

October 7, 2022

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:

- Oct. 3 Appeal:
 - o October acquisition package with double work gloves, three cards and check.
- Oct. 4 Appeal:
 - o October eNews to all nonmember Friends of Freedom.
- Oct. 6 Appeal:
 - o Veterans Day sign-a-card email #1 to all Friends of Freedom.
- Oct. 8 Appeal:
 - o Justice For Veterans package to member and nonmember donors.

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

Administrative Operations

- There are currently 73 Posts under suspension; 13 of which are new with seven suspensions lifted since last week. We are working to institute one new Post; we have completed two and are working two Post consolidations; we are working two charter surrenders; we are working four and have completed three charter revocations pursuant to Sections 201, 209, 210 and 212 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,812 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 11 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 23 administrative actions and eight membership eligibility challenges.
- We have six Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review and received 15 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.

Membership

- Commander-in-Chief Borland has laid down a rewarding challenge for all Departments and Posts for the month of October. As you attend Department, District & Post meetings, please let our membership know of this great opportunity.
 - o Departments will receive a \$50 grant for any new Life or reinstated Life member that is recruited. 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.

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

Communications & Public Relations

- The C&PA Director is preparing for upcoming trips to support Commander-in-Chief appearances at high visibility events.
- The C&PA Director collaborated with other directors to respond to media queries and coordinate for interviews on a variety of topics.
- The C&PA Director collaborated with other directors in developing and sharing content on the VFW National social media platforms and VFW Washington Office Twitter account, [@VFW_OfficeDC](https://twitter.com/VFW_OfficeDC).
- The C&PA Director continued to coordinate for guest interviews for future episodes of the podcast.

Contact: VFW Communications and Public Affairs Director Rob Couture, RCouture@vfw.org.

Human Resources

- New Employee:

- o Bridgit Hutchcraft has rejoined the VFW as a Member Service Advisor in the Member Services Department in the K.C. Office.

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

Meeting and Events

- Finalizing update of RFP – Request for Proposal for 2027 & 2028, National convention city bids. Targeted to go out October 10 with proposals from cities due back by 11/15. Presentations for bids to be conducted here at the VFW HQTS in early January. Time and Place committee meeting held at DC Legislative Conference in March. The recommendations from Time & Place Committee to NCOA at 3/5/23 DC Legislative Committee for their final choice for each year.
- Final preparations for Oct. 13-16, Junior Vice Commanders/Quartermasters Conference.
- Coordinating housing opening (Nov. 7) for DC Legislative Conference. Housing link will be posted to the VFW website under Legislative Conference link.

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

VFW Foundation

- 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 www.vfw.org/Grants. Questions may be directed to Jason Couch, VFW Foundation Grants & External Relations Coordinator at 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 & Auxiliaries. The application may be found at www.vfw.org/UTCH. Questions may be directed to Jason Couch, VFW Foundation Grants & External Relations Coordinator at JCouch@vfw.org.

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

National Legislative Service

- The House Committee on Veterans' Affairs conducted a hearing on VA programs for suicide prevention, intervention, postvention, and VA-sponsored research and community efforts. VFW National Legislative Service Deputy Director Tammy Barlet provided a statement for the record that outlined the VFW's priority to end veteran suicide, concerns regarding VA's [2022 National Veteran Suicide Prevention Annual Report](#), and results from VFW's Fall 2022 Health Survey. "The VFW is working to ensure a way forward in the collective mission to end veteran suicide once and for all," said Barlet. [Watch the hearing or read the testimony](#).

- Calling all changemakers who are interested in the topics of challenges for service members and military families, transition from military to civilian life, improving veterans' health care and benefits, and student veteran success on campus and beyond. The VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship is a semester-long program open to ambitious student veterans who are currently a VFW member or VFW-eligible, and who attend an accredited institution of higher learning. Highlights of the program include attending the Student Veterans of America (SVA) National Conference in Orlando, Florida, and the VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. The application process for this valuable experience **closes at midnight on Oct. 15**. [Learn more and apply for the fellowship](#).
- TRICARE has announced that beginning 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. Find a [participating pharmacy](#) near you. [Read more](#).
- As of Oct. 1, 2022, VA is expanding health care eligibility for certain veterans as directed by the recent passage into law of the *Honoring our PACT Act*. A one-year open enrollment period will be available for eligible Vietnam veterans, Gulf War veterans, and Post-9/11 veterans. Eligibility is based on dates and locations of service, regardless of disability claim status. Once the open enrollment period has closed, veterans from these groups will be eligible for VA health care as part of a phased process depending on discharge date. Learn more about your [eligibility](#) and [apply today](#).
- 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.

Veterans of Foreign Wars
 406 W. 34th Street
 Kansas City, Missouri 64111
 © 2022 All rights reserved. | ® ™ SM
 Trademarks and service marks of VFW.

