

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION
WEEKLY UPDATE



February 18, 2022

Greetings,

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

General Counsel

- With the campaign season commencing, please remember that the VFW cannot endorse or be perceived as endorsing a particular candidate or party; doing so could jeopardize the VFW's nonprofit standing. This is particularly pertinent when it comes to political campaign ads. With that said, veterans are encouraged to vote, promote veterans' issues, attend or host townhall meetings, and set up voter registration drives, as long as any event hosted by the VFW is nonpartisan.

Contact: VFW General Counsel John Muckelbauer, JMuckelbauer@vfw.org.

Development

- Feb. 17 Appeal:
 - o Voice of Democracy state winners audio email campaign to all Friends of Freedom.
- Feb. 19 Appeals:
 - o February newsletter #2 to member and nonmember donors