



# 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](mailto:mcpo4@nycap.rr.com)

Web Page: [www.vfwpost420.com](http://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: Johnna Raylinsky  
 Jr. Vice Pres: TBD  
 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

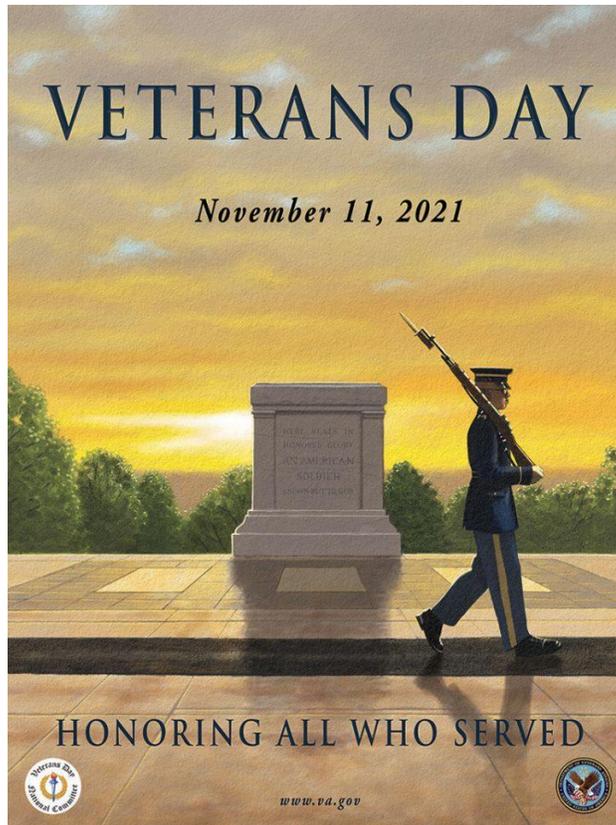
### Newsletter

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Published Quarterly

**OCT - DEC      NEWSLETTER      2021**

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**Memorial Service  
 Maplewood  
 Cemetery  
 (Across from Target)  
 10:00 AM**

**VFW Post 420  
 Veterans Day  
 Ceremony  
 11:00 AM  
 Lunch  
 &  
 Wall of Valor  
 Unveiling  
 Following**

**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](http://www.vfwpost420.com)**



**We are also on Facebook**

## UPCOMING VFW & OTHER EVENTS

### Oct 2021

- 8 Comedy Night at the Post 7:00 PM
- 7-9 Dept of NY VFW Fall Conference, Marriott Hotel, Albany NY - 12:00 PM
- 8 Testimonial Dinner for Past Dept of NY VFW Commanders Howard, Todaro, & Past CIC Doc Schmitz 5:00 PM, Marriott Hotel, Albany, NY
- 9 State Commander Michael Hoag Reception 6:00 PM
- 11: Columbus Day
- 13 **Board of Directors 6:00 PM, Post & Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 PM**
- 29 **Easter States Conference, Ocean City, Md.**

### Nov 2021

- 2 Election Day
- 10 **Board of Directors 6:00 PM, Post & Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 PM.**
- 11 Veterans Day
- 25 Thanksgiving Day
- 29 Hanukkah

### Dec 2021

- 8 **Board of Directors 6:00 PM, Post & Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 PM**
- 19 **Christmas at the Post for member & the kids**
- 25 **Christmas Day**
- 26 **Kwanzaa Begins**

### 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.

Shane Larkin, USMC  
Sean Flynn, USA  
Justin Doty, USA  
Seyit Aldas, USA  
Andrew Stewart, USA  
William F. Hirtzel, USA



