

May 17, 2024

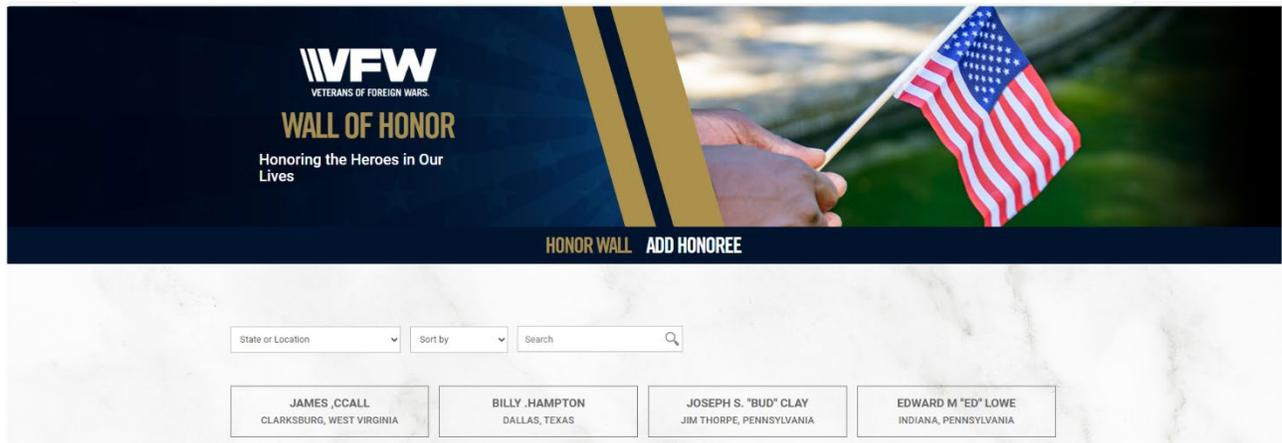
General Counsel

- “Return the Favor” has been filed with the United States Patent and Trademark Office as a registered trademark of the VFW. Return the Favor™ is VFW’s current campaign to raise funds for National Veterans Services.
- VFW submitted its fourth Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request to VA requesting documentation about unaccredited companies that provide services to claimants seeking VA benefits. We have received two interim responses from VA to date on this request and anticipate additional responses to be forthcoming. Among the documents provided is a letter sent to a company called REE Medical, dated January 4, 2024, in which VA points out that REE Medical is prohibited from assisting in the “preparation, presentation, or prosecution of VA benefits claims.” VA requested a response from REE Medical within 30-days of receipt of the letter to address the concerns raised in the letter. No response was provided in the documents received.
- VFW has filed its Motion to Dismiss in response to Patriot Angels’ defamation lawsuit. The matter relates to the fact that VFW expressed its opinion through various publications that certain non-VA accredited companies, affectionately referred to as “Claim Sharks,” including Patriot Angels, are preying on veterans. The lawsuit alleges VFW defamed Patriot Angels. VFW’s Motion to Dismiss is based on the fact that the statements at issue are First Amendment-protected opinion and hyperbole and cannot form the basis of a libel claim and that VFW’s designation of Patriot Angels as a “Claim Shark” is protected opinion based on disclosed facts.

Contact: VFW General Counsel John Muckelbauer, JMuckelbauer@vfw.org.

Development

As Memorial Day swiftly approaches, I extend an invitation to honor a hero in your life by adding their name to the VFW Wall of Honor. This campaign was sent out to VFW supporters at the end of April and names can continue to be added through Memorial Day. Visit by clicking [VFW Wall of Honor](#) to add your honoree. You can toggle between Honor Wall where you can view the other honorees listed or click on Add Honoree to add your hero. Please note, upon submitting your honoree, you’ll be directed to a donation page; however, contributing is optional, and your honoree will still be listed regardless.



This week's Development Campaigns are listed below:

- May 14 Appeal:
 - o Planned Giving eNews to select recipients of Friends of Freedom.
- May 15 Appeal:
 - o Military Appreciation Month matching gift email #2 to all Friends of Freedom.
- May 17 Appeal:
 - o May acquisition #1 reminder email #1 to all recipients of acquisition package.
 - o Urgent gram matching gift extension to member and nonmember donors.
- May 18 Appeal:
 - o April reminder with nickels and check to lapsed nonmember donors.

