

# NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION WEEKLY UPDATE



August 18, 2023

Greetings,

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

## **Legal**

- The VFW intends to file an Amicus Curiae brief in support of Army veteran, James Rudisill, in his case against the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding the administration of Post-9/11 GI Bill and the Montgomery GI Bill. At issue is how the Department of Veterans Affairs calculates educational benefits for service members who earned benefits under two different versions of the GI Bill. The VA takes the position, based on its interpretation of an isolated administrative provision of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, that veterans with separate and distinct periods of qualifying service, like Rudisill, must exhaust or forfeit their remaining Montgomery benefits before obtaining the more-generous Post-9/11 benefits. The plain language of the law and its regulations allow veterans who have multiple qualifying periods of service to have a full 48 months of educational benefits.

The brief is currently being drafted.

## **Communications**

- If you missed parts of the 124th VFW National Convention, we have you covered! Watch segments from Phoenix, Arizona, on demand [here](#).

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

## **Human Resources**

- New Hire:
  - o Carley Taylor is a new Member Services Advisor in the Member Services Department in the KC Office.
- Positions Actively Recruiting For:
  - o Database Administrator – KC Office
  - o Member Services Advisor – KC Office
  - o National Pre-Discharge Claims Rep – Bethesda, MD

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

### **Administrative Operations**

- There are currently 53 Posts under suspension, 4 of which are new. We have processed 2 Post consolidations pursuant to Section 209 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,719 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 15 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 9 Administrative Actions and 18 membership eligibility challenges.
- We have 52 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review, 18 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](mailto:ZSchwenk@vfw.org).

### **Membership**

- Great to hear from so many Membership Chairs this early in the membership year! Early organization and planning of your larger recruiting events for the year should be happening now! Call me if you need help getting started.
- Calling All - to help ensure newly elected Post, District & Department officers update their personal information in OMS to include their cap size.
- If you have a topic for training, we would love to hear from you! Contact us by emailing, [Memembrship@vfw.org](mailto:Memembrship@vfw.org). Follow our Facebook Page, <https://www.facebook.com/VFWmembershipHQ>.

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

### **National Legislative Service**

- **44 Attorneys General Agree with VFW to Pass GUARD Act:** The National Association of Attorneys General issued a letter on behalf of a bipartisan coalition of 44 attorneys general expressing support for the passage of the Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding (GUARD) VA Benefits Act. The letter to congressional leaders stated, “The GUARD VA Benefits Act would remove the ability of unaccredited, unregulated, and often unscrupulous actors to target and prey upon those veterans with impunity. It holds them accountable not just to the law but also to the veterans and their families by giving them options for redress when they find themselves victims of those same actors.” [Read the letter.](#)
- **PACT Act Claims Continue:** Although the VA deadline to file a PACT Act claim and receive retroactive benefits closed Monday, Aug. 14, 2023, veterans and survivors are still eligible to apply for benefits going forward. VFW-championed PACT Act added more than 20 presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxins. Learn more about

your eligibility at [PACTActInfo.org](https://pactactinfo.org) or connect with an [accredited representative](#) for assistance with your VA claim.

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

### **National Veterans Service**

- NVS leadership participated in a “hotwash and lessons learned” meeting with SECVAs Office about the PACT Act IT failure and deadline extension.
- NVS QA team will attend and present at the State of Idaho Veterans Affairs Annual Meeting.
- NVS leadership will attend the Big 8 meeting with the Undersecretary for Benefits and his staff for program updates on Thursday Aug. 17, 2023.
- NVS health team participated in a VA Health and Wellness webinar.
- NVS healthcare team participated in the D.C. VAMC Winter Haven Veteran Homeless Stand Down planning meeting.
- NVS attended the National VFW and ATLAS weekly huddle.
- VFW’s NVS Pre-Discharge representatives briefed transitioning service members on VA benefits at Fort Bliss, Nellis AFB, Fort Drum, Marine Corps Air Station New River, and Fort Cavazos.
- VFW’s NVS Pre-Discharge representatives participated in the Air Force General Officer TAP program.

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

