is February 21st, location is lower patio at the VFW. All are welcome and encourage all to attend.

We are always welcoming new members and transfers. Many Legionnaires hold dual memberships in S.A.L. 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 S.A.L. Squadron 43 main goals are to support our Post and support our Community.

Chris Lance
Squadron 43 Commander
630.926.1177

5th Annual

Pancake Breakfast

Fundraiser

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26th

8AM - 11:30AM

LOCATION:
VFW
908 Jackson Ave.
Naperville, IL

MEAL INCLUDES:
PANCAKES, SAUSAGE
OJ, MILK, COFFEE



Portion of the proceeds will help
out a veteran organization





AMERICAN LEGION POST 43 CALENDAR



February 02, 2023
 February 04, 2023
 February 04, 2023
 February 11, 2023
 February 18, 2023
 February 18, 2023
 February 21, 2023
 February 22, 2023
 February 24, 2023
 February 25, 2023

Thursday
 Saturday
 Saturday
 Saturday
 Saturday
 Saturday
 Tuesday
 Wednesday
 Friday
 Saturday



Post Meeting 7 pm
 10 am Coffee at Monarch Landing
 Disney Karaoke at the VFW
 10 am Coffee at Brookdale-Lisle
 Dinner/Social at 7pm
 10 am Coffee at Independence Village
 S.A.L. Squadron Meeting 7 pm
 Legion Riders Meeting 7 pm
 Legion Bag tournament Post home
 10 am Coffee at StoryPoint-Naperville

March 02, 2023
 March 04, 2023
 March 03, 2023
 March 11, 2023
 March 18, 2023
 March 18, 2023
 March 21, 2023
 March 22, 2023
 March 25, 2023

Thursday
 Saturday
 Friday
 Saturday
 Saturday
 Saturday
 Tuesday
 Wednesday
 Saturday



Post Meeting 7:PM
 10 am Coffee at Monarch Landing
 Post Karaoke 7 PM
 10 am Coffee at Brookdale-Lisle
 Dinner/Social at 7pm
 10 am Coffee at Independence Village
 S.A.L. Squadron Meeting 7 pm
 Legion Riders Meeting 7 pm
 10 am Coffee at StoryPoint-Naperville

April 01, 2023
 April 06, 2023
 April 08, 2023
 April 08, 2023
 April 15, 2023
 April 15, 2023
 April 18, 2023
 April 22, 2023
 April 26, 2023
 April 28, 2023

Saturday
 Thursday
 Saturday
 Saturday
 Saturday
 Tuesday
 Saturday
 Wednesday
 Friday



10 am Coffee at Monarch Landing
 Post Meeting 7 pm
 10 am Coffee at Brookdale-Lisle
 Dinner/Social at 7pm
 10 am Coffee at Independence Village
 S.A.L. Squadron Meeting 7 pm
 10 am Coffee at StoryPoint-Naperville
 Legion Riders Meeting 7 pm
 Legion Bag tournament Post home



Boys State

American Legion Post 43 will be sponsoring one student for Calendar Year 2023 to attend the American Legion Premier Boys State event from 10 JUN 2023 to 16 JUN 2023 at Eastern Illinois University.

At Boys State, participants learn the rights, privileges, and responsibilities of franchised citizens. The training is objective and centers on the structure of city, county, and state governments. Operated by students elected to various offices, Boys State activities include legislative sessions, court proceedings, law-enforcement presentations, assemblies, bands, choruses, and recreational programs. Boys state has three major learning themes:

Education: Throughout the week, students will participate in classroom seminars, group discussions, interactive experiences, and other immersive learning methods as they participate in the program. While much of the program takes part in the residential areas of campus, students do make use of the educational facilities provided by Eastern Illinois University, including a multimedia production lab, library, and various classroom and lecture spaces.

Government: The core focus of Illinois Boys State is the election of officials to operate various positions within a mythical 51st state, simulating the experience of city, county, and state level governmental functions during the week-long program. The oath of citizenship is given on Saturday night at our first general assembly, and soon after the party, caucuses are held to determine the city election ballot. As the city governments start to function by holding City Council meetings, the county election process gets underway. Shortly thereafter, the state party conventions are held to set primary ballots. The final election for our six constitutional state-wide offices rounds out a busy week of campaigning and elections.

Achievement: During the week we ensure that there are ample opportunities for every student to have his moment. While only one student will be elected governor of the mythical 51st state, there are so many more ways, both formal and informal, for each student achieve.

From four different types of election processes to informal trivia night to seminar discussions to presenting the "nightly news" to sports championships, there are a variety of achievements – large and small – that allow students to have an immersive week of experiences that will last a lifetime.

Legion posts select high school juniors to attend the program. In most cases, individual expenses are paid by a sponsoring post, a local business or another community-based organization.



