



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: Heidi Underwood
 Sr. Vice Pres: Johnna Raylinsky
 Jr. Vice Pres: Jean Waters
 Treasurer: Cathy Otruba
 Chaplain: Jean Ratigliano
 Secretary: Vera Kasson

Board of Directors

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

Newsletter

Editor: Gene Ratigliano
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Published Quarterly

OCT - DEC NEWSLETTER 2022

Issue 7 Number 4

**Check Presented to
 Gurtler Brothers VFW Post 420
 Saratoga Springs, New York**

On September 14th, Matthew Veitch, a representative from the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors presented a check for \$15,000 to Gurtler Brothers VFW Post 420 in Saratoga Springs as part of the counties COVID-19 Relief Funds to local non-profits. The COVID-19 Relief Funds were distributed to a number of number of profits in the county to make up for lost income during the recent COVID-19 pandemic. |



Your dues sup

nd more!

(LtoR: Rich Koneig (Judge Advocate), Matthew Veitch(Saratoga County Board of Supervisors), Harold Patchen (Commander), Pat Huggins (Trustee), Shawn Larkin (Trustee), Gene Ratigliano (Quartermaster)



Post Web Page at: www.vfwpost420.com



We are also on Facebook

UPCOMING VFW & OTHER EVENTS

OCT 2022

- 12 Board of Directors 6:30 PM, Post & Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 PM
- 14-15 Department of NY VFW Fall Conference Albany Marriott, Wolf Rd
- 27 **Blood Drive at Post 12:30PM-5:30PM**
- 31 Halloween

NOV 2022

- 4 Eastern States Conference, Manchester, New Hampshire
- 6 Daylight Savings Time Ends
- 8 Election Day
- 9 Board of Directors 6:30 PM, Post & Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 PM.
- 11 Veteran's Day
- 19 District 3 West Point Football Trip
- 24 Thanksgiving Day – Post Closed

DEC 2022

- 7 Board of Directors 6:30 PM, Post & Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 PM
- 18 Hanukkah Begins at Sundown
- 26 Kwanza Begins

POST SOCIAL CALENDAR

- | | |
|--------|---|
| Oct 6 | Open Mic |
| Oct 14 | Ain't No Stranger |
| Oct 20 | Open Mic |
| Oct 28 | Juniper |
| 11/3 | Open Mic |
| 11/17 | Open Mic |
| 11/26 | An Evening of New Orleans with Hammerhead Horns |
| 12/1 | Open Mic |
| 12/8 | K-and-O'Shea |
| 12/15 | Open Mic |
| 12/23 | New Harmony Rocks |
| 12/29 | Open Mic |

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

- Paul J. Byron, U.S. Army - Korea
David R. Strassheim - U.S. Army - Korea
Sean P. Carroll – US Air Force – Southwest Asia
Daniel M. Gordon II U.S. Army - Afghanistan
Peter D. Madigan – U.S. Army – Vietnam – Trf from Post 729
Floyd A. Castle, Jr. – USMC – Vietnam – Trf from Post 729
Donald F. Smith – USMC – Vietnam – Trf from Post 729
Jonathan D. Tanner – USAF – Korea

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.



TAPS
None

Commander's Message

Greetings to all Post and Auxiliary members and your families-

I hope that everyone had an enjoyable summer. As always it was way too short.

MEMBERSHIP!!!

A recurring theme "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.

****Don't forget to check your annual membership cards to see when you are due to "reup". Have you ever given any thought about becoming a Life Member?** As a new Life Member to Post 420, you will receive a 20% rebate once your Life Membership has been processed by National. **Not a bad deal.** You can check with our Post Quartermaster Gene Ratigliano for more deals.

Anyone / Everyone with ideas for events:

Feel free to contact me at HJP5551@GMAIL.COM or 518-899-4976, if you have ideas.

REMEMBER: No event can happen without input AND participation of the membership.

