

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MONTHLY UPDATE



March 14, 2025

Greetings,

We hope you enjoy this issue of the National Council Monthly Update summarizing the pertinent operations at VFW National Headquarters over the last month.

National Legislative Service

- **VFW National Commander Testifies Before Congress:** VFW National Commander Al Lipphardt testified before a joint hearing of the Senate and House Committees on Veterans' Affairs. [Read the testimony](#) or [watch the hearing](#), which begins at the 15:14 mark.
- **VFW Testifies on Claim Sharks Legislation:** VFW National Legislative Director Pat Murray testified at a House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs hearing on the disagreement about fees for services rendered in the preparation of initial and supplemental claims for veterans' benefits. [Read the testimony](#) or [watch the hearing](#), which begins at the 8:34 mark.
- **VFW National Commander Meets with VA Secretary:** VFW National Commander Al Lipphardt and VFW Washington Office Executive Director Ryan Gallucci met with VA Secretary Doug Collins to share the VFW's concerns and priorities. Lipphardt emphasized that the VFW would hold him to his commitment not to reduce care or benefits for veterans with the new directives.

Contact: VFW National Legislative Service Director Kristina Keenan, KKeenan@vfw.org.

General Counsel

Music Licensing for Posts:

I have been contacted recently by Posts in different Departments with concerns about being contacted by a company regarding the need to obtain a license to play music.

The issue is that these Posts, which were open to the public, are playing music without the required license from a Performing Rights Organization (PROs), which collect and distribute royalties to songwriters, composers and music publishers when their music is publicly performed/played.

ASCAP (American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers), BMI (Broadcast Music International) and SESAC (Society of European Stage Authors and Composers) are the three largest PROs that are charged with collecting royalties for songwriters and publishers for "public performances" of songs in their respective catalogs. Whether your taste in music ranges from Billie Eilish to Englebert Humperdinck, Posts should be licensed to play it.

If the Post is generally open to the public, then it is considered a business with all strings attached. For music, the Posts do not own the rights to play the songs to the public (commercial use). That is a matter of licensing.

If you neglect the requirements that pertain to playing music in your Post and just turn a device on and play what you want, you open your Post to legal claims by music rights holders, which could be very costly.

If you have any doubt as to whether you need to adhere to copyright laws, I draw your attention to the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure, at Sec. 218, 418, 518, and 618 that requires Commanders to, “Insist that that the business and activities of the organization are conducted in such a manner that they do not violate any applicable governmental law, ordinance or regulation or bring or tend to bring dishonor or embarrassment on this organization.” Copyright laws are applicable laws.

I found the attached link that breaks this information down pretty well. Despite some grammar and spelling errors, it is fairly comprehensive: [Music Licensing for Bars and Restaurants: What You Need to Know | Bar Marketing - Bar Business - Opening a Bar - Bar Owner.](#)

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

Development

In February, we exceeded our goal of \$5,053,098 by \$159K, marking a strong close to our peak mailing season, which runs from September through January. As we transition into a slower period, even minor disruptions can have a greater impact on our ability to meet monthly targets. Looking ahead, our goal for March is set at \$5.2M, and we have already secured slightly over \$1M in the first week. We continue to closely monitor USPS deliverability, as their operations play a critical role in our success. Not only do we rely on USPS to deliver our outreach mailings, but we also depend on them to ensure donations reach our caging facility in a timely manner.

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

Programs

- All-American Programmatic Requirements:
 - 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 the VFW's #StillServing campaign which highlights the countless ways veterans continue to serve in communities across America.

todaysvfw.org

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

Human Resources

- **Positions Actively Recruiting For:**

- o Corporate Relations Manager, Foundation – KC Office
- o Corporate Accounts Manager, Foundation – KC Office
- o Director, Corporate and Foundation Relations, Foundation – KC Office
- o Staff Writer, Publications Division of Marketing Communications Department – KC Office
- o Pre-Discharge Ratings Rep, National Veterans Services – Remote
- o Administrative Specialist, AG’s Office – KC Office
- o Senior Application Developer, IT – KC Office

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

Meetings and Events

- The VFW National Conventions in 2029 and 2030 have been narrowed down to four cities: Reno, Philadelphia, Baltimore and New Orleans. There will be an additional Time and Place Committee Meeting to report all findings from the site visits and make the decision on a location for 2029 and 2030 that will take place in May. The Committee will present the selection at the outgoing COA Meeting at the 126th VFW National Convention on Aug. 9, 2025.
- The 126th VFW National Convention Awards Banquet will be held at the Greater Columbus Convention Center on Monday, Aug. 11, 2025. Ticket sales will open to all on March 18, 2025, with the information available on the VFW National website at vfw.org/Convention.
- Reservations for guestrooms at the VFW 126th National Convention in Columbus, Ohio, Aug. 9-13, will be open March 18, 2025. If you want to ensure you are booked within your Department block, you should book your room before April 30, 2025. We will not have rooms designated for each Department at a specific hotel after April 30, so if you book after that date, you can choose any of the hotels (Hyatt, Hilton or Sonesta) that have availability through the housing link which will be available on March 18, 2025, on the VFW National website at vfw.org/Convention.

