

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MONTHLY UPDATE



Dec. 13, 2024

Greetings,

We hope you enjoy this issue of the National Council Monthly Update summarizing the pertinent happenings of your VFW departments.

The Council Monthly will resume on Jan. 10, 2025. May your holidays be joyful!

From the Office of the Adjutant General

We had a successful planning meeting with National Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Carol Whitmore in planning for next year's operations. We also have been informed of some issues with our agreement with TikTok based on the recent court rulings that we are currently evaluating. We will have reduced hours of operation during the Christmas and New Year's holidays with only a skeleton crew here in the building. I wish each and every one of you a joyous and warm Christmas and New Year's.

Dan West
Adjutant General

Development

Another successful month of fundraising is officially in the books! Our November goal was set at \$6.4 million, and we closed out the month at \$7.3 million. This achievement is a testament to the dedication and generosity of VFW's supporters.

Looking ahead, the VFW's Year-End Campaign is now underway and will run through Dec. 31. This year's goal is \$1.2 million, slightly higher than last year's outcome of just over \$1 million. Your help in sharing this campaign on your social media channels would be invaluable. Every share will increase awareness and bring us closer to achieving our goal. Imagery and verbiage are below for ease of copying and sharing.



America's veterans need our help. More heroes are turning to the VFW for urgent assistance. Your generous support is the only way we can be here for them all. Please make a gift to our Year-End Campaign today. <https://heroes.vfw.org/page/158253/donate/1?ea.tracking.id=2024YECouncil>.

Additionally, we ventured into new territory with a texting campaign over Veterans Day. The initial results were very encouraging, as the campaign not only generated a net positive return but also appended 57,000 valid phone numbers to our donor file. This effort provides valuable data for our Planned Giving and Major Gifts Officers. With the texts we received back, we were able to also identify additional veterans in our non-member donor file. The promising outcome has paved the way for another test this month during our Year-End Campaign.

The internal RFP Review Committee is meticulously evaluating the finalists' presentations with the goal of recommending the agency best suited to ensure the continued growth and success of this vital revenue stream for the organization. A formal recommendation will be presented to the Adjutant General and Quartermaster General in the coming week.

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

Programs

- All-American Programmatic Requirements:
 - Post-level Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen entries must be entered by midnight on January 31. The system will not accept any further Post-level entries after the deadline.
 - The VFW Day of Service requirement is only for events that are conducted in May. Sign up at todaysvfw.org/vfw-day-of-service/.



[VFW Day of Service - #StillServing](#)

The VFW Day of Service is an outgrowth of VFW's #StillServing campaign which highlights the countless ways veterans continue to serve in communities across America.

todaysvfw.org

- National VFW Awards Reminder:

Adjutant General Dan West has asked for your recommendations for these VFW awards if you believe you have a worthy candidate.

The deadline for submissions is March 1, 2025.

The National Awards and Citations Committee will meet to discuss and choose award recipients for presentation at the 126th VFW National Convention in Columbus, Ohio, in 2025, upon approval from the National Council of Administration.

The nominations will only be accepted through the links provided below.

Description of each award is on the form provided:

[VFW Distinguished Fraternal Award](#)

[VFW Distinguished Patriotic Award](#)

[VFW Distinguished Historical Award](#)

[VFW Distinguished Citizenship Award](#)

[VFW Distinguished Educational Award](#)

[VFW Distinguished Service Award](#)

Questions can be submitted directly to Lynn Rolf at the email below or by phone at 816.968.1116 (off.) or 913.290.1754 (cell).

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

Human Resources

- New Hire:
 - Tiffany Cole is a new Internet Marketing Campaign and Special Online Projects Coordinator in the Development Department in the KC Office.
- Positions Actively Recruiting For:
 - National Pre-Discharge Claims Rep, National Veterans Services – Fort Campbell, Kentucky
 - Member Services Advisor, Membership and Member Services – KC Office

