

September 2, 2022

Greetings,

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

Programs

- VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" Program

Tune in this Saturday, Sept. 3, and watch the VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero" 200 NASCAR annual race in Darlington, South Carolina, live at 3:00 p.m. EST on the USA Network. Watch as Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Al Lipphardt, chosen as Grand Marshal, starts the race!

- Voice of Democracy

Please be advised the top three VFW national Voice of Democracy scholarships have been each raised \$5k, bringing the total national scholarship amount to **\$171,000**.

- o The national first place winner will receive the \$35,000 T.C. Selman Memorial Scholarship.
- o The national second place winner will receive the \$21,000 Charles Kuralt Memorial Scholarship.
- o The national third place winner will receive the \$15,000 VFW Scholarship.

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

Human Resources

- New Employees:
 - o Clydettia (Tia) Reese is the new Development Assistant in the Development Department in the K.C. Office.
 - o Brian Walker is the new Assistant Adjutant General in the K.C. Office.
 - o Steven Turner is the new Systems Administrator in the IT Department in the K.C. Office.

- Promotions:
 - o Marion Fera was promoted to Health Consultant in the Veterans Service Programs Department in the D.C. Office.
 - o Mark Barrett was promoted to Associate Director Field Operations in the Veterans Service Programs Department in the D.C. Office.
 - o MaCherie Dunbar was promoted to Associate Director in the National Legislative Services Department in the D.C. Office.
 - o Kristina Keenan was promoted to Assistant Director in the National Legislative Services Department in the D.C. Office.

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

Development

- Sept. 1 Appeals:
 - o Voice of Democracy promotion of entries email to all Friends of Freedom.
 - o September holiday card package to member and nonmember donors.
- Sept. 2 Appeals:
 - o September acquisition double work gloves, cards, and check package.
 - o September double work gloves, cards, and check package to lapsed member and nonmember donors.
 - o September statement to relative lapsed member and nonmember donors.
 - o Partners in Patriotism quarterly statement to nonmembers.

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

Administrative Operations

- There are currently 82 Posts under suspension; six of which are new with five suspensions lifted since last week. We are working three and have completed three Post consolidations; we are working one Post charter surrender; and we are working five charter revocations pursuant to Sections 209, 210 and 212 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,836 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 18 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 15 administrative actions and four membership eligibility challenges.

- We have six Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review, 10 of which are new. Current turnaround time on Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions is approximately one week.
- Pursuant to Section 218, all Posts are required to submit a properly completed election report to Department or National Headquarters by June 1. On July 7, 2022, in accordance with the National Bylaws, the Commander-in-Chief suspended 232 Posts for failing to submit an election report by July 1, 2022. Of those 232, 54 Posts from 23 different Departments still have not submitted an election report. Department Adjutants, Quartermasters, and line officers will be reminded of the Posts affected within in their Department as well as that if these Posts do not submit an election report by the end of the suspension period (October 7, 2022), their charters will be revoked.

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

National Legislative Service

- Members of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Women Veterans Task Force, VA, women veterans, and veteran organizations discussed issues faced by women veterans, its reproductive health survey, and recent site visits. VFW National Legislative Service Deputy Director Tammy Barlet, a Coast Guard veteran, shared data from the VFW 2022 COVID-19 Health Survey that indicates 52 percent of women veterans report good general health compared to 40 percent of male veterans. Other critical issues discussed were inconsistent services at different VA locations, women veteran peer specialists, the parity in the standard of proof for PTSD claims related to military sexual trauma and strengthening VA Women's Health Reengagement Training ([heaRT](#)) outreach.
- Following the recent passage of the *Honoring our PACT Act*, VA is providing responses to commonly asked questions. What is the PACT Act and how will it affect my benefits? What does it mean to have a presumptive condition for toxic exposure? What is the eligibility for veterans of the Vietnam, Gulf War, and post-9/11 eras? [Read more](#) from VA regarding both veteran and survivor benefits. For more information or assistance filing a claim, please contact a [VFW Service Officer](#).
- The VFW, PsychArmor, and HillVets, in collaboration with the For Country Caucus, held training for congressional staffers on how to connect with organizations like the VFW, as well as national, state, and local resources. The overarching goal was to help staff better meet the needs of service members, veterans, families, caregivers, and survivors. Topics included the importance of hosting veteran town halls, reaching out to accredited service officers, and how military families can help inform policy.
- The VFW currently [supports 178 bills; and opposes one bill](#) pending before the 117th Congress.

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

National Veterans Service

- VFW's NVS Pre-Discharge representatives hosted a series of benefit briefings for separating service members around the country this week to include Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Bliss, Texas; Joint Base Andrews, Maryland; and Joint Base Myer, Virginia.
- The Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) team briefed the Air Force General Officers Transition Assistance Program course and provided individual counseling to the students.
- The BDD team members participated in the Wounded Warrior Project PACT Act seminar.
- The NVS and NLS staff briefed the Semper Fi Fund's Visiting Nurses Program on the recently passed PACT Act and Toxic Exposure legislation to provide additional information on filing claims, new presumptives and other benefits assistance.
- VFW's National Capital Region Benefits Office (NCRBO) staff conducted a claims clinic and outreach to the D.C. Vet Center as part of continuous community engagement.

Contact: VFW National Veterans Service Director Ryan Gallucci, RGallucci@vfw.org.

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