

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION WEEKLY UPDATE



Nov. 3, 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:

- Oct. 30 Appeal:
 - o November double sock with check package to lapsed nonmember donors.
- Oct. 31 Appeal:
 - o Veterans Day matching gift email #3 to all Friends of Freedom.
- Nov. 3 Appeal:
 - o Nov. calendar package to member and nonmember donors.
- Nov. 4 Appeal:
 - o Planned Giving mailing #1.

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

Human Resources

- Promotion:
 - o Quentin Carroll is the new Director of Administrative Operations in the K.C. Office.
- Positions Actively Recruiting For:
 - o Part-time Shipping/Receiving Clerk – K.C. Office.
 - o Maintenance Technician – D.C. Office.

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

Administrative Operations

- Department Inspections: We are moving forward with the Department Inspection initiative for the 2023-2024 term and have plans to complete ten (10) inspections this year. The hope is that we will have the first inspection scheduled for the beginning of October and have all inspections completed by May 2024, prior to the start of Department conventions. In the coming weeks we will be reaching out to the Departments that have been selected by the Commander-in-Chief as well as the inspection team members to begin working through availability and scheduling. Additionally, the inspection team will be conducting initial and refresher training in September before we start our schedule.

We look forward to another successful year of inspections and if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Quentin Carroll at QCarroll@vfw.org.

- There are currently 48 Posts under suspension, three of which are new. No Post consolidations were processed this week pursuant to Section 209 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,666 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 12 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 10 Administrative Actions and 10 membership eligibility challenges.
- We have 54 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review, eight of which are new; current turnaround time on Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions is approximately 30 days.

Contact: VFW Administrative Operations Associate Director Zach Schwenk, ZSchwenk@vfw.org.

Membership

- Buddy checks can be an important part of your membership strategy! As colder temperatures set in and the holidays approach, identify those members you have not seen for some time. Reach out by phone or put teams together to make house calls if appropriate. These actions will go a long way in retaining members. Materials such as door hangers, fact sheets and other membership materials can be ordered on vfw.org anytime!
- Another Membership Monday training webinar will happen Monday, Nov. 6, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. CST. We will be covering the topic “**New Member Application and Renewal Processing.**” Get a complete understanding of the new member application process from application submittal to new card delivery. The webinar will be recorded for future viewing as all Membership Mondays are.
- If you have a topic for training, we would love to hear from you! Contact us by emailing, Membership@vfw.org. Follow our Facebook Page, <https://www.facebook.com/VFWmembership>.

Contact: VFW Membership Interim Director Corey Hunt, CoreyHunt@vfw.org.

VFW Foundation

- The 10th anniversary of the VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" campaign is currently underway through Nov. 11, 2023, with over 1,800 franchised stores participating. Join the campaign and donate at vfw.org/2023HAH.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations Brooke Brown, BBrown@vfw.org.

- **VFW members save money now!** As a membership benefit, you have access to the cost savings VFW PerkSpot Program. Score discounts on name-brand products and services – everything from home goods to entertainment to travel, even the latest electronic technology. [Click here](#) and register to save in 25+ categories. Any questions can be directed to Assistant Director Ben Vargas, VFW Foundation, BVargas@vfw.org.

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

National Legislative Service

- **VFW-Supported Amendment Passes Senate:** The Senate passed an amendment to the *Military Construction, Veteran Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024*. In July, the VFW testified in favor of H.R. 705, *Veterans 2nd Amendment Protection Act*, which mirrors the aforementioned bill. This amendment would block VA from automatically referring veterans with fiduciaries to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS), which prohibits the ownership of firearms. It would also require that any VA referrals to NICS must first have the order of a judge indicating that the person is a danger to themselves or others. The VFW sees this as a necessary step to ensure the right of due process for veterans. [Read more](#).
- **Senate Committee Hearing on VA Accountability:** The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs held an oversight hearing on VA accountability and transparency. Efforts to streamline VA's ability to hire and fire employees in an efficient manner were discussed. "Accountability and transparency must be cornerstones of fulfilling VA's mission to provide high quality care and benefits to our veterans. We can all agree that bad actors at VA cannot and will not be tolerated," said Chairman Jon Tester. [Watch the hearing](#), which begins at the 12:18 mark.
- **Expected COLA Increases Announced:** The Social Security Administration (SSA) announced a 3.2% benefit increase for 2024. VA compensation payment rates will match the rates from SSA. Veterans can expect to see the new amounts starting with their January 2024 payment. [Read more](#).

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

National Veterans Service

- NVS health team will attend the D.C. VAMC/VSO Winter Haven Veterans Stand Down meeting.

- NVS health team attended the virtual Philadelphia VA Medical Center town hall meeting.
- NVS health team participated in the VA Vet Center quarterly briefing.
- NCRBO accredited staff participated in the Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall Retiree Appreciation Day and provided VA benefits information on Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023.
- NCRBO staff will provide VA benefits and counseling services at the D.C. Vet Center as regularly scheduled monthly outreach on Friday, Nov. 3, 2023.
- VFW's NVS Pre-Discharge representatives briefed transitioning service members on VA benefits at Fort Bliss, Fort Cavazos, and Joint Base Anacostia Bolling.
- NVS leaders will attend a National Cemetery Administration (NCA) Veterans Legacy Memorial Program event on Friday, Nov. 3, 2023.

Contact: VFW National Veterans Service Director Michael Figlioli, MFiglioli@vfw.org.

