

March 31, 2023

Greetings,

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

### **Quartermaster General**

- The Life Membership Board of Trustees, with the concurrence of the National Council of Administration, pursuant to Section 111 of the VFW Bylaws, has determined that for the 2023-2024 membership year, the Life membership fund will pay out \$3.50 for each Plan A, B, and C Life member, \$3.18 for each Plan D Life member and \$7.12 for each Plan E Life member to their Post, Department and to National Headquarters. At-Large member payouts for Plan A, B, and C will be \$5.25, payouts for Plan D will be \$4.74, and payouts for Plan E will be \$10.68 to their Department and to National Headquarters. Payment will be made in September 2023, for all Life members recorded as of Aug. 31, 2023. In addition, \$7.12 will be paid in January 2024 for each Life member processed from Sept. 1 through Dec. 31, 2023, (Plan E) to their Post, Department and to National Headquarters.

If you have any questions, please call Marc Garduno at National Headquarters or by email.

Contact: VFW Quartermaster General Marc Garduno, [MGarduno@vfw.org](mailto:MGarduno@vfw.org).

### **Development**

This week's Development campaigns are listed below:

- March 29 Appeal:
  - o Thank you eCard – Vietnam Veterans Day to all Friends of Freedom identified as a Vietnam veteran.
- March 31 Appeals:
  - o April statement to relative lapsed member and nonmember donors.
  - o Quarterly statement to nonmember Partners in Patriotism sustainer donors.
  - o PACT Act urgent gram to nonmember donors.

Contact: VFW Development Director Kelly Jones, [KellyJones@vfw.org](mailto:KellyJones@vfw.org).

## **Human Resources**

- Positions actively recruiting for:
  - o Deputy Director Membership – K.C.
  - o Administrative Support Assistant, VFW Store – K.C.
  - o Associate Director, DAMA – D.C.
  - o Member Services Advisor – K.C.
  - o Major Gifts Officer – D.C.
  - o Special Assistant for Veterans Health Policy – D.C.
  - o Internet Marketing Campaign and Special Projects Coordinator – K.C.
  - o Direct Mail Project Coordinator – K.C.

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

## **Administrative Operations**

- There are currently 32 Posts under suspension; two of which are new with 10 suspensions lifted since last week. We are working to institute five new Posts; we have completed two and are working two Post consolidations; and we are working one and have completed one charter revocation pursuant to Sections 201, 209, and 212 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,746 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 16 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 16 administrative actions and six membership eligibility challenges.
- April is election report season. This is a reminder that the quickest and easiest way to submit election reports is by utilizing the Quartermaster's tools within the Online Membership System (OMS). Additionally, any Post that has not submitted an election report by June 1 is in arrears; will be prevented from voting at their respective Department convention; and will be subject to suspension.

Contact: VFW Administrative Operations Director Johnathan Duncan, [JDuncan@vfw.org](mailto:JDuncan@vfw.org).

## **Membership**

- The Membership Kansas City Spree is just around the corner! The top two Post Commanders and the top two District Commanders in each division who achieve 100% membership by April 1, 2023, along with their guest, will each be awarded:

- o Round trip airfare to Kansas City, Missouri, from the airport nearest the awardee's home.
- o A fun-filled weekend May 18-21, 2023, that may include but is not limited to, touring, shopping, and a complete tour of the VFW National Headquarters.
- Many recruiting events are kicking off across the country this time of year. Plan your big events early. Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland will be at this year's NRA Convention in April to continue his recruiting march to 500 new members this year! Plan your recruiting fair now! If you need assistance call us in Membership at 888.564.6839, or by email, [membership@vfw.org](mailto:membership@vfw.org).

Contact: VFW Membership Director Rick Butler, [RButler@vfw.org](mailto:RButler@vfw.org).

### **Meetings and Events**

- Sent out internal working agenda to Departments with meeting space setup forms requesting they be returned by April 15, 2023. Will update website 'Tentative Agenda' with information received.
- Ongoing – working with VFW Phoenix housing manager to monitor housing for Phoenix to determine if we will need to add rooms for various nights that are currently waitlisted. **Note:** If adjustments are made, waitlisted individuals will be confirmed before any new reservations are processed.
- Hotel meeting resume (specifications) and rooming list for Senior Vice Commanders meeting due to hotel March 28.
- Received hotel contracts for future meetings 2024, 2025, 2026, – Senior Vice Commanders, Junior Vice Commanders with AQs – reviewing before handing off to legal for their review and finalization/signatures.
- Ongoing – processing exhibitor applications that have started to come in from the invites sent on Feb. 3, 2023.

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

### **VFW Foundation**

- Due to scheduling conflicts with the Burger King Foundation, the Burger King/VFW Unmet Needs fundraising campaign will be conducted in May of this year. We continue to recruit BK franchisees across the U.S. to help raise much needed funding for the Unmet Needs program which provides financial aid grants to veterans, service members, and their families that are experiencing unexpected financial difficulties. A list of participating Burger King restaurants will be available beginning the week of April 17.

If you have any questions, please contact VFW Foundation Assistant Director Ben Vargas, [BVargas@vfw.org](mailto:BVargas@vfw.org).

Contact: VFW Foundation Director of Donor Relations Richard Freiburghouse, [RFreiburghouse@vfw.org](mailto:RFreiburghouse@vfw.org).

### **National Legislative Service**

- The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs held an oversight hearing on VA's budget request for fiscal years 2024 and 2025. Both Chairman Mike Bost (IL-12) and Ranking Member Mark Takano (CA-39) expressed the need for proper funding. VA Secretary Denis McDonough discussed some details of the budget request such as an increased focus on infrastructure and toxic exposure care. [Watch the hearing](#).
- The Senate Committee on Armed Services held a hearing on the recruiting challenges confronting the military. Recent DOD data revealed that only approximately nine percent of Americans between the ages of 16 and 21 are interested in serving. Factors such as a strong labor market, reduced high school access for military recruiters during the COVID-19 pandemic, fear of injury, death, or PTSD, and not wanting to leave families and friends were cited as contributing to the recruiting problem. [Watch the hearing](#), which begins at the 16:04 mark.
- VA announced it has lowered the interest rate from 6% to 2.5% for the Native American Direct Loan (NADL) program, making housing more affordable for Native American veterans or veterans who are married to Native American non-veterans. Through the NADL program, direct loans are provided to help buy, build, or improve a home on trust land. By law, VA is authorized to provide direct loans only through the NADL program. However, VA is able to help all eligible veterans obtain housing through [VA-backed home loans](#). The 2.5% interest rate was in effect as of March 13 and will be available for no more than 24 months. Native American veterans who are interested in the [NADL program](#) can contact an NADL coordinator by emailing [NADL@va.gov](mailto:NADL@va.gov) or calling 888.349.7541.

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

### **National Veterans Service**

- NVS leadership is attending the VBA PACT Act offsite with Josh Jacobs, USB nominee and his staff, for current updates and implementation of the law.
- NVS leaders will attend the retirement ceremony for Deputy Secretary of the VA Donald Remy.
- NVS Pre-Discharge leadership staff are conducting a site visit to Fort Drum, New York, this week.
- NVS health team participated in the VA Veteran Well-Being/Whole Person Conference meeting.
- NVS and NLS participated in the 2023 Veterans Oral Health Hill Day to lobby for changes to dental care access at VHA.

- NVS health team attended the VA Homeless and Justice-Involved Veteran Symposium on March 30.

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