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

Membership and Member Services

- Membership growth remains on track to meet the Commander-in-Chief’s 102% membership requirement for this year. We need to keep up the effort we have shown thus far in recruiting and retention, and we will make this year a successful one.
- Did you know that 83% of eligible veterans are not yet VFW members? Our most recent Membership Monday training covered **“Finding New Members – how to use available tools and strategies to find those potential members in our communities and bring them in to strengthen our ranks.”** You can find this training video online at vfw.org on the Training & Support page. You can also follow our [VFW Membership Facebook page](#) for upcoming training, contests, and important membership announcements.

- 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. If your Department has a potential recruiting event you would like our assistance in facilitating, please contact us at membership@vfw.org.

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

Administrative Operations

- There are currently 50 Posts and one District under Department suspensions:

State	Post	Charter city	Suspension expiration date
Arizona	7401	Chandler	5.4.2025
Arizona	12031	Anthem	5.21.2025
Arkansas	8532	Coal Hill	3.18.2025
California	1534	Desert Hot Springs	1.4.2025
California	6476	Colton	5.22.2025
California	10694	Santa Ana	5.14.2025
Connecticut	6990	Colchester	3.18.2025
Connecticut	10112	Cos Cob	4.25.2025
Georgia	4583	Jesup	5.1.2025
Georgia	5456	Elberton	6.4.2025
Louisiana	3686	Jennings	5.14.2025
Louisiana	4858	Many	5.5.2025
Louisiana	7287	Coushatta	5.5.2025
Louisiana	7755	Bourg	5.14.2025
Maryland	1858	Baltimore	4.8.2025
Maryland	8097	Elkridge	4.8.2025
Maryland	10078	Baltimore	4.8.2025
Massachusetts	144	Boston	3.17.2025 (Pend req for revocation hearing)
Massachusetts	2017	Dedham	4.15.2025
Massachusetts	2902	West Roxbury	4.15.2025
Massachusetts	6536	South Boston	Ongoing litigation
Massachusetts	9566	Dalton	4.7.2025
Massachusetts	9813	Holbrook	3.10.2025
Nebraska	8332	Arlington	3.15.2025
Nebraska	9897	Valley	4.15.2025
Nebraska	10045	Deweese	4.15.2025
New York	348	Syracuse	4.14.2025
North Dakota	Dist. 8		5.1.2025
Ohio	3307	Youngstown	6.4.2025
Ohio	3494	Mansfield	5.14.2025
Ohio	8673	Springfield	4.23.2025
Ohio	9716	Streetsboro	4.22.2025
Oklahoma	382	El Reno	5.2.2025
Pennsylvania	6555	Sagamore	4.19.2025
South Carolin	641	Columbia	5.19.2025

Tennessee	1733	Knoxville	3.25.2025
Tennessee	5266	Morristown	4.6.2025
Texas	4692	Bryan	4.29.2025
Texas	8552	Del Rio	4.24.2025
Texas	8621	Alice	3.18.2025
Texas	8911	Fort Worth	5.4.2025
Texas	8925	Austin	5.25.2025
Texas	9191	Killeen	4.6.2025
Virginia	176	Newport News	5.13.2025
Virginia	6000	Narrows	4.15.2025
Virginia	7969	Bland	2.21.2025
Wisconsin	1866	Marshfield	5.26.2025
Wisconsin	5470	Whitewater	5.26.2025
Wisconsin	8123	De Soto	4.17.2025
Wisconsin	10430	Clinton	5.12.2025

- There were two Post Consolidations:

State	Post No.	Consolidated w/Post No.	Date Approved
Nebraska	10724	3704	2.11.25
New Jersey	10122	2230	2.26.25

There were six Defunct Posts:

State	Post No.	Termination Date
Massachusetts	3276	3.5.2025
North Carolina	9841	2.24.2025
Ohio	7200	3.5.2025
Oklahoma	11194	2.12.2025
Texas	8791	2.12.2025
Virginia	10387	2.25.2025

There was one new Post:

State	City	Date Instituted	Post No.
Kentucky	Stanford	3.1.2025	12240

- Administrative Operations is engaged in six Article IX Disciplinary Actions:
 - o Idaho:
Post 3622 Life member – disciplinary action
 - o North Carolina:
Post 2573 Life member – disciplinary action
 - o Ohio:
Post 4044 Life member – disciplinary action
 - o Texas:
Post 9191 Life member – request for hearing
Post 9191 Life member – request for hearing

- o Washington:
Post 91 Life member – request for hearing

- Five Administrative Removals/Actions:

Colorado:

District 4 Commander – awaiting CIC’s decision

Massachusetts:

Post 144 Commander – 30 days to appeal CIC’s decision

Post 144 Quartermaster – 30 days to appeal CIC’s decision

Post 144 Adjutant – 30 days to appeal CIC’s decision

Tennessee:

Post 5266 Commander – awaiting CIC’s decision

- One CIC Investigation:

Department of Utah

- Four Membership eligibility challenges since Feb. 6, 2025:

Member Name	Post No.	Dept	Due Date
Laronia Neu	6018	NC	3.7.2025
Paul Melies	1022	KS	3.13.2025
Michael Lee	3848	NV	4.24.2025
Duane Taylor	5137	OH	4.25.2025

- There have also been seven voluntary resignations, two voluntary surrenders and two reinstatements.
- Administrative Operations has 34 Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation submissions for review. Since Feb. 6, 2025, 64 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporations have been received, 84 have been approved and distributed, and seven have been returned for corrections and resubmission through proper channels.
- There have been nine total Charters from Feb. 6, 2025, produced:
 - o Two Post Name Changes
 - o Two Replacement Charters
 - o Two Post Perpetual Charters
 - o Three Consolidation Charters

Dept	Post/District No.	Unit Designation	Document Type
PA	6613	Post	Name Change Charter
MS	3937/2434	Post	Consolidation Charter
CT	201/597	Post	Consolidation Charter
NE	3704/10724	Post	Consolidation Charter
NJ	10117	Post	Replacement Charter
FL	9226	Post	Name Change Charter
CA	3010	Post	Replacement Charter
OR	9670	Post	Perpetual Charter

WA	12228	Post	Perpetual Charter
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Department Inspections

- The following nine Departments have been identified and are scheduled for inspections:
 - o Michigan – completed
 - o Delaware – completed
 - o Oklahoma – completed
 - o Mississippi – completed
 - o Utah – completed
 - o Pacific Areas – completed
 - o South Dakota – completed
 - o Washington – March 24-26, 2025
 - o Europe – April 7-9, 2025

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

VFW Foundation

- On Feb. 20, 2025, representatives from the VFW Foundation, VFW and corporate partner Humana convened for our annual strategy meeting to strengthen collaboration and communication. The discussion centered on key shared priorities, including enhancing support for the veteran community, expanding NVS outreach, planning for the VFW National Convention and VFW Day of Service, advancing the Uniting to Combat Hunger & Homelessness (UTCH) campaign, and reinforcing partnerships to optimize resources for veterans in need.
- The VFW Foundation is proud to report that we secured critical sponsorships for the 2025 VFW Washington Conference. Through the generosity of our dedicated partners, nearly \$190,000 was raised to directly support key events including the Voice of Democracy® Parade of Winners, VFW/SVA Fellows Dinner and the Commander-in-Chief reception. VFW Foundation Consultant Tony Lowe, with assistance from Grants Coordinator Chris Johnson, managed this extraordinary effort.

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

National Veterans Service

The Washington Conference is always a busy and productive time for NVS, and this year's was no different. We'd like to thank everyone who came out to Washington, D.C., and look forward to seeing you again soon. As always, if you see a veteran in need, direct them to an accredited representative so that they can receive assistance. A listing of accredited representatives can be found at vfw.org/NVS. Just use the "Find a Service Officer" tab on the right side of the screen to find an VFW Accredited Representative in your area.

The deadline for submitting nominations for the John A. Biedrzycki Accredited Service Representative of the Year Award for 2024-2025 is April 30, 2025. Each Department Commander may nominate one eligible individual for this award. The individual who is ultimately chosen as the recipient of the award will be furnished round trip travel (for the winner and one guest) and two nights hotel accommodations to attend the VFW National Convention where the award will be presented. In addition, the award recipient will receive \$599 in recognition of their accomplishments and to offset travel expenses. We encourage every Department to put forth a candidate. A nomination shows that Department leadership is aware of the significant

contributions service representatives make in your community. Nominations can be submitted to NVS via email to taldana@vfw.org by no later than April 30.

Below is a snapshot of what we've accomplished this month:

- NVS Director Mike Figlioli assisted with the Commander-in-Chief's testimony before a special joint hearing of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs, providing technical advice during both preparation and the hearing.
- NVS leadership held the semiannual NVS Advisory Committee meeting during the Washington Conference.
- NVS provided airport escort support and helped chaperone the 2025 Voice of Democracy scholarship winners during their trip to D.C. to receive their awards and participate in the Parade of Winners.
- NVS director and deputy director attended the VFW/Humana 2025 strategic planning meeting.
- VFW's pre-discharge representatives briefed transitioning service members on VA benefits at military installations across the country.
- NVS BDD leadership briefed senior general officers at the Air Force TAP course.
- NVS BDD leadership briefed senior Navy Admirals at the Navy Yard.
- NVS BDD leadership briefed senior Army general officers throughout the month as they transitioned.
- NVS leadership attended the monthly VSO VBA Partnership and VSO Claims meetings and the new VA VSO Liaison sync meeting.
- NVS leadership participated in an Optum panel at the Society of Federal Health Professionals conference. Discussion centered around how to improve service members and families transition experience, health care and career success.
- NVS submitted comments on two Federal Register Notices.
- NVS health team participated in a Military Coalition Health Care committee discussing improvements in VA health.
- NVS health leadership participated in a VFW podcast talking about VA Voluntary Service and VA health care.
- NVS deputy director participated in a VFW Podcast discussing the current state of the PACT Act.

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

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