

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION WEEKLY UPDATE



February 24, 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

- Don't forget! 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. 22 Appeal:
 - o Voice of Democracy state winners' audio email to all Friends of Freedom.
- Feb. 23 Appeal:
 - o Partners in Patriotism sustainer invite to all Friends of Freedom.
- Feb. 24 Appeals:
 - o February acquisition reminder package with checks.
 - o Patriot Circle annual fund personal note mailing to member and nonmember donors.
- Feb. 25 Appeal:
 - o Partners in Patriotism invite #3 to member and nonmember donors.

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

Human Resources

- 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 all the District and Post Commanders and Quartermasters for winning the D.C. Early Bird trip to the 2023 VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. Please help us remind those attending and receiving a stipend check for the event: Checks and Commander-in-Chief's reception credentials must be picked up from Membership Associate Director Corey Hunt, who will be available in the VFW Administration office at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, from 8:30 a.m. until noon EST on Monday, March 6.
- The Commander-in-Chief's reception on March 6, will immediately follow the Voice of Democracy Parade of Winners award ceremony. Attendance is mandatory for all D.C. Early Bird recipients.
- We look forward to seeing all of you at this year's Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., for the Commander-in-Chief's testimony on Capitol Hill, Wednesday, March 8.

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

Administrative Operations

- There are currently 33 Posts under suspension with three suspensions lifted since last week. We are working to institute four new Posts; we have completed one and are working two Post consolidations; we have completed three charter revocations pursuant to Sections 201, 209, and 212 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,752 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 20 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 13 administrative actions and 10 membership eligibility challenges.

- The Department Inspection team is currently finishing up their inspection of the Department of Wisconsin. The team has completed the inspection of Maryland, Nevada, and Kentucky Departments, respectively. Upcoming inspections through May are New York, Arizona, South Carolina, Illinois, Oregon, and Maine.
- 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

- The Uniting to Combat Hunger (UTCH) Grant will reopen on March 1, 2023, and close on July 17, 2023. Through this grant, a Post or its Auxiliary (but not both) may receive a reimbursement of up to \$1,500 for donations of food and money made to a food bank or food pantry. Applicants may receive no more than \$1,500 through this program during the VFW Foundation fiscal year (Sept. 1 – Aug. 31). Once open, the application will be available at vfw.org/Utch. Please direct any questions to Grants Manager Jason Couch at JCouch@vfw.org.

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

National Legislative Service

- Leading veterans service organizations (VSOs) — Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), DAV (Disabled American Veterans), and Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) — have released The Independent Budget (IB) Veterans Agenda for the 118th Congress. This report serves as a roadmap to ensure VA is fully funded and capable of carrying out its mission to serve veterans and their families, both now and in the future. “For over 30 years, the IBVSOs have coauthored the IB, offering substantive solutions and policy recommendations to ensure the timely delivery of specialized health care, as well as appropriate earned benefits for the men and women who served,” said VFW Legislative Service Director Pat Murray. “With this year’s report now complete, it is imperative that Congress and VA work together, along with VSOs and other stakeholders, to put veterans’ needs on the top of their list.” [Read the IB report](#).
- The VFW recently joined Give an Hour’s Veteran Workforce Advisory Group to develop strategies that meet the needs of veterans in today’s workforce. Recognizing that so much has changed over the last three years, this collective effort aims to improve the quality of life for veterans, families, employers, and the community. As part of this project, the VFW encourages veterans to complete [a survey](#) that is designed to determine best practices for creating a workplace environment that supports emotional well-being.

- The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs held a hearing to consider the nomination of Joshua Jacobs to be the VA under secretary for benefits. The Veterans Benefits Administration (VBA) is the entity within VA that administers the department's programs that provide financial and other assistance to veterans, their dependents, and survivors. Some of the notable programs VBA is responsible for are disability compensation, education, home loan guarantee, and employment. "I am honored and humbled to be nominated to serve as under secretary for benefits at the Department of Veterans Affairs. I am grateful to President Biden, Secretary McDonough, and Deputy Secretary Remy for their trust in my ability to serve in this important role," said Jacobs. If confirmed, the VFW will look forward to working with Mr. Jacobs in his new role to further enhance and protect benefits for all veterans. [Watch the hearing.](#)

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

National Veterans Service

- NVS health team is participating in the monthly VHA VSO update meeting and the VHA live course on Harassment and Assault Prevention.
- NVS leadership participated in an Oracle Cerner/VFW meeting concerning the Electronic Health Records (EHR) implementation on Friday, Feb. 24, 2023.
- NVS Pre-Discharge team working with the Air Force General Officer program for their upcoming TAP course delivering a separation and benefits briefing.
- VFW's NVS Pre-Discharge representatives briefing 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, D.C.
- NVS Quality Assurance team is conducting a site visit to the New Mexico VFW Service Office to observe operations and provide training.

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