Events committee (s):

- 1) **DON'T FORGET: There will be a Red Cross Blood Drive on Thursday October 27th.**
- 2) Pat Huggins is chairing our **Stop 22 walk**. The date will be out soon. Thanks, Pat, for chairing this event.
- 3) Veterans Day November 11th. This event is open to everyone, not just VFW members. Pat Huggins and Shane Larken are co-chairing this event. They promise that everyone will enjoy themselves.



- 4) A football INDOOR tailgate party is planned for the Army – Navy game in December. Watch for information.
- 5) We are also planning to have a Super Bowl Indoor Tailgate party on February 12th. Stay tuned

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 meets the same day at **6:30 PM (note the new start time).** 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:

- 1) Anyone who gave blood at our July Blood drive. I especially want to thank our Auxiliary President Heidi Underwood for chairing this event. We did make our quota. THANK YOU, Heidi.
- 2) Tim Herbert for getting our beer cooler, amongst other things, fixed in a timely manner.
- 3) Shane Larken, Heidi and Chris Underwood for setting up and cleaning the hall for Rachel Sam's-Burnhams celebration of life on September 7th.
- 4) I want to thank Shane Larken, Miguel Orabona, Gene and Jean Ratigliano, Cathy Otruba, Roberta Boone, Lynn Verengia (Post 1545 Aux) and anyone else who helped make our District 3 Picnic / organizational meeting a success.
- 5) As always, a **special thanks** to our bartender's, Scott, Louise, John, Tim and Gerard. Without them volunteering we'd have to close the bar.
- 6) **Those who support** our functions.

OUR post is open to all members and their guests. REMEMBER All guests must sign the guest register. Stop by, enjoy the comradery with other members.

District 3 Football game at West Point

Our District is having a bus trip to West Point on



Saturday November 19th, 2022. The cost per person is **\$110.00/person.** This includes bus, game tickets, refreshments and food on the bus, tailgate before and after the game. We will leave from Colonie Post 8692 at 7:00 AM. Coffee and donuts provided for those who arrive early. You can see me (Harold Patchen) to purchase tickets etc. We only have 40 tickets, so we won't be crowded. I know that Shane Larken, Mike Joyce, myself and two others will be attending. This should be a good time for everyone. I hope that you'll join us. We can car pool to Colonie if you want.

W

Harold Patchen

Post Commander

A



Red Cross Blood Drive at VFW Post 420

T

A blood drive will be held at the Post Home on **Oct 27, 2022** from 12:30 – 5:30 PM. Appointments are Available through the Red Cross Donor App on-line. For more Information contact Heidi Underwood at 757-358-3291.

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POST HOURS

A

Monday & Tuesday Closed
 Wed 3 – 7 PM
 Thurs – Fri 4 – till PM
 Sat 2-7 PM
 Sun 12- till

T

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

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

There are still a number of members whose dues will be expiring soon. Please make an effort to join us and send in your dues.

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



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

Fall is upon us and there are some exciting events coming up!

The Auxiliary has started participating with Quilts of Valor and is in the process of creating a quilt to be presented to a Veteran. All are welcome to join us - no quilting or sewing experience required. Meetings are the first Thursday of every month at 6pm. Please join us!

We will be hosting a 'Trunk or Treat' on October 30th from 2-4pm in the parking lot of the Post. All are welcome to participate and it is sure to be a great time!

The next blood drive is scheduled for October 27th from 12:30 - 5:30 at the Post. Sign up using the blood donor app (code VFW420) or call Heidi Underwood (757) 358-3291.

This year we will be having 'Breakfast with Santa' - stay tuned for details!! Please join us at our next scheduled meeting on October 12th at 7pm.

Heidi Underwood

Heidi Underwood
Auxiliary President

EXPIRED MEMBERS

Justin Bliven, Patrick Boyle, Randy Brouillette, Floyd M. Burgher, Jr., Jordan Conlin, Bianca Ellis, Jason Heitman, Robert Hicks, Corey Light-Reyome, Patrick Turriglio and Matthew Williams

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

Membership is critical for the VFW to have the power in numbers on the hill when our legislative representatives go before Congress to fight for you benefits and those of future veterans. Even if you do not wish to attend meetings, membership is important for the strength of our organization. Renew today. We need YOU!

