

January 20, 2023

Greetings,

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

Development

- Jan. 18 Appeal:
 - o January legislative email #2 to all Friends of Freedom.
- Jan. 20 Appeal:
 - o January acquisition reminder package with coasters, dime, and check.
- Jan. 21 Appeal:
 - o Veterans service annual appeal campaign reminder.

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

Membership

Greetings from the Membership Department!

- Congratulations to each Post and District Commander and Quartermaster who have won the Early Bird Award for the Legislative Conference this March. These Commanders and Quartermasters are at the very top of their respective divisions prior to Jan. 1, 2023. The results are in, and names will be announced soon.

If you are a Department Early Bird Incentive winner, we will be reaching out to you for details on receiving the Henry rifle.

Contact: VFW Membership Director Rick Butler, RButler@vfw.org.

Administrative Operations

- There are currently 44 Posts under suspension; one is new with one suspension lifted since last week. We are working to institute two new Posts; we have completed one and are

working three Post consolidations; we are working two charter surrenders; we are working two charter revocations pursuant to Sections 201, 209, 210 and 212 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,762 chartered Posts.

- Administrative Operations is engaged in 13 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 15 administrative actions and 12 membership eligibility challenges.
- In an effort to reduce paper and expedite our process, Departments are encouraged to submit Post, District, and Department bylaws and Articles of Incorporation to Administrative Operations via email to our Post Records Coordinator April Ferreira (AFerreira@vfw.org). Additionally, submitted bylaws or articles in conflict with the National Bylaws will be returned to the unit (Departments will be cc'd) with a list of amendments and a digital copy of our template for resubmittal. For any questions regarding this change, please contact the Director below.

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

Meetings and Events

- Finalized 2023 Convention housing assignments – Phoenix. Note: Housing will open Feb. 17, 2023. Notification to Departments of housing assignments will be made approximately two weeks prior to the general opening.
- Updated 2023 exhibitor documents which are targeted to send out end of January.
- Scheduled 2027-2028 convention city bid presentations for Feb. 21, 2023. Presentations done at VFW Headquarters to Time and Place Chairman, Adjutant General, Assistant Adjutant General, Quartermaster General, Auxiliary National Treasurer Secretary and Director of Meetings. Two (2) cities will be recommended to be reviewed by full Time & Place Committee Sunday, March 5, 2023, in Washington, D.C., during Legislative Conference. The Time and Place Chairman will present the committee's final recommendations for one (1) city for each year to National Council of Administration for their approval on Monday, March 6, 2023.
- Attending Annual ESPA (Event Service Professionals Association) Board of Directors and annual meeting in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Jan. 19, 2023. I am the ex-officio meeting planner board member.

Contact: VFW Meetings and Events/Exhibits Director Vanessa Kane, CMP, CMM, VKane@vfw.org.

VFW Foundation

- On Jan. 17, 2023, Sport Clips Haircuts presented a check to the VFW Foundation in the amount of \$1.5 million. The event held at VFW Post 8790 in Houston, Texas, also included free haircuts to service members and local veterans. The generous gift will provide educational and training scholarships for service members and veterans through the VFW's "[Sport Clips VFW Help A Hero Scholarship](#)" program.

In just eight years, Sport Clips has donated nearly \$13 million to the cause with 2,600 total scholarships awarded! Gordon Logan, Air Force veteran, VFW Life member, and founder and chairman of Sport Clips is a member of the VFW Foundation Board of Directors.

Contact: VFW Foundation Director of Donor Relations Richard Freiburghouse, RFreiburghouse@vfw.org.

National Legislative Service

- The VFW-championed PACT Act added more than twenty presumptive conditions for burn pits, Agent Orange, and other toxins, extending VA benefits and compensation to more toxic-exposed veterans and their surviving families more than ever before. Who does the PACT Act affect? How do I know if I qualify? How do I join to help the fight? The VFW has developed a quick and easy questionnaire to determine potential eligibility under the PACT Act. Visit PACTActInfo.org to learn more about PACT Act eligibility and to be connected with a [VFW Service Officer](#) for assistance with your VA claim.
- VA has announced that as of Jan. 17, 2023, any veteran experiencing a suicidal crisis may receive emergency care at no cost from any VA or non-VA health care facility. Enrollment in the VA system is not required. “Veterans in suicidal crisis can now receive the free, world-class emergency health care they deserve – no matter where they need it, when they need it, or whether they’re enrolled in VA care,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “This expansion of care will save Veterans’ lives, and there’s nothing more important than that.” This benefit includes inpatient or crisis care for up to 30 days, and outpatient care for up to 90 days. [Read more](#).
- Veterans now have the option to **Dial 988 then Press 1** to connect with caring, qualified responders for 24/7 crisis assistance. “During a crisis, every second counts,” said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. “This new, shorter number makes it easier for veterans and those who care about them to reach lifesaving support without having to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care.” While [Dial 988 then Press 1](#) is a new option for contacting the Veterans Crisis Line, the original number, 1.800.273.8255 and press 1, remains available, and individuals can make contact via chat at VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat or by texting 838255.

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

National Veterans Service

- NVS health team meeting with VHA concerning rural health initiatives.
- NVS health team participating in the D.C. Military Veterans Advisory Council meeting discussing whole and integrated health plans.
- VFW’s NVS Pre-Discharge representatives briefed transitioning service members on VA benefits at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Washington, D.C., Fort Bliss, Texas, Fort Hood Texas, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Virginia, and Fort Riley, Kansas.

- NVS Deputy Director Michael Figlioli, will deliver a presentation on the PACT Act and the Washington Office at the Department of Pennsylvania mid-winter conference.
- NVS Quality Assurance and Training team is conducting a site visit to the Department of South Carolina to observe operations and provide additional onsite training.

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

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