Contact: VFW Development Director Kelly Jones, KellyJones@vfw.org.

Human Resources

- Positions Actively Recruiting For:
 - o Part-time Shipping Receiving Clerk – K.C. Office.
 - o Member Services Advisor – K.C. Office.
 - o Assistant Director, Administrative Operations – K.C. Office.
 - o Administrative Specialist, QMG – K.C. Office.

Contact: VFW Human Resources Director Sari Maple, SMaple@vfw.org.

Programs

- VFW National Convention 2nd Annual Cornhole Tournament:

Please encourage our members to register teams and participate in the 2nd annual VFW Cornhole Tournament taking place at the 125th VFW National Convention in Louisville!

The series will take place on Sunday, July 28, and Monday, July 29, 2024. All proceeds from the competition go to VFW PACT Act benefit assistance. For more information and to sign up for this event, visit <https://kccrew.com/leagues/vfwcornholetournament/>.

Contact: VFW Programs Director Lynn W. Rolf, III, LRolf@vfw.org.

Administrative Operations

- There are currently 42 Posts under suspension, three of which are new. The organization has 5,635 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 21 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 13 Administrative Removals/Actions and 12 membership eligibility challenges.
- Currently Administrative Operations has 119 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review, 11 of which are new; current turnaround time on Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions is approximately 45-60 days.

Election Reports:

2024-2025 Election reports have been mailed out. Per the Bylaws and Manual of Procedures, Posts should have opened nominations for the upcoming year in March and closed the nominations and elections of Post Officers in April. To access the election report online; sign into VFW.org and proceed to My VFW. Select Online Membership System (OMS), then press the drop-down menu on the left side of the screen for Election Report and select Post Election Report Filing.

The 2024-25 Election Report is now available in OMS. Please ensure when you file your Election Report for the new term that you have selected 2024-25 from the drop-down option as OMS will typically default to the current term.

NOTE: The National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure require a properly completed Election Report for the ensuing year to be submitted to Department and National Headquarters by June 1, 2024.

Department Proof of Eligibility:

With the start of Department Conventions right around the corner I wanted to remind everyone of the requirement to submit proof of eligibility for all newly elected Junior Vice Commanders and any elected Department Quartermasters or appointed Department Adjutants who are new to their position this coming year (2024-25).

Additionally, proof of eligibility for any new Department Commanders or Senior Vice Commanders, who for whatever reason were not in the line of succession the previous year, to which we already have proof of eligibility on file.

This proof of eligibility must be submitted to the Adjutant General pursuant to Section 516 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure.

This must be done after officers are installed and prior to National Convention and is most easily completed by sending documentation via email to Joseph Wolfgeher at JWolfgeher@vfw.org.

Department Approved Resolutions and Amendments:

This is a reminder to please send your Department-approved resolutions and/or amendments that require action to the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual Committee prior to the National Convention and immediately following the close of your Department Convention.

In order to meet the requirements mentioned in Article XIV of the National Bylaws/Manual of Procedure, stating “All proposed amendments will be available to Posts by the Adjutant General at least fifteen (15) days before the assembling of the National Convention for those amendments being proposed for consideration at the convention.”

It is extremely important we receive these documents within two (2) days from the conclusion of your Department Convention. A response is required even if your Department does not have any resolutions/amendments to submit.

Please send the electronic version (word document) to TGniotczynski@vfw.org.

Contact: VFW Administrative Operations Director Quentin Carroll, QCarroll@vfw.org.

Membership

- This is a busy time for membership drives. Make sure your recruiting events are set up for success. If you need assistance to fund a recruiting event, please have your Department leadership reach out to us in Membership at membership@vfw.org or 888.564.6839.
- If you have questions about Memstats, Post Query, or if you are trying to charter a Post and you have more than 15 members on a charter application, call Matt Nute at 816.968.1122. We have many resources available to help you.
- Need recruiting training/resources?! If you have a topic for training, we would love to hear from you! Contact us by emailing, Membership@vfw.org. Follow our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/VFWmembership>.

Contact: VFW Membership Interim Director Corey Hunt, CoreyHunt@vfw.org.