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

Membership and Member Services

- Our most recent Membership Monday webinar, “**The Importance of Buddy Checks,**” is available for view on the [VFW Membership Facebook page](#) or on the Training & Support page on vfw.org along with many other informational videos about all aspects of membership from recruiting and retention to interpreting Memstats reports. If you have requests or ideas for future training, email us at Membership@vfw.org.
- Membership numbers are on track to meet the 102% membership requirement set out by the Commander-in-Chief. If recruiting and retention remain steady, we will achieve success. If your Department is looking to take part in state-level events and would like support or possible reimbursement of costs, have your Department Quartermaster contact the Membership Department at 888.564.6839 or email us at Membership@vfw.org and we will discuss providing assistance.
- If your Posts, Districts, or Departments need membership brochures, applications, or supplies to fulfill their recruiting and retention goals, they can be ordered online through our website. Simply log into vfw.org, click on the “Membership Recruiting Brochures Order Form” link, and place an order.
- Please be advised that the Online Membership System (OMS) will be shutting down at 4:00 p.m. CST on Dec. 31, 2024. Any transactions that are submitted through OMS on Dec. 31, up to the closing time, will be posted to Memstats and Post Query later that evening and available for viewing the morning of Jan. 6, 2025.

- Mail received at National Headquarters prior to Dec. 27, 2024, will be processed and counted in the December total. The mail received after that date, regardless of the postmark date, will not be counted in the December total. We suggest you have your Posts mail in their membership as early as possible or take advantage of the Online Membership System tools.
- The OMS system will be back online for the submittal of transactions by 4:00 p.m. CST, Jan. 1, 2025; however, membership transactions that are processed will not be posted to Memstats until all pertinent data is secured and verified. This should occur on (or before) Jan. 6, 2025.

Contact: VFW Membership and Member Services Director David Prohaska, DProhaska@vfw.org.

Administrative Operations

- There are currently 40 Posts and one District under Department suspensions and one CIC suspension due to no election report:

State	Post	Charter city	Suspension expiration date
Arkansas	8532	Coal Hill	1.18.2025
California	1534	Desert Hot Springs	1.4.2025
California	1987	Blythe	2.19.2025
California	5551	Lucerne Valley	3.4.2025
California	6476	Colton	2.22.2025
California	8988	Bishop	12.17.2024
California	10694	Santa Ana	2.14.2025
Colorado	501	Denver	11.25.2024 - Pending Department request
Colorado	Dist. 4		1.13.2025
Connecticut	6990	Colchester	12.18.2024
Connecticut	10169	Durham	12.18.2024
Georgia	4583	Jesup	2.4.2025
Georgia	5456	Elberton	3.4.2025
Illinois	4826	Hoopeston	NCOA appeal
Iowa	6792	Nashua	11.30.2024
Louisiana	3686	Jennings	1.14.2025
Louisiana	7196	Franklinton	2.1.2025
Massachusetts	6536	South Boston	3.21.19 - Ongoing litigation
Massachusetts	9813	Holbrook	12.10.2024
Nebraska	8332	Arlington	1.15.2025
Nebraska	10724	Duncan	1.6.2025
New Jersey	2169	Millville	11.18.24 - CIC suspension
New Jersey	9563	Bellmawr	1.3.2025
New York	2354	Cortland	1.8.2025
Ohio	1079	Elyria	2.15.2025
Ohio	7200	West Farmington	1.15.2025
Oklahoma	1843	Glencoe	11.17.2024
Oklahoma	11194	Konawa	2.17.2025
Pennsylvania	554	Somerset	1.18.2025
Pennsylvania	3491	Carmichaels	1.23.2025
Tennessee	1733	Knoxville	Revocation hearing requested

Tennessee	5033	Pikeville	12.16.2024
Tennessee	9673	Ripley	12.10.2024 - Pend. req. for rev. hearing
Texas	4692	Bryan	1.29.2025
Texas	8552	Del Rio	1.24.2025
Texas	8925	Austin	2.25.2025
Virginia	1211	Virginia Beach	1.12.2025
Virginia	7969	Bland	2.21.2025
Wisconsin	8123	De Soto	1.17.2025
Wisconsin	10173	Delavan	1.24.2025
Wisconsin	10301	Racine	12.20.2024
Wyoming	2918	Torrington	1.25.2025

- There were two Post consolidations:

State	Post No.	Consolidated w/Post No.	Date Approved
North Dakota	4251	757	11.18.2024
Wisconsin	7037	1393	11.6.2024

- There were three defunct Posts:

State	Post No.	Termination Date
Illinois	728	11.14.2024
Rhode Island	2339	12.2.2024
South Carolina	6381	11.25.2024

- Administrative Operations is engaged in eight Article IX Disciplinary Actions:

- o Kentucky:
Post 5906 – pending review
- o New Jersey:
Post 3525 (Dept. Jr. Vice Commander) – request for hearing
- o Pennsylvania:
Post 1597 (Life member) – pending review
Post 1597 (Life member) – pending review
Post 1597 (Life member) – pending review
Post 1597 (Life member) – pending review
Post 1597 (Life member) – pending review
- o Texas:
Post 9180 (Life member) – restored membership

- There have been 11 administrative removals/actions:

- o Alabama:
Post 668 Commander – sent Dept. Commander’s rebuttal for reply
Post 668 Quartermaster – awaiting CIC’s decision
- o California:
Post 2987 Commander – awaiting possible appeal
Post 10694 Commander – awaiting possible appeal

- o Colorado:
District 4 Commander – awaiting possible appeal

- o Massachusetts:
Post 144 Commander – appeal sent to Dept. Commander for rebuttal
Post 144 Quartermaster – appeal sent to Dept. Commander for rebuttal
Post 144 Adjutant – appeal sent to Dept. Commander for rebuttal

- o New York:
Post 348 Commander – awaiting possible appeal
Post 5494 Commander – awaiting possible appeal

- o Tennessee:
Post 5266 Commander – sent appeal to Dept. Commander for rebuttal

- One pending 518:
 - o Oklahoma, Post No. 8706 - pending Department final report, *past due*

- Five Membership eligibility challenges since Nov. 4, 2024:

Member Name	Post No.	Dept	Due Date
Scott Munroe	9657	CA	12.10.2024
Kenneth Crowley	2976	OK	1.13.2025
Lynn Hiestler	9199	PA	1.7.2025
Ronald Redpath	9199	PA	1.13.2025
Susan Rogers	8664	NY	1.21.2025

- There have also been five voluntary resignations, two voluntary surrenders, and three reinstatements.

- Administrative Operations has 74 Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation submissions for review. Since Nov. 4, 2024, 119 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporations have been received, 92 have been approved and distributed, and three have been returned for corrections and resubmission through proper channels.

- There have been 16 total Charters from Nov. 4, 2024, produced:
 - o Two Post Consolidations
 - o One New Post Charter
 - o Five Post Replacements
 - o One District Replacement
 - o Seven Auxiliary Replacements

Dept	Post/District No.	Unit Designation	Document Type
GA	5659	Post	Replacement Charter
KS	8773	Post	Replacement Charter
GA	5448	Post	Replacement Charter
MO	2	District	Replacement Charter
WV	1976	Post	Replacement Charter
VT	2309	Post	Replacement Charter
IL	503	Auxiliary	Replacement Charter
MI	7309	Auxiliary	Replacement Charter

CT	9965	Auxiliary	Replacement Charter
WA	3057	Auxiliary	Replacement Charter
KS	3201	Auxiliary	Replacement Charter
SC	9273	Auxiliary	Replacement Charter
FL	8189	Auxiliary	Replacement Charter
WI	1393/7037	Post	Consolidation Charter
ND	757/4251	Post	Consolidation Charter
KY	12236	Post	New Charter

Department Inspections

- The following nine Departments have been identified and are scheduled for inspections. Those Departments that have been identified are as follows:
 - o Michigan – completed
 - o Delaware – completed
 - o Oklahoma – Dec. 11-13, 2024
 - o Mississippi – Jan. 7-9, 2025
 - o Utah – Jan. 22-24, 2025
 - o Pacific Areas – Feb. 5-7, 2025
 - o South Dakota – Feb. 24-26, 2025
 - o Washington – March 24-26, 2025
 - o Europe – April 22-24, 2025

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Quentin Carroll at QCarroll@vfw.org.

Meetings and Events

- Convention planning visit for Columbus in 2025:
 - o Conducted various meetings with participating hotels, convention center, and vendors.
 - o Identified meeting space and hotel assignments.
 - o Logistical planning with production and expo crew.
- Convention planning visit for Salt Lake City in 2026:
 - o Conducted various meetings with participating hotels, convention center, and vendors.
 - o Identified contractual needs to secure space and guestrooms.
- Completed site inspections to secure a location for Fall Legislative Conference in 2025.

Contact: VFW Meetings and Events Director Taylor Engle, TEngle@vfw.org.

Information Technology

- A PCI compliance review is in progress.

