

# NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION **WEEKLY UPDATE**



January 28, 2022

Greetings,

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

## **Development**

- Jan. 29 Appeals:
  - o Label with nickel and certificate with check package to member donors.
  - o January lapsed statement to member and nonmember donors.
  - o January statement to member and nonmember sustainers.

Contact: VFW Development Director Kelly Jones, [KellyJones@vfw.org](mailto:KellyJones@vfw.org).

## **Communications**

- Communications and Public Affairs Director Rob Couture drafted and distributed a press release on behalf of the organization – VFW Demands Accountability, Transparency in Afghanistan War Investigation.
- The C&PA director interviewed soldier athletes participating in the 2022 Winter Olympics Games and a recently awarded Medal of Honor recipient Master Sgt. Earl Plumlee, for episodes of the podcast.

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

## **Administrative Operations**

- There are currently 41 Posts under suspension, two of which are new. We have processed no Post consolidations pursuant to Section 209 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,921 chartered Posts.

- Administrative Operations is engaged in 27 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, seven administrative actions and seven membership eligibility challenges.
- We have five Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review, four of which are new; current turnaround time on Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions is approximately 14 days.

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

## **VFW Foundation**

- The Uniting to Combat Hunger (UTCH) Grant will reopen on Feb. 1, 2022. Through this grant program, Posts and Auxiliaries that donate funds and food to their local food banks, food pantries and community kitchens may apply for up to \$5,000 in grant funding. Posts and Auxiliaries may receive additional funding for hours accumulated by members volunteering at a soup kitchen, food bank or any nonprofit organization program focused on relieving food insecurity. The grant will remain open until July 31, 2022, or whenever the budget for the program has been exhausted. The application form, complete with full guidelines, will be accessible the day the grant opens at [vfw.org/UTCH](http://vfw.org/UTCH).
- Representatives from Humana and the VFW Foundation convened in virtual meetings on Jan. 18-19, 2022, for the annual Strategic Initiatives Planning Meeting. Discussion focused on impactful ways that both organizations could promote overall health and wellness in the veteran community. Primary consideration was given to raising awareness of the VFW's NVS outreach in alignment with Humana's Bold Goal of addressing food insecurity, social isolation, and health equity.

Contact: VFW Foundation Administrator Richard Potter, [RPotter@vfw.org](mailto:RPotter@vfw.org).

## **National Legislative Service**

- The 117th Congress is now in its second session. Although there were some legislative victories for veterans in 2021, there is still much work to be done. The [VFW 2022 Priority Goals](#) focus on Budget; Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs; Education, Employment, and Transition Assistance; Health Care; Military Quality of Life; and National Security, Foreign Affairs, and POW/MIA. The VFW will continue to work diligently to ensure members of Congress improve care and benefits for veterans, service members, and their families.
- The VFW participated in a roundtable, "The True Cost of our Promise to Toxic-Exposed Veterans," hosted by the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs. The discussion focused on [H.R.3967](#), the *Honoring our PACT Act of 2021*, a comprehensive plan to provide veterans with health care and benefits related to toxic exposures. VFW Legislative Director Pat Murray stated that VA's process in determining presumptive conditions related to toxic exposures should include transparency, timelines, and an independent review board. [Watch the roundtable](#).

- The House passed VFW-supported [H.R. 4673](#), the *Ensuring Veterans' Smooth Transition (EVEST) Act*. This bill would require VA to automatically enroll eligible veterans into its health care system upon receipt of confirmation from DOD. If passed into law, this proposal would provide a seamless transition of health care, unless transitioning service members choose to opt out of the VA health care system. Now the VFW calls upon the Senate to take up this important piece of legislation and pass this bill.
- The VFW currently [supports 146 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).

### **National Veterans Service**

- NVS VFW's Pre-Discharge Representatives hosted a series of benefit briefings for separating service members around the country this week to include Fort Hood, Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, and Joint Base Myer-Henderson Hall. The VFW also provided a Navy-wide transition course for separating flag officers.
- NVS attended a Veterans Health Administration forum to discuss current health care issues and metrics.
- NVS worked with NLS to finalize and execute the VFW's 2022 Health Survey which will be published next week in the Action Corps Weekly and across VFW social media platforms.

Contact: VFW National Veterans Service Director Ryan Gallucci, [RGallucci@vfw.org](mailto:RGallucci@vfw.org).

