



# 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: Jonathan Chieco  
 Jr. Vice Cmdr: Richard Koenig  
 Quartermaster: Eugene J. Ratigliano  
 Chaplain: Chris Underwood  
 Adjutant: Eugene J. Ratigliano

### Auxiliary

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

### Board of Directors

President: Harold Patchen      Vice Pres: Jonathan Chieco  
 Treasurer: Eugene J. Ratigliano      Secretary: Eugene J. Ratigliano

### Newsletter

Editor: Gene Ratigliano  
 Phone: (518) 885-9666  
 email: [mcpo4@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mcpo4@nycap.rr.com)

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**NEWSLETTER 2024**

Issue 9 Number 2



**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

### APR 2024

- 10 Board of Directors 6:00 PM, Post Meeting 7:00 PM
- 12-13 Department of NY VFW Mid-Winter Conference Albany Marriott, Wolf Rd
- 27 **Post Clean-Up 9:00 Am – 11:00 Am**

### MAY 2024

- 8 Board of Directors 6:00 PM, Post & Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 PM.
- 10 Gold Star Mother's Golf Tournament Colonie Golf Course
- 12 Mother's Day
- 17 Department of NY VFW Commander's Special Project Golf Tournament, Duansburg, NY
- 18 Armed Forces Day
- 27 Memorial Day

### JUN 2024

- 12 Board of Directors 6:00 PM, Post & Auxiliary Meeting 7:00 PM
- 16 Father's Day
- 19 Juneteenth
- 29 **Saratoga Jazz Fest**

### POST SOCIAL CALENDAR

- Apr 11 Completely Different Band
- Apr 18 Raggen Company
- Apr 23 Tuesday Special Open Mic
- Apr 27 Mardi Gras Celebration

**Note: Updates on Facebook**

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Raymond M. Beattie III  
Geoffrey A. Beattie  
John Dignum Jr.  
Patrick F. Bertrand  
James Wittmann  
James M. Belanger, Sr.

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

William "Bill" Mcgar – Dist 3 Cdr  
William Pekowski – Dist 3 Cdr  
Paul Carmel



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### Commander's Message

Let me begin this article by thanking every member who helped Post 420 to meet VFW Commander – in -Chief (CIC) Sarmiento's membership challenge. At this writing we are at 103%. For Posts at our membership level, we really have to reach out to get members. Needless to say, now isn't the time to stop. For those who have yet to pay their dues, please get them paid as soon as you can. Ever member counts!

I had the privilege earlier this month to spend five days in Washington DC attending the National VFW Legislative Conference. We spent time talking to the staff of our NYS Representatives and Senator Gillibrand. The VFW Legislative Priorities were presented at a joint House and Senate Committee by CIC Duane Sarmiento. I will post a copy of these on our bulletin board if anybody would like to view them.

Our Post was well represented at the District 3 Gold Chevron Awards Dinner on March 8<sup>th</sup>. Post 420's Patriot Pen winner Isaac Goode took 2<sup>nd</sup> place and our Teacher of the Year winner Stephanie Frank took first place in the teacher category. Isaac guaranteed me that he'd be ready to read his essay at our Post Award ceremony to be held in April.

*Harold Patchen*

Post Commander



### POST HOURS

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

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

### UPCOMING DUES RENEWAL

There are still 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.**

**Dues can be mailed directly to National in the dues notice envelope you received or mailed or dropped off at the Post Attn: Post Quartermaster, PO Box 209 Saratoga Springs, NY 12866**

### **DUES RENEWALS**

|                       |         |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Jason C. Bradley      | May 31  |
| Richard E. Wilberding | May 31  |
| Paul Petteys          | June 30 |

### **DUES EXPIRED**

|                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| Patrick Bornt      | Donald F. Bailey Jr. |
| Patrick R. Bornt   | Sean P. Carroll      |
| Shirley M. Demers  | Erwin A. Dominguez   |
| Thomas Ellinger    | Willard E. Grande II |
| Hunter C. Harrison | Lauren G. Hicks      |
| Thomas G. Marousek | Greg A. Martin       |
| Katie A. McGovern  | Allen P. Moon        |
| Chase D. Moore     | Peter A. Pashoukos   |
| Katideen Reasudeen | Alexander P Sheldon  |
| Carrie R. Suton    | Sarah Violette       |
| Elizabeth Volpe    | Katrina 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!

### **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](mailto: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.



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

Happy Spring! Hopefully we are done with winter and can look forward to warmer weather and lots of sunshine!

There are lots of exciting things happening with the Auxiliary. Our yearly Pie Sale will be happening on Flag Day again this year. Stay tuned and watch your email for details to be sent out soon.

We will also be distributing poppies on Memorial Day weekend. If you are interested in manning the table, please contact Susan Senecal at [sue37nott@aol.com](mailto:sue37nott@aol.com). It's always a great time of fun and friendship!

Quality, 100% cotton, made-in-the USA USA patriotic VFW T-Shirts are available for purchase in the bar. They are a great affordable gift for out of town friends.

