

October 14, 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:
  - Misty Kennedy is the new Member Services Advisor in the Member Services Department in the K.C. Office.

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

### **Development**

- Oct. 11 Appeal:
  - o Sport Clips Help a Hero email to all Friends of Freedom.
- Oct. 12 Appeal:
  - o Veterans Day sign-a-card email #2 to all Friends of Freedom.
- Oct. 13 Appeal:
  - o Thank You eCard for Navy birthday to Friends of Freedom identified as Navy veteran or active-duty military.
- Oct. 14 Appeal:
  - o October kitchen set package to lapsed nonmember donors.
- Oct. 15 Appeal:
  - o September acquisition reminder #1 with check.

Contact: VFW Development Director Kelly Jones, [KellyJones@vfw.org](mailto:KellyJones@vfw.org).

### **Administrative Operations**

- There are currently 73 Posts under suspension; five of which are new with eight suspensions lifted since last week. We are working to institute two and have instituted one new Post; we are working one Post consolidation; we have completed one and are working two charter surrenders; we are working three and have completed three charter revocations pursuant to Sections 201, 209, 210 and 212 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,806 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 16 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 25 administrative actions and eight membership eligibility challenges.
- We have 10 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review and received nine new submissions for the week. Current turnaround time on Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions is approximately one week.

Contact: VFW Administrative Operations Director Johnathan Duncan, [JDuncan@vfw.org](mailto:JDuncan@vfw.org).

## **Membership**

Greetings from the Membership Department.

- Membership Monday is coming up on this Monday, Oct. 17 at 2 p.m. CDT. This month's topic is "Where to Find/Get Your Membership Reports." Be sure and join us for the training at [vfw.zoom.us/j/83434694206](https://vfw.zoom.us/j/83434694206). We hope as many comrades can join us as possible.
  - o An OMS notification for Membership Monday went out to every member with an OMS account as well as an email to Department leadership and it can also be found on the Membership Facebook page at [facebook.com/VFWmembershipHQ](https://facebook.com/VFWmembershipHQ).
  - o Reminder from last week, Commander-in-Chief Borland's October Life Member Challenge for all Departments and Posts continues right thru to Oct. 31.
  - o Departments will receive a \$50 Grant for any new Life or reinstated Life member that was recruited, therefore a recruiter number must be attached to these transactions for Departments to receive the grant for members-at-large.
  - o Posts will receive a \$50 Grant for any of the following:
    - New member who pays the Life membership amount in full.
    - A lapsed member who rejoins by paying the full Life membership amount.
    - An annual member who converts to Life membership by paying the full amount.
    - A member currently on the Life member installment plan who makes their final payment and converts to Life membership by Oct. 31.
- As you are attending Department, District or Post meetings this weekend, please let our membership know about the October Challenge and the Membership Monday. We would like to see as many as possible to join in the discussion for Membership Monday. However,

if members cannot make the training live, it will be posted in the following locations normally within 24 to 48 hours after the training is completed:

- o OMS under Membership Recruiting and Retention, on the My VFW page under Membership Quick Links.
- o The Membership Facebook page, [facebook.com/VFWmembershipHQ](https://facebook.com/VFWmembershipHQ).
- o VFW YouTube Channel, [youtube.com/c/vfwhq](https://youtube.com/c/vfwhq).

Contact: VFW Membership Director Rick Butler, [RButler@vfw.org](mailto:RButler@vfw.org).

### **Meeting and Events**

- Sent out RFP (Request for Proposal) on Oct. 10, 2022, for 2027-28 national convention city bids. Sent to 11 potential cities. Bid proposals due back from the cities, if applicable, by Nov. 15, 2022.
- Last minute changes for this weekend's Junior Vice Commander/Quartermasters meeting at Airport Marriott – Oct. 13-15, 2022.
- Reviewing Junior Vice Commander/Quartermasters meeting details with Adjutant General Dan West and Assistant Adjutant General Marc Garduno, to inform them of the overall process with the planning and execution of the meeting.
- Received list of 2023-Phoenix local convention committee chairmen. Preparing for first local committee meeting in early December. Note: This site is combined with production staff and general services contractor to review the space at the Phoenix Convention center to prepare for the diagraming of the exhibit halls/general session halls for both the VFW and Auxiliary.
- Scheduled site visit with Auxiliary National Secretary Treasurer Ann Panteleakos for Nov. 7-9, in Louisville, Kentucky, to begin the process of contracting with the hotels and the convention center for the July 27-Aug. 1, 2024, national convention. Contracts due to be finalized by Jan. 31, 2023.

Contact: VFW Meetings and Events/Exhibits Director Vanessa Kane, CMP, CMM, [VKane@vfw.org](mailto:VKane@vfw.org).

