

January 27, 2023

Greetings,

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

Development

This week's Development campaigns are listed below:

- Jan. 23 Appeal:
 - o Kitchen set package to nonmember donors.
- Jan. 24 Appeal:
 - o Matching gift package to lapsed nonmember donors.
- Jan. 26 Appeal:
 - o Planned Giving eNews to all Friends of Freedom.
- Jan. 28 Appeal:
 - o Nickel label with certificate package to member donors.

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

VFW Programs

- Teacher of the Year Award

Departments are encouraged to submit a Teacher of the Year award for all three levels of competition. The previous grade levels, elementary, middle, and high school, were reinstated from years past. Please help fix the miscommunication.

- Voice of Democracy Parade of Winners

We will be hosting the Parade of Winners in-person this year at the 2023 VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., on Monday evening, March 6, 2023. Stay tuned for more details!

Contact: VFW Programs Director Lynn W. Rolf, III, LRolf@vfw.org.

Communications

- The PACT Act Info campaign is off to a great starting performance with nearly 5,000 referrals sent directly to VFW Accredited Service Officers to date and nearly 30,000 website visitors. It has been the focus of six national media placements with a combined, potential audience of 4 million. See media placement example [here](#).

Please remember to encourage your Departments and Posts to continue to spread the word on this important campaign. The campaign toolkit can be found in the Communications section of Training and Support at vfw.org.

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

Membership

- We are working on several membership upgrade campaigns throughout this month.
- Our next Membership Monday training webinar will be on Feb. 6 at 2 p.m. CST. The topic of our training is “Getting Back to Basics,” a general understanding of Memstats, myth-busting Membership anecdotes, and the top reasons members call the Member Service Center. Zoom links to the training will be posted on the Membership Facebook page and emailed to Department leadership in early February.
- We are underway with a tremendous effort to communicate through VFW Departments the now ongoing PACT Act campaign. For more details go to PACTActInfo.org.

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.

VFW Foundation

- The VFW Foundation Corporate Relations team is actively pursuing and securing corporate sponsorships for the 2023 VFW National Convention. We will be utilizing a new event management software platform powered by [eShow](#) that will be launching by mid-February to assist with a centralized collection of various sponsorship asset details such as booth space, logos, ads, registration bag inserts, videos and more.
- If you have any potential corporate sponsors or connections that you would like us to reach out to, please let us know. For additional information, please contact Director of Corporate Foundation Relations Brooke Brown, BBrown@vfw.org for more information.

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

National Legislative Service

- VFW National Commander Tim Borland sent a letter to President Biden urgently asking him to make the repeal of concurrent receipt laws a legislative policy priority in the White House's fiscal year 2024 defense budget request. "Erroneously justified by Congress to prevent 'double-dipping,' this policy is nothing more than a way to save money on the backs of veterans," wrote Borland. "No veteran should question the value of their service to our country due to an unethical budget gimmick." Offsetting, which forces veterans to forfeit all or part of one benefit to pay for another, is a widely employed practice under concurrent receipt laws. Aside from the 2020 repeal of the "Widow's Tax," no substantive concurrent receipt reforms have occurred since 2004. [Read the letter](#).
- The onslaught of predatory law firms targeting Camp Lejeune veterans is overwhelming. If you have met with a VFW Accredited Service Officer and determined joining the Camp Lejeune lawsuit is right for you, work with an entrusted law firm that has a long history of serving veterans and has your best interests at heart. Visit vfw.org/CampLejeuneHelp for more information.

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

National Veterans Service

- VFW's NVS Pre-Discharge representatives briefed transitioning service members on VA benefits at Fort Bliss, Texas, Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall, Virginia, Joint Base Anacostia Bolling, D.C., Fort Riley Kansas, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, and Fort Campbell, Kentucky.
- NVS Pre-Discharge leadership are meeting with senior leaders to brief about Pre-Discharge claims to include the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, sergeant major of the Army, and director of the Defense Intelligence Agency.

- NVS health team participated in the weekly ATLAS meeting and VHA program office quarterly meeting.
- NVS health team participating in the VA/DOD survivor forum regarding the PACT Act.
- NVS held its monthly NVS Update Forum via Zoom this past Thursday at 2 p.m. to update policies, procedures and take live questions from field representatives.
- NVS Quality Assurance and Training team is conducting a site visit to the Detroit VA Regional Office to provide guidance and training to VFW Accredited Service Officers.

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