**TAPS**  
***We would like to remember our fellow veterans who have passed***

Robert G. Mitchell

## Commander's Message

**Greetings to all Post and Auxiliary members and your families-**

Well fall is here. I hope that everyone had an enjoyable summer and made up for the COVID summer we experienced in 2020. We now have Scott bartending on Saturdays and Sheila on Sundays. It's football season and I'm sure that Scott and Sheila would be happy to see you. If you don't know them just introduce yourself. Fall not only means that Football is here and schools are open. It's also time for both the **Patriot Pen (6<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup> grade)** and the **Voice of Democracy (9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grades)** scholarship programs to begin. Each provide winners with post financial awards and scholarships for those who advance to the district, state and national levels. I'm finding that it's easier to speak with the kids and parents rather than school officials. **I ask all post and auxiliary members, who have kids, grandchildren or know kids in the respective age groups** to contact me and I will get the forms to them and make myself available to answer any and all questions.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP.**

### **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 regularly. 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.**

**This post belongs to every member and all IDEAS / INPUTS will be discussed at future board meetings.**



## **VFW POST 420 VETERANS DAY CEREMONIES**

### **Anyone / Everyone with ideas for events:**

Feel free to contact me at [HJP5551@GMAIL.COM](mailto:HJP5551@GMAIL.COM), if you have ideas. Heidi Underwood and I are already working on a **family picnic for next summer**. More info will be presented (it's still a work in progress) in a future newsletter. Input will be appreciated.

**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.

### **Events committee:**

**Veterans Day memorial service at MAPLE AVE CEMETARY at 10:00 AM.** I hope all will make an effort to attend IF POSSIBLE.

**Veterans Day Service 11/11. Begins at 11:00,** so we ask anyone participating to be here by 10:45. Food will be served after our service. Again, I'd like to see more people attend. I am hoping to get the Saratoga Springs High School choir back on board.

The Auxiliary is holding a Christmas party on December 19<sup>th</sup> for children and grandchildren of post and auxiliary members through age 10 . **Aux President Sheila Holman can give you all the details.**

### **Post and Auxiliary meetings:**

Our **Post and Auxiliary meetings** are held on the **2<sup>nd</sup> 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 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:**

**Our new bartenders Sheila, Louise and Scott. THANK YOU.**

**To Rich Koenig for accepting the job as our bar manager. To Tim Herbert our retiring bar manager, lotto agent and jack of all trade's repairman. To Gerard Hawthorne for the open Mic nights and his crew who prepare the food.**

In closing let me say once again.... **Get your vaccine if you haven't already.**

**OUR post is open to all members and their guests. All guests must sign the guest register. Stop by, enjoy the camaraderie with fellow veterans. Let's hope that COVID doesn't raise its ugly head again.**

Yours in comradeship,

*Harold Patchen*

Post Commander

The annual Gurtler Bros. VFW Post 420 Veterans Day ceremonies will be held on Thursday, November 11, 2021.

There will be a short memorial service at **Maplewood Cemetery located across from Target in Wilton at 10:00 AM. At 11:00 AM the Post** will have its Veterans Day observance at the Post Home with lunch to follow.

The Gallery of Valor which is our annual pictorial of veterans who have served will be set up. Anyone wishing to add a photo to the display can drop it off at the post or mail it to the post, PO Box 209, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866. Please put the name of the person in the photo and period of service if known. If you desire the photo returned, please annotate on the back of the photo Name, address and phone number.



The Veterans & Community Housing Coalition is sponsoring its Sixth annual veterans ball on Sunday, November 7, 2021 from 5:00 PM to 9:00 PM at the Hall of Springs in Saratoga. The cost is \$100 per person. For tickets contact Lauren at (518) 885-0091 X-119 or e-mail [mstraight@vchcnny.org](mailto:mstraight@vchcnny.org) for more information. The Veterans & Community Housing Coalition provides housing and support services to all homeless Military Veterans and their families and to provide housing opportunity to low income families.



**Alliance 180**

Alliance 180 is a peer-to-peer, purpose driven Program aimed to prevent suicide in the Veteran, First Responder & Frontline Healthcare Worker communities. Stay tuned for a notice on a special presentation on our we as veterans and our post can move this effort forward for our veterans.

## STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

Time is running short for getting applications in for the Voice of Democracy and Patriot Pen Essay Contests in. The deadline is **October 31, 2021** for both programs.



