

February 17, 2023

Greetings,

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

Communications and Public Affairs

- For those attending the VFW Legislative Conference March 5-9 in Washington, D.C., be sure and download the updated VFW Events App to ensure you have everything conference related at your fingertips. The app is available for download at both the Apple App Store and the Google Play Store by searching "VFW Events." [Click here for our Events App Quick Start Guide.](#)

Contact: VFW Communications and Public Affairs Director Randi Law, RLaw@vfw.org.

Development

This week's Development campaigns are listed below:

- Feb. 17 Appeals:
 - o February newsletter #2 to member and nonmember donors.
 - o February kitchen set with three cards and check package to lapsed nonmember donors.
- Feb. 18 Appeal:
 - o Nickel, label with certificate reminder package to member donors.

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

Human Resources

- New Employee:
 - Adam Strickler is a new Member Services Advisor in the Member Services Department in the K.C. Office.

- Nancy Hall is the new Development Assistant in the Development Department in the K.C. Office.
- Promotion:
 - Meggan Thomas was promoted to Associate Director in the National Legislative Services Department in the D.C. Office.
- Positions Actively Recruiting For:
 - o Major Gifts Officer – D.C.
 - o Custom Consultant Assistant – K.C.
 - o Part-Time Shipping Receiving Clerk – K.C.
 - o Director of Information Technology – K.C.
 - o Donor Services Coordinator – K.C.
 - o Member Services Advisor – K.C.
 - o IT Technician – D.C.

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

Membership

Greetings from the Membership Department,

- Congratulations to the Department of Kentucky for achieving 100% in membership this past week. We post “Congratulations” on our Facebook page immediately after a Department hits 100%. If you are not following the membership page, please go to <https://www.facebook.com/VFWmembershipHQ> and hit “Like” to follow us.
- Membership Monday for the month of March will be pushed back to March 13 – due to VFW leadership being in Washington, D.C., for the Legislative Conference. A reminder will be sent out the last week of February.
- As you are attending Post, District and Department events, we ask that you please work on expiring annual membership rosters by making buddy checks and asking the member to renew their membership, and of course always talk about the long-term savings of a Life membership versus paying dues year after year.

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

Meetings and Events

- Phoenix convention housing opened **Friday, Feb. 17, 2023, at 8:15 a.m. CST** – Housing assignments list and reservations link will be included on the Convention webpage – www.vfw.org/Convention **Note:** NCOA members housing reservations will be made by National. Questions, let either me or Kissha Hood know.
- Sent housing notification memo to VFW Department Adjutants/Quartermasters copy to Department Senior Vice and Department Commander in advance with a reminder of housing opening on Feb. 17.
- Feb. 7, 2023, sent housing list and meeting resume (specifications) to Hyatt Regency Crystal City for upcoming Legislative Conference. The hotel immediately notified us our room block the night of March 8 was oversold. **Note:** Traditionally, a good number of attendees leave right after the Commander-in-Chief testimony. However, this year a large majority are staying until March 9. The hotel was unable to give us additional rooms on the night of the 8th.
- Secured overflow rooms for Legislative Conference at the Courtyard by Marriott (*adjacent*) to the Hyatt Regency Crystal City. The Courtyard by Marriott is offering same rate as the Hyatt (\$225 + tax) for those overflow rooms. Individuals moved to the Courtyard by Marriott will be notified. The hotel offers airport shuttle. *Note: NCOA are not part of this overflow group of rooms.*

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

National Legislative Service

- The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs has announced its members. Sen. Jon Tester (D-MT) has returned as chairman, and Sen. Jerry Moran (R-KS) has returned as ranking member. The VFW has successfully worked with both Chairman Tester and Ranking Member Moran in the past, most recently highlighted last year by the historic passage of the PACT Act. Many other senators named to the committee also served on it during last Congress. [Read more.](#)
- The National Resource Directory (NRD) gives service members, veterans, family members, and caregivers the ability to find and connect with organizations that can assist with specialized recovery, rehabilitation, and reintegration needs. The NRD is the product of a partnership with DOD, VA, and the Department of Labor. This program is meant to facilitate free connections between individuals and stringently vetted resources that provide support in many areas such as employment, education, veteran benefits, caregiver support, housing, and the Military Adaptive Sports Program. [Read more.](#)
- As part of the PACT Act, VA has expanded health care eligibility for certain veterans who were discharged after Sept. 11, 2001, and before Oct. 1, 2013. A one-year open enrollment period began on Oct. 1, 2022, for this group of veterans depending on their dates and locations of service, regardless of disability claim status. Once the open enrollment period has closed, veterans from this group will be eligible for VA health care as part of a phase-in process depending on discharge date. [Apply today.](#)

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

National Veterans Service

- NVS health team is working with Action Corps for an April campaign for Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month.
- NVS health team participated in the ATLAS meeting this week.
- VFW's NVS Pre-Discharge representatives briefed transitioning service members on VA benefits at Fort Bliss, Texas, Fort Riley, Kansas, Fort Hood, Texas, Fort Drum, New York, Fort Myer, Virginia, and Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Washington, D.C.
- NVS Pre-Discharge team is participating in the Air Force General Officer Transition Course and will provide a deskside briefing to the chief of staff of the Army.
- NVS is holding Basic Level Service Officer Training this week via ZOOM for newly hired VFW Accredited Service representatives which ends Friday, Feb. 17, 2023.
- NVS leadership will be monitoring the confirmation hearing for Josh Jacobs as the next Undersecretary for Benefits (USB) on Thursday, Feb. 16, 2023, in the Senate.

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

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