

# NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION WEEKLY UPDATE



Aug. 23, 2024

Greetings,

We hope you enjoy this week's National Council Weekly Update on the pertinent happenings of your VFW departments.

## **VFW Emblem & Supply**

- The VFW Store and Louisville Slugger have extended the offer to get a personalized bat with the 125th Anniversary logo by using this link [sluggermuseum.com/personalized-vfw-bat](http://sluggermuseum.com/personalized-vfw-bat). This is a limited time offer good through September 2, 2024.

Contact: VFW Store Director Hank Ellis, [Hank@vfw.org](mailto:Hank@vfw.org).

## **Information Technology**

- Command Post (Condado Project) Tasks:
  - o Schedule eCommerce POC demo.
  - o UX wireframe pre-design concepts.
  - o Reviewing all application requirements.
  - o Reviewing basis for security matrix areas.
  - o Collecting any remaining artifacts achievements
- Completed Tasks:
  - o Completed core base entity interactive representation layouts for the wireframe mockups and relational frameworks.
  - o Completed basis setup for security matrix layout review.
  - o Completed Command Post project dev pre-activity setup.
- Upcoming Tasks:
  - o Present eCommerce platform basic proof of concept.

- o Confirm to complete UX/UI design directions on eCommerce.
- o Begin interactive wireframe design discussions with IT.
- o Configure and address developmental components for application foundations.
- o Begin data architecture and planning for core element migrations.
- o Capture and address baselines for required system integrations.
- o Confirm to complete UX/UI design directions on Command Post.

The new AMS system is on track, and we are working through discovery and also reviewing daily functions.

Contact: VFW Information Technology Director Sean Barnes, [SBarnes@vfw.org](mailto:SBarnes@vfw.org).

### **Human Resources**

- Promotion:
  - o Cynthia Archuleta has been promoted to Regional Quality Assurance Specialist East in National Veteran Services in the D.C. Office.
- Positions Actively Recruiting For:
  - o National Pre-Discharge Claims Representative – Joint Base Andrews, Maryland.
  - o Member Services Advisor – K.C. Office.

Contact: VFW Human Resources Director Sari Maple, [SMaple@vfw.org](mailto:SMaple@vfw.org).

### **Membership**

- Membership is working hard to deliver All-American packets to Departments along with All-American Post citations for the 2023-2024 Membership year. Your patience is appreciated as we work through all 1,118 packages.
- As you begin to get your membership teams together, know there are great resources for you to use. Check out our learning & education on vfw.org under the Membership Recruiting and Retention Page **Home>MyVFW>VFW Training & Support**. Everything from recruiting training videos to learning about VFW eligibility can be found here. All learning resources are downloadable.
- Remember to see your CIC's National Membership Program on vfw.org under the Membership Recruiting & Retention Page. Find this year's membership objectives, incentives for membership growth, and All-American Program essential information for Post, District and Department levels all in one place.

- Find us on Facebook for more [VFW Membership](#) information.

Contact: VFW Membership Interim Director Corey Hunt, [CoreyHunt@vfw.org](mailto:CoreyHunt@vfw.org).

### **Meetings and Events**

- Continuing to receive and process final convention invoices from Louisville.
- Continuing to work with Taylor to do the final hand-off before I leave – 8.30.24.

Contact: VFW Meetings and Events/Exhibits Director Vanessa Kane, CMP, CMM, [VKane@vfw.org](mailto:VKane@vfw.org).

### **Administrative Operations:**

- There are currently 80 Posts under suspension, 49 of which are CIC suspensions due to no election report. The organization has 5,619 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 12 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, three Administrative Removals/Actions and 11 membership eligibility challenges.
- Currently Administrative Operations has 212 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review, 16 of which are new.

### **Department Inspections**

- As the 2024-2025 term is getting started, the following 10 Departments have been identified and are tentatively scheduled for inspections. We are currently working on availability, scheduling and logistics with hopes that the first inspection will take place in early October 2024. Special orders will be sent to each Department with instructions on the next steps once they have been officially scheduled. Departments that have been identified for inspections are as follows:
  - Western Conference:
    - o Pacific Areas
    - o Utah
    - o Washington
  - Eastern Conference:
    - o Europe
    - o Delaware
  - Southern Conference:
    - o Mississippi
    - o Oklahoma
  - Big 10 Conference:
    - o Michigan
    - o South Dakota
    - o Iowa

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Quentin Carroll at [QCarroll@vfw.org](mailto:QCarroll@vfw.org).

### **2023-2024 End of Year Roll Up:**

- Administrative Operations processed 262 total Post suspensions of which 155 were CIC suspensions due to no election reports for the 2023-24 & 2024-25 terms. There were 36 Post consolidations, 91 cancellation of Charters, and 13 new Posts processed and completed. Additionally, we issued 113 VFW Charters and 115 Auxiliary Charters for various reasons to include replacements, Post name or location changes, and Post consolidations.
- A total of 10 Department Inspections were scheduled and completed by the National Inspection team.
- A total of 107 Article IX Disciplinary Actions adjudicated: 63 officer removals, 22 - 518 letters, 87 eligibility challenges of which 73 were terminated due to ineligibility, four were found eligible, 48 voluntary resignations, 26 voluntary surrenders, and 13 reinstatements.
- 759 Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation have been received for review and approval during the 2023-2024 term.

Contact: VFW Administrative Operations Director Quentin Carroll, [QCarroll@vfw.org](mailto:QCarroll@vfw.org).

### **National Legislative Service**

- **Housing Program Expands to More Veterans:** The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has expanded the HUD-Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) program. When determining eligibility for supportive housing vouchers, VA disability benefits will no longer be considered income. This will enable more veterans to meet the income threshold required for the program. The VFW has been advocating for this change for years and commends HUD for making this adjustment to address veterans' housing needs. [Read more](#).
- **Expanded Benefits Access for Karshi-Khanabad Veterans:** VA has announced that veterans who served after Sept. 11, 2001, at Karshi-Khanabad (K2) base in Uzbekistan should soon receive expanded access to benefits. Taking steps to acknowledge the presence of various contaminants at K2 will enable VA to ensure appropriate health care and compensation for these veterans and their survivors. In comments regarding this expansion, VA Under Secretary for Benefits Joshua Jacobs explained, "At VA, our goal is to provide *every* veteran who served at K2 with the care and benefits that they deserve for their service to our nation — and that's what this effort is all about." [Read more](#) or find an [Accredited Service Officer](#) to assist in filing a claim.

Contact: VFW National Legislative Service Director Patrick Murray, [PMurray@vfw.org](mailto:PMurray@vfw.org).

### **National Veterans Service**

- NVS director participated in the VFW NVS BDD Office grand opening on Joint Base Pearl Harbor Hickam.

- NVS deputy director and assistant director for Training and Quality Assurance attended the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs Annual Training Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana.
- NVS leadership attended a monthly VA education briefing.
- NVS BDD leadership met with the executive director, Army TAP to discuss transition from active duty into civilian.
- NVS BDD reps briefed transitioning service members on VA benefits at military installations across the country.
- NVS BDD leadership briefed Army general officers at their TAP course.
- NVS health team met with Lykos for an update on MDMA-AT treatment for PTSD and FDA approval.
- NVS health team collaborated with VHA concerning veteran childcare program.
- NVS health team participated in the VA Research Advisory committee meeting.

Contact: VFW National Veterans Service Director Michael Figlioli, [MFiglioli@vfw.org](mailto:MFiglioli@vfw.org).

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