

July 29, 2022

Greetings,

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

### **Administrative Operations**

- Congratulations to the new Council members, and welcome to the Administrative Operations portion of your Council Weekly.
- Administrative Operations had broad responsibilities at the National Convention (the Memorial Service, Committee on Appeals, Bylaws Committee meeting, National Council meeting setups, Parliamentary Procedure training sessions, business session coordination, etc.), and thanks to this great team I can proudly say we met each challenge.
- After National Convention, our team is busy amending the Podium edition (Bylaws, Manual of Procedure, Ritual) to ensure the Council has a hard copy of the 2023 Podium at the August Council meeting. Additionally, we are working to provide a summary of the business conducted at the last two Council meetings, update all relative training, forms, templates affected by National amendments, and upload relative training to the website.
- The Parliamentary Procedure training slides and video are available to view and download behind the member login at [VFW.org/ Bylaws: Training, Forms & Templates/ Training/ Parliamentary Training Videos](http://VFW.org/Bylaws:Training,Forms&Templates/Training/ParliamentaryTrainingVideos).
- Administrative Operations is pleased to announce April Ferreira as our new Assistant Coordinator-Unit Records beginning Monday August 1. April is replacing Charles Lawton who retired earlier this year.
- There are currently 72 Posts under suspension (down from 273). We have one pending and have completed two Post consolidations; we have one pending and have completed one Post charter surrender; and we have two pending and have completed four Post charter revocations pursuant to Section 209, 210, and 212 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,846 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 21 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, three administrative actions and four membership eligibility challenges.
- We have 30 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review, 14 of which are new. Current turnaround time on Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions is approximately two weeks.

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

## **Communications**

- Episode 031 of #StillServing: [The VFW Podcast](#), "*On Location: The VFW 123rd National Convention in Kansas City*" posted July 27 and is now available for download. The episode features interviews recorded during the 123rd VFW National Convention. Guests include Director of VFW's National Veteran Service Ryan Gallucci; President of Bridgestone's BRAVE Employee Research Group Joe Bailey; Senior Director for Sales at Twisted X Clayton Smith; Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs Honorable Denis McDonough; Director of the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency (DPAA) Kelly McKeague; Regional Veteran Executive for Humana Aaron McCoy; Public Affairs Manager for the Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) Chris Ward; and country music recording artist Teddy Robb.
- Communications and Public Affairs Director Rob Couture drafted a press release on behalf of the organization, July 27 – We Remember: [Commemorating the end of the 'Forgotten War'](#).
- Director Couture is coordinating for travel to Sturgis, South Dakota, to cover Commander-in-Chief Tim Borland's engagements and recruiting efforts at the Sturgis motorcycle rally in August.
- Director Couture collaborated with NLS directors in developing and sharing content on the VFW National social media platforms and VFW Washington Office Twitter account, [https://twitter.com/VFW\\_OfficeDC](https://twitter.com/VFW_OfficeDC).
- Director Couture continued to coordinate for guest interviews for future episodes of the podcast.

Contact: VFW Communications and Public Affairs Director Rob Couture, [RCouture@vfw.org](mailto:RCouture@vfw.org).

- If you missed parts of the 123rd VFW National Convention, we have you covered! Watch segments from Kansas City on demand [here](#).

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

## **Meetings and Events**

- The 123rd VFW National Convention completed here in KC. There were more than 1,700 VFW registered delegates and more than 1,200 Auxiliary members attending, waiting on the final hotel rooms pickup information from convention housing. Attendance was lower than anticipated, however, receiving good comments from vendors with sales better than anticipated.
- Prepared meeting resume and rooming list (due on July 28) to Airport Marriott for upcoming Budget/Finance and Council of Administration meeting on Aug. 18-21, 2022.

- Follow up on final convention invoices, forward to accounting for payment as they are reviewed and received.
- Meetings and Events/Exhibits Director Vanessa Kane will be out on medical leave from July 27 through August 17.

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

### **Human Resources**

- Promotion:
  - April Ferreira was promoted to the Assistant Coordinator Unit Records position in Administrative Operations in the Kansas City office.

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

### **VFW Foundation**

- The VFW Foundation is proud to announce that \$468,000 in sponsorships were raised for the 2022 VFW National Convention. Special recognition for this incredible effort should go to Brooke Brown Assistant Director, Corporate Relations, and Ben Vargas Assistant Director.
- Bridgestone Firestone was a large new corporate sponsor at this year's convention and the company verbally expressed interest in additional VFW relationships including those with the Departments.
- Grants & External Relations Coordinator Jason Couch conducted a highly successful Grants & Fundraising Workshop for VFW Posts at the convention which was attended by over 200 VFW and Auxiliary members.

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

### **National Legislative Service**

- Congress must include the *Major Richard Star Act* as an amendment in the *National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for Fiscal Year (FY) 2023*. The VFW firmly believes that DOD retired pay and VA service-connected disability compensation are fundamentally different benefits, earned for different reasons. Purple Heart recipients deserve to receive all the benefits they earned. Now is the time to move this legislation forward. Contact your members of Congress and demand they include the *Major Richard Star Act* as an amendment in the FY23 NDAA. [TAKE ACTION!](#)
- VA announced veterans now have the option to **Dial 988 then Press 1** to connect with caring, qualified responders for 24/7 crisis assistance. "During a crisis, every second counts," said VA Secretary Denis McDonough. "This new, shorter number makes it easier

for veterans and those who care about them to reach lifesaving support without having to be enrolled in VA benefits or health care.” While [Dial 988 then Press 1](#) is a new option for contacting the Veterans Crisis Line, the original number, 1.800.273.8255 and press 1, remains available, and individuals can make contact via chat at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat) or by texting 838255.

- Many individuals need help navigating their benefits when they leave the military, either immediately or years later. Veterans, family members, and caregivers can access online DOD Transition Assistance Program (TAP) materials and courses at any time following separation from service. With topics including managing transition, financial planning, and VA benefits for spouses and children, veterans can access the broad TAP curriculum as their needs and goals change over time. [Read more.](#)
- The VFW currently [supports 177 bills; and opposes one bill](#) pending before the 117th Congress.

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

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