

May 24, 2024

### **Development**

I am pleased to report that responses have been arriving at the anticipated rate, and we are on track to achieve our monthly revenue projection of \$4.1 million for May. This consistent performance continues to reaffirm our strategic plan for the fiscal.

This week's Development Campaigns are listed below:

- May 21 Appeal:
  - Military Appreciation Month matching gift email #3 to all Friends of Freedom.
- May 22 Appeal:
  - May acquisition #1 package reminder with nickel, notepad, and check.
- May 23 Appeal:
  - Partners in Patriotism invite #4 to member and nonmember donors.
- May 22 Appeal:
  - June currency package with nickels, coasters, and check to member and nonmember donors.
- May 25 Appeals:
  - May acquisition #2 package with nickels, notepad, and check.
  - May acquisition #2 email announcement to mail recipients.

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

### **Communications and Public Affairs**

- On September 29, the VFW will celebrate its 125th anniversary!

This week, Adjutant General Dan West sent an email to make sure you are aware of several items related to the VFW 125th Anniversary to make our celebration a success.

Don't forget our public launch of the VFW 125th Anniversary Campaign will occur the first week of June and culminate at next year's convention. **(Campaign time frame June 5, 2024 – August 15, 2025.)**

As a reminder, you can access these resources and information by logging into [vfw.org](https://vfw.org) and selecting the VFW 125th Anniversary link under Member/Post resources from the My VFW page. You can also access these items in the Communications & Public Affairs section of Training and Support of [vfw.org](https://vfw.org).

Please do not distribute this information to the field as we are planning a separate communication.

Thank you for your support in our endeavor to celebrate this important occasion in our organization's history! For questions about the campaign, please email [communications@vfw.org](mailto:communications@vfw.org).

Contact: VFW Communications and Public Affairs Director Randi Law, [RLaw@vfw.org](mailto:RLaw@vfw.org).

### **Human Resources**

- New Hires:
  - William Heffernan is a new National Pre-Discharge Claims Representative in Norfolk, Virginia.
  - Matthew McKinney is a new National Pre-Discharge Claims Representative in Joint Base Andrews, Maryland.
  - Carie Schappert is a new Development Assistant in the K.C. Office.
- Positions Actively Recruiting For:
  - Administrative Assistant, NCRBO – D.C. Office.
  - Administrative Specialist, QMG – K.C. Office.
  - Assistant Director, Administrative Operations – K.C. Office.
  - Part-time Shipping Receiving Clerk, VFW Store – K.C. Office.
  - Member Services Advisor – K.C. Office.

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

### **Programs**

- VFW National Convention 2nd Annual Cornhole Tournament:

Please encourage our members to register teams and participate in the 2nd annual VFW Cornhole Tournament taking place at the 125th VFW National Convention in Louisville!

The series will take place on Sunday, July 28, and Monday, July 29, 2024. All proceeds from the competition go to VFW PACT Act benefit assistance. For more information and to sign up for this event, visit <https://kccrew.com/leagues/vfwcornholetournament/>.

Contact: VFW Programs Director Lynn W. Rolf, III, [LRolf@vfw.org](mailto:LRolf@vfw.org).

### **Administrative Operations**

- There are currently 39 Posts under suspension, three of which are new. The organization has 5,633 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 23 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 14 Administrative Removals/Actions and 19 membership eligibility challenges.
- Currently Administrative Operations has 124 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review, 12 of which are new; current turnaround time on Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions is approximately 45-60 days.

### **Election Reports:**

2024-2025 Election reports have been mailed out. Per the Bylaws and Manual of Procedures, Posts should have opened nominations for the upcoming year in March and closed the nominations and elections of Post Officers in April. To access the election report online; sign into VFW.org and proceed to My VFW. Select Online Membership System (OMS), then press the drop-down menu on the left side of the screen for Election Report and select Post Election Report Filing.

**NOTE: The National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure require a properly completed Election Report for the ensuing year to be submitted to Department and National Headquarters by June 1, 2024.**

### **Department Proof of Eligibility:**

With the start of Department Conventions right around the corner I wanted to remind everyone of the requirement to submit proof of eligibility for all newly elected Junior Vice Commanders and any elected Department Quartermasters or appointed Department Adjutants who are new to their position this coming year (2024-25).

Additionally, proof of eligibility for any new Department Commanders or Senior Vice Commanders, who for whatever reason were not in the line of succession the previous year, to which we already have proof of eligibility on file.

This proof of eligibility must be submitted to the Adjutant General pursuant to Section 516 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure.

This must be done after officers are installed and prior to National Convention and is most easily completed by sending documentation via email to Joseph Wolfgeher at [JWolfgeher@vfw.org](mailto:JWolfgeher@vfw.org).

