

NEW YORK STATE OVERSEAS VETERAN

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 of the United States

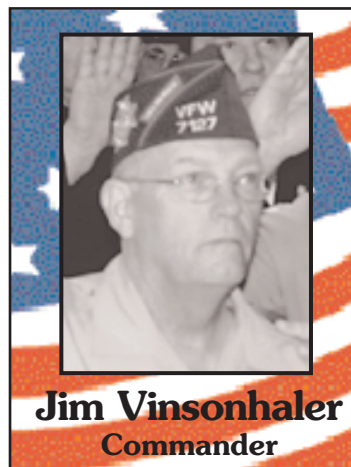


June/July 2004

“Service and Representation”

Jim Vinsonhaler, New York State Commander

Volume 24, Issue 3



Jim Vinsonhaler
 Commander



make a difference. There are many projects already begun at this time – a new computer system at Department Headquarters, setting up meetings with the New York State Division of Veterans Affairs Director George Basher and Senate and Assembly Veterans Affairs Chairmen to seek their support with our Department needs. We will also be looking at a new Web site that will be more user-friendly and informative than our present site. As a special project this year, we have chosen to work with two bright young kids in establishing a program known as “cell phones for soldiers”. As most of you are aware, we have our own “Operation Up-link”, which supplies both foreign and domestic phone cards for serv-

ice members; but we are finding that phones are not available to the many troops who spend their time many miles from any available phones. This “cell phones for soldiers” project will raise the needed funds to have a satellite system and phones made available to these troops as well. You will hear more about how you can help in this endeavor as we get into full gear. Keep in mind as we go through the year that the VFW is all about Service and Representation; and as long as we all do the right things with our communities, our youth, and to our veterans, we will also have a successful membership year.

Yours in Comradeship,
 Jim Vinsonhaler, Commander

The Department Convention is over, and a new year is in full motion. I want to take this opportunity to thank all of the comrades of this great Department for showing their confidence in electing me to be the Commander of the Department of New York VFW for the ensuing year. My congratulations to all the other elected and appointed officers of this great Department. Together, we can



Longtime Department Photographer Vincent Siesta is presented with a plaque of appreciation by Commander Harold Burke, Jr., right; on the left, Past Commander-in-Chief John W. Smart.




Batavia Jack Wisby, Jr. P.T.S.D. Clinic gets a 100% top shelf rating from National V.F.W. – right to left: William C. Dozier, Field Rep National V.F.W.; Dr. Terri F. Julian, Clinical Director; and PSC Ron Bush.



Surgeon Robert Barnhart and wife, Karen, bumped into this famous celebrity at a Washington Conference (guess who?)

Photographer:
William Juteau



State Editor:
William “Doc” Schmitz

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Editor: William "Doc" Schmitz
Photographer: William Juteau

2004-2005 State Officers

Commander:
James Vinsonhaler
Sr. Vice Commander:
James McNally
Jr. Vice Commander:
Donald Doel
Judge Advocate:
Philip C. Schiffman, PSC
Surgeon:
Robert Barnhart
Quartermaster:
Jim Longendyke
Adjutant:
Art Koch III, PSC
Chaplain:
Rev. Edward R. P. Kane
State Chief-of-Staff:
Robert Stinger
Inspector:
Jack Haight
Patriotic Instructor:
James Wilson

POLICY

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The views expressed herein are those of the writers and, unless otherwise stated, do not reflect the positions of NYSOV or its staff.

All members and other interested parties are encouraged to submit articles, opinions, letters to the Editor, or any other copy of pictures for publication on subjects relevant to veterans' issues and concerns. *New York State Overseas Veteran* reserves the right to edit material for length or grammar and to reject any material that is deemed not to meet current editorial needs.

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James McNally Senior Vice Commander



**James McNally
Sr. Vice Commander**

I was invited and traveled to the 5th District convention held at the North Syracuse VFW Post 7290. They are an active District who conducts a good and well-attended VFW meeting. I thank them for their hospitality. I sure enjoyed the 5th District Singing Society for serenading me during my stay. They also have a truly beautiful Veterans Memorial there, thanks to the hard work of the VFW and post Commander John De Varies.

VFW Post 6249, under Post Commander Robert Ward, recently held their 50th Anniversary celebration. I was honored to represent the Department Commander and present them with a Certificate

of Recognition from the National Commander-in-Chief Edward Banas. They sure did it up right by honoring all the members at a dinner ceremony. They, in turn, were honored by the elected officials, youth groups, and the local historical society for being such an important part of the community for so long. A special thank you to District Commander Michael Pascal for his assistance during my visit to District 1.

Another Department Convention has passed. New officers have been elected, installed, and the work of our organization begins anew. Last year, our membership was down and fewer comrades attended the meetings. Those who did attend are the hard working, dedicated believers in our organization. I would hope that each member would try to invite just one more veteran to attend the next meeting at any level. This would almost double our ranks. We need new members, and they need us to fight for them and their dependents. Let us rally our organization and support Commander Vinsonhaler and our programs this year.

Donald Doell Junior Vice Commander



**Donald Doell
Jr. Vice Commander**

Thank you, to the delegates of the 85th annual Department of New York Convention! Thank you for the vote of confidence in electing me to the high office of Junior Vice Commander.

