

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION WEEKLY UPDATE



April 28, 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 27 Appeal:
 - o May Engagement Email #1 to all Friends of Freedom.

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

Human Resources

- New Hire:
 - o Sean Barnes is the new Director of Information Technology in the K.C. Office.
- Positions Actively Recruiting For:
 - o Part Time Shipping Receiving Clerk – K.C.
 - o Member Services Advisor – K.C.
 - o Administrative Support Assistant, VFW Store – K.C.
 - o Assistant Coordinator, Administrative Operations – K.C.
 - o Associate Director, DAMA – D.C.
 - o Associate Director, Grassroots Advocacy – D.C.

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

VFW Programs

- VFW National Awards and Citations Committee

The VFW National Awards and Citations Committee met on April 28, 2023, via Zoom to discuss and choose recipients for the awards to be given at the 124th VFW National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona, upon approval from the National Council of Administration.

- o VFW Distinguished Fraternal Award
 - o VFW Distinguished Patriotic Award
 - o VFW Distinguished Historical Award
 - o VFW Distinguished Citizenship Award
 - o VFW Distinguished Educational Award
 - o VFW Distinguished Service Award
- Inaugural VFW National Cornhole Tournament Series

Join us for this instant VFW classic experience presented by veteran-owned KC Crew. All proceeds from the event will go toward VFW PACT Act benefits assistance.

Three days of cornhole is in store at this year's 124th VFW National Convention! The Inaugural VFW Cornhole Tournament Series will consist of three tournaments over the course of three days! Each tournament will have a different theme to it to help include each military faction as well as the general public. The event is all in good FUN to raise awareness and funds for VFW PACT Act benefits assistance and to support our veterans.

For complete details and to sign up for the tournament [click here](#). Please help us sell sponsorships and get as many teams signed up as possible. There is no better cause to get sponsors on board than what our incredible VFW Accredited Service Officers do for our veterans and their families.

We set up a [Facebook event](#) for you to share and to let us know that you're attending. Please share this far and wide.

Please direct all questions to me at the email below. We are looking forward to VFW and VFW Auxiliary members slinging some bags together for a great cause while conducting business at our convention.

Contact: VFW Programs Director Lynn W. Rolf, III, LRolf@vfw.org.

Administrative Operations

- There are currently 36 Posts under suspension; two of which are new. We have instituted one and are working to institute one new Post. The organization has 5,745 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 28 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 15 administrative actions and three membership eligibility challenges.

- We are processing election reports as quickly as we receive them. 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).
- To date we have received 2,319 Post election reports and 111 District election reports. 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/revocation.

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

Membership

- The 2023-2024 VFW National Membership program is now available online. Find next year's National Membership program behind the member login at the top of the Membership Recruiting and Retention page: **Home>MyVFW>VFW Training & Support**. The current 2022-2023 National Membership program will remain online until after the National Convention elections in July 2023.
- Membership is preparing for the Kansas City Spree. Kicking off May 18, the top two Post Commanders and top two District Commanders in each division who achieved 100% membership by April 1, 2023, along with a guest, will be in Kansas City for a fun-filled weekend. Winners of the K.C. Spree will experience an unforgettable tour of downtown K.C., local performing arts, fine dining and a tour of National Headquarters. Congratulations to all KC Spree winners!
- Gearing up for another monthly episode of Membership Monday on May 8, at, 10:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. CST. If you have a topic for training, we would love to hear from you! Contact us by emailing, Membership@vfw.org.
- Please note that our Membership Facebook page is currently not available. Be sure and check back soon.
- Seventeen Departments have crossed the 100% goal this year. New membership is up 10% over this time last year. Keep the recruiting press ON!

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

VFW Foundation

- Due to scheduling conflicts with the Burger King Foundation, the Burger King/VFW Unmet Needs fundraising campaign will begin on May 1 and run through the entire month. Over 1,100 BK restaurants across the U.S. will 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. For an interactive map of participating Burger King restaurants [click here](#).

If you have any questions, please contact VFW Foundation Assistant Director Ben Vargas, BVargas@vfw.org.

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

National Legislative Service

- The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on providing veterans access to life-saving substance abuse disorder treatment. Witnesses from VA answered questions on its policies and procedures regarding substance abuse treatment programs, wait times, and access to care. Subcommittee Chairwoman Miller-Meeks (IA-02) said, "Our country has been experiencing a substance abuse and overdose epidemic, we are seeing historic highs, and our nation's veterans are not immune. One death from substance use disorder is too many." [Watch the hearing](#).
- President Biden signed an executive order that directs nearly every cabinet-level agency to expand access to care. The directives for VA include improving access to home-based care for veterans who require assistance with daily living activities, and consideration of expanding its Veteran Directed Care program to all 172 VA Medical Centers by the end of fiscal year 2024. This program is a vital resource for certain veterans who require support due to their service-connected injuries or illnesses. [Read the executive order](#).
- The VFW-championed Global War on Terrorism Memorial Location Act that became law in 2021 authorized its construction on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The National Capital Planning Commission has now authorized the Global War on Terrorism Memorial Foundation to begin designing the memorial for the Site A location, which is situated north of the Lincoln Memorial between the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and the site of the future National Desert Storm and Desert Shield Memorial. The Foundation is now able to proceed to steps 13-19 of the 24-step memorial construction process after being in steps 9-12 since August 2017.
- Established in May 2022, the Suicide Prevention and Response Independent Review Committee (SPRIRC) recently released its report following a comprehensive review of related DOD programs. The SPRIRC, which is comprised of ten subject matter experts, visited nine domestic and overseas military installations and spoke with nearly 3,000 stakeholders including service members and families, civilian personnel, and representatives from the military and veteran community. It concluded that the limited response to date to suicide within DOD has resulted in persistent elevated rates, and SPRIRC made 127 recommendations for DOD to review and act upon. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin subsequently released a memorandum outlining the Pentagon's next steps and planned actions to address the report findings. [Read the SPRIRC report](#). [Read the Secretary of Defense memorandum](#).

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

National Veterans Service

- NVS leadership attended the VSAFE Community Partner Listening Session about veterans' fraud protection on Wednesday, April 26, 2023, in Washington, D.C.

- VFW's NVS Pre-Discharge representatives briefed transitioning service members on VA benefits at Fort Bliss, Texas, Fort Riley, Kansas, NAS Bethesda, Maryland, and Fort Drum, New York.
- NVS Pre-Discharge leadership is conducting VA benefits briefings for the Navy Flag Officers TAP course.
- NVS Pre-Discharge team participating in the Air Force General Officer TAP course at Joint Base Andrews in Maryland.
- NVS Assistant Director for Health is attending the VA National Advisory Committee for Volunteer Services (VAVS) Conference in Denver, Colorado, this week.

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