Lastly, Quilts of Valor group has been busy creating beautiful quilts for distribution to veterans who have been "touched by war". Consider coming to a meeting to see what they are all about. No sewing experience necessary! Contact Vera Kasson at [mvkasson@aol.com](mailto:mvkasson@aol.com) for more details and the time/location of our meetings.

VFW Post 420 Auxiliary Election results:

President – Open  
Sr. Vice President – Johnna Raylinsky  
Jr. Vice President – Cathy Otruba  
Treasurer – Michael Joyce  
Secretary – Open  
Chaplain – Jean Ratigliano  
Trustee #1 – Bertha Kelly  
Trustee #2 – Sandra Hamlin  
Trustee #3 – Roberta Boone

*Heidi Underwood*

Heidi Underwood  
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

**Post Clean-Up Apr 27 – 9-11 AM**

the year.

### **District 3 Convention**

The Annual District 3 Convention will be held on May 3-4, 2024 at the Hilton Garden Inn, 30 Clifton-Country Road, Clifton Park, NY.

A Testimonial Dinner honoring District Commander Harold Patchen and President Rebecca Sweet will be held on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> beginning with a cocktail hour at 6:15 PM and dinner at 7:00 PM.

The business session of the convention will begin at 9:00 AM on Saturday May 4<sup>th</sup>. Information will be posted on the Post Bulletin Board or you may contact Quartermaster Gene Ratigliano at 518-885-9666 or email at [mcpo4@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mcpo4@nycap.rr.com) for more information.

### **Department of NY State Convention**

The 103<sup>rd</sup> Annual Department of NY VFW State Convention will be held in Albany, NY on June 5-9, 2024. The headquarters hotel will be the Marriott Hotel located at 189 Wolf Road, Albany, NY.

A Joint Opening Memorial Service will be held on Thursday, June 6, 2024 at 1:00 PM. The VFW Business Session will open on Friday June 7, 2024 at 8:00 AM.

A Testimonial Dinner honoring State Commander Daniel Kell and State President Rose Cooper on Thursday, June 6, 2024 at 6:00 PM.

Information on the State Convention will be posted on the Post Bulletin Board or you may contact Post Quartermaster Gene Ratigliano at 518-885-9666 or email at [mcpo4@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mcpo4@nycap.rr.com) for more information.

### **VFW National Convention**

The 125<sup>th</sup> VFW National Convention will be held in Louisville, Kentucky, July 27 – August 1, 2024. The National Council of Administration meeting is tentatively scheduled to meet on Saturday, Jul 27, at 1:30 PM.

Housing for the VFW National Convention opened on March 18, 2024. If you plan on attending the National Convention get your reservations early as room are going fast in the New York Hotel which is the Galt House. Reservation forms and information are posted on the Post Bulletin Board or you may contact Post Quartermaster Gene Ratigliano at 518-885-9666 or email at [mcpo4@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mcpo4@nycap.rr.com) for more information.

### **40<sup>th</sup> Annual Eastern States Conference**

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Eastern States Conference will be held in Burlington, VT, November 1 – 3, 2024 at the Doubletree by Hilton Burlington, 870 Wiliston Rd, South Burlington. Room Rate for the Conference is \$219.00 (includes taxes). Reservations can be made by calling 1-900-445-8667. Deadline for booking is October 2024.

A Conference Dinner will be held on Saturday, November 2, 2024 at \$55.00 per person. . Information will be posted on the Post Bulletin Board or you may contact Quartermaster Gene Ratigliano at 518-885-9666 or email at [mcpo4@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mcpo4@nycap.rr.com) for more information.



### **Alliance 180**

Gurtler Brothers VFW Post 420 and District 3 has partnered with Alliance 180 to promote an experience in a new direction in the fight against the effects of trauma. Alliance 180 offers a 3 Day NO-COST to the Veteran experience with peer-to-peer interaction, private accommodations and classroom training to learn the language of the horse and a round-pen interaction with the horse as the final culminating event. It is this bond within the ring, known as the “alliance moment” that will bring the three-day experience full circle, most often resulting in a changed perspective and renewed outlook for the participant. For more information on the new an innovative and exciting approach to dealing with trauma contact VFW member Bob Nevins at [bob@alliance180.org](mailto:bob@alliance180.org) or give him a call at 518-744-3600.



### **New Flag Poles for the Post**

**The Post is in the process of purchasing and installing new flag poles for the Post. Anyone interested in donating to help in paying for the new poles can drop their donation into a jar on the bar or mail a donation to the post at: VFW Post 420, PO Box 209, Saratoga Springs, NY 12866.**

**To get the ball rolling Post Quartermaster Gene Ratigliano and Post Life Member Bob Nevins have pledged \$500 each**



and Post Commander Harold Patchen has pledged \$100.00. Let's make it happen!

**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](mailto:Kouki3@aol.com) or

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

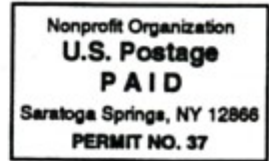
or 518-584-9686



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



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



***NEXT MEETINGS***

May 8, 2024

June 12, 2024

July 10, 2024