

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION WEEKLY UPDATE



May 26, 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:

- May 23 Appeal:
 - o Partners in Patriotism sustainer invite #4 to member and nonmember donors.
- May 25 Appeal:
 - o Memorial Day matching gift email #3 to all Friends of Freedom.

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

Human Resources

- New Hire:
 - o Rebecca Noble is returning to the VFW as a Member Services Advisor in the Member Services Department in the K.C. Office.
- Positions Actively Recruiting For:
 - o Major Gifts Officer – D.C.
 - o Member Services Advisor – K.C.
 - o Shipping Receiving Clerk (FT and PT) – K.C.

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

Administrative Operations

- There are currently 37 Posts under suspension; three of which are new with one suspension lifted since last week. We are working one and have completed one Post consolidation; we are working one and have completed one Post charter surrender pursuant to Sections 209 and 210 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,738 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 22 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 15 administrative actions and 22 membership eligibility challenges.
- Our new completely digital process for reviewing bylaws and articles of incorporation at all levels is working well. We received seven new sets of bylaws and articles of incorporation; we reviewed 15 and have 22 awaiting review.
- 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 5,079 Post election reports and 458 District election reports. 659 Posts, or 11.5%, still have not submitted an election report. 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

- On Memorial Day, we would like to recognize the sacrifice of our United States service members and their families who have sacrificed so much for our great country. Several VFW members from local Posts, Districts, and the National Headquarters will be taking part over the long weekend in a commemorative event at the WWI Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri.
- Congratulations to the top Post and District Commanders who attended the K.C. Spree trip this past weekend in Kansas City, Missouri. Your dedication and leadership have helped the VFW pass the 100% membership mark and will help our ranks continue to grow!
- We currently have **30** Departments above 100%! Nationwide, the VFW currently stands at 100.22% and climbing.
- Join us for another Membership Monday training webinar on June 5 at 10:00 a.m., 2:00 p.m. or 6:00 p.m. CST for an interactive discussion on long-term planning. As you push through the end to finish strong this year, there are some things you can do to make next year even better! Join the webinar to learn those best practices.

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

Meetings and Events

- Successful Commander-in-Chief K.C. Spree – Good job, Membership.

- Preparing to schedule sit-down with Joe V/FERN Expo to do Phoenix exhibitor floorplan/assignments.
- Processing invoices for convention related expenses.
- Working with Phoenix housing manager to get internal rooming lists processed e.g., staff, NCOA, PCIC, VIP/Award/Speakers.
- Received and reviewing shuttle proposal for Phoenix.
- Continuing to work with legal to finalize contracts for 2024 Convention, Louisville.

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

VFW Foundation

- The Burger King/VFW Unmet Needs fundraising campaign began on May 1 and will run through the entire month. More than 1,300 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 who 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.

- Reminder to VFW Posts that the VFW Foundation will hold a drawing to award 40 VFW Posts with a \$250 grant. To qualify, VFW Posts must submit a screenshot of their social media posts which must include a photo of Post member(s) at a BK store drive-thru, order pickup, or with BK food delivery and include #ThankBK hashtag and Post number.

Entries must be submitted via email to foundation@vfw.org and received by EOD, May 31, 2023. Each entry will be included in the prize drawing and each Post that is drawn will receive a \$250 VFW Foundation grant to be used for a project of their choice.

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

National Legislative Service

- VFW National Legislative Service Director Pat Murray testified at a Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs hearing to review VA's budget request for fiscal year 2024 and 2025 advance appropriations. "We urge this committee and the appropriations committee to look at the actual needs for infrastructure and provide VA the resources it needs instead of what it's asking for," said Murray. [Watch the hearing](#), which begins at the 13:30 mark.

- The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing on VA's implementation of the PACT Act. The committee covered issues related to VA's processing of PACT Act claims, automated decision technology, and communications to veterans about their benefits. VFW National Legislative Service Director Pat Murray submitted a statement for the record outlining numerous observations VFW staff have made through assisting thousands of veterans with their claims. "In early 2023 the VFW launched www.PACTActInfo.org to help guide veterans through the benefits process for free, with no strings attached. We have assisted with 2,500 claims for hypertension, more than 2,000 related to sinusitis/rhinitis, 1,800 on respiratory issues, and more than 1,800 gastrointestinal issues. While the burden of proof for service connection has been relaxed, hurdles still remain," Murray wrote. [Read the testimony](#) or [watch the hearing](#), which begins at the 15:04 mark.

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

National Security and Foreign Affairs

- VFW National Security and Foreign Affairs Associate Director Brittany Dymond testified before the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity regarding the military Transition Assistance Program. She conveyed the critical importance of removing barriers for transitioning service members (TSMs) to the VA Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) program. "Receiving expedited claims decisions means BDD participants are better able to minimize gaps in essential care like mental health counseling and medication management," said Dymond. Also discussed was the need for DoD to connect TSMs to community resources as required by law. The heightened suicide risk among new veterans can be mitigated by connecting them to their benefits and community-based organizations where they can find the social support and camaraderie that often is lost after leaving military service. [Read the testimony](#) or [watch the hearing](#), which begins at the 19:43 mark.

Contact: VFW National Security and Foreign Affairs Director Jeremy Williams, JWilliams@vfw.org.

National Veterans Service

- NVS leadership met with Leidos leadership, discussing the VA Electronic Health Records (EHR) system and contract updates.
- NVS leadership participated in the TAPS key leader seminar that included the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff and SecVA.
- NVS will meet with representatives from USAA for a scheduled quarterly check in call.
- VFW's NVS Pre-Discharge representatives briefed transitioning service members on VA benefits at Fort Bliss, Fort Riley, Joint Base Andrews, Joint Base Anacostia Bolling, Naval Station Bethesda, and Fort Drum.
- NVS leadership will meet with the VA Undersecretary for Benefits (USB) for a briefing on production standards and quality.

- NVS Director and staff held a virtual NVS Update Forum to discuss the most recent VA regulatory and policy changes on Thursday, May 26 via ZOOM.
- NVS staff will be supporting the Commander-in-Chief during Memorial Day events this weekend throughout the NCR to include the USAA Poppy Wall, collaborating with Humana for outreach at Rolling to Remember, and the ceremonies at Arlington National Cemetery and The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall.
- The Washington D.C. staff will hold its annual Memorial Day Ceremony at 11 a.m. EST at the VFW Memorial Building. The event will be streamed live and posted to VFW social media accounts.

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

