

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION WEEKLY UPDATE



May 5, 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 2 Appeal:
 - o May eNews to all nonmember Friends of Freedom.
- May 4 Appeal:
 - o May engagement email #2 to all Friends of Freedom.
- May 5 Appeal:
 - o Urgent gram matching gift package to member and nonmember donors.

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

Human Resources

- New Hire:
 - o Yanique Fagan is a new National Pre-Discharge Claims Representative at the Naval Base in San Diego, California.
- Promotions/Transfers:
 - o Mary Helbock has transferred to the Custom Consultant Assistant in the VFW Store in the K.C. Office.
 - o Dara Gaudin has transferred to the Administrative Assistant/QA in Member Services in the K.C. Office.

- o Kathleen Reffitt has been promoted to Supervisor in Member Services in the K.C. Office.
- o Katherine Oney has been promoted to Lead Member Services Advisor in Member Services in the K.C. Office.
- o John Orzulak has been promoted to Assistant Director in Member Services in the K.C. Office.
- Positions Actively Recruiting For:
 - o Member Services Advisor – K.C.
 - o Assistant Coordinator, Administrative Operations – K.C.
 - o Part Time Shipping Receiving Clerk – K.C.
 - o Shipping Receiving Clerk – K.C.
 - o Major Gifts Officer – D.C.
 - o Associate Director, Grassroots Advocacy – D.C.

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

Administrative Operations

- There are currently 35 Posts under suspension; one of which is new with three suspensions lifted since last week. We are working to institute one new Post; we have completed one and are working one Post consolidation pursuant to Sections 201 and 209 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,743 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 25 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 14 administrative actions and eight 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 2,428 Post election reports and 121 District election reports. 3,315 Posts, or 57%, 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

- The VFW is partnering with the National WWI Museum and Memorial in Kansas City, Missouri, providing four recruiting events during 2023. The first of which will kick off Memorial Day weekend, May 26-29, 2023, providing Kansas City area Posts with an opportunity to participate with the remembrance.
- The Kansas City Spree is kicking off May 18! The winning top two Post Commanders and top two District Commanders in each division have been announced and will soon be in Kansas City for a fun-filled weekend. Congratulations to all K.C. 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.
- Over 9,000 members have recruited at least one new member this year. Keep the recruiting press ON!

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

Meetings and Events

- Continuing to work with housing manager on housing for Phoenix 2023.
- Preparing for the addition to my staff of VFW Meetings and Events Manager Ms. Taylor Engle. Taylor starts May 8, 2023.
- Final review of the Legislative Conference billing and working through some discrepancies in the billing (will result in deductions) target to finish by May 4.
- Finalizing logistical details (to include housing, food and beverage, transportation, and coordination of onsite events for the upcoming Commander-in-Chief Kansas City Spree – Kansas City, Missouri – Westin Crown Center. Working with the membership department on this project for 42 attendees.
- Continuing to reach out to those exhibitors who have not confirmed their space to finalize the list in preparation to do floor plan design for the Phoenix Exhibit Hall and exhibit booth assignments with Joe V at FERN/Expo. Target date is set for June 1, 2023.
- May 11, 2023, holding a ZOOM meeting to do second/final National Committee meeting with Phoenix convention committee chairmen.

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 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 passed a budget resolution to reduce the amount of federal spending for the next fiscal year (FY). The resolution sets overall spending at 2022 levels but does not specify that veteran care and benefits would not be reduced. VFW Washington Office Executive Director Ryan Gallucci sent a letter to Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy urging him to ensure protections for veterans are addressed. Gallucci wrote, “Plainly stated, the Honoring our PACT Act of 2022 did not exist when funding levels were set for FY 2022.” The PACT Act was not passed into law until after budget levels had been established, so the VFW wants to ensure the monumental advances secured through that legislation are protected. [Read the letter](#).
- The Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs held a pending legislation hearing to discuss 14 bills on veteran and survivor benefits. VFW National Legislative Service Deputy Director Kristina Keenan provided a statement for the record in support of these proposals. In particular, she conveyed the VFW’s strong support of the GUARD VA Benefits Act of 2023, which would reinstate criminal and financial penalties for unaccredited representatives who prey on veterans. [Read the testimony](#) or [watch the hearing](#) that begins at the 11:48 mark.

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

National Veterans Service

- VFW’s NVS Pre-Discharge representatives briefed transitioning service members on VA benefits at Fort Riley, Kansas, Fort Bliss, Texas, Fort Hood, Texas, Naval Station Bethesda, Maryland, and Joint Base Andrews, Maryland.
- NVS health team is participating in VA ATLAS collaboration meeting.
- NVS collaboration meeting with VHA/VACO regarding MST claims and development of better claimant notification letters.
- NVS launched a satisfaction survey for in person and virtual attendees for the recently completed PTC training session.

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

Veterans of Foreign Wars, 406 W.
34th Street, Kansas City, Mo 64111

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