



Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S.

Gurtler Brothers Post 420

190 Excelsior Avenue

Saratoga Springs, New York 12866-0209

(518) 584-9686

Email address for post inquires: mcpo4@nycap.rr.com

Web Page: www.vfwpost420.com



Officers

Commander: Harold Patchen
 Sr. Vice Cmdr: Richard Sehein
 Jr. Vice Cmdr: Richard Koenig
 Quartermaster: Eugene J. Ratigliano
 Chaplain: Chris Underwood
 Adjutant: Richard Sehein

Auxiliary

President: Sheila Holman
 Sr. Vice Pres: TBA
 Jr. Vice Pres: Johnna Raylinsky
 Treasurer: Cathy DesFosse
 Chaplain: Jean Ratigliano
 Secretary: Vera Kasson

Board of Directors

President: Harold Patchen Vice Pres: Richard Sehein
 Treasurer: Eugene J. Ratigliano Secretary: Richard Sehein

Newsletter

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Continue to renew your membership. Pay your dues.

Your dues support the VFW Programs that support our veterans - UNMET Needs - PTSD Counseling, and more!



Post Web Page at: www.vfwpost420.com



We are also on Facebook

UPCOMING VFW & OTHER EVENTS

Jul 2021

- 4 Independence Day (Holiday)
- 7 Board of Directors 6:00 PM, Post & Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 PM
- 22 Red Cross Blood Drive 11:30 AM-7:30 PM
- 31 VFW National Convention, Kansas City (31-4)

Aug 2021

- 11 Board of Directors 6:00 PM, Post & Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 PM.
- 21 Officer Training, Marriott, Wolf Rd Albany, NY – 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Sep 2021

- 6 Labor Day (Holiday)
- 7 Rosh Hashanah
- 8 Board of Directors 6:00 PM, Post & Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 PM
- 15 Yom Kippur Begins at Sundown
- 16 Yom Kippur
- 17 POW/MIA Recognition Day

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Welcome new members and we want to welcome back those who were previously with us and have reinstated their membership. We cannot stress enough how important membership is to the strength of our organization.

Thomas j. LeRoux - William J. Flannery - Col David McGraw
John Shakeshaft - Ryan C. Woodcock - Thomas Ellinger
Craig Ross



TAPS

As we near the end of the VFW Year we would like to remember our members who Have passed this year.

Louis Alonzo – Warren J. Armstrong – Donald J. Benson – Bruce M. Briggs – Arthur J. Coppernoll – Kenneth C. Cramer – George “Jack” Eckert – John P. Foley – John H. Laing, Sr. – Edward C. Patterson – Eugene C. Soule – Eugene R. Ver Wiebe – Eugene D. Wade – Robert H. Wilcox

Note

The Car show scheduled for September 4, 2021 at the Post has been cancelled.

Commander's Message

Greetings to all Post and Auxiliary members and your families-

First off, I want to thank everyone that helped out with our 100th Anniversary celebration in ANY way. The golf outing was successful and every golfer I spoke with said that they had a good time. The food at the BBQ that followed was great. The Dinner at the Wishing Well was well attended and the meal tasty. We had two special guests that attended too, the Granddaughter and great granddaughter of our first Post commander Frank Howe. That was a nice surprise.

MEMBERSHIP!!!

A repeat from my last newsletter article BUT it can't be stressed enough. The VFW is not the only veteran's organization that is in need of new and younger members. Most of our **WWII members** have passed away or are no longer able to get around. Our **Korean War members** are in their late 80's or early 90's. Our **Vietnam members** are now in their 70+ years. The VFW and all veteran organizations rely on NUMBERS. This is especially true when they go before congress to try and get us the rights we have earned and deserve.

We need new members, especially younger vets.

Recruiting new members isn't always easy the FIRST time but gets easier. Many veterans, eligible for membership are just waiting to be invited to join. These are veterans who really have no idea what the VFW does for veterans AND their families. It can't hurt to ask, the worse they can say is that they're not interested BUT the seed has been planted in their head.

Folks we need members, post and auxiliary, to stop by on occasion. Our post is running in the red MONTHLY. If this trend continues for another 5 years, maybe less, we will have to consider **selling our present building and moving to a smaller one.** In other words, **this trend cannot be taken lightly and isn't by your board of directors.**

If every post and auxiliary member stopped by even once a month, on average, I believe that we can put a stop to this trend. We'd at least get our deficit trending in the right direction. Feel free to approach any post officer with your thought's, any suggestions or what have you. **This post belongs to every member and all inputs will be discussed at future board meetings.**

Anyone with ideas for events:

REMEMBER: No event can happen without input AND participation of the membership. We all can't attend every event but by attending a few each year I'm sure you'd be hooked on attending more than one event that may be proposed in the future.

