

# NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION WEEKLY UPDATE



April 14, 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:

- April 10 Appeal:
  - o April acquisition double sock bundle with check package.
- April 13 Appeal:
  - o Dormant reengagement email #2 to all Friends of Freedom.
- April 14 Appeal:
  - o Planned Giving survey to nonmember donors.

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

## **Human Resources**

- New Hire:
  - o Tammie Flores is a new Member Services Advisor in the Member Services Department in the K.C. Office.
- Positions actively recruiting for:
  - o Member Services Advisor – K.C.
  - o Administrative Support Assistant, VFW Store – K.C.
  - o Associate Director, DAMA – D.C.
  - o Special Assistant for Veterans Health Policy – D.C.

- o Associate Director, Grassroots Advocacy – D.C.

Contact: VFW Human Resources Director Sari Maple, [SMaple@vfw.org](mailto:SMaple@vfw.org).

## **Communications**

In case you missed it, be sure and check out these highlights of recent VFW events:

1. VFW National Commander Tim Borland's testimony before the 118th Congress during a special joint hearing of the House and Senate Committees on Veterans' Affairs is available [here](#).
2. Be sure and watch and share the video recapping the sights and sounds from the VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. [here](#).
3. Photos from the VFW's recent fact-finding trip to Southeast Asia can be viewed [here](#).

Contact: VFW Communications and Public Affairs Director Randi Law, [RLaw@vfw.org](mailto:RLaw@vfw.org).

## **Administrative Operations**

- There are currently 32 Posts under suspension. We have completed one new Post institution and are working to institute three new Posts; we have completed one and are working two Post consolidations pursuant to Sections 201 and 209 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,714 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 19 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 17 administrative actions and eight 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 88 bylaws and articles. Our estimated time to complete this backlog is two weeks. At that time, we'll be back to normal turnaround times. In the meantime, we thank you for your patience.
- April is election report season. This is a reminder that the quickest and easiest way to submit election reports is by utilizing the Quartermaster's tools within the Online Membership System (OMS). Additionally, any Post that has not submitted an election report by June 1 is in arrears; will be prevented from voting at their respective Department convention; and will be subject to suspension.

Contact: VFW Administrative Operations Director Johnathan Duncan, [JDuncan@vfw.org](mailto:JDuncan@vfw.org).

## **Membership**

- This week Membership finalized the 2023-24 Membership Program outlining next year's goals for membership growth, incentives for retaining and recruiting members and all base-line requirements for next year's All-American Program. Next year's program will be thoroughly reviewed during the Sr. Vice/Adjutant Conference April 20-22, 2023.

- Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland is directly supporting national recruiting efforts at the National Rifle Association (NRA) Convention in Indianapolis, Indiana, April 14-16, 2023.

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

## **VFW Foundation**

- Due to scheduling conflicts with the Burger King Foundation, the Burger King/VFW Unmet Needs fundraising campaign will be conducted in May of this year. We continue to recruit BK franchisees across the U.S. to help raise much needed funding for the Unmet Needs program which provides financial aid grants to veterans, service members, and their families that are experiencing unexpected financial difficulties. A list of participating Burger King restaurants will be available beginning the week of April 17.

If you have any questions, please contact VFW Foundation Assistant Director Ben Vargas, [BVargas@vfw.org](mailto:BVargas@vfw.org).

- Representatives from Humana and the VFW/VFW Foundation convened on April 6, 2023, at the Kauffman Foundation in Kansas City, Missouri, for the annual Strategic Initiatives meeting. Discussion focused on impactful ways that both organizations could promote overall health and wellness in the veteran community. Primary consideration was given to raising awareness of the VFW's NVS outreach in alignment with Humana's mission to reduce food insecurity, social isolation, and healthcare equity.

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

## **National Legislative Service**

- The Washington Post Editorial Board suggested America balance its budget on the backs of veterans. VFW Washington Office Executive Director Ryan Gallucci issued a strong response to The Post's position, chastising the Editorial Board directly and calling the endorsement a "lazy opinion piece ... of anti-veteran talking points against which the VFW has fought for years." To read the full statement, [click here](#).
- The House and Senate Committees on Armed Services held hearings on the DOD budget request for fiscal year 2024. In addition to outlining how the budget would enable the U.S. to counter growing international threats, Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Mark Milley both emphasized the need to take care of the military's people with funding for initiatives like the requested 5.2 percent military pay raise, which would be the largest in more than two decades. Additional areas of discussion included DOD's progress on implementing Uniform Code of Military Justice reforms to eliminate military sexual assault and harassment, the ongoing recruiting crisis, and the critical issues of food insecurity, mental health care access, and suicide prevention. [Read the testimony or watch the Senate hearing](#) that begins at the 15:10 mark. [Read the testimony or watch the House hearing](#) that begins at the 38:50 mark.
- As of April 4, 2023, copayments for eligible American Indian and Alaska Native veterans are no longer required for VA health care services and urgent care. This change will impact approximately 25,000 veterans. [Learn more about eligibility](#) to receive this financial relief.

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

### **National Veterans Service**

- NVS Director Mike Figlioli attended the VHA VSO Roundtable meeting with the Undersecretary for Health on Wednesday, April 12, 2023.
- VFW will host a meeting with VA's Office of Community Engagement and Fellowships and their innovative projects team.
- VFW's NVS Pre-Discharge representatives briefed transitioning service members on VA benefits at Fort Bliss, Texas, Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, NSA Bethesda Maryland, Fort Riley, Kansas, Fort Drum New York, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, D.C.
- NVS health team meeting with VA ATLAS program.
- NVS attended a VSO/VBA Partnership meeting on Wednesday, April 12, 2023, with the Office of Financial Management and VBA Fraud Prevention efforts.

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