I know that the level of responsibility for a department officer is high, and I will concentrate all my efforts to meet the challenges of the office.

As we begin a new VFW year, we also begin a new era of cooperation. I think the spirit of cooperation is refreshing and should serve us well as we move forward as a united Department.

One of the constant challenges we face, as an organization, is membership. Dramatic decreases in membership have been

forecast for the next five to ten years. Our efforts in recruiting should increase accordingly.

Post 4927, the Post to which I belong, has partnered with a group called "Soldiers' Angels". Soldiers' Angels provide all we need to send from forty to eighty 'care packages' twice a month to soldiers serving in Iraq. This is one way to say to the troops that we care. Hopefully, when they return home, they would want to join us and continue that support for their comrades.

I am looking forward to working with Commander Jim Vinsonhaler and Senior Vice Commander Jim McNally this year. I am also looking forward to working with, and for, all the comrades in the Department of New York. Lastly, and certainly not least, I want to continue with the rapport and good working relationship we have with the Ladies Auxiliary. Good luck and much success to Terry McGarr and all the Ladies.

With your support and help, we will have a successful 2004-2005.

Loyally,
Don Doell

Past State Commander

Harold "Hal" Burke, Jr.

Comrades, Sisters, and Friends,

To the members of VFW Department of New York, District #3, the County Councils and my Post 1895, my sincere thanks allowing me the privilege of serving this great organization as Department Commander during 2003-04. There are many people who have supported me and are responsible for helping me attain this high office. To name everyone who had a part in my progression to State Commander would exceed the capacity of this edition of the *Overseas Veteran*. To everyone, thank you for all of your support and help.

Special thanks to my wife, Carol, for all of her love and support. Without her understanding, I could have never succeeded.

On behalf of my wife, Carol, and I, our sincere appreciation and gratitude for all of the courtesies, hospitality, and comradeship shown to us during our visitations this past year. We certainly enjoyed each and every visit.

I pledge my support to our Commander Jim Vinsonhaler and the Department Officers and Chairmen for 2004-05.

If I can ever be of any assistance, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Sincerely,

Harold "Hal" Burke, Jr., Past State Commander
Department of New York



Past Department Commanders attend Commander Jim Vinsonhaler's homecoming - left to right: Ron Bush, Art Koch, George S. Smith, Melvin Garrett, James Longendyke, Karl Rhode, and Harold Burke, Jr.

Judge Advocate

Philip C. Schiffman



Philip C. Schiffman
Judge Advocate

You have requested the Judge Advocate of the Department of New York to render an opinion with respect to the following question:

May the Post Bar Chairman pay bar bills from the bar checking account?

Before answering the question, let me congratulate you and the members of your Post for taking the necessary steps to eliminate the Post Association. Having done so, I can assure you that you have eliminated a host of problems that would probably raise their ugly heads in the future. Second, let me congratulate you on running what is obviously a very tight "ship".

The Post member who raised the question of the propriety of the Bar Chairman paying from a bar checking account the bills of the Post bar, certainly had every right to do so. However, this is not in violation of the By-Laws, or Manual of Procedure of our National Organization.

Among the duties of the

Quartermaster, as set forth in the Manual of procedure at Section 218 (5), that paragraph provides as follows:

"comply with, and perform all duties required of him by the *Laws and Usages* of this organization, applicable By-Laws and Orders from lawful authority and perform such other duties as are usually incident to such office."

Since, as you have indicated in your letter of May 22, 2004, the Bar Chairman gives a report to the membership on a monthly basis, and his books and records are audited by the Post Trustees on a monthly basis, and that this procedure has been carried out over a long period of time, it will do no violation to the VFW National By-Laws or Manual of Procedure, or the By-Laws of the Post, for the Bar Chairman to continue that practice.

Since the Bar Chairman is handling Post funds, it is strongly suggested that an average be taken of the amount of money that the Bar Chairman may be handling in any one (1) month, and that he be bonded for that sum.

Such a bond may be obtained through our Department of New York VFW.

This constitutes the opinion of the Judge Advocate, and the question is answered in the affirmative.

Respectfully submitted,

Philip C. Schiffman,
Judge Advocate
Department of New York

Legislative Chairman

Karl Rhode



Karl Rhode
P.S.C. & Legislative Chairman

Junior Past Commander Hal for giving me a chance to be the Legislative Chairman and allowing me to forge some new trials regarding legislation.

We must get off the ground running. This is an extremely important legislative year because it is coupled with a presidential election. There can be no better time to voice our concerns regarding a host of issues and concerns than during the electoral cycle. Remember that we, as the VFW, do

Another legislative year begins with the election of our new State Commander. At this time, I would like to thank him for asking me to be the State Legislative Chairman for another year. I would also like to thank our

not, in fact, cannot endorse candidates for elected office. The VFW-PAC does indeed endorse at the congressional level only. State PAC Chairman Mike Pisapia will keep us informed.

"The Whoville Legislative Register" will be going into its second year of publication via e-mail. This year, we will add our first columnist, Ladies Auxiliary Legislative Chairman Mary Burgess. We hope to forge a stronger and more visible tie with the ladies regarding legislation. If any of you want to be on the mailing list for the "Register", contact State Headquarters.

