

September 23, 2022

Greetings,

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

Development

- Sept. 18 Appeal:
 - o Thank you eCard for Air Force birthday to Friends of Freedom identified as Air Force veteran or active-duty military.
- Sept. 22 Appeals:
 - o Welcome email #1 to all newly appended emails on file.
 - o September dormant reengagement email #2 to all Friends of Freedom.
 - o September sustainer invite email #2 to all Friends of Freedom.
- Sept. 23 Appeal:
 - o September acquisition reminder with coasters and check.
- Sept. 24 Appeal:
 - o September reminder with check to lapsed nonmember donors.

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

Administrative Operations

- There are currently 72 Posts under suspension; seven of which are new with nine suspensions lifted since last week. We have completed one and are working two Post consolidations and we are working eight and have completed three charter revocations pursuant to Sections 209 and 212 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,824 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 13 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 21 administrative actions and seven membership eligibility challenges.

- We have eight Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review, six of which are new. Current turnaround time on Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions is approximately one week.

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

Membership

- All remaining 2021-2022 All-American packets have been shipped to the appropriate Departments to be presented at their respective District meetings and fall conferences.
- The first batch of over 450 of Commander-in-Chief Borland's recruiting awards will be mailed out this week, great start to the new membership year. The one-member pin will be mailed directly to the Department headquarters to be presented by the Department leadership.
- We want to welcome two new team members to the Membership Department, Marvin Dotson and Katie Lundy.
- Marvin is our new Recruitment Incentives Program Coordinator; he was previously working across the hall in the Member Service Center. Marvin is a Marine Corps veteran and currently the Commander of Post 3118 in Pleasant Hill, Missouri. He will be handling recruiting and All-American awards.
- Katie is new to the VFW National Headquarters; she is Membership's Marketing and Production Coordinator and will be responsible for new member acquisition campaigns and member engagement.

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

Meeting and Events

- Had hip replacement surgery on July 27. Released by doctor while on medical leave to work minimal hours from home, July 27 to Oct. 17.
- Released from medical leave and returning to work full-time now on Oct. 3.
- Processed details for the Legislative Committee meeting in D.C., Sept. 12 to Sept. 15.
- Ongoing review, coding, and submission for payment of convention related invoices.
- Preparing rooming list and meeting resume (specifications) for upcoming Junior Vice/QM Conference in K.C., Oct. 13 to Oct. 16.

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

VFW Foundation

- The 2022 Sport Clips Help A Hero fundraising campaign with in-store donations and other individual wraparound fundraising events begins Oct. 9 through Nov. 12 at over 1,850 Sport Clips locations. We also invite you to participate in the 2022 Virtual Help A Hero Walk. Sign up at: <https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/HERO>.

Questions on how to create a team and sign up? Contact Brooke Brown, VFW Foundation Corporate Relations at BBrown@vfw.org or 816.868.3156.

Contact: VFW Foundation Manager Richard Freiburghouse, rfreiburghouse@vfw.org.

National Legislative Service

- The VFW National Legislative Committee members met with senators, representatives, and staffers in Washington, D.C., to discuss the [VFW's legislative priorities](#) and to thank them for the historic passage of the *Honoring our PACT Act*. There was specific focus given to cracking down on predatory claim companies, eliminating the unjust offset for Chapter 61 retirees, and the role of economic opportunity in helping to prevent veteran suicide. The VFW will continue to advocate for these issues as the 117th Congress finishes its last few weeks in session.
- The application process for the 2023 class of VFW-SVA legislative fellows is open until Oct. 15. VFW members who attend an accredited institute of higher learning with an approved Student Veteran of America chapter will be chosen for the semester-long program that focuses on real policy issues faced by veterans, service members, and their families. The capstone of the program is participation in the 2023 VFW Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. Alumni of the program have become more active at all levels of the VFW and have been instrumental in changing laws to improve care and benefits for veterans. [Learn more and apply for the fellowship](#).
- The House passed five VFW-supported bills — [H.R. 5916](#), *Wounded Warrior Access Act*; [H.R. 7939](#), *Student Veteran Emergency Relief Act of 2022*; [H.R. 8260](#), *Faster Payments to Veterans' Survivors Act of 2022*; and [H.R. 7735](#), *Improving Access to the VA Home Loan Benefit Act of 2022*, and [H.R. 7846](#), *Veterans' Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2022*. The cost-of-living increase for wartime disability compensation, additional compensation for dependents, clothing allowances, and dependency and indemnity compensation for surviving spouses and children is estimated to be higher than in recent years to account for the rise in inflation. These benefits would receive the same percentage increase as is granted for Social Security benefits. [Read more](#).
- With the passage of VFW-supported *Honoring Our PACT Act*, VA has made information available for survivors regarding Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) benefits. If you are the survivor of a service member or veteran who died from a service-connected condition linked to burn pit exposure, contact a [VFW Service Officer](#) today to discuss your VA claim. [Read more](#).
- On Oct. 1, 2022, caregivers of veterans who served after May 7, 1975, and before Sept. 11, 2001, can apply for VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC). This program offers education and training, access to health care insurance, mental health counseling, financial stipends, and respite care among other benefits for caregivers of eligible veterans. As part of the *VA MISSION Act of 2018*, PCAFC will expand in two phases. The first phase launched in 2020 is for caregivers of veterans injured in the

line of duty on or before May 7, 1975. The second phase is for those injured in the line of duty between May 7, 1975, and Sept. 11, 2001. [Read more.](#)

- The VFW currently [supports 179 bills; and opposes one bill](#) pending before the 117th Congress.

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

National Veterans Service

- The National Veterans Service conducted Service Officer Skill Level Training and the Basic course this week for VFW Accredited representatives from our worldwide cadre of Service Officers in Annapolis, Maryland. The course ends Sept. 23, 2022.
- VFW's NVS Pre-Discharge representatives briefed transitioning service members on VA benefits at Naval Support Activity Annapolis, and through the worldwide virtual briefing with the non-profit Veterans Transition Support.
- VFW's NVS Pre-Discharge representatives attended virtual service officer training all week.

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

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