

February 10, 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:

- Feb. 7 Appeals:
 - o February eNews to all nonmember Friends of Freedom.
 - o January lapsed statements to member and nonmember donors.
 - o January statements to nonmember Partners in Patriotism sustainers.
- Feb. 11 Appeal:
 - o Kitchen set reminder package to nonmember donors.

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

Human Resources

- New Employee:
 - MiCaila Holland is a new Member Services Advisor in the Member Services Department in the K.C. Office.
- Positions Actively Recruiting For:
 - o Major Gifts Officer – D.C. Office.
 - o Custom Consultant Assistant – K.C. Office.
 - o Part-Time Shipping Receiving Clerk – K.C. Office.
 - o Director of Information Technology – K.C. Office.

- o Pre-Discharge Claims Rep – San Diego, California.
- o Donor Services Coordinator – K.C. Office.
- o Member Services Advisor – K.C. Office.

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

Membership

Greetings from the Membership Department,

- This month we are making a push and emailing 5,544 annual members who are turning 31, 41, 51, etc., this calendar year, to consider upgrading to a Life membership as it will save them between \$15 - \$65. We emailed 45,415 continuous other members that have paid dues for three consecutive years to consider upgrading to a Life membership. We emailed 214,262 Life members to consider becoming a Legacy member.
- Reminder that there is currently a Commander-in-Chief monthly challenge for February. The Post that leads its respective division in membership with a minimum of 2% growth in February will receive \$500. Any Department that has growth of at least 2% will also receive \$500.

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

Administrative Operations

- There are currently 36 Posts under suspension; eight of which are new with seven suspensions lifted since last week. We are working to institute five new Posts; we have completed one Post consolidation; we are working one charter surrender; we are working three charter revocations pursuant to Sections 201, 209, 210 and 212 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,757 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 21 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 14 administrative actions and 10 membership eligibility challenges.
- In an effort to reduce paper and expedite our process, Departments are encouraged to submit Post, District, and Department bylaws and Articles of Incorporation to Administrative Operations via email to our Post Records Coordinator April Ferreira (AFerreira@vfw.org). Additionally, submitted bylaws or articles in conflict with the National Bylaws will be returned to the unit (Departments will be cc'd) with a list of amendments and a digital copy of our template for resubmittal. For any questions regarding this change, please contact the Director below.

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

VFW Foundation

- A \$15,000 gift was recently received to support VFW programs from GovCIO, a veteran owned business consulting firm that focuses on cyber security, digital/data management, and IT services primarily for U.S. government agencies.
- A VFW Foundation Board meeting was held on Tuesday, Feb. 7, 2023, at VFW National Headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri. Issues discussed included additional VFW Board member nominations, VFW BURGER KING® Unmet Needs program updates, the use of eShow software to manage sponsors for the upcoming VFW National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, the creation of a Foundation informational video, and a possible modification to the Foundation’s vision/mission statement:
 - o New Vision Statement: *“The vision of the VFW Foundation is to create a positive impact on America’s military veterans, service members and their families by addressing their unique needs.”*
 - o New Mission Statement: *“The mission of the VFW Foundation is to serve military veterans, service members and their families by securing resources for programs that facilitate enhanced life outcomes.”*

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

National Legislative Service

- The House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs has announced its members. Rep. Mike Bost (R-IL), a Marine Corps veteran, will lead the committee as chairman. The former chairman, Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA) will assume the role of ranking member. The VFW has worked productively for years with both Chairman Bost and Ranking Member Takano in their previous roles, and we look forward to continuing that strong relationship. Other members of the committee, including many veterans, have been assigned to various subcommittee roles. Read more for a complete list of the members of the House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs.
- Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) has introduced VFW-supported S. 42, [*BUILD for Veterans Act of 2023*](#). This legislation would streamline efforts to reduce the infrastructure backlog and improve the overall management of the capital asset programs of VA. “The *BUILD for Veterans Act* will require VA to develop and implement plans to remedy this infrastructure problem that has plagued VA for years,” said VFW National Legislative Director Pat Murray. The bill is cosponsored by Sens. Patty Murray (D-WA), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), and Mark Warner (D-VA).

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

National Veterans Service

- VFW’s NVS Pre-Discharge representatives will conduct VA disability benefits and separation briefings on Fort Hood and Fort Bliss, Texas, Fort Myer, Virginia, Fort Riley, Kansas, and the U.S. Army Sergeants Major Academy.

- NVS Deputy Director Gregg Orto is conducting a Benefits at Delivery site visit to San Diego, California, and attending the VA Advisory Committee on the Readjustment of Veterans meeting of which he is a member.
- NVS Deputy Director Mike Figlioli will be attending the Undersecretary for Health (USH) VSO leadership meeting for briefings on the Electronic Health Record Program (EHR), National Standards of Practice and Patient Care Services.
- NVS Deputy Director Mike Figlioli will attend a House Veterans Affairs Committee (HVAC) Roundtable meeting with Chairman Mike Bost in preparation for the start of the legislative calendar and hearings in the 118th Congress.
- NVS will attend the monthly VSO Partnership meeting with the Undersecretary for Benefits Office and the Veterans Benefits Administration.

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

