

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION
WEEKLY UPDATE



December 3, 2021

Greetings,

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

Development

- Nov. 29 Appeals:
 - o Giving Tuesday email #1 to all Friends of Freedom.
 - o December acquisition package with socks, cards, tote and check.
- Nov. 30 Appeal:
 - o Giving Tuesday a.m. email #2 and p.m. email #3 to all Friends of Freedom.
- Dec. 2 Appeal:
 - o Partners in Patriotism invite #2 to member and nonmember donors.
- Dec. 3 Appeal:
 - o Matching gift package with coasters to member and nonmember donors.

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

Human Resources

- New Employee:
 - o Sarrah Moreno is a new Member Service Advisor in Member Services.

Contact: VFW Human Resources Manager Danielle Owen, DOwen@vfw.org.

Communications

- Episode 022 of #StillServing: [The VFW Podcast](#), *War Stories: A Ranger's Perspective of the Afghan War* posted Nov. 24, and is now available for download. The episode features guest Tony Mayne, former U.S. Army Ranger, Afghan war veteran, and CEO/founder of Ranger For Life, offering transition services for Army special operators.
- Communications and Public Affairs Director Rob Couture drafted and distributed two press releases on behalf of the organization – VFW Commends DOD for Addressing Force-Wide Economic Challenges, Offers Support and Living a Thankful Life (Thanksgiving message.)
- The C&PA director continued to coordinate for guest interviews for future episodes of the podcast.

Contact: VFW Communications and Public Affairs Director Rob Couture, RCouture@vfw.org.

Administrative Operations

- There are currently 43 Posts under suspension. We are working one and have completed one new Post institution; we are working three Post charter surrenders pursuant to Section 201 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure. The organization has 5,925 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 20 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, three administrative actions and four membership eligibility challenges.
- We have 16 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review; we've received 10 new submissions; and have completed/distributed 12 for the week. Current turnaround time on Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions is approximately 14 days.

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

VFW Foundation

- This holiday season, VFW members and friends are encouraged to support VFW programs and services by shopping through AmazonSmile. For each qualifying purchase, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the product price to the VFW Foundation. Shop AmazonSmile and choose the VFW Foundation as your favorite charity <https://amzn.to/3obHM0X>. Be sure and share this link with your family and friends as well!

Contact: VFW Foundation Administrator Richard Potter, RPotter@vfw.org.

National Legislative Service

- VFW National Legislative Director Pat Murray testified before the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs on pending legislation. Twenty-one bills were discussed, including

expansions for Guard and Reserve troops, student veteran protections, VA claims improvements, and provisions to improve the Office of Inspector General. Murray stated, “Knowing which specific veterans are and are not utilizing VA would help inform stakeholders about any and all gaps in veterans’ care.” Many of the bills discussed at this hearing were supported by the VFW and we are hopeful they will be swiftly passed into law. [Watch the hearing](#), which starts at the 15:40 mark or [read the testimony](#).

- The House Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs, and Subcommittee on Health, held a joint hearing on disability claims related to military sexual trauma (MST). VFW National Legislative Associate Director Kristina Keenan testified on the need for VA to improve the quality of mental health compensation and pension exams, carefully weigh all evidence for incidents of MST, and increase resources for MST coordinators. “It is imperative that the Department of Veterans Affairs provides support for MST survivors and delivers benefits and services with dignity and respect at the forefront,” said Keenan. She also stressed the need for mental health examiners to receive MST-specific training, as well as training on military culture. [Watch the hearing](#), which starts at the 03:10 mark or [read the testimony](#).
- The House passed nine veterans bills, including three supported by the VFW. [H.R. 147](#), [H.R. 4233](#), and [H.R. 4626](#) would ensure services and benefits for separating service members and veterans with respect to apprenticeship programs, require VA to furnish counseling including Vet Center access to those using specified DOD or VA educational assistance benefits, and require VA at least once every ten years to enter into a contract for a private sector entity or entities to conduct an independent assessment of all medical services and care furnished by VA.
- The VFW currently [supports 134 bills; and opposes one bill](#) pending before the 117th Congress.

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

National Veterans Service

- NVS VFW’s Pre-Discharge Representatives hosted a series of benefit briefings for separating service members around the country this week to include Fort Hood, Joint Base Andrews and Camp LeJeune.
- NVS is meeting with Wounded Warrior Project this week to discuss communications efforts and strategic messaging about the growing concern of predatory claims sharks targeting veterans.
- NVS is participating in a listening session by VA reviewing the VA’s access standards and standards for quality under the Community Care program.
- NVS is participating in a VA session discussing the risk and protective factors concerning suicide risk and socioecological factors.
- VFW National Veterans Service Director Ryan Gallucci joined President Joe Biden at the White House on Tuesday as President Biden signed into law four key pieces of veterans’ legislation. The new laws included establishment of a referral program from Department

of Defense to help VA hire military-trained health care professionals into health care jobs; the extension of in-state tuition protection to veterans' dependents eligible for Chapter 35 education benefits through VA; a program to allow VA to coordinate maternity care for veterans through community providers; and a directive for the Government Accountability Office to study whether race or ethnicity has played a role in veterans' benefits determinations.

- Students who recently participated in the Intermediate Skill Level Training conference for VFW Service Officers are now taking their end-of-course tests through the NVS Online Learning Platform. The test must be completed no later than Saturday, Dec. 10. The following week, NVS will provide a summary of scores to Department leaders covering this fall's Basic, Intermediate, and Advanced service officer training conferences.

Contact: VFW National Veterans Service Director Ryan Gallucci, RGallucci@vfw.org.