Meetings and Events

- Ongoing, exhibitor requests processed into eShow for Louisville 2024. To date, 81 total booths represent revenues of \$102,246.75. **Note:** There are outstanding monies due included in the total. Continuing to follow-up on these amounts.
- Saturday, May 11, worked with Taylor to do Kentucky Convention Center resume (meeting specs/assignments) for meeting and activities space at convention center. 85+ page document that requires no interruptions and total focus. Meeting with AG on 5/14 to review

and answer any questions in this regard. Documents will then be sent to the events manager at the center to confirm space assignments.

- Ongoing, working with Taylor on processes within department.
- Scheduled weekly meetings with Taylor and reviewing monthly items that need attention as it pertains to the overall meetings/events department. Document addresses major items required of the director's position on a monthly basis – standard operating procedure type of document.
- Taylor finalized the 2025 Washington Conference contract with legal and Hyatt Regency Crystal City. On hold to finalize some outstanding details with the hotel.
- Finalizing miscellaneous contracts with legal for future meetings.

Contact: VFW Meetings and Events/Exhibits Director Vanessa Kane, CMP, CMM,
VKane@vfw.org.

VFW Foundation

- The Burger King®/VFW Unmet Needs fundraising campaign continues until May 31. Customers will be able to donate a dollar or round up their purchase price. Since 2007, Burger King Franchisees have raised nearly \$7.5 million in support of the Unmet Needs program which provides financial aid grants to veterans, service members and their families who are experiencing unexpected financial difficulties. Nearly 1,150 Burger King Franchise restaurants are participating in this year's campaign. [Find a participating restaurant near you across the U.S.](#) Any questions can be directed to VFW Foundation Donation Specialist Renee Martin at RMartin@vfw.org.
- Ace Hardware® is collaborating with the VFW once again this year to honor the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country by giving away 1 million American flags nationwide on Saturday, May 25. Consumers who visit a participating Ace store on May 25 will receive a free 8" x 12" American flag while quantities last. A second flag will be donated to a local VFW Post to be used for marking and honoring veterans' graves this Memorial Day. Last year, over 500,000 American flags were given away to customers at Ace stores nationwide. In addition, Ace sent 562,000 flags to more than 1,700 VFW Posts for placement on veterans' graves.
- On Thursday, May 9, representatives from Cornerstone Caregiving, a national leader in the senior homecare industry with more than 150 locations in 33 states, presented a \$50,000 donation to the VFW Foundation in support of VFW programs. The company has also provided another generous \$50,000 gift to VFW Posts in communities near their locations.

Contact: VFW Foundation Director of Donor Relations Richard Freiburghouse,
RFreiburghouse@vfw.org.

National Legislative Service

- Senate Round Table on Women Veterans: Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs Chairman Jon Tester hosted a roundtable with veteran organizations to discuss improving health care

and resources for women veterans. VFW National Legislative Service Deputy Director Kristina Keenan presented the VFW's views on challenges women veterans experience with VA health care, disability claims related to military sexual trauma, improvements needed during transition from military to civilian life, and suicide prevention. She noted, "At the last hearing before this committee, VA officials stated that women veteran enrollees in VA health care have tripled since 2001. VA must take this into consideration when requesting funding, especially for more health care providers, peer support specialists, and training."

Contact: VFW National Legislative Service Director Patrick Murray, PMurray@vfw.org.

National Veterans Service

- NVS leadership met with Humana regarding future strategies, their continued support of NVS, and Memorial Day support at the Grand Ole' Opry.
- NVS leadership met with the Government Accountability Office about contracted medical examination oversight.
- NVS attended the VA PACT Act Dashboard Demonstration.
- VFW's NVS Pre-Discharge representatives briefed transitioning service members on VA benefits at military installations across the country.
- NVS health leadership discussion with Lykos about FDA advisory committee meeting for MDMA.
- NVS health team participated in the biweekly ATLAS meeting.
- NVS health team participated in the Sec VA townhall meeting and a briefing on Social Security benefits.
- NVS health team attended a maternal mental health meeting with VA.
- NVS health team attended a Joint Survivor's Forum.

Contact: VFW National Veterans Service Director Michael Figlioli, MFiglioli@vfw.org.

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