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.

NOTICE

Due to the increased cost of mailing and the laborious task of putting the Post newsletter together we would like to e-mail the newsletter to as many members as possible.

If you are not receiving the newsletter by e-mail please e-mail me your e-mail address to:
mcpo4@nycap.rr.com.

You may find that if you have received the newsletter by e-mail at times but at other times by mail, we need to mail a minimum of 200 to get the bulk mail mailing rate from the post office so you may get your copy either way or both ways at times.

Share the Care!

The Post 420 Auxiliary is pleased to announce a new initiative called "Share the Care" designed to help Auxiliary and Post members with one-time or occasional needs including: rides to/from a medical appointment or shopping; light housekeeping; running errands; receipt of a home-cooked meal; or a visit. Please contact Jean Waters (whose idea this initiative is) at 518-461-7021 for details and/or to request help.

The Auxiliary would like to expand the



Voice of Democracy (VOD)
And
Patriot Pen Essay Contest
Themes Released

Now is the time to have your children or grandchildren start preparing essays to submit to the VOD and PP scholarship programs. The VFW offers monies at the local, state and national levels in amounts ranging from \$100 to \$30,000 for students in grades 6-8 and 9-12.

The Voice of Democracy theme for 2022-23 is "Why Is he Veteran Important. (Grades 9-12)

The Patriot's Pen Essay theme for 2022-23 is "My Pledge to Our Veterans. (Grades 6-8).

Application forms are available at the Post. Just ask one of the bartenders for an application.



Hudson Mohawk County Council comes to an end in November. To commemorate the end of an era of great VFW leadership HMCC will have a Hail & Farewell on October 30, 2022 at Queensbury VFW Post 6196, 32 Luzerne Rd., Queensbury, NY. 5:00 PM Cocktail hour, 6:00 PM Dinner – Compliments of the Council. Dinner includes Caesar Salad, 8oz Sirloin Steak, Baked Potato (with butter & sour cream), Buttered corn, Roll & Butter.

Seating is limited to 100. Reservations 1st come 1st served. RSVP NLT October 24, 2022. Confirm attendance with Gene Ratigliano at 518-885-9666 or email at mcpo4@nycap.rr.com. No Walk-Ins



VFW POST 420
VETERANS DAY CEREMONIES

The annual Gurtler Bros. VFW Post 420 Veterans Day ceremonies will be held on Friday, November 11, 2022.

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.

VFW LIFE MEMBER INCENTIVE

WANT TO HELP YOURSELF AND YOUR POST?

During the month of October 2022, for every NEW life member who pays for a Life Membership or any new or lapsed member who pay for a Life Membership the Post will receive a \$50.00 grant from VFW National.

And – as you well know – the Post rebates 20% of that Life Membership back to you.

Now is the time to convert to that Life Membership if you have not already done so. How much does it cost:

Through Age 30	\$425.00
31-40	\$410.00
41-50	\$375.00
51-60	\$335.00
61-70	\$290.00
71-80	\$225.00
81 and Over	\$170.00

Call Quartermaster Gene Ratigliano at 518-885-9666 or e-mail at mcpo4@nycap.rr.com to take advantage of this opportunity! Membership applications are also available at the bar to convert to a Life Membership



District 3 VFW
West Point Football Bus Trip

Army Black Knights vs UCONN Huskies, November 19, 2022 at West Point. Depart from VFW Post 8692 Colonie at 7:00 AM. \$115.00 per person. Price includes Bus trip, Game Ticket, Breakfast Snack & Coffee, Sub sandwich prior to game time, Soda & Beer.

For Reservations call Jim Haas (518) 461-3829 or email jimhaas10@gmail.com. Last day for reservations is Nov 5th. Only 40 tickets available.



**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:

Louise at Kouki3@aol.com or

Rich Koenig at carver270@yahoo.com

or 518-584-9686



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



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NEXT MEETING
October 12, 2022