

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION  
**WEEKLY UPDATE**



Dec. 8, 2023

Greetings,

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

**Development**

- Dec.5 Appeals:
  - o December eNews to all nonmember Friends of Freedom.
  - o November acquisition reminder package with nickels, coasters, and check.
  - o November double sock reminder package with nickels and check to lapsed nonmember donors.
- Dec. 6 Appeal:
  - o Year-end campaign email #2 to all Friends of Freedom.
- Dec. 8 Appeal:
  - o December acquisition currency package with nickels, coasters, and check.
- Dec. 9 Appeal:
  - o Partners in Patriotism invite #2 to member and nonmember donors.

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

**Human Resources**

- New Hires:
  - o Rachel Ailer is a new Member Services Advisor in Member Services.
  - o Joseph Wolfgeher, Jr. is a new Assistant Coordinator - Fraternal Operations in Administrative Operations.

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

### **Member Service Center**

- Please be advised that the Online Membership System (OMS) will be shutting down at 4:00 p.m. CST on Dec. 31, 2023. Any transactions that are submitted through OMS on Dec. 31, up to the closing time, will be posted to Memstats and Post Query later that evening and available for viewing the morning of Jan. 5, 2024.
- Mail received at the National Headquarters prior to Dec. 29, 2023, will be processed and counted in the December total. Mail received after that date, regardless of the postmark date, will not be counted in the December total. We suggest you have your Posts mail in their membership as early as possible or take advantage of the Online Membership System tools.
- The OMS system will be back online for the submittal of transactions by 4:00 p.m. CST, Jan. 1, 2024; however, membership transactions that are processed will not be posted to Memstats until all pertinent data is secured and verified. This should occur on (or before) Jan. 8, 2024.

Contact: VFW Member Services Director David Prohaska, [DProhaska@vfw.org](mailto:DProhaska@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 all inspections completed by May 2024, prior to the start of Department Conventions. 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.

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](mailto:QCarroll@vfw.org).

- There are currently 49 Posts under suspension, six of which are new. We have processed one Post consolidation pursuant to Section 209 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,664 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 20 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 16 Administrative Actions and nine membership eligibility challenges.
- We have 50 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review, 19 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](mailto:ZSchwenk@vfw.org).

### **VFW Foundation**

- The VFW Foundation recently received a \$10,000 Unmet Needs gift from Altice USA. Of this amount, \$5,000 was donated by participating employees from their recent Employee Wellness Challenge (in honor of Veterans Day), and \$5,000 came from a Charity Casino Night event at their executive retreat. Altice USA is one of the largest broadband communications and video services providers in the U.S. serving nearly 5 million residential and business customers across 21 states with popular brands that include Optimum, News 12 and a4 Advertising. Many thanks to our friends at Altice USA!

Contact: VFW Foundation Director of Donor Relations Richard Freiburghouse, [RFreiburghouse@vfw.org](mailto:RFreiburghouse@vfw.org).

### **National Legislative Service**

- VFW Tells Subcommittee to Streamline Appeals Process: VFW National Veterans Service Director Michael Figlioli testified at a House Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs oversight hearing to examine the VA appeals process. Figlioli stated the VFW's views on how to improve decision-making processes at the VA Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) and the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. "It is the VFW's position that communication and coordination between the BVA, Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA), and accredited representatives are critical during the remand process," he said. "Clear and concise directives that the decision-maker must comply with from the BVA to the VBA help streamline the further development of cases." He continued, "Effective collaboration between these entities is essential to ensure that the remand process serves its intended purpose without unnecessary complications and needless delays." [Read the testimony](#) or [watch the hearing](#), which begins at the 7:43 mark.

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

### **National Veterans Service**

- NVS Director Michael Figlioli attended a Veterans Benefits Administration Leaders and Partners meeting that addressed collaborative relationships, transition, PACT Act and BVA issues.
- NVS Director Michael Figlioli escorted the VA Undersecretary for Benefits Joshua Jacobs and his leadership staff on a tour of VFW National Headquarters that included meetings with VFW National leaders and a tour of the Headquarters building.
- VFW's NVS Pre-Discharge Service Representatives briefed transitioning service members on VA benefits at Fort Bliss, Texas, JB Andrews, Maryland, Fort Drum, New York, and Coast Guard Headquarters, D.C.
- NVS BDD staff participated in the Air Force General Officer TAP course on Andrews AFB, Maryland.
- NVS BDD reps attended a training session to identify information needed in the TVB claims management system.
- NVS Health Team attend virtual Developing a Pain Management Model for Patients Receiving Medication for Opioid Use Disorder meeting via Microsoft Teams.

- NVS health team attend the virtual National VFW/ATLAS Weekly Huddle meeting via Microsoft Teams.

Contact: VFW National Veterans Service Director Michael Figlioli, [MFiglioli@vfw.org](mailto:MFiglioli@vfw.org).

