

October 21, 2022

Greetings,

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

Communications

- Please be advised:
 - o An individual identifying himself by the name of Patrick Roth is sending targeted messages containing inciteful language to leadership at VFW Departments, Posts and potentially, Districts. Please do not engage in any correspondence with Roth. Simply delete his message(s) and block him from further communication.

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

Human Resources

- New Employees:
 - o Kathryn Hanenberger is the new Direct Mail Project Coordinator-All Donors in the Development Department in the K.C. Office.
 - o Michael McCoy is the new Maintenance Technician in VFW Properties in the K.C. Office.

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

Development

- Oct. 18 Appeal:
 - o Veterans Day matching gift email #1 to all Friends of Freedom.

Contact: VFW Development Director Kelly Jones, 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.

VFW Programs

- VFW Sport Clips “Help A Hero Scholarship” Program
 - Team VFW, we need your help. This call to action is to support our own VFW program. We have awarded over 2,300 student veteran scholarships for more than \$10.6 million dollars thanks to our incredible partners at Sport Clips. I award around 130 scholarships a semester every year. We receive more than 600 applicants every semester. Our goal this year is to raise \$1.7 million. We can do this as a team and not rely on Sport Clips to do the heavy lifting. This scholarship is the largest impact-wise student veteran scholarship in the world. My ASK is for our Posts to go down and thank them first, then see how we can work together and raise a ton of money. We should be in the fight with them and not just collecting the money. PLEASE ASSIST!!
- Programs Dashboard Tool Resources/Training
 - We have added numerous videos for All-American requirements and new features for the tool. The newest feature is for those Departments who do not have an online community service reporting system. Those Posts within the Department can now report through the dashboard vfw.org/my-vfw/programs-dashboard-tool/programs-dashboard-tool-training.

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

Membership

Greetings from the Membership Department.

- The current Life member \$50 rebate continues and is going well, for more details please refer to the COA Bulletin published on Oct. 14, 2022. This incentive will continue until Oct. 31.

- Currently the recruiter portion of the VFW mobile app has had some issues with inputting the date of birth. The IT department is aware of the issue and has put a fix in place and is currently testing both the Apple and Android versions to ensure the issue has been resolved. To ensure the app is working correctly in the field, you will need to ensure the app is up-to-date. In some cases, you may have to delete and reinstall to have the newest version. We will keep you posted when the issue has been resolved and the new version has been released on both platforms.
- The October Membership Monday Webinar that was held on Monday, Oct. 17, “Where to Find/Get Your Membership Reports” video is now available online at:
 - o OMS under Membership Recruiting and Retention, on the My VFW page under Membership Quick Links.
 - o The Membership Facebook page, facebook.com/VFWmembershipHQ.
 - o VFW YouTube Channel, youtube.com/c/vfwhq.

If members have ideas/suggestions for topics for Membership Monday, please have them email their ideas to Membership@vfw.org.

If a Department is needing assistance with revitalizing a Post or potentially chartering a new Post, please have them reach out directly to Associate Director of Post Development and Revitalization Corey Hunt, CoreyHunt@vfw.org.

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

Meeting and Events

- Successful JRVICE/QM meeting held Oct. 13-16. Made notes on things to improve upon from my planner’s perspective. Once again, the Airport Marriott did an outstanding job of hosting.
- Scheduling Dec. 8-9, 2022, for the first 2023 national convention (local) committee meeting. Will combine with production and FERN Expo to site center. Sitting down at the center with key points of contact, e.g., catering, electric, internet, event management.
- Beginning revisions of convention related documents for 2023. Internal working agenda, exhibitor forms, housing reservation forms, etc.

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

VFW Foundation

- As a reminder, from now until Nov. 11, 2022, BURGER KING® franchise restaurants are raising funds 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 or 816.968.2720.

Contact: VFW Foundation Manager Richard Freiburghouse, RFreiburghouse@vfw.org.

National Legislative Service

- The president signed VFW-supported [H.R. 7846](#), *Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2022* into law. 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 announced increase is to be 8.7 percent, which is 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. [Read more.](#)
- TRICARE has announced that on Oct. 24, 2022, thousands of community pharmacies will leave the network. Express Scripts is the TRICARE pharmacy contractor with oversight of home delivery, military pharmacy, and civilian contract facilities. Walmart and Sam's Club pharmacies are among those impacted by this change. It is recommended that you contact your pharmacy to see if it will remain in network or find a [participating pharmacy](#) near you. [Read more.](#)
- 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.

National Veterans Service

- NVS will attend the Board of Veterans Appeals quarterly meeting with our partner VSOs, state and county agencies on Thursday, Oct. 20, 2022.
- The regularly scheduled monthly meetings of both the Debt Management Center (DMC) and GI Bill stakeholders will also occur on Thursday, Oct. 20, 2022. NVS will attend.
- The monthly NVS Update Forum is scheduled for this Thursday to instruct our accredited representatives on the most current VA Health, Benefits and Education updates via ZOOM.
- VFW's NVS Pre-Discharge representatives briefed transitioning service members on VA benefits at Fort Bliss, Texas, Nellis AFB, Nevada, Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, Joint Base Myer, Virginia, Joint Base Anacostia Bolling, D.C., and at the USO Transitions at Fort Hood, Texas.
- NVS leadership attended the VA Veterans Experience Office discussion on redesign of the TAP program.
- VAVS Volunteer of the Year nominations are being accepted by NVS health team until Dec. 15, 2022.

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

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