### 2021-22 Voice of Democracy

The Voice of Democracy theme for 2021-22 is:  
**"America: Where do we go from here?"**

The Voice of Democracy Program is open to students in grades 9-12, who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States and its territories. Students should record their reading of their draft to a CD. The recording should be no shorter than 3 minutes and no longer than 5 minutes (plus or minus 5 seconds).

Entries begin at the Post level. Once the student has created their essay and completed burning the audio version to a CD, they should submit their typed version, CD and the Voice of Democracy entry form to their local participating VFW Post no later than October 31, 2018. Applications at the Post are at the Bar. No name or any type of identifier of the preparer should be on the written or oral essay.



### 2021-22 Patriot's Pen Theme

The Patriot's Pen theme for 2021-22 is: **"How Can I be a good American?"**

The Patriot's Pen Program is open to students in grades 6-8, who are enrolled in a public, private or parochial high school or home study program in the United States and its territories. Essays must be no less than 300 words and should not exceed 400 words and should be submitted to the Post, along with the completed Patriot's Pen entry form no later than October 31, 2021. Entry forms, contest rules and judging criteria are available at [www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) and applications at the Post are at the Bar. No name or any type of identifier of the preparer should be on the written essay.



## 2020-2021 Eastern States Conference

The Department of Maryland will host the 2021 Eastern States Conference which will be held at the Princess Royale Ocean Front Hotel and Conference Center, Ocean City, Maryland on October 29-31, 2021.

An Eastern States Conference Banquet will be held in conjunction with the conference on Saturday, October 30, 2021 beginning with a cocktail hour at 6:00 PM with Dinner at 7:00 PM.

For more information contact Gene Ratigliano, Post Quartermaster at 518-885-9666 or e-mail [mcpo4@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mcpo4@nycap.rr.com).

### Bar Manager's Message

We would like to welcome our newest volunteer bartender to our team, retired Sgt. Major Scott Hays. Stop in and say hello and welcome Scott to our post on any Saturday.

The post will be holding our Holiday party on Sunday Afternoon, December 19<sup>th</sup>. Put that date on your calendars. More information to follow.

The live music nights in the Canteen are a fun way to get out of your house. Post members, their family and guests are welcome. The fun starts at 7:00 PM. Call the post at 518-584-9686 for dates and information or check our web page and Facebook page.

Respectfully,

*Rich Koenig*  
Rich Koenig

### Christmas Get To-Gether

On December 19, 2021 the Post will host a Post members and family Christmas Party. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for anyone with children or grand-children who will be attending to receive a gift for those 10 and under. If you have any questions you can contact Sheila Holman at 518-937-0277 or by e-mail at [sheilaholman2@icloud.com](mailto:sheilaholman2@icloud.com).

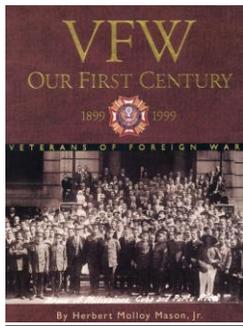




**Rebuilding Together**  
**Saratoga County**

Rebuilding Together provides critical home repair and accessibility modification services for low-income homeowners in Saratoga, Washington & Warren Counties. One of our new members Shane Larkin provided details of this special program at our last post meeting and you will find an information page on this excellent program in this newsletter. This program is a great benefit for those in need of home repairs or adjustments to their homes due to a physical disability and an excellent resource for our veterans. If you know someone in need give Rebuilding Together a call at 518-587-3315 or stop in and see them at 132 Milton Ave. in Ballston Spa, NY

**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.

**Department of NY VFW**  
**Overseas Veteran Newsletter**

For those of you who remember getting the Department of NY Overseas Veteran newspaper in the mail each month - NOW the Overseas Veteran Newsletter is on line on the Department of NY website at [www.vfwny.org](http://www.vfwny.org). Go to New at the top of the page and then OV Newsletter. The newsletter is now published quarterly and will also be posted on our Post website at [www.vfwpost420.com](http://www.vfwpost420.com)



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

I hope everyone had A wonderful summer and were able to get out and around this year I know we had a lot of rain this summer but you have to admit it was nice to be able to get back to you some way to semi-normal lifestyle now it's time to gear up for our new year meetings are the second Wednesday of each month they start at 7 PM where you can meet and converse with me as your new president Sheila Holman please mark your calendars and plan to attend it as we begin to organize all upcoming events.