### **Department Approved Resolutions and Amendments:**

This is a reminder to please send your Department-approved resolutions and/or amendments that require action to the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual Committee prior to the National Convention and immediately following the close of your Department Convention.

In order to meet the requirements mentioned in Article XIV of the National Bylaws/Manual of Procedure, stating “All proposed amendments will be available to Posts by the Adjutant General at least fifteen (15) days before the assembling of the National Convention for those amendments being proposed for consideration at the convention.”

**It is extremely important we receive these documents within two (2) days from the conclusion of your Department Convention. A response is required even if your Department does not have any resolutions/amendments to submit.**

Please send the electronic version (word document) to [TGniotczynski@vfw.org](mailto:TGniotczynski@vfw.org).

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

### **Membership**

- This Memorial Day we recognize the sacrifice of so many U.S. service members and their families who have sacrificed so much for our great country. Several VFW members from local Posts, Districts, and the National Headquarters will be taking part over the long weekend in a commemorative event at the WWI Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri.
- We currently have **six** Departments above 102%! Nationwide, the VFW currently stands at 98.18% and is climbing.
- Join us for another Membership Monday training webinar on June 10, 2:00 p.m. CST, for an interactive discussion on the latest training topics. The topic for June 10 is, “**Mistakes to Avoid at Year-End.**” As you push through the end to finish strong this year, there are some things you can do to make next year even better! Join the webinar to learn those best practices.
- The 2024-2025 VFW National Membership program is now available online. Find next year’s National Membership program on [vfw.org](http://vfw.org), at the top of the Membership Recruiting & Retention Page. **Home>MyVFW>VFW Training & Support.** The current, 2023-2024 National Membership program will remain online until after the National Convention elections in July 2024.

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

### **Meetings and Events**

- Ongoing, exhibitor requests processed into eShow for Louisville 2024. To date, 82 total booths represent revenues of \$102,246.75. **Note:** Two booths remain for sale and then we are SOLD-OUT for 2024.
- Finalized meeting room assignments for Kentucky Convention Center. One more review before forwarding it to the events manager. Target is by end of this week.

- On May 14, 2024, had a TEAMS meeting with Joseph Humphrey, security for Kentucky Convention Center. Discussed security requirements and entering convention center for both staff/vendors and attendees.
- On May 16, 2024, met in office with Joe V, FERN/Expo to discuss adjustments to the 2024 Louisville exhibit hall floor plan. Target is June 10, 2024, for FERN to send out exhibit services kits to exhibitors.
- Ongoing, working with Taylor on processes within department and weekly review meetings. Updating Director's SOP as items come up.
- On May 21, 2024, had a TEAMS meeting with director of sales and sales manager at Hyatt Regency Crystal City to review items in 2025 contract before finalizing.
- Updated/finalized contract addendum with FERN/Expo, general services contractor who handles national convention exhibits and general staging, etc. for national convention.

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

### **VFW Foundation**

- Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations Brooke Brown, is finalizing VFW National Convention sponsorships with a total of \$518,000 secured thus far!
- The VFW Foundation has secured \$20,000 from Philips for the 2025 Washington Conference.
- The Burger King®/ VFW Unmet Needs fundraising campaign continues until May 31. Customers will be able to donate a dollar or round up their purchase price. Since 2007, Burger King Franchisees have raised nearly \$7.5 million in support of the Unmet Needs program which provides financial aid grants to veterans, service members and their families who are experiencing unexpected financial difficulties. Nearly 1,150 Burger King Franchise restaurants are participating in this year's campaign. [Find a participating restaurant near you across the U.S.](#) Any questions can be directed to VFW Foundation Donation Specialist Renee Martin at [RMartin@vfw.org](mailto:RMartin@vfw.org).
- Ace Hardware® is collaborating with the VFW once again this year to honor the brave men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country by giving away 1 million American flags nationwide on Saturday, May 25. Consumers who visit a participating Ace store on May 25 will receive a free 8" x 12" American flag while quantities last. A second flag will be donated to a local VFW Post to be used for marking and honoring veterans' graves this Memorial Day. Last year, over 500,000 American flags were given away to customers at Ace stores nationwide. In addition, Ace sent 562,000 flags to more than 1,700 VFW Posts for placement on veterans' graves.

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

### **National Veterans Service**

- NVS leadership met with representatives from Face the Fight to discuss a potential grant opportunity.
- NVS leadership attended the VA Loan Guarantee virtual open house.
- VFW's NVS Pre-Discharge representatives briefed transitioning service members on VA benefits at military installations across the country.
- NVS BDD leadership attended the induction ceremony at Fort Liberty for SEAC (ret.) John Wayne Troxell, VFW National Ambassador.
- NVS leadership attended an Office of Special Counsel meeting.
- NVS health leadership participated in a GAO meeting.
- NVS BDD leadership collaborated with OTED for TAP.
- NVS BDD leadership participated in a Qualtrics training meeting.

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

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