

October 28, 2022

Greetings,

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

Human Resources

- Promotion:
 - o Carly Thompson was promoted to Development Assistant in the Development Department in the K.C. Office

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

Development

- Oct. 25 Appeals:
 - o Veterans Day Matching Gift email #2 to all Friends of Freedom.
 - o October acquisition reminder package with dime, coasters and check.
 - o October quarterly supporter newsletter #1 to all member and nonmember donors.

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

Administrative Operations

- There are currently 62 Posts under suspension; one of which is new with four suspensions lifted since last week. We have instituted two and are working to institute two new Posts; we have completed one and are working one Post consolidation; we are working one charter surrender; we are working six and have completed two charter revocations pursuant to Sections 201, 209, 210 and 212 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,787 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 17 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 23 administrative actions and eight membership eligibility challenges.

- We have 48 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review. Current turnaround time on Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions is approximately two weeks.

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

VFW Programs

- VFW's Sport Clips "Help A Hero Scholarship" Program
 - o 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!!

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

Membership

- Department Early Bird Incentive

For every Department that achieves 92% in membership by Jan. 1, 2023; the Department Commander and Quartermaster will receive:

- o A Henry 30-30 caliber rifle or a credit voucher of equal value for use with Veterans Travel Services (VTS) or the VFW Store.
- Post Commander and Quartermaster – New and Reinstated Member Award

The top 10 Post Commanders and Quartermasters in each division who report more than 50 new and/or reinstated members by Jan. 1, 2023, will each be awarded:

- o A travel charger with the official VFW Commander-in-Chief logo.
- Early Bird Award — VFW Legislative Conference

The top three Post Commanders and Quartermasters in each division and the top two District Commanders and Quartermasters on Jan. 1, 2023, will receive:

- o A \$1,000 stipend to be used toward attending the VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.

Contact: VFW Membership Director Rick Butler, RButler@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.

- The VFW Foundation Board meeting was held on Tuesday, Oct. 25, 2022, at VFW National Headquarters. Board members and VFW staff participated in a series of innovative roundtable discussions designed to reaffirm the mission and vision of the VFW Foundation going forward.

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

National Legislative Service

- President Biden signed into law two VFW-supported bills. The [Solid Start Act](#) requires the VA to reach out to newly separated veterans three times within their first year of separation to check in and help connect them to VA programs and benefits. It is open to all newly separated veterans regardless the type or characterization of service. Finally, [Supporting Families of the Fallen Act](#) will increase the automatic maximum coverage under Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance and Veterans' Group Life Insurance from \$400,000.00 to \$500,000.00.
- The VA will now allow certain survivors of LGBTQ+ veterans to apply for survivor benefits, such as Survivors Pension or Dependency and Indemnity Compensation. Due to past bans on same-sex marriages and previous VA marriage requirements, many survivors of LGBTQ+ veterans were not eligible for survivor benefits. Surviving spouses can now establish they had a "marriage-type" relationship by providing documents such as joint banking statements, joint purchase of a house, tax returns, insurance forms, lay statements, and more. These benefits are not retroactive, but those eligible who apply in the next year will receive benefits backdated to Oct.11, 2022. Contact a [VFW Service Officer](#) for assistance filing for benefits. [Learn more.](#)
- The VFW currently [supports 175 bills; and opposes one bill](#) pending before the 117th Congress.

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 Andrews, Maryland, Fort Hood, Texas, Joint Base

Myer, Virginia, Naval Support Activity Annapolis, Maryland, and Joint Based Anacostia Bolling, D.C.

- VFW's NVS Pre-Discharge Joint Base Lewis McChord representatives conducted evening outreach at a special evening career expo.
- VFW's NVS Pre-Discharge representatives participated in the Marine Corps Base Quantico Career/Education/Transition event for transitioning service members and FBI Academy personnel.
- NVS health leadership met with the VA Program executive for the Electronic Health Records Modernization Integration Office and discussed concerns and way ahead for the program.
- VFW's National Capitol Regions Benefits Office staff conducted an initial outreach and claims service event in conjunction with the Alexandria, Virginia based CBOC. Which will be a normal monthly activity.
- VFW's National Service Office staff (Kansas City) conducted outreach and benefits assistance at an event for first responders and veterans at DuckHorn Outdoor Adventures.

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

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