

September 16, 2022

Greetings,

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

Human Resources

- New Employee:
 - o Katie Lundy is the new Marketing and Production Coordinator in the Membership Department in the K.C. Office.
- Promotion:
 - o Dara Gaudin was promoted to Tech Support Representative in the Member Services Department in the K.C. Office.

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

Development

- Sept. 13 Appeal:
 - o Partners in Patriotism sustainer invite #1 to member and nonmember donors.
- Sept. 15 Appeals:
 - o September sustainer invite email #1 to all Friends of Freedom.
 - o September dormant reengagement email #1 to all Friends of Freedom.

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

Member Services

- The Member Service Center began its transition to extended hours this week, adopting a new schedule for its team members. This soft launch was a great success, and we are proud to offer extended support hours for the VFW Store, dues processing, magazine subscription inquiries, adjutant/quartermaster services, and general membership inquiries. The new hours of the Member Service Center are Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. CST.

Contact: VFW Member Services Director David Prohaska, DProhaska@vfw.org.

Communications and Public Affairs

- This week the VFW launched the #StillServing Top Dog contest:

If you can't imagine #StillServing without a special dog by your side – or if you train dogs to help your fellow veterans – enter your best friend in the #StillServing Top Dog contest at <https://todaysvfw.org/submit-your-top-dog/>.

Contact: VFW Communications and Public Affairs Director Randi Law, RLaw@vfw.org.

Administrative Operations

- There are currently 72 Posts under suspension; one of which is new with three suspensions lifted since last week. We have completed one and are working one Post consolidation; we are working six and have completed one charter revocation pursuant to Sections 209 and 212 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,827 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 15 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 15 administrative actions and seven membership eligibility challenges.
- We have eight Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review, five of which are new. Current turnaround time on Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions is approximately one week.

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

National Legislative Service

- Reform to retirement pay and disability compensation policy is long overdue. Many of our nation's combat-disabled veterans are prohibited by Congress from receiving their full earned Department of Defense retirement pay and Department of Veterans Affairs service-connected disability compensation. Over 50,000 Chapter 61 retirees with combat-related disabilities are required to forfeit every dollar of their retirement pay for every dollar they receive in disability compensation. No veteran should have to choose between two fundamentally different benefits that they earned for two entirely different reasons. Tell Congress to end this extremely unjust offset by immediately passing the Major Richard Star Act. [Click here](#) to send a letter to your congressional offices requesting action.
- Your VFW legislative team and Jon Stewart held a tell-all on the ups, downs and drama leading to the passage of the Honoring our PACT Act. This is the most comprehensive legislation for toxic exposure that Congress has passed to date. [Watch the Podcast](#).
- VA has extended its financial hardship suspension on benefit debts through Dec. 31, 2022. This relief option was established to help veterans through the COVID-19 pandemic and was set to expire on Sep. 30. Beginning this month, VA will mail debt notification letters to affected veterans advising them of the extended hardship suspension option, as well as

extended debt repayment plans, waivers, or compromises. This includes debts related to disability compensation, non-service-connected pension, and education benefits. Veterans and beneficiaries can manage their debt [online](#) or call 800.827.0648 with questions regarding benefit overpayments. For information about medical care and pharmacy copayment debt, contact the Health Resource Center at 866.400.1238. [Read more.](#)

- The VFW currently [supports 179 bills; and opposes one bill](#) pending before the 117th Congress.

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

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