

November 10, 2022

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

- In follow up to our implementation of the PACT Act, the VFW continues to encourage veterans and other claimants to work with VFW's Service Officers. We recognize that legal assistance will be needed for those addressing claims under the Camp Lejeune Justice Act (CLJA). We have established certain criteria for law firms wanting to represent veterans under the CLJA and are vetting law firms who we believe will serve the best interest of veterans. One such firm is Bergmann & Moore, a long-time partner of the VFW. We are currently in the process of vetting a second.

The VFW has also engaged a PACT Act/CLJA coordinator to assist in all aspects of coordinating its implementation.

- The VFW joined the National Association of Federally-Insured Credit Unions (NAFCU), the Defense Credit Union Council (DCUC) and CUNA Mutual Group in submitting a letter to the NCUA Board requesting that the NCUA amend the definition of "qualified charity" as it relates to Charitable Donation Accounts (CDAs) in Part 721.3 of NCUA regulations to include 501(c)(19) veterans' organizations.

Development

- Nov. 8 Appeal:
 - o Veterans Day matching gift email #4 to all Friends of Freedom.
- Nov. 10 Appeal:
 - o Veterans Day and Marine birthday Thank You eCard to Friends of Freedom identified as Marine veteran or active-duty military.
- Nov. 11 Appeal:
 - o Veterans Day matching gift a.m. email. #5 and p.m. email #6 to all Friends of Freedom.

- Nov. 12 Appeal:
 - October kitchen set reminder to lapsed nonmember donors.

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

Administrative Operations

- There are currently 56 Posts under suspension with four suspensions lifted since last week. We are working to institute one new Post; we are working two charter surrenders; we have completed four charter revocations pursuant to Sections 201, 210 and 212 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,780 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 15 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 26 administrative actions and seven membership eligibility challenges.
- We have 49 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review. Current turnaround time on Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions is approximately two weeks.
- In effort to reduce paper and expedite our process, Departments are encouraged to submit Post, District, and Department bylaws and Articles of Incorporation to Administrative Operations via email to our Post Records Coordinator April Ferreira (AFerreira@vfw.org). Additionally, submitted bylaws or articles in conflict with the National Bylaws will be returned to the unit (Departments will be cc'd) with a list of amendments and a digital copy of our template for resubmittal. For any questions regarding this change, please contact the Director below.

Contact: VFW Administrative Operations Director Johnathan Duncan, JDuncan@vfw.org.

Membership

Greetings from the Membership Department.

- In conjunction with this week's Veterans Day celebrations, we kicked off a mobile social media new member acquisition campaign to attract active-duty personnel. We are currently geofencing our efforts around the following military installations: Fort Bragg, North Carolina, Fort Hood, Texas, Norfolk Naval Base, Virginia, and Camp Humphreys, Korea.
- We are kicking off a lapsed member reactivation campaign the week of Nov. 14. All lapsed members who have a valid email and/or cell phone number will receive both an email and text message with a link to a video narrated by Adjutant General Dan West asking them to take a second look at our organization with a call to action to reactivate their memberships.

We want to wish all of you a happy and safe Veterans Day.

Contact: VFW Membership Director Rick Butler, RButler@vfw.org.

VFW Foundation

- Visit your local Sport Clips for a haircut from now until Nov. 12, 2022, and donate to the VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" program. Your donation will provide scholarships to service members and veterans. On Veterans Day, Nov. 11, Sport Clips is offering free haircuts to veterans and will donate \$2 to the VFW for every haircut given at nearly 1,900 locations nationwide.
- Also visit your local Burger King. Donate and show support to them for what they do for the Unmet Needs Program.

Contact: VFW Foundation Manager Richard Freiburghouse, RFreiburghouse@vfw.org.

National Legislative Service

- VA is honoring the estimated 5.5 million family members and friends who provide much-needed care for chronically ill, injured, or disabled veterans during National Family Caregivers Month. Resources for caregivers have significantly increased since the passage of the VFW-supported *VA Mission Act of 2018*. The [VA Caregiver Support Program](#) offers tools and information for caregivers and the veterans they serve. Additionally, [Building Better Caregivers](#) provides an online workshop with self-paced lessons and a connection with the caregiver community. [Learn more.](#)
- The VFW currently [supports 175 bills; and opposes one bill](#) pending before the 117th Congress.

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

National Veterans Service

- VFW's NVS Pre-Discharge representatives will be briefing transitioning service members on VA benefits at Fort Riley, Kansas, Joint Base Myer, Virginia, Joint Base Anacostia Bolling, D.C., Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, Fort Bliss, Texas, Fort Hood, Texas, and 160th SOAR Fort Campbell, Kentucky.
- The NVS Health Team will be participating in the Pact Act briefing.
- The NVS Health Team will be participating in the VA Caregiver Support Program Update meeting.
- NVS leadership will participate in the monthly VBA/VSO Partnership meeting to discuss VA policy changes and updates to include the PACT Act.
- NVS leadership will staff Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland's visit to Washington, D.C., for Veterans Day observances at the White House, Arlington National Cemetery, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall.
- Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland and select VFW Washington Office staff will attend the official United States Marine Corps Ball.

Contact: VFW National Veterans Service Director Ryan Gallucci, RGallucci@vfw.org.

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