The main thrust, at this time, will be preparing our Legislative Priorities Agenda. We will be looking for input from all of you so that at the Fall Conference, we can begin the process of assembling the agenda. The more you express to us what is vital to you, the more effective our agenda will be.

As I have mention in the past, we, as veterans, have retired our weapons of war to take up a new weapon of choice – the pen. Please write our elective officials regarding issues that are important to us as veterans. In fact, write then to remind them that veterans do vote!

Notes from "DOC"

Lots of things happening – the biggest for us is the retirement of our photographer, Vincent Siesta. He is, however, going to remain as assistant to our new man behind the camera, William Juteau. My friend, Vinnie, has shown me dedication, knowledge, people skills, and, most of all, what it means to truly care for the veteran community. I will miss his guidance, but he is only a phone call away; many thanks to you my friend. DOC.

This year we will be dropping our November/December issue. Yes, that means four issues this year. We will be negotiating in the future to increase back up to five. Forms for the various functions will no longer be available in the paper. You can obtain them from your Post Commander or contact the Department 1-518-463-7427, 1044 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204. A Calendar of Events will be posted in each issue of the paper. Our Department web site – they're working on a complete overhaul. In the future, we might even be able to obtain the event forms from it. The amount of newspaper forms used for registration is very minimal; the lack of forms in the paper will facilitate more room for veterans' news interest.

Past Department Commander Ben Thompson wanted me to mention: If and when the Eastern States Conference meeting dates are changed, it should not pose a conflict with any Department events. Eastern states are considering dropping to one meeting per year.

I am not supposed to let anyone know that PDC Adjutant Art Koch had a very LARGE piece of German chocolate cake at dinner so please ignore this statement, and there are several witnesses.

2004 All State Post Commanders & Quartermasters

Post	Commanders	Quartermasters	Post	Commanders	Quartermasters	Post	Commanders	Quartermasters
44	Houser, Lee N.	Allen, James D., Jr.	1895	Schmick, William I.	Sells, Gene N.	6249	Robert Ward	Congitore, Joseph
161	Krause, Norman	Gibbs, David	1896	Minton, Edward W.	Thompson, Bernard L.	6338	Weldon, Gloria	Fuller, Robert
170	Angelo, Joseph S.	Fusaro, Louis S.	1955	Curtis, Paul A.	Blount, Marshall O.	6396	Bryant, Eugene	Garrett, Melvin
202	Andre, James L.	Silpoch, William	1975	Barwiczok, Joseph	Salato, Daniel J.	6595	Leiske, Donald H.	Wachter, William E.
357	Shave, Robert D.	St. Lawrence, Damase F.	2064	Protsko, Joseph P.	Hedin, Edward D.	6597	Yanus, Robert F.	Bettner, Carl W.
358	Hall, Lawrence R.	Grady, James T.	2077	Dimaiio, Dary D.	VanAlstyne, Ralph R., Sr.	6764	Turck, Raymond	Irwin, James
361	Stevenson, Donnie	Bell, Jessie	2161	Becker, Roger	McDonnell, Willard F.	6776	Eisenhauer, John	Smith, Ronald
369	Gorman, Paul	Babcock, Donald L.	2250	Darley, David	Becker, James	6778	Morales, Robert	Haight, Jack L., Jr.
372	Barton, James E., Jr.	Kevilly, Raymond	2250	Darley, David	Becker, James	6811	Whitney, William R., Jr.	Jordan, Larry
375	Porcelli, Joseph A.	Wasiczko, Robert G.	2332	Felsheim, Wayne C.	Borkowski, Thomas W.	7228	Brown, Robert G.	Rohl, Robert B.
395	Woltman, Richard T.	Ercolano, Domenick	2522	Sheldon, David C.	Penfield Walter A.	7276	Ringgenberg, Verl	Murphy, Gerald
478	Nabinger, Raymond E.	Klein, Elton C.	2721	Vanik, Joel	Rose, James	7336	McBride, Donald T.	Mazza, Thomas F.
502	Sheffler, Sam	Dennis, Carl, Sr.	3025	Mohan, Robert J.	Wehnau, Madison	7338	Essenter, Donald A.	Mitchell, John
516	Fullam, Robert F.	Bondietti, Frank	3120	LeBlanc, Leon	Davies, Michael	7466	Lynch, Robert A.	Daus, Allan J.
524	Herbert, Douglas M.	McDonald, Gerald	4787	Malvicini, Ernest C.	Oi, Glen	7795	Bogucki, Edmund	Drosendahl, Nelson
569	Sprague, George E.	Kehoe, Francis P.	4823	Murtha, Daniel J.	Daniel, Joseph	7914	Rudnitsky, Stuart	Weibel, James W., Jr.
770	Post, Leroy, Jr.	Caggiano, Edward	4915	McKinney, Michael M.	none	7967	Czarnecki, David M.	Buob, Clarence E.
962	Madson, Edward	Pollard, Jack E.	5005	Platt, Richard D.	Ash, Donald C.	8104	Hughes, Michael J.	Dennis, Durwood L.
1019	Abare, Roland C.	Davenport, Allan E.	5016	Schmidt, Rudolph J.	Siple, Robert C., Sr.	8647	Derbish, Janet	Emo, Francis W.
1161	Ruckdeschel, Donald A.	Fanizzi, Steven J.	5086	Jordan, John F.	McCutcheon, James L.	8690	Edmonds, Dale	VanNostrand, Russell
1200	Harrington, David A.	Ciesla, Theodore T.	5253	Campbell, Norbert	Wurth, Harry C.	8692	LaDuke, Robert A.	Clingerman, Robert M.
1359	Clarkson, Howard	Maue, John H.	5260	Bolt, Vincent J.	Snyder, Larry	8814	Charette, James M.	Charette, James F.
1418	LaFontaine, Carl C.	Robers, Samantha	5350	Andon, Arma	Payne, George C.	9132	Weisl, Kenneth	Polak, Gene
1419	Chambers, David	Olejniczak, Gerald	5540	Halstead, Donald J.	Halstead, Richard E.	9217	Bell, Sylvester W.	Finn, Frank
1466	Faulkner, Dale S.	Westover, Wayne S.	5808	Flynn, Arthur J.	Nystrom, Eric J.	9251	Robinson, Richard T.	Warfield, Vern
1469	Ronayne, Thomas	Pasterak, William	5933	Stickles, Thomas L.	Wilber, Kenneth H.	9263	Amore, Frederick J.	Scordo, Joseph
1470	Bocek, Michael R.	Osborne, George H.	5942	Verrone, Joseph W.	Waters, James C.	9314	Chesebro, William	Tille, James L.
1498	Mace, Robert	DeVoe, Arthur L., Jr.	6142	Fabiano, Francis	Wheeler, Arthur F.	9483	Dimmick, Ralph G.	Klauck, Charles H.
1653	Brannigan, Arthur W.	Pardy, Donald R.	6200	Caskey, Billy R.	Matarewski, Joseph	9486	Imperiale, Joseph	Schoenberg, William F.
						9592	Wagner, John	Wedin, Frederick
						9593	Felix, Stephen W.	Zincio, Walter
						10547	Sierra, Frank	Elliott, Clifford