High School Oratorical Contest Winner



April Zhang, a junior from Nequa Valley was the Post 43 HS Oratorical contest winner, shown above with Tom Jorstad, Sr Vice Commander and Neal Kemp, Contest Chair. Not only did April Zhang win at our post level she went on to win at The American Legion 2nd Division Oratorical Contest taking 1st place along with Harshee Shah who took 3rd place . Both will represent Post 43 at the State Level.
(Photo by Rich Yndestad)



Thank you to all of our participants Harshee Shah, Naperville Central,
Jeffery Tong, Naperville North and Arwa Hamed, Naperville Central
(Photos by Rich Yndestad)

Significant Dates in History

Joe Strebel

- On Feb. 4, 1779, John Paul Jones took command of the Bonhomme Richard, French for "Poor Richard" and named in honor of Benjamin Franklin, publisher of the almanac of that name.
- Congress declared a state of war existed between the U.S. and Tripoli on Feb. 6, 1802, beginning the Barbary Wars, which would continue with sporadic fighting until 1815.
- The siege of the Alamo began on Feb. 23, 1836, near San Antonio as some 3,000 Mexican troops attacked 187 Texans commanded by Col. William Travis. The attack resulted from the declaration of Texas that it would secede from Mexico. The Alamo fell 10 days later.
- On Feb. 9, 1861, Jefferson Davis was unanimously elected as President of the Confederate States of America.
- The American battleship Maine blew up in the harbor at Havana, Cuba, on Feb. 15, 1898. The ship's sinking with the loss of 260 lives became the proximate cause of the Spanish-American War.
- On Feb. 5, 1918, 1st Lt. Stephen Thompson shot down a German pursuit plane and is credited with being the first Army pilot to record a victory over an enemy aircraft.
- Lt. Edward "Butch" O'Hare shot down five Japanese bombers in five minutes on Feb. 21, 1942, becoming the first Navy ace of WW II. He eventually recorded 11 victories before his accidental death on Nov. 26, 1943.
- Also in 1942, the first shelling of the U.S. mainland during the war took place on Feb. 23, when a Japanese submarine fired on an oil refinery in Ellwood, Calif.
- On Feb 15, 1955, the U.S. agreed to train the South Vietnamese Army through its military mission in Saigon.
- Operation "Homecoming" began on Feb. 12, 1973 with the initial repatriation from North Vietnam of U.S. prisoners of war. The last prisoners acknowledged by Hanoi were released on March 25.
- On Feb. 26, 1991, U.S.-led troops pushed the last Iraqi forces out of Kuwait.
- On Feb. 10, 2005, North Korea announced that it had nuclear arms and rejected moves to start disarmament talks, asserting it needed the weapons as protection against the U.S.

WILL YOU NOMINATE NAPERVILLE'S CITIZEN OF THE YEAR?

Naperville American Legion Post 43 began naming a Citizen of the Year in 1986. Because of COVID-19, we did not have a Citizen of the Year for 2021, but we will be awarding a single Citizen of the Year award for 2023.

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 to arrive no later than March 31, 2023.

The winner will be announced in the local media and honored at The American Legion's Awards and Recognition Banquet on April 15, 2023. 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

Contacts:

Rich Yndestad r.yndestad@yahoo.com

Nadia Baran rios.nadia@gmail.com

Citizen of the Year

Coffee With Vets

Saturday Morning 10 AM



The February dates are:

Feb 4 - Monarch Landing
Feb 11 - Brookdale - Lisle
Feb 18 - Independence Village
Feb 25 - StoryPoint-Naperville

Don't forget our monthly visits with Veterans at Monarch Landing, Brookdale - Lisle, Independence Village, and StoryPoint-Naperville. Join us on the 1st Saturday at Monarch Landing, 2nd Saturday at Brookdale in Lisle, 3rd Saturday at Independence Village, and 4th Saturday at StoryPoint-Naperville. All are welcome to Attend!!

Information: Jim Stoffregen 630-430-4966 or Jerry Cooney 630-995-5053



G.I. Yoga is free to all Veterans and their family members. G.I. Yoga teaches stress relief methods by using the practice of Yoga to ease aches and pains, lower blood pressure, and increase strength, flexibility, and balance. G.I. Yoga also teaches participants how to use Yoga to manage symptoms of PTSD and TBI. All classes are taught by certified Yoga Instructors.

G.I. Yoga is Live in person on Wednesdays, 9:30-10:30 am, at the VFW. Also, Kate has many videos on YouTube, so check them out. Copy and paste this link below into your browser:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCxBk498oH94Dir8KMRPjdug>

Kate Fleming: kdflemingyoga@gmail.com

G.I. Yoga is a program of osotAmerica.org

There is also a Saturday morning class at 9:30 am at the Rubin Center in Naperville, led by Chitra Singh: mailofchitra@gmail.com.



VA Hotline
1-855-948-2311



**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

Tom Jorstad 630-305-8803

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

Arvin Verma/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

Don Chasteen 630-833-6102

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

Don Potoczny

Wayne Fischer

Don Chasteen

Don Hennessy

Newsletter Editor

The American Legion Post 43

Jason Baran

630-768-9805

E-mail: jasonbaran@gmail.com

Please send your reports to Jason by Feb 15th for February Newsletter

Post 43 Webmaster

Liz Michalski

E-mail: lizmichalski@yahoo.com

February 2023**Activities - Opportunities**

Feb 2 - Post Meeting 7pm

Feb 4 - Coffee-Monarch Landing

Feb 11 - Coffee-Brookdale in Lisle

Feb 18 - Legion Dinner

Feb 18 - Coffee-Independence Village

Feb 25 - Coffee-StoryPoint

Selected Thursdays & Saturdays:

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





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



Post 43 High School Oratorical Contestants
January 7, 2023 (Photo by Rich Yndestad)