

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION
WEEKLY UPDATE



November 12, 2021

Greetings,

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

Development

- Nov. 9 Appeal:
 - o Veterans Day matching gift email #4 to all Friends of Freedom.
- Nov. 10 Appeals:
 - o Marine birthday thank you email to Friends of Freedom identified as Marine veteran or active duty.
 - o Veterans Day thank you email to VFW members and non-members in Friends of Freedom who have identified as a veteran or active duty
- Nov. 11 Appeal:
 - o Matching gift a.m. email #5 and p.m. email #6 to all Friends of Freedom.
- Nov. 12 Appeal:
 - o October acquisition reminder package with nickels, coasters and check.

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

Communications

- Episode 021 of #StillServing: [The VFW Podcast](#), *Medal of Honor Recipient David Bellavia* posted Nov. 10 and is now available for download. This special Veterans Day podcast interviews former U.S. Army Staff Sgt. David Bellavia, Medal of Honor recipient, Iraq war veteran, speaker, radio talk show host, and author of *House to House: A Soldier's Memoir*.

- Communications and Public Affairs Director Rob Couture captured imagery of Washington Office staff participating in the public flower laying event for the Tomb of Unknown Soldier Centennial Commemoration at Arlington National Cemetery. After laying flowers, staff handed out VFW “Buddy”[®] Poppies to the public as a memento of the day.
- The C&PA director drafted and distributed three press releases on behalf of the organization – Native American Heritage Month, U.S. Marine Corps birthday, and Veterans Day.
- The C&PA director drafted remarks on behalf of Junior Vice Commander-in-Chief Duane Sarmiento for events in Vallejo, California, during Veterans Day.
- The C&PA director captured imagery as the NVS director spoke at a press conference outside of the Capitol building urging congress to pass the *Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) Memorial Location Act* and allow the GWOT Memorial’s placement on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.
- The C&PA director continued to coordinate for guest interviews for future episodes of the podcast.
- The C&PA director continued coordination for the Southern Conference next weekend.

Contact: VFW Communications and Public Affairs Director Rob Couture, RCouture@vfw.org.

Administrative Operations

- There are currently 42 Posts under suspension, four of which are new. We have processed no Post consolidations pursuant to Section 209 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,930 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 13 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, three administrative actions and four membership eligibility challenges.
- We have nine Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review, five 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.

Meetings and Events

- Held first local convention committee meeting on Nov. 2, 2021. Reviewed duties & responsibilities of convention chairmen for the July 2022 Kansas City 123rd National Convention.
- Preparing for December Planning Year meeting (formerly Long Range Planning) – rooming list and meeting specs (resume) due to the hotel, Friday, Nov. 12.

- Received Phoenix Convention Center agreement, reviewed for space we will utilize in 2023. Made an adjustment, agreement resent to me and forwarded to legal for their review. Due back to Phoenix Jan. 24, 2022.
- Reviewed 2022 housing forms, sent to VISIT KC Housing Bureau for their review, revision and return to me to finalize.
- Sent out Internal Working Agenda to departments for their review, additions, changes for 2022 K.C. Convention.

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

VFW Foundation

- Participating BURGER KING® franchise restaurants will again raise funds throughout the month of November in support of the VFW's Unmet Needs program. Now in its 15th year, the annual campaign encourages BURGER KING® customers to donate \$1 or more to the program with their purchase. Since 2007, BURGER KING® franchisees have raised more than \$6.6 million in support of the program. Despite the unique challenges the current pandemic is causing, nearly 500 BURGER KING® franchisee locations are participating in this year's campaign. [Find a participating BURGER KING® restaurant near you.](#)

Contact: VFW Foundation Administrator Richard Potter, RPotter@vfw.org.

National Legislative Service

- VFW National Veterans Service Director Ryan Gallucci spoke at a press conference on [S. 535](#), the *Global War on Terrorism (GWOT) Memorial Location Act*. This bill would allow the GWOT Memorial, approved by Congress in 2017, to be constructed on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. "A Global War on Terrorism memorial belongs on the mall, where all current and future service members, veterans, families, survivors, and all Americans can come to honor and remember those who volunteered to serve in our country's longest war," said Gallucci. [Read more.](#)
- The VFW currently [supports 117 bills; and opposes one bill](#) pending before the 117th Congress.

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

National Veterans Service

- NVS staff will be attending VSO meetings with the VBA and the Undersecretary of Health Office to discuss policy issues.

- NVS VFW's Pre-Discharge Representatives will be conducting benefits briefings on Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, Ft. Hood, Texas, NSA Annapolis, Maryland, and Ft. Bragg, North Carolina.
- Interviews for all NVS open positions are currently being conducted.
- NVS leaders will be meeting with the Office of the Inspector General to discuss claims and pension related issues for the Guard and Reserve and claims for exposure to herbicide.
- NVS and Washington Office staff will be in support of Commander-in-Chief Fritz Mihelcic and VFW Auxiliary National President Jean Hamil, as they attend Veterans Day ceremonies at the White House, Arlington National Cemetery, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

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