**Community & Americanism
Chairman's Final Report of Activities**

1. Americanism, Instructions were given to local grade school children on the proper way of folding our American Flag. Informed various organizations on the proper way of display of our flag. Presented (2,600) American Flags (4" x 6") in size to children who recited the Pledge of Allegiance to our flag. Distributed pamphlets on the proper way of display of the American Flag. Attended the ceremonies performed by the Boy Scouts of America of properly disposing of our flag.
2. Informed Posts and schools on our Teachers Recognition Programs.
3. Submitted eight (8) Posts and Commanders (one from each District) for the National Citations of Recognition. A positive image about the VFW members within the respective community.
4. Spoke at Posts, County Council and District meetings about volunteering our services on a local level. Yes! Our neighbors are watching us veterans who participate in the volunteering services. I say "Stand Tall and Be Recognized".
5. Processed Community Service reports. Reported on Posts within each District on monies and hours contributed at Department Conferences.
6. Spoke at Post, County level on the March of Dimes Program.
7. Recommended the continuance of May 1 Loyalty Day ceremony and importance of patriotism in our nation.
8. Took part in the Essay and Coloring Contest in three (3) grade schools.
9. Mentioned at Post, County Council and District level the most important of all veterans of all wars days of remembrance: June 14, July 4, November 11, and December 7.
10. Attended a Gold Star Recognition Day for 15 Gold Star Mothers.

Leonard J. Marciniak
State Community Service Chairman

**2004-2005
Schedule of Events**

July 10
1 to 6 P.M.,
State Commander's
Homecoming,
VFW Post 7127 Moravia

August 6, 7, 8
OTI Binghamton

August 14 to 20
National Convention,
Cincinnati, OH

October 8, 9, 10
Fall Conference,
Saratoga Springs

October 28
Statue of Liberty Annual
Celebration, New York

January 8, 9 10
Legislative Conference, Albany

To Be Announced
State Dues Round Up

April 15, 16, 17
Spring Conference, Syracuse

April 24 to 30
Commander-in-Chief's Trip

June 22 to 26, 2005
State Convention Buffalo



Youth Certificates

- Post 686High Falls – 2
- Post 2674Watkins Glen – 5
- Post 5253Albertson – 1
- Post 5350Quogue – 1
- Post 5796Kings Park – 1
- Post 6778Palmyra – 8
- Post 7009Southampton – 1
- Post 7241Port Jervis – 2
- Post 7279Linden Hurst – 1
- Post 8213Somers – 2

Michael R. Spellman
Youth Activities Chairman



Left to right: Bill Waters, Post member, Tony LaManna, Past Post Commander and Amanda Lengauer, Solvay Senior



2004 Membership Awards

County Council Awards

All State
Captain :Carl Dennis Sr., Post 502, Herkimer C.C.
Team: John Eisenhauer, Post 6776, Albany C.C.
Eric Nystrom, Post 5808, Sullivan C.C.
Robert Shave, Post 357, Schenectady-Schoharie C.C.
Alexander Meholczo, Post 524, Southern Tier C.C.
County Council Early Bird Award Schenectady-Schoharie C.C. – \$750

