

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION
WEEKLY UPDATE



December 17, 2021

Greetings,

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

Human Resources

- Promotion:
 - o Geremie Berkley has been promoted from Systems Administrator Information Technology, to Assistant Director Information Technology, Kansas City office.

Contact: VFW Human Resources Manager Danielle Owen, DOwen@vfw.org.

Development

- Dec. 14 Appeal:
 - o Year-end campaign email #3 to all Friends of Freedom.

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

Member Service Center

- Please be advised that the Online Membership System (OMS) will be shutting down at 4:00 p.m. CST on Friday, Dec. 31, 2021. Any transactions that are submitted through OMS on Dec. 31, up to the closing time, will be posted to Memstats and Post Query later that evening and available for viewing the morning of Jan. 4, 2022.
- Mail received at the National Headquarters prior to Dec. 31, 2021, will be processed and counted in the December total. Mail received after that date, regardless of the postmark date, will not be counted in the December total. We suggest you have your Posts mail in their membership as early as possible or take advantage of the Online Membership System tools.

- The OMS system will be back online for the submittal of transactions by noon CST, Jan. 4, 2022; however, membership transactions that are processed will not be posted to Memstats until Jan. 7, 2022.

Contact: VFW Member Services Director David Prohaska, DProhaska@vfw.org.

Communications

- Communications and Public Affairs Director Rob Couture drafted and distributed a press release on behalf of the organization – Remembering the First End of the War in Iraq.
- The C&PA director coordinated and escorted National Commander Fritz Mihelcic to a meeting with the Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Joanne Bass at Joint Base Andrews.

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

Administrative Operations

- There are currently 44 Posts under suspension, three of which are new. We are working two and have completed two Post consolidations pursuant to Section 209 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure; we are working five and have completed two Post charter surrenders pursuant to Section 210 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure; and we are working one and have completed one Post charter revocation pursuant to Section 212 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure. The organization has 5,921 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 23 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, three administrative actions and five membership eligibility challenges.
- We have 10 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review; we've received six new submissions; and have completed/distributed 16 for the week. Current turnaround time on Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions is approximately 14 days.

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

National Legislative Service

- The House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing on removing barriers to homeownership for veterans. VFW National Legislative Associate Director Emily DeVito testified on the need for VA to combat misconceptions about VA-guaranteed home loans that make them less competitive with other loans. "For sellers, accepting an offer with a VA-guaranteed loan may be seen as burdensome as sellers fear not meeting VA appraisal standards or the hassle of an extended timeline," said DeVito. She also stressed the need to educate buyers on all the benefits VA-guaranteed loans offer, such as the opportunity to obtain an Energy Efficient Mortgage. [Watch the hearing](#) or [read the testimony](#).

- The VFW currently [supports 143 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 and NLS are co-hosting with Wounded Warrior Project a reception in Ketchum Hall to show appreciation for House and Senate VA and DOD staffs and the work they have done for active-duty service members, veterans, and their families.
- 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 Andrews, Joint Base Anacostia Bolling, Camp Pendleton, and Camp LeJeune.
- NVS met with VA team for Tribal Representation Expansion Project; how VFW can assist in providing more VA benefits assistance through tribal personnel training.
- NVS will participate in a virtual demonstration of a new VA mobile app for benefits.
- NVS will participate in a listening session with VA for VA Access to Care.
- NVS will meet with VA to learn more about the VA's appeal process for the Comprehensive Care program.

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

