

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION WEEKLY UPDATE



Aug. 30, 2024

Greetings,

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

From the Office of the Adjutant General

Council workbooks for next week's meeting are available online in the document repository. The 2025 National Bylaws digital version is also available for download at vfw.org. We will have hard copies of both at the Council meeting next week.

Dan West
Adjutant General

Meetings and Events

- Aug. 30, 2024, is my last day with the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. as I am retiring. I want to take this opportunity to thank the VFW for providing me with this wonderful experience. I have loved my job and as I have always said, "I have the best job here!" I have worked with outstanding individuals from all facets of the organization. I hold fond memories of 26 conventions, a myriad of meetings over the years and the opportunities this position has afforded me. Thank you for your support over the years! I extend my best wishes and continued success to everyone! Blessings & Light!

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

Human Resources

- New Hire:
 - Russelle Dorman is a new Member Services Advisor in the Member Services Department in the K.C. Office.
- Positions Actively Recruiting For:
 - National Pre-Discharge Claims Representative – Joint Base Andrews, Maryland.
 - Member Services Advisor – K.C. Office.

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

Membership

- The 2024-2025 VFW National Membership Program is now available online. Find the National Membership Program on vfw.org, at the top of the Membership Recruiting & Retention Page. **Home>MyVFW>VFW Training & Support.**
- 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, give Matt Nute a call at 816.968.1122. We have many resources available to help you.
- Yes, it is true. The VFW National Membership department can reimburse Departments for membership event costs/fees. A request from the Department Quartermaster with event info/cost(s) is needed for approval. The request should provide the type of event, how many veterans are expected to attend and to what extent the Department requesting funds is willing to cover for event costs. Event(s) must be approved by National Membership prior to the event taking place. Encourage Post leaders to start planning their springtime recruiting events now. Mitigate challenges early to ensure success! Order up-to-date recruiting materials on vfw.org. Don't forget we have some swag for your events as well.
- 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. Find us on Facebook for more [VFW Membership](#) information.

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

Administrative Operations:

- There are currently 70 Posts under suspension, 43 of which are CIC suspensions due to no election report. The organization has 5,611 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 12 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, three Administrative Removals/Actions and 10 membership eligibility challenges.
- Currently Administrative Operations has 184 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review, seven 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:
 - Pacific Areas
 - 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.

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.

Information Technology

- Condado Project:
 - o Met with the supply department to demonstrate a proof-of-concept store site. This will generate ideas and customizations.
- Current Tasks:
 - o UX wireframe design concepts and buildouts
 - o Environment access for dev/test action reviews

- o Breakdown reports for logical setup/inputs/outputs
- o Review all application requirements
- o Collect any remaining artifacts
- Completed Tasks:
 - o Review session with the magazine department
 - o Started reporting components reviews and breakdowns
 - o eCommerce POC overview
 - o Ecommerce demonstration
- Next Tasks:
 - o Confirm to complete UX/UI design directions on eCommerce
 - o Overview session for eCommerce platform basics
 - o Begin detailed wizard analysis for functions and interactions
 - o Begin data architecture and planning for core elements
 - o Begin capturing baseline components for system integrations
 - o Confirm to complete UX/UI design directions on Command Post

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

VFW Foundation

- The VFW is expanding its Unmet Needs program to be more than just a request for financial assistance as it currently exists. The expansion will allow for the inclusion of all programs that veterans have unmet needs in, like our National Veterans Service that provides assistance to veterans filing disability claims which can dramatically change the lives of veterans and their families. Last year VFW Accredited Service Officers recouped \$11.2 billion for veterans.
- The VFW Foundation received extremely positive feedback from the 125th VFW National Convention with strong commitments to support future initiatives and corporate partnerships. We are actively working to secure sponsorships for the upcoming September NVS Training Conference, the 2025 Washington Conference and initiatives in support of the VFW's Day of Service.

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

National Legislative Service

- **Grand Opening of VFW Pre-Discharge Claims Hawaii Office:** VFW National Veterans Service Director Mike Figlioli joined Chief of Force Development at the 647th Force Support Squadron Dr. William Kono, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam Commander Capt. Samuel White, and VFW Pre-Discharge Claims Representative Charles Tibbets for the grand opening of the VFW's newest pre-discharge claims office near Honolulu. If you're within 180 days of separating from the military, the VFW can help with your VA claim. [Learn more.](#)
- **VA Dashboard Shows PACT Act Performance:** In recognition of the second anniversary of the passage of the PACT Act (Public Law 117-168), VA has published a special issue of the [VA PACT Act Performance Dashboard](#) that shows statistics compiled over the past two years. Highlights include one million related claims VA has approved totaling \$6.8 billion, more than five million toxic exposure screenings, and an increase of nearly 186,000 new enrollees in VA health care. [Read more](#) about the expanded VA health care and benefits or find an [accredited representative](#) for claims assistance.

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

National Veterans Service

- NVS director will participate in a panel discussion on organizational goals and veterans benefits with the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs in Lexington, Kentucky.
- NVS leadership gave the K.C. development department an NVS overview.
- NVS BDD reps briefed transitioning service members on VA benefits at military installations across the country.
- NVS BDD leadership attended a Wounded Warrior partnership event.
- NVS health leadership met with Mediflix about healthcare options for veterans.
- NVS health team participated in the VA advisory meeting for rehabilitation

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

Veterans of Foreign Wars
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Kansas City, Missouri 64111
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