County Council Membership Chairman Award

Anthony DeSalvatore, Herkimer
Sylvester Bell, Sullivan
Jack Howey, Southern Tier
Douglas Vink, Albany
Roger Becker, Schenectady-Schoharie

Fighting 14th Infantry Post 546 Life Membership Award
Southern Tier County Council

Erie County Council Art Vater Memorial Trophy

To be named by Erie County

Post Awards

All State Post Commanders and Quartermaster

Post Division Award. Largest numerical gain. Plaque for Post:

- 7653 Valatie
- 478 Binghamton
- 502 Frankfort
- 524 Corning
- 1019 Albany

Big Ten Award

- 524 Corning
- 5253 Albertson
- 8647 Mayville
- 4915 Herkimer
- 1469 Huntington Station
- 569 Fulton
- 9483 Webster
- 478 Binghamton
- 1419 Hamburg
- 1019 Albany

V F W Eagle Scout of the Year



Winner: Sean M. Hannan, Clifton Park, New York; Project: re-establish natural habitat for wildlife, which was destroyed by flood; Scouts stand on the same principles as the VFW – Honor, God, Country.

Right to left: Commander Harold Burke, Jr.; Ron Mironchik, Boy Scout Chairman; Sean M. Hannan, Eagle Scout of the Year, and his Mom and Dad. Sean received a check for \$250.00 and a jacket.



ABOVE: Department Convention visited by National Home (Florida Home)

LEFT: Poppy Girl of the Year, Kelsey Miller, Post #2064 Maybrook

Department Order No. 2 • July 1, 2004 • Series – 2004-2005

1) The following appointments are hereby announced, and they will be recognized and respected accordingly:

Albany Service Officer: James Jewell (Post 3024), Samuel S. Stratton VA Medical Ctr., Rm. C308-3 (272K), 113 Holland Ave., Albany, NY 12208

Buffalo Service Officer: Thomas Todaro (Post 53), Fed. Bldg., 111 W. Huron St., Buffalo, NY 14202

New York Service Officer: Edith Lombardi (Post 1896), Veterans Affairs Bldg., 245 Houston St., NY, NY 10014

Syracuse Service Officer: James Vinsonhaler (Post 7127), 344 W. Genesee St., Suite 204, Syracuse, NY 13202

State Aide to Commander: William Francey (Post 9596), 452 East Ave., Minoa, NY 13116

State Aide to Commander: Paul Dyer (Post 7290), 5112 Guy Young Rd., Brewerton, NY 10329

State Aide to Commander: E. James Fields (Post 5540), Cty. Rte. 1013, Pennellville, NY 13132

State Bowling Chairman: Wilbur Gray (Post 1602), 150 Vine St., Batavia, NY 10420

State Boy Scout Chairman: Ronald Mironchik (Post 8645), 564 Springtown Rd., New Paltz, NY 12561

State Budget and Finance Chairman: Harold Burke, Jr., PSC (Post 1895), 7 Netherland Blvd., Schenectady, NY 12306

State Buddy Poppy Chairman: Fred Schwally (Post 123), 124 Norman Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11222

State Citizenship Education and Community Service Chairman: (Teacher's Award): Richard Bentkowski (Post 6251), 427 Huntington Ave., Buffalo, NY 14214

State Civil Service and Employment Chairman: Richard Gross (Post 6595), 65 Ledgewood Circle, Rochester, NY 14615

State Color Guard: Rome Post No. 2246

State Convention Director: Elton Klein, PSC (Post 478), 16 Sandy Lane, Binghamton, NY 13901

State Assistance Convention Director: Ray Nowak (Post 2940), 4651 Rock Oak Pkwy., Clarence, NY 14031

State Credential Convention Committee: Frank Nicolazzo (Post 16), 54 Lyncrest Dr., Rochester, NY 14616

State Drug Abuse Chairman: Arthur Devoe (Post 8647), 11 Cardin Dr., Clifton Park, NY 12065

State Drug Abuse Vice Chairman: William Brooks (Post 8758), 1 Lakeshore Dr., Apt. 1B, Watervliet, NY 12189

State Gold Chevron Ball Journal Chairman: Edward Bassett (Post 524), 3877 Dyke Rd., Corning, NY 14830

State Historian: Ellis "Bud" Bex (Post 9596), 136 Greenridge Drive, Manlius, NY 13104

State Homeless Veterans Chairman: John Dickerson (post 1708), 52 Wickham Ave., Goshen, NY 10924

State Hospital Chairman: Susan Dawson (Post 8692), 27 Decker Dr., Washingtonville, NY 10992

State Legislative Chairman: Karl Rohde, PSC (Post 1374), 40 Schuylkill Ct., Carmel, NY 10512

State Legislative Vice Chairman: Clifford Lockwood (Post 5294), 2568 Western Ave. #13, Altamont, NY 12009

State Life Membership Chairman: Thomas Bennet (Post 455), 1336 Sun Ave., Elmont, NY 11003

State Life Membership Vice Chairman: Wesley Weise (Post 8647), 7605 Bliss Rd., Westfield, NY 14787

