

# NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION WEEKLY UPDATE



March 3, 2023

Greetings,

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

Note: There will not be a Council Weekly next week since the VFW Legislative Conference in Washington is taking place. It will resume on March 17.

## **Development**

This week's Development campaigns are listed below:

- March 2 Appeal:
  - o Partners in Patriotism sustainer invite email #2 to all Friends of Freedom.
- March 3 Appeals:
  - o March acquisition with double socks and three cards package.
  - o Planned Giving survey to members.

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

## **Human Resources**

- Promotions:
  - Ryan Gallucci has been promoted to Executive Director in the Washington Office.
  - Michael Figlioli has been promoted to Director of Veterans Service in the Washington 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.
- 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](mailto:SMaple@vfw.org).

## **Membership**

Greetings from the Membership Department,

- Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland has put out a new monthly challenge for all Posts during the month of March.
  - o The Post in each membership division that renews and reinstates the most members will receive a \$500 award deposited into their Post accounts. The Posts that finish in second through 10th place in each division will be put into a drawing for an additional \$500. That's 11 additional Posts who can win some needed cash! Same thing applies if you were to reinstate or renew a comrade for a Life membership.

Contact: VFW Membership Director Rick Butler, [RButler@vfw.org](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto:JDuncan@vfw.org).

### **Meetings and Events**

- Phoenix convention housing opened Feb. 17, 2023. As an FYI, there may be reservation requests that have resulted in individuals being placed on a waitlist for specific nights. This happens frequently as housing patterns are different each year. As we get further into the process, we will determine if there is a need to secure additional rooms for those waitlisted nights. The housing manager monitors this, and that decision will be made once we determine we have filled all blocks. Overbooking can result in paying attrition for rooms not picked up.
- Finalizing meeting details for VFW Legislative Conference, March 5-9, in Washington, D.C.
- Held convention city bid review meeting for 2027-2028, with Time and Place Chairman, Cynthia Archuleta on Tuesday, Feb. 21. Two cities for each year, 2027 and 2028, will be presented to the full Time and Place Committee meeting, Sunday, March 5. **2027**/Milwaukee or New Orleans, **2028**/New Orleans or San Antonio. One city for each year will be determined by the committee to be recommended to the Council of Administration for their approval at the Council meeting on Monday, March 6.
- Traveling to the conference March 3-9, and will be onsite for the meeting.

Contact: VFW Meetings and Events/Exhibits Director Vanessa Kane, CMP, CMM, [VKane@vfw.org](mailto:VKane@vfw.org).

### **VFW Foundation**

- The VFW Foundation has received notification that Oracle Cerner, a leading American corporation specializing in health information technology services, devices and hardware, will donate \$85,000 to the VFW's National Veterans Service Department (NVS) and will be a \$30,000 sponsor for the upcoming 2023 VFW National Convention in Phoenix. For additional information, please contact Brooke Brown, Director, Corporate and Foundation Relations at [BBrown@vfw.org](mailto:BBrown@vfw.org).
- The second round of the Uniting to Combat Hunger (UTCH) Grant is now open and will 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 food banks or food pantries. Applicants may receive no more than \$1,500 through this program during the VFW's Foundation fiscal year (Sept. 1 – Aug. 31). The application is now available at [vfw.org/Utch](http://vfw.org/Utch). Please direct any questions to Grants Manager Jason Couch at [JCouch@vfw.org](mailto:JCouch@vfw.org).

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

## **National Legislative Service**

- Reps. Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen (AS), Chris Pappas (NH-01), Brian Fitzpatrick (PA-01), and Jeff Van Drew (NJ-02) have introduced the VFW-supported *Governing Unaccredited Representatives Defrauding VA Benefits Act*, known as the *GUARD VA Benefits Act*. Reintroduced in the new Congress with 69 cosponsors, this bipartisan legislation would reinstate criminal penalties for unaccredited claim representatives who charge unauthorized fees for helping veterans file claims for VA disability compensation benefits. These companies are incentivized to operate outside of the law due to the lack of penalties. Cracking down on Claim Sharks is one of the VFW's top legislative priorities for the 118th Congress. [Read more](#).
- As the official guide to the 2023 VFW Legislative Conference, the VFW has launched its updated mobile event app to give attendees the tools needed to make the most of their visit to our nation's capital. The **VFW Events** mobile app is available now for download at both the [Apple App Store](#) and the [Google Play Store](#). For assistance and instructions on how to download and update the app, view our [VFW Events App Quick Start Guide](#).
- The VFW and PsychArmor, in collaboration with the For Country Caucus, held its third training for congressional staffers on how to connect with organizations like the VFW, as well as national, state, and local resources. The overarching goal of the training sessions is to help military and veteran legislative staff better meet the needs of service members, veterans, families, caregivers, and survivors. Topics included current policy issues, the importance of hosting veterans' town halls, and reaching out to accredited service officers.

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

## **National Veterans Service**

- VFW's NVS Pre-Discharge representatives briefing transitioning service members on VA benefits at Fort Bliss, Texas, Joint Base Myer-Henderson, Virginia, Fort Riley, Kansas, and Fort Drum, New York.
- NVS health leadership interviewed by Cox Media Group about OIG report concerning VHA onboarding procedures during COVID.
- NVS health leadership interviewed by Virginia Pilot media reporter about obtaining service dogs through VA.
- NVS health team meeting with Syracuse University about their programs to connect with women veterans.
- NVS leadership met with Oracle Cerner for an update on the EHRM on Tuesday, Feb. 28, 2023.
- NVS leadership will meet with Tyler Technologies for a status update on the claims management system migration project.

- NVS staff continue to prepare for the Commander-in-Chief's testimony and the National Veterans Service Advisory Committee (NVSAC) meeting, to be held during the VFW's Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C.

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