This fall we have a lot to get accomplished. On October 31 from one to 3:30 PM we will be having a trunk or treat for any member of the post children or Grandchildren please come and decorate your trunk and bring a bag of candy and let the children have a safe Halloween trick-or-treating at our post there is a sign up in the bar area please let me know if you plan to attend. We will also be doing poppy distribution the weekend of Veterans Day that Friday and Saturday and at the Price Chopper on Route 50 in Ballston Spa please talk to Vera caisson or Susan Senecal to sign up for an hour or two help us support our veterans. 2022 dues are now due there were notices sent out in the mail from national please if you haven't paid your dues yet get it in as soon as possible. As always please keep all our veterans all those currently serving and their families in your prayers God bless you Sheila Holman president

Loyally,  
*Sheila Holman*  
Sheila Holman  
Auxiliary President

**EMERGENCY AND FIRE PROCEDURES**

As a reminder to all members - in the event of an emergency or fire where the Post building has to be evacuated, all individuals in the building are to use the closest exit available to them in the building and to form up at the flag pole in front of the building so that everyone who may have entered the building can be accounted for. Periodic fire drills will be held throughout the year.



**HAVING A  
WEDDING/BABY  
SHOWER?  
GRADUATION PARTY?  
BIRTHDAY?  
ANNIVERSARY?  
WEDDING?  
BUSINESS MEETING?  
TRAINING SESSION?**

Your VFW has a large hall and outdoor pavilion to hold that special event. Our spacious banquet hall and pavilion are available to rent at very reasonable rates. A small meeting room is also available for your business meetings or other small event. Tell your friends and remind your relatives to help support your post when considering a party or other event. For more information, availability and pricing contact our banquet manager

**CONTACT:**

Rich Koenig at  
[carver270@yahoo.com](mailto:carver270@yahoo.com)

or 518-584-9686



## WHAT WE DO

We provide critical home repair and accessibility modification services for low-income homeowners in Saratoga County.

We focus our resources on those in the community who are most vulnerable:

- Older adults, allowing them to age in place and live safely in their homes;
- Individuals living with a disability, ensuring they can live independently;
- Families with children, improving their quality of life; and
- Active and retired members of the Armed Services.

Our services are provided at no cost to the homeowner and ensure families can remain in the homes and communities they love.



## WHO WE HELP

In order to qualify for Rebuilding Together Saratoga County's services:

- The home must be owned by the applicant and be their primary residence;
- The household income must meet HUD's guidelines for low-income; and
- The household must include older adult(s), a person living with disabilities, a veteran or a parent/guardian with child(ren) 18 years or under living in the home.

### VISIT US AT

132 Milton Ave. Ballston Spa, NY 12020  
(518) 587-3315 • [store@rtsaratoga.org](mailto:store@rtsaratoga.org)

## HOW TO APPLY

We accept homeowner applications on an on-going basis. You can download the application on our website ([www.RTSaratoga.org](http://www.RTSaratoga.org)) or contact our office at 518-587-3315 to have a copy of the application sent to you.

You will receive a letter by mail when your application has been received and you will be placed on our waiting list until funding becomes available.

Depending on the scope of your home repair project and the funding we have available, volunteers and/or paid contractors will be used to perform the work needed.

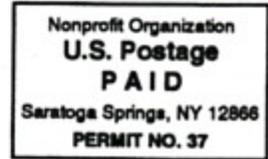


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**GURTLER BROS. POST 420, V.F.W.**  
190 Excelsior Avenue  
SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. 12866-0209



**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**



**Next VFW Post Meeting**  
**Wednesday, October 13, 2021**