State Loyalty Day Chairman: Thomas Ronayne (Post 1469), 75 Cuba Hill Rd., Greenlawn, NY 11740

State Membership Vice Chairman: Allan Davenport (Post 1019), POB 17, Troy, NY 12182

State Membership Vice Chairman: Bruce Mullenax (Post 9218), 487 Co. Rt. 29, Oswego, NY 13126

State Membership Vice Chairman: Michael Pascal (Post 9486), 210 Oswego Ave., Medford, NY 11763

State Military Assistant Chairman: James Sheets (Post 7227), 21 N. Jefferson St., Carthage, NY 13619

State National Home Chairman: Robert Walton (Post 1602), 9112 Wortendyke Rd., Batavia, NY 10402

State Newspaper Editor: William Schmitz (Post 524), 329 W. William St., Corning, NY 14830

State OTI Dean: Jack T. Smith, PSC (Post 7227), 900 Rock City Falls Rd., Lot 101, Ballston Spa, NY 12020

State Outreach Chairman: Bernard Thompson, PSC (Post 1896), 119-26 204th Street, St. Albans, NY 11412

State Photographer: William Juteau (Post 502), POB 1499, Richfield Springs, NY 13439

State Assistant Photographer: Vincent Siesta (Post 546), 2027 58th St., Brooklyn, NY 11204

State Political Action Committee Chairman: Michael Pisapia (Post 7172), 22 Clarion Ct., P/House, Staten Island, NY 10310

State POW/MIA Chairman: Vincent Esposito (Post 1582), 3758 Sarah Dr., Wantagh, NY 11793

State POW/MIA Vice Chairman: Stephen Brundage, 1 Sherwood Terrace, Apt. 5D, Yonkers, NY 10704

State Publicity Chairman: Daniel Dwyer (Post 161), 4

Skinner St., Port Jervis, NY 12771

State Safety Chairman: Tom Szweczyk (Post 1374), POB 673, Carmel, NY 10512

State Sgt.-at-Arms: Robert Wasiczko (Post 375), 511 Bronx River Rd., Yonkers, NY 10704

Assistant Sgt.-at-Arms: Wayne Campbell (Post 6433), 36 Inslee St., Waterloo, NY 13165

Assistant Sgt.-at-Arms: David Gibbs, (Post 161), 151 Hammond St., Port Jervis, NY 12771

Assistant Sgt.-at-Arms: Robert Gilman (Post 6196), 100 4th Street Ext., Queensbury, NY 12804

Assistant Sgt.-at-Arms: Walt Kwiatkowski (Post 2472), 350 Linden Ave., Buffalo, NY 14216

State Special Projects:

State Steering Chairman: Elton Klein, PSC (Post 478)

State VAVS Chairman: Joseph Scordo (Post 9263), 16-7th Ave. West, E. Northport, NY 11731

State VAVS Vice Chairman: Ed Stoutenger (Post 5540), 133 State Street, Phoenix, NY 13135

State Veterans Service Chairman: Harold Leavor (Post 9487), 2027 Cemetery Hill Rd., Franklinville, NY 14737

State Veterans Vice Chairman: William McGarr (Post 6196), 56 Third Street, Glens Falls, NY 12801

State Veterans Vice Chairman: Ellis Bex (Post 9596) (see Historian)

State Youth Dev. Recognition & Scholarship (VOD) Chairman: Mike Webster (Post 6338), 2475 St. Hwy. 58, Edwards, NY 13635

State Youth Act: (Patriot's Pen): Michael Spellman (Post 7393), 18-7th St., Yorkville, NY 13495

2) The following Offices having been elected to National Office will be recognized and respected accordingly:

National Council Member: Anthony Ferrarese, PSC (Post 16), 324 Paddy Hill Rd., Rochester, NY 14616

By Order Of:
James Vinsonhaler
State Commander

OFFICIAL:
Art Koch III, PSC
State Adjutant

Fundraising for the Department of New York During 2004-05

Comrades,

As times change so do our financial needs. We all know that the cost of doing business continues to increase. In an effort to provide additional income for the Department of New York and to help us with our budget problems, we have partnered with the National VFW Marketing Department. This year (2004-05) all of those programs that we have contracted with multiple fundraising professionals to provide our funding have been combined into one fundraising program. What does this mean to us? The Department will realize (guaranteed) at least the equivalent monies that were received last year through our previous solicitations. The VFW Marketing Department has been given exclusive rights of solicitation in our Department (with the exception of current solicitation for the newspaper and convention book).

Our message is very simple; when you receive the solicitations from the National VFW Marketing Department with Commander Vinsonhaler's endorsement, please be generous, as this is directly correlated to the Department's funding for 2004-05. Although we have a guaranteed base, the Department will receive a percentage of any monies received above and beyond the anticipated base.

We realize that many are on fixed incomes. We ask that you consider giving a little more than usual to the program(s) of your choice with the knowledge that the Department is benefiting.

The programs that we have endorsed for the remainder of 2004 are:

Patriotic Note Cards – currently in progress
Calendar Program – kickoff in August
VSF – Veterans Day Ribbon – kickoff in September
Holiday Cards – kickoff in October
Holiday Labels – kickoff in November
VSF – Annual Appeal – January 2005

We will provide update in the next edition of our newspaper.