Serious Thought for all to Ponder: We all realize that COVID has kept many members from venturing out anywhere, attending post meetings and /or stopping by to see old friends or to make new ones. At our post we follow ALL COVID PROTOCOLS. **ANYONE FULLY VACINATED DOES NOT NEED TO WEAR A MASK.** Those who have not **MUST** continue to wear their mask. **EVERYONE** must still sign the covid tracking log for the time being. At the June Board of Director's, it was decided to keep the **COVID SIGNUP LOG ACTIVE.** Many sign their names in a manner that no one can read. For this reason, **you MUST print your name and give your phone number.**

Post and Auxiliary meetings:

Our **Post and Auxiliary meetings** are held on the **2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:00 PM.** The Post board of Directors meet the same day at 6:00 PM. Any Post member may attend the board meetings and comment but are not allowed to make motions or vote. It would be good to attend these meetings, occasionally, to get an idea of what it takes to run the post.

A salute goes out to:

ALL THOSE WHO HELPED WITH THE 100th ANNIVERSARY GOLF OUTING:

Vera Kasson, Johnna Raylinsky, Heidi Underwood, Susan Senecal, Chris Underwood, Nick Casey, Cathy DeFosse, Jean Ratigliano, Gene Ratigliano, Tim Herbert, Rich Koenig, Jim Barnes

A special thanks goes out to **Gene Waters** for all the tee signs etc. that he was able to secure and to **Brian Kelley** who supplied the meats, rolls, mac and cheese, condiments etc.

I want to thank all who donated raffle prizes for the outing too: Bud and Donna Abare, Daryl Daum and Gene Waters. I hope I haven't forgotten anyone.

and the following businesses:

Route 50 Diner (x2)

Grecian Garden Restaurant

AEM Sports

99 Restaurant

Saratoga Dogs

And two businesses that donated Hole-in-One prizes:

Saratoga Honda (Car and two other prizes).

Northway Golf (off exit 8. Set of clubs)

Unfortunately, NO ONE got a hole-in-one, on any of the four par 3's.

In closing let me say once again.... **Get your vaccine if you haven't already. Try and stop by the post whenever possible.**

Remember the post is open to **all members** and their guests. **All guests must sign the guest register.** Stop by,

enjoy the comradery with fellow veterans. Let's hope that COVID doesn't raise its ugly head again.

Harold Patchen

Harold Patchen
Post Commander

Bar Manager's Message

I've been associated with VFW post 420 since 2004 it's been an honor and a privilege to work with many great people over the years. 2020 and 2021 have been difficult years at the VFW and other organizations, the VFW doesn't survive without member support at meetings, social events canteen get together and fundraisers. With that being said over the last 6 months there has been a very big decline in members coming in supporting your post both it functions, meetings and at post canteen. June, July, August canteen hours will be scaled back due to the lack of bartenders. Chuck Luce and Erica luce have both been very good support and active members of the auxiliary as bartenders, cleaners, cooks, at the canteen and at party functions can't thank them enough. We've had other bartenders Gerard and his wife Brenda have done a lot during Open Mic nights and other functions to help support the post. One of our new bartenders Louise will is helping out when she can to bartend, Chuck has stepped back a little bit and Erica is still helping in a limited capacity moving on to another job. As my regular job has changed I cannot put forth the time at the VFW, I'm stepping down as bartender, bar manager, Bell Jar Chairman, Post Manager and Maintenance in September.

I would hope some people would step up and volunteer to take one of these positions. Otto Shiffert does grass cutting and maintenance around the post. He supports the VFW and goes about his own way all he asks is a thank you. We are all volunteers I would hope others will volunteer to keep your post open if you don't it'll close and never open again. I would like to thank my wife Dawn for putting up with this for so many years and everybody else too many to mention that's helped throughout the years. I hope VFW Post 420 will continue to survive with support from all members thank you.

Respectfully,

Tim
Tim



Bartender Help Needed!

The post has had to reduce its hours of operation and in some cases close some days during the week because we do not have enough bartender coverage. If you are going to visit the post please call to make sure we are open. The post phone number is 518-584-9686

The post is in critical need of bartenders to serve our members and guests. If interested please contact Bar Manager Tim Herbert at (518) 232-2752 or btcsw@yahoo.com or Chuck Luce.

POST HOURS

Monday Closed

***CALL THE POST
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE
TO SEE IF WE ARE OPEN
-SHORT BARTENDERS-***

*Visit Our Post
On the web at:
www.vfwpost420.com*

100th Anniversary Pins Still Available



A special onetime 100th Anniversary commemorative pin has been designed to commemorate the Post 100th Anniversary and are still available. Pins are \$10.00 each and can be purchased at the Post Canteen or by contacting the Post Quartermaster Gene Ratigliano at 518-885-9666 or e-mail at mcpo4@nycap.rr.com. A limited number are available. You have to see the pin to see how beautiful it is. We can mail a pin to you if you so desire. A \$3.00 special post office handling fee is required because it requires to be hand canceled. The total cost for a mailed pin is \$13.00

UPCOMING DUES RENEWAL

There are still a number of members whose dues expired in Jan – May 2021. Please make an effort to join us again and send in your dues.

We miss you and want you back! Please send your dues in today and help us continue to serving veterans.

AUGUST 2021

Kelsey, Anthony W.

Rauci, Eugene

SEPTEMBER 2021

Gifford, Kevin J.

La Clair, Vincent

Moseman, Michael

Remington, Eric J.

Towner, Bruce T. II

OCTOBER 2021

Hicks, Robert G.

Lundy, Howard F.

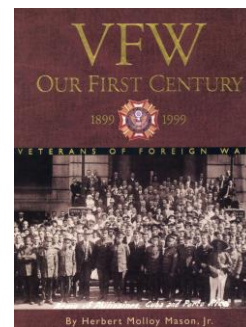
EXPIRED MEMBERS

We want you back and miss you!!

It's easy to renew - mail your \$40.00 dues to
VFW Post 420 Quartermaster, PO Box 209,
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866

History of the VFW

Now Available at the Post



We have some limited copies of the book "VFW - Our First Century". The book is available at the post for \$12.00 per copy. Regular issue price was \$24.95. The book has 239 pages and is beautifully illustrated. If you would like a copy stop by and ask our on duty bartender or call Gene Ratigliano, Post Quartermaster at 518-885-9666 to have a copy reserved for you.

**Town of Greenfield 8th Annual
Veterans Golf Tournament**

The 8th Annual Town of Greenfield Veterans Golf Tournament is scheduled for Sunday, August 22, 2021. This even will be taking place at the Town of Greenfield/Brookhaven Golf Course. Proceeds will go to the Stratton VA Medical Center in Albany which will distribute funds to a variety of programs to help veterans with everything from personal care items to rehabilitation equipment.

A share of the proceeds will also be given to the Guardian House in Ballston Spa for care of homeless women and men veterans.

The tournament will be a 4 person scramble. Entry fee is \$90 per person which includes Golf, Cart, Prizes, Breakfast Sandwiches, Food on the turn and Buffet to follow play. T-Sponsorship is \$100.00. For more information call 518-893-7458 or e-mail atherrien@brookhavengolfcourse.com

Tailgate Party

The annual Tailgate Party to support our post veterans is scheduled for September 12, 2021 beginning at 12:00 PM. More will be published so take a look at the Post bulletin board or our website at www.vfwpost420.com



**RED CROSS
BLOOD DRIVE**

The American Red Cross will hold a blood drive at VFW Post 420 on July 22, 2021 from 11:30 AM to 7:30 PM. Step up and give some blood for those in need.

**Department of NY VFW
State Commander's Homecoming**

A Homecoming is scheduled for our new incoming VFW State Commander Michal Hoag of District 3 and Hudson Mohawk Counties Council at his home Post, Adirondack Post 2475, 30 Cooper St. in Glens Falls, NY. Check our website at www.vfwpost420.com for more details as to time and events.



**Saratoga-Wilton Lodge No. 61
Flag Day Parade**

On Saturday, September 11, 2021, Saratoga-Wilton Elks Lodge No 161 is planning to celebrate the return of their Annual Flag Day Parade under a new name for **this year only**. Last year's parade was cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and this year's parade has been postponed until September 11, 2021. This year's parade is being called the Elks Patriot Day Parade. Everyone is invited to participate and participants are asked to assemble at 11:15 am at the line-up area assigned on North Broadway. The parade will step off promptly at noon from North Broadway to Congress Park.



**VFW Post 420 Auxiliary
President's Message**

COVID restrictions being lifted, the busy summer season, and much to be done for our veterans, won't you join us at regularly scheduled meetings at the Post? 7 PM the second Wednesday of every month, and this quarter that means: July 14, August 11, and September 8. We always welcome new members and would be pleased if you would ask a family member to join! Applications are at the Post or contact me at mvkasson@aol.com.

Thank you to these ladies for accepting Auxiliary leadership positions starting in July: President Sheila Holman, Jr. Vice President and Guard Johnna Raylinsky. Our thanks, also, go to current Treasurer Cathy DesFosse, Chaplain Jean Ratigliano and Trustees Sharon Loya and Heidi Underwood who are continuing in their roles. Thank you, also, to Susan Senecal for agreeing to serve as trustee; Susan's nomination will be voted upon at our July meeting. It has been my honor to serve as president, and I look forward to continuing to serve the Auxiliary as secretary. Our thanks to Donna Abare for serving as Jr. Vice President and Erin McAllister for serving as Trustee for the 2020 - 2021 year.

If you are unable to attend all or most of our monthly meetings, please come when you can. We would be pleased to see you at the Post for any social event or to volunteer for a specific event.

Loyally,
Vera Kasson
Vera Kasson
President/Secretary

GURTLER BROS. POST 420, V.F.W.
190 Excelsior Avenue
SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. 12866-0209



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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Next Post Meeting
Wednesday, July 14, 2021