

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION WEEKLY UPDATE



March 17, 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:

- March 16 Appeal:
 - o March legislative email #1 to all Friends of Freedom.

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

Human Resources

- New Hire:
 - o Stacy Pennington 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.
 - o Donor Services Coordinator – K.C.
 - o Member Services Advisor – K.C.
 - o IT Technician – D.C.
 - o Internet Marketing Campaign & Special Projects Coordinator – K.C.
 - o Direct Mail Project Coordinator – K.C.

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

Administrative Operations

- There are currently 33 Posts under suspension; two of which are new with one suspension lifted since last week. We have instituted two and are working to institute four new Posts; we have completed two and are working six Post consolidations; we have completed one and are working one charter surrenders pursuant to Sections 201, 209 and 210 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,747 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 19 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 16 administrative actions and 12 membership eligibility challenges.
- Our new completely digital process for reviewing bylaws and articles of incorporation at all levels is working well; however, we are making our way through a backlog of 109 bylaws and articles. Our estimated time to complete this backlog is three weeks. At that time, we'll be back to normal turnaround times. In the meantime, we thank you for your patience.

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

Meetings and Events

- The VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., is completed.
- Full Time and Place Committee met at the VFW Legislative Conference – Recommendations to National Council for 2027 and 2028 convention cities: 2027 location approved by Council – **Milwaukee, Wisconsin – July 31-Aug. 5, 2027.** 2028 location approved by Council – **San Antonio, Texas – Aug. 5-10, 2028.**
- Finalizing details for April 2-5, National Officer Implementation meeting. Rooming list due to the hotel March 16. Sent to hotel with resume (specs) March 14.
- Working with VFW housing manager to monitor housing for Phoenix to determine if we will need to add rooms for various nights that are currently waitlisted. **Note:** If adjustments are made, waitlisted individuals will be confirmed before any new reservations are processed.
- Researching dates/availability for 2024-2025 – Senior Vice Commanders and Junior Vice Commanders meetings. Received contracts, reviewing and forward to legal for their review.

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

VFW Foundation

- The VFW Foundation once again thanks our great partner, Twisted X and their CEO and President Prasad Reddy, for sponsorship of the VFW's Parade of Winners event (Voice of Democracy and Patriot's Pen youth scholarship competitions). Mr. Reddy attended the 76th annual ceremony in Washington, D.C.
- VFW Foundation Donation Specialist Renee Martin was a chaperone for the Voice of Democracy contestants in Washington, D.C. Sites visited included the U.S. House of

Representatives, the Arlington National Cemetery and the International Spy, Holocaust, and Smithsonian museums.

- VFW Foundation Director Lisa Baronio will deliver a presentation on Kosovo, Friday, March 24, at 10:00 a.m. in the VFW Headquarters Mezzanine.

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

National Legislative Service

- VFW National Commander Timothy Borland testified before a joint hearing of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs. The VFW delivered its top legislative priorities of "claim sharks," fixing concurrent receipt, combating veteran suicide, and awarding the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal to the troops deployed to Europe deterring Russian aggression. Borland stated, "Companies that prey upon veterans and blatantly disregard congressional oversight authority should be held accountable, period!" This was the first time since 2020 that the VFW was allowed to fully participate in-person at the special joint hearing. In attendance were approximately 400 VFW and Auxiliary members whose enthusiasm was palpable. [Watch the hearing](#) or [read the testimony](#).
- The VFW presented its 2023 Congressional Award to Sen. John Boozman (R-AR) for his outstanding service and years of unwavering support to veterans, service members, their families and survivors. "What an honor it is to present this award to such an honorable man," said VFW National Commander Timothy Borland. "His devotion to reaching across the aisle and across chambers on behalf of veterans is unparalleled. He is a stalwart example of the ideals, traditions and values that we hold dear in the VFW." Since being elected to the Senate, he continued his strong leadership for veterans by sponsoring the *Dr. Kate Hendricks Thomas SERVICE Act*, and being a steadfast ally in the passage of the *Honoring our PACT Act*. Now in the 118th Congress, Boozman is a staunch proponent of the *GUARD VA Benefits Act* that would protect veterans by eliminating predatory claims practices.

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

National Veterans Service

- NVS leadership meeting with The American Customer Satisfaction Index (ACSI) to explore the possibility of certifying the VFW's Pre-Discharge representatives 98% customer satisfaction rating.
- NVS staff registered and will complete "Building Connections" VFW HR training.
- NVS staff meeting for final preparation and submission of Commander in Chief's Resolutions to the Adjutant General.
- NVS leadership quarterly meeting with Wounded Warrior Project for grant updates and collaboration.
- NVS health team participation at the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency VSO Fair to brief on VA benefits and the PACT ACT.

- NVS health team participation in the quarterly White House virtual briefing on President Biden’s budget submission for veterans and military families.
- VFW’s NVS Pre-Discharge representatives briefed transitioning service members on VA benefits at Fort Hood, Fort Bliss, Joint Base Myer-Henderson, Joint Base Andrews, Fort Campbell, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Fort Drum, and Fort Riley.

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

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