Thank you for your consideration and support of our department and its fundraising programs.

Harold "Hal" Burke, Jr., PSC
Budget Chairman



Vincent Esposito, POW/MIA Chairman, accepts check from Department President Patricia J. Fletcher; Commander Harold Burke, Jr., is very pleased (\$1,843.00); money is for National Alliance of Families.

Cell phones for Soldiers

My special project will be "cell phones for soldiers". This is a project started by two young kids in Roswell, MA. The purpose is to raise enough money to eventually buy and put into use satellite phones for military personnel that have no access to landline phones.

We will collect unused cell phones and also copier and printer cartridges that can be sold for recycling as well as any cash contributions we receive from the members.

These two kids, Robbie and Brittany Bergquist, to date, have raised over \$110,000.00 for this project. They have enlisted the help of several firefighter associations and backing from former Buffalo Bills Quarterback Jim Kelly.

They have a law firm in Boston that is assisting pro bono in attaining 501(c)3 status with the IRS. They also are communicating with the White House for assistance in cutting through red tape to have a Saudi Arabian company begin setting up the satellite station. In the meantime, they are working with a Swiss company to put together a computer program for voice over messaging that can be used until a satellite system

is in place. I believe this is a most deserving project and believe our members will support this wholeheartedly.

Rev. Edward R. P. Kane leads the Convention in remembering those present and past.



Books For Troops



Since January 2004, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2913, Patchogue, has sent over one thousand paperback books, 1,000 musical CDs, baby wipes, letters and many other hard to obtain items to the troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. A spin off of this project is sending school supplies to the troops to be given to the children of these countries. The response from the troops was "Please send more school supplies, small toys and candy". Many

of the Post members have contributed both materially and financially for the success of this project.

If you would like to help support this project, please send donations to VFW Post 2913 ATTN: Hal O'Neil, P.O. Box 267, Patchogue, NY 11772 or drop off times at the Post Hall located at 32 Edwards Street, Patchogue, NY 11772

Left to right: Michael Esposito, George Egan, Jim Belmonte, Chairman Books for Troops Hal O'Neill, Congressman Tim Bishop, Post Commander Mike Amodio and Past Commander Bob Parente



We Will Not Forget Our POW / M I A s

Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 372, Commanded by Jim Barton paid homage to our POW/MIAs who are serving in the Armed Forces of the United States; unfortunately, many are not accounted for.

The Remembrance Ceremony was held at the Inter Faith Chapel, located at Kings Point Merchant Marine Academy, Great Neck, NY.

Commander Barton remarked, people of all faiths pray for peace, freedom and understanding with a matter of fact attitude. Freedom should not be taken for granted, but cherished.

God bless America; God bless our Troops.



Left to right: Rick Gales, Jr. Vice Nassau County Council; Jim Barton, Commander Post 372; and Ray Kevilly, Past Post Commander Post 372

The Pennington-Moye Post #9251, Buffalo Soldiers receive a sizable check from James Edlind, Assistant Manager and Lucille Calloway, Community Co-Op from Wal-Mart Stores, Chili, N.Y.

The Buffalo Soldiers (U.S. 9th-10th Calvary) travel extensively educating the community on their lives, legends and contributions to American History.



(Left to right): David Greene, Lucille Calloway, Jesse Stevens, James Edlind, Bing Reaves, Sr., and George Whitfield (missing from picture).



ABOVE: Commander Jim Vinsonhaler stresses membership. Grandson, Alec, tries on the Commander's hat.



RIGHT: The Buffalo VA Behavioral Health Clinic hosted a class on P.T.S.D. therapy. In attendance – Thomas Todaro, V.F.W. Service Officer Buffalo; Jack Gillick, Behavioral VA Health Care Manager; Avery Ellis, M.D., Chief of Staff; Dr. Terri F. Julian, Clinical Director Batavia; "Doc"; Jim Rogers, Veterans Service Center Manager, Buffalo Reg. Off.; Thomas D. Brownell, Director U.S.D. of Veterans Affairs, Buffalo; and Thomas M. Dolata, RN, M.S.N.P. Batavia.



VFW Members receiving Korean Medal at Memorial Day Parade, May 30th, 2004 – Thomas Brown, PCC; Senator Serf Maltese, Ernie Thompson, PDC ; and Michael Brown, Senior Vice Commander of Haspel Staab Post #551



Bowling Chairman

Wilbur A. Gray



The 41st Annual Department of New York Veterans of Foreign Wars State Bowling Tournament was held at the Albert Glenn Richardson Post #153 and its Ladies Auxiliary in Baldwinsville. They had a total of 30 team events, 62 doubles events, 125 single events, and 116 all events.

At this time, I would like to thank the officers and the members of Post #153 for a job well done and their hospitality given to me and my Auxiliary Chairman Vida Martaus.

Next year's tournament will be a mix between the Men's Auxiliary and VFW together or own teams.

