

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION WEEKLY UPDATE



Nov. 17, 2023

Greetings,

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

Development

- Nov. 13 Appeal:
 - Giving Tuesday postcard to nonmember donors.
- Nov. 14 Appeal:
 - November acquisition package with nickel, coasters, and check.

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

Human Resources

- Positions Actively Recruiting For:
 - Part-time Shipping/Receiving Clerk – K.C. Office.
 - Maintenance Technician – D.C. Office.
 - Member Services Advisor – K.C. Office.

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

Administrative Operations

- Department Inspections: We are moving forward with the Department Inspection initiative for the 2023-2024 term and have plans to complete ten (10) inspections this year. The hope is that we will have the first inspection scheduled for the beginning of October and have all inspections completed by May 2024, prior to the start of Department conventions. In the coming weeks we will be reaching out to the Departments that have been selected by the Commander-in-Chief as well as the inspection team members to begin working through

availability and scheduling. Additionally, the inspection team will be conducting initial and refresher training in September before we start our schedule.

We look forward to another successful year of inspections and if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Quentin Carroll at QCarroll@vfw.org.

- There are currently 50 Posts under suspension, four of which are new. We have processed one Post consolidation pursuant to Section 209 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,664 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 10 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 12 Administrative Actions and 10 membership eligibility challenges.
- We have 49 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review, five of which are new; current turnaround time on Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions is approximately 30 days.

Contact: VFW Administrative Operations Associate Director Zach Schwenk, ZSchwenk@vfw.org.

Membership

- Your national membership team would like to wish you a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving holiday! As you travel and visit your Posts, help remind Posts to update their membership materials. Materials such as door hangers, fact sheets and other membership materials can be ordered on vfw.org anytime!
- Recruiting efforts remain high and are needed going into the holiday season, so keep the press on! Encourage Post leaders to start planning their spring-time recruiting events now. Mitigate challenges early to ensure success!
- Have you heard of the 8 Weeks of Christmas? See the flyer on the Membership Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/VFWmembership>, or on Instagram @vfwmembership. Members can register multiple times to win prize packages each week through December 31. Over one thousand members have registered to date, with more than 186 Posts participating in this contest. Help spread the word so your Posts do not miss out! Note: unfortunately, due to technical limitations of the contest platform, only Posts in North America can participate.
- If you have a topic for training, we would love to hear from you! Contact us by emailing, Membership@vfw.org. Follow our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/VFWmembership>.

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

Meetings and Events

- Nov. 15-17, 2023 – Preplanning site visit to Louisville for 2024 Convention. Meeting with National Convention Chairman, Carl Kaelin, and committee chairman (Nov. 16) to review duties and responsibilities for each committee.

- Nov. 17, 2023 – Review of contracted hotels (Louisville) and convention center. Scheduled meeting with Marriott (Auxiliary Headquarters hotel) to finalize contract. Together with TSE Live, the production company, and FERN Expo, the general services contractor, will review space at the convention center with all the providers (food and beverage (in-house caterer), event services, internet/electric, etc.) and finalize how space at center will be utilized.
- Ongoing work with legal on upcoming meeting contracts and addendums.

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

VFW Foundation

- **VFW members save money now!** As a membership benefit, you have access to the cost savings VFW PerkSpot Program. Score discounts on name-brand products and services – everything from home goods to entertainment to travel, even the latest electronic technology. [Click here](#) and register to save in 25+ categories. Any questions can be directed to Assistant Director Ben Vargas, VFW Foundation, BVargas@vfw.org.

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

National Legislative Service

- House Subcommittee Hearing on Pending Legislation: VFW National Legislative Service Associate Director Quandrea Patterson testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs regarding pending legislation related to fiduciary fraud and VA Board of Appeals processes. She conveyed the VFW's support to restore benefits to veterans and their families when they fall victim to abuse or fraud by fiduciaries. She also spoke about a bill to establish presumptions of service connection for diseases associated with firefighting. Patterson said, "This would prevent PFAS from becoming another situation like Blue Water Navy or Camp Lejeune in which veterans became sick and died waiting decades for their conditions to be properly recognized and appropriately treated." She stated VFW's support for a bill that limits the authority of VA to deny the claim of a veteran for benefits on the sole basis of failure to appear for a medical examination, commenting that "restarting a claim for this reason is unnecessary and veterans would benefit from a process that does not place so much power in a missed appointment." [Read the testimony](#) or [watch the hearing](#), which begins at the 7:17 mark.
- Don't Feed the Sharks: The VFW has issued a Claim Shark factsheet for you to share with fellow veterans and social media communities. A Claim Shark is an individual or company that charges hefty fees to "assist" or "consult" veterans with filing their VA benefit claims. This practice is illegal! Like the VFW said last year during testimony before Congress, "In our opinion, any group that fails to adhere to VA's well-established standards of accreditation and fee arrangements should be met at the door by Capitol Police, not offered a seat at the same table as hard-working, VA-accredited advocates who are held to professional and ethical standards designed to protect veterans." [Get the Fact Sheet](#).

- VFW, SVA Announce 2023/2024 Student Veteran Fellowship Class: Eight Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) members and Student Veterans of America (SVA) leaders have been selected for the 2023/2024 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship. In its tenth year, the fellowship is an academic experience during which students advocate for a policy proposal that addresses a VFW legislative priority issue. The fellows have the opportunity to attend the VFW Legislative Conference and participate with their VFW Department delegations during meetings with members of Congress and staff. The 2023/2024 legislative fellows are:
 - Alex Ortiz, Army veteran, Inter American University of Puerto Rico – School of Law
 - Alexander Thymmons, Army veteran, University of Hawaii – Manoa
 - Bryce Kyle, Army veteran, University of Texas – San Antonio
 - Jamie Springston, Navy veteran, Marshall University
 - Jason Do, Air Force veteran, Samuel Merritt University
 - Lyssa Losa, Army veteran, Texas A&M University – College Station
 - Terren Wise, Navy veteran, Brown University
 - Jennifer Ray, Air Force veteran, Southwestern College
- House Hearing on Veteran Businesses: VFW Department of Illinois District 15 Commander Chris Maynor testified before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs about the issues facing veteran- owned businesses. Maynor is an Army veteran and owner of Daniel Deans clothing store in Murphysboro, Illinois. He described the difficulty in finding veteran related programs to help launch small businesses, and shared his journey of getting his company off the ground. Many VFW members across the country are business owners, so having their voices represented before Congress is very powerful. [Watch the hearing](#), which begins at the 9:17 mark.

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

National Veterans Service

- The VFW NVS staff held a press conference with the DAV, TAPS, SVA, NACVSO and others to expose claims sharks and educate veterans to not pay for claims help.
- VFW staff attended a press briefing by Veterans Benefits Guardian at the National Press Club.
- NVS BDD reps service officer training session is this week with VA and VFW instructors teaching via ZOOM.
- NVS BDD leadership participated in the Navy General Officer TAP class.
- NVS health team participated in the VHA Integrated Veterans Care meeting.
- NVS health team participated in the VA Veterans Sources Community Network meeting.

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

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