- We are working on a new MFA authentication configuration for the replacement of A2C.
- Proxy configuration is being done so DC staff can remote in directly to the DC office which should speed up connectivity.
- The Command Post system is progressing. They are breaking down different screens and reviewing database processes. We have a new logo for Command Post.
- There are 65 NVS laptops being replaced due to the end of life (EOL) cycle.
- Reconfiguring Mimecast is being done to block more spam and not legitimate emails.
- Both the DC and KC main servers are coming to the end of life (EOL), and IT is reviewing proposals for replacements.

Contact: VFW Information Technology Director Sean Barnes, SBarnes@vfw.org.

VFW Foundation

- On Nov. 1, VFW Foundation Grants Manager Chris Johnson and Foundation Consultant Tony Lowe joined Sport Clips CEO and VFW Foundation Board member Gordon Logan at Providence Country Club in Charlotte, North Carolina, for the largest golf fundraiser yet in support of the VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" program.

Hosted by Army veteran Darin Bailey, the event brought together veterans, supporters, and golf enthusiasts, all rallying to help student veterans achieve their educational dreams. For the second consecutive year, the event rose nearly \$90,000. Special thanks to the VFW Department of North Carolina Commander Annie Cummings and her dedicated team, who took time away from disaster relief efforts to support this event!

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

National Legislative Service

- VFW National Legislative Service Associate Director Nancy Springer provided a statement for the record for a House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs' hearing on a review of funeral operations at VA national cemeteries. [Read the testimony](#) or [watch the hearing](#), which begins at the 19:20 mark.
- VFW National Legislative Service Deputy Director Kristina Keenan spoke at the final event of the Servicewomen and Women Veterans Caucus of the 118th Congress, led by Reps. Chrissy Houlahan, Jen Kiggans, Derrick Van Orden, and Brad Wenstrup, all of whom are veterans. Keenan cited VFW-supported legislation — [H.R.3933](#), TAP Promotion Act, and [H.R.4157](#), Not Just a Number Act — that would improve the transition process and gather data regarding women veterans and suicide risks.
- The Senator Elizabeth Dole 21st Century Veterans Healthcare and Benefits Improvement Act, [H.R. 8371](#), passed in the House with a bipartisan vote of 389-9. See how your members of Congress [voted](#).

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

National Veterans Service

- With the holiday season quickly approaching, we here at NVS would like to wish you and your families a safe and joyous holiday season and ask that if you see a veteran in need, please remember to direct them to an accredited representative. A listing of accredited representatives can be found at vfw.org/assistance/va-claims-separation-benefits. Just use the “Find a Service Officer” tab on the right side of the screen to find an accredited representative in your area. With your help we may be able to make a veteran’s holiday a bit merrier.
- Below are some key items that NVS has been working on in the past month:
 - NVS Director Mike Figlioli accompanied Senior Vice Commander-in-Chief Carol Whitmore to Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii, for a command visit.
 - NVS Deputy Director Chris Macinkowicz and BVA Associate Director Jeff Wishneski met with Senate staff and other Veterans Service Organizations to discuss the current state of the VA appeals process.
 - NVS Assistant Director Cindy Noel discussed service members issues as part of a panel with The Hill, “Veterans Voices.” You can watch the video here thehill.com/video-clips/4986670-watch-live-the-hill-events-veterans-voices/.
 - NVS Assistant Director Cindy Noel talked with the executive director of the Army Transition Assistance Program about how the VFW can assist service members youtube.com/live/MjeRqqAOsT4.
 - NVS leadership conducted a site visit at our BDD office, Fort Liberty, North Carolina, (formerly Fort Bragg).
 - NVS BDD reps briefed transitioning service members on VA benefits at military installations across the country. To find a BDD rep location visit vfw.org/bdd.
 - NVS leadership participated in a VA Under Secretary for Health meeting.
 - NVS leadership participated in a VA Caregiver Support Program update. Information on the VA’s Caregiver program can be found here caregiver.va.gov/.
 - NVS health participated in a listening session about the use of alternative therapy for PTSD. In December, VA released a statement that they will fund a study on MDMA-assisted therapy for PTSD and alcohol use disorder for veterans news.va.gov/press-room/va-funds-first-study-on-psychedelic-assisted-therapy-for-veterans/
 - NVS quality assurance team conducted Department Service Office visits to Virginia and Connecticut.
 - NVS health participated in the biweekly VA ATLAS meeting.

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

Veterans of Foreign Wars, 406 W.
34th Street, Kansas City, Mo 64111
© 2024 All rights reserved. | ®™ SM
Trademarks and service marks of VFW.



VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