This year's winners are:

1st Place Handicap Team

Post 7545 Tonawanda

Dennis Darveaux

Larry Kingston

Ed Mast

Ron Grosskoff

Dave Grosskoff

1st Place Handicap Doubles

Post 8158 Dryden

Don Lawson

Tom Sanford

1st Place Singles Handicap

Post 153 Baldwinsville

Dale Palmer

1st Place All Events Handicap

Post 2020 Holley

Bill Cooper

1st Place Scratch Team

Post 9591 Clinton

Terry Daniels

Rich Lange

John Caleo

John Kennedy

John Lazzard

1st Place Scratch Doubles

Post 9591 Clinton

Terry Daniels

John Kennedy

1st Place Singles Scratch

Post 9501 Clinton

John Polchinski

1st Place All Events Scratch

Post 9591 Clinton

John Polchinski

Respectfully Submitted,

Wilbur A. Gray

Department Chairman



Post 8692, Albany – The Men's Auxiliary to the Robert L. Weininger Post No. 8692, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Colonie, N.Y., received their Charter from 3rd District Commander Louis LaFevre on Friday, September 12, 2003. The officers in the enclosed photograph, left to right, are Treasurer Gary Lee, President William Marquart, 3rd District Commander Louis LaFevre, Post Commander Robert LaDuke, Secretary Robert Brienza and Chaplain Clifford Brant, Sr.; missing from the photograph is Secretary Christopher Clingerman. The VFW Men's Auxiliary now has 48 members and is one of the first VFW Men's Auxiliaries formed in New York State.



On January 8th, 2004, amidst our snow, subzero temperatures and frosty winds, New York State Senator Joe Robach paid a visit to Veterans of Foreign Wars Post and Auxiliary Keith Miller #6595 located on Jay Street, Rochester, NY. Attending this meeting were several Post and Auxiliary members including: Betty Lingard, Auxiliary President; Don Leiske, Commander of the Post; and Richard Gross, Monroe County Commander, VFW.

Wings of Hope

By Francis X. Curran

They stormed ashore on a beach named Hell
Bullets and shrapnel humming death's song
Looking over to where a Marine just fell
Calling for a Corpsman in a voice once strong

Praying for a helping hand

Staring into a fading smoke-filled sky

Life's blood staining the hot wet sand

Marine, I will not let you die

And as he struggles with life's fading breath

A young man races to his aid

Dodging the stinging messengers of death

Doing his damndest to ply his trade

This hero kneels at death's dark door

Tends the wound and pulls him from the sea

Knowing that this day there will be many more

But today God will hear this brave man's plea

And as I looked around again

My mind filled with many things

But I want to make this one thing plain

Despite the panic and the fear this thing

I saw I still hold dear

The bravest act I've ever seen

By this sailor who wears Marine Corps green

And this I swear and swear again

The Corpsman turned his back and then

The sight I saw I still see yet

And I pray to God that I won't forget

As through danger zones I grope

The day a Corpsman sprouted angel wings of hope.

Dedicated to all U.S. Navy Corpsmen
SSgt. Francis X. Curran 647398 USMC (Ret.)



District #2 POWS/MIA Ceremony – Steve Brundage, POW/MIA “State Vice Chairman and Guest Speaker Cadet Grace Chung, West Point



Left to right: Cliff Lockwood, Co-Chair N.Y.S. VFW Legislative Committee; William J. Larkin, Jr., Senator 39th District Veterans Military Affairs Committees; Jim Wilson, American Chairman 2003-04 spoke for Purple Heart Museum/Hall of Honor



Post #2332, Johnson City – Left to right: Dorolyn Perry, Richard Slate, George Clancey, Principal, St. James Middle School; and Wayne Felshem, Commander, donating a flag to the school.



Past Commander Hal Burke is flanked by two friends who just finished the OTI self-grading test – and passed. They include Bob Mace (left) from Post 1498 and Ed Donovan from Post 7466.



Post #2472 Kenmore – \$3,000.00 in Poppy Program (a record) – The current officers’ names are as follows (from left to right): Jerry Keohane, Aide-De-Camp; Frank C. Schulz, Commander; Dominic A. Lorigo, Quartermaster; Harris H. Bartz, Senior Vice Commander; Clayton J. Burden, Junior Vice Commander; John F. Fitch, Chaplain; and Walter R. Jansen, Adjutant



Post #113, Cazenovia – Clifford Bruinsma’s sister accepts a Korean War Medal. Cliff was a K.I.A. March 26, 1951, 1987th A.B.N. Division.



Post #634, York – The swearing in of our Post’s officers recently at our annual dinner meeting. Western County Council Commander-Elect Bill Boyd did the honors of administering the oath of office and appears in the far right of the picture; next to him going right to left are 2nd Vice Bob Barrett, Quartermaster Paul Week Trustee Brian Montgomery, Chaplain Joe Vogel, Adjutant Tom Tiede, Officer of the Day Art Lane, 1st Vice Stan Lubanski, Commander Paul Klock, George Silfies, Service Officer Leo Cichelli, and Trustee Carmen Gallo.



Left to right: Jeffrey Benka, St. Albans VA Assistant Chief, Voluntary Services and Willie Barks, Post #2813, Sunnyside; Willie is the # 1 Volunteer.



Post #2332, Johnson City – darn nice picture and project!