### **VFW Foundation**

- Participating BURGER KING® franchise restaurants will again raise funds beginning Oct. 14 through Nov. 11, 2022, in support of the VFW's Unmet Needs program. Now in its 16th year, the annual campaign encourages BURGER KING® customers to donate at the drive through by rounding up to the nearest dollar or donate \$1 or more in the inside dining room. Since 2007, BURGER KING® franchisees have raised more than \$6.9 million in support of the program. 700+ BURGER KING® franchisee locations are participating in this year's campaign. [Find a participating BURGER KING® restaurant near you.](#)

Questions? Contact Assistant Director Ben Vargas [BVargas@vfw.org](mailto:BVargas@vfw.org) or 816.968.2720.

- The 2022 Sport Clips Help A Hero fundraising campaign with in-store donations and other individual wrap-around fundraising events is ongoing through Nov. 12 at over 1,850 Sport Clips locations. We also invite you to participate in the 2022 Virtual Help A Hero Walk. Sign up at: [app.mobilecause.com/vf/HERO](https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/HERO).

Questions on how to create a team and sign-up? Contact VFW Foundation Corporate Relations Brooke Brown, [BBrown@vfw.org](mailto:BBrown@vfw.org) or 816.868.3156.

- The VFW Foundation grant cycle has opened for VFW Posts & Auxiliaries. Two grants are available through this program, the Community Support Grant, and District Corporate Partnership Grant. Grant applications and guidelines for the #StillServing grants can be found at [vfw.org/Grants](https://vfw.org/Grants). Questions may be directed to VFW Foundation Grants and External Relations Coordinator Jason Couch, [JCouch@vfw.org](mailto:JCouch@vfw.org).
- The Uniting to Combat Hunger campaign is gearing up for the holiday season. The VFW Foundation's Uniting to Combat Hunger Grant application period is now open for VFW Posts and Auxiliaries. The application may be found at [vfw.org/UTCH](https://vfw.org/UTCH). Questions may be directed to VFW Foundation Grants & External Relations Coordinator Jason Couch, [JCouch@vfw.org](mailto:JCouch@vfw.org).

Contact: VFW Foundation Manager Richard Freiburghouse, [RFreiburghouse@vfw.org](mailto:RFreiburghouse@vfw.org).

### **National Legislative Service**

- The Senate passed VFW-supported [H.R. 7846](#), the *Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2022*. It will now head to the president's desk for signature. Certain VA benefits including disability compensation, clothing allowances, and dependency and indemnity compensation for survivors will receive the same cost-of-living adjustment as Social Security benefits. The increase is expected to be higher than in recent years to account for inflation. The adjustment will go into effect on Dec. 1, 2022, and the first checks to reflect the new rate will be on Dec. 31, 2022.
- Veterans and families affected by Hurricanes Fiona or Ian can request a debt repayment suspension from VA by contacting the [VA Debt Management Center](#) at 800.827.0648. Requests for debt repayment suspension for medical care and pharmacy copayments may be made by contacting the Health Resource Center at 866.400.1238. You can check debt status through [VA's debt portal](#). [Read more](#).
- Scammers are taking advantage of new opportunities to commit fraud. There has been an increase in email, phone, and [social media scams](#) targeting veterans to access their PACT Act benefits or to submit claims on their behalf. Veterans should be cautious of anyone who guarantees a lucrative financial benefit or service, or asks you to sign complicated contracts. To report suspected fraudulent activity, email [vaoighotline@va.gov](mailto:vaoighotline@va.gov) or call 800.488.8244. [Read more](#) for tips to protect yourself against these new scams. Contact a [VFW Accredited Service Officer](#) for assistance with your VA claim.
- The VFW currently [supports 176 bills; and opposes one bill](#) pending before the 117th Congress.

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

### **National Veterans Service**

- VFW's NVS Pre-Discharge representatives briefed transitioning Service Members on VA benefits at Joint Base Andrews, Maryland; Joint Base Myer, Virginia; Fort Bliss, Texas, and Joint Base Anacostia Bolling, D.C.
- NVS leadership will participate in a round table discussion with VA Office of Accountability.
- NVS will attend the VBA/VSO partnership meeting on Oct. 12, 2022, to discuss VA programs and updates.
- NVS Deputy Director Mike Figlioli will attend and brief on service office operations, NVS policies and programs during the Junior Vice Commanders Conference held Oct. 13-16, 2022, in Kansas City, Missouri.
- VFW leadership will meet for an introductory session with the new chairman of the Board of Veterans Appeals on Oct. 17, 2022, at the VFW Memorial Building, Washington, D.C.

Contact: VFW National Veterans Service Director Ryan Gallucci, [RGallucci@vfw.org](mailto:RGallucci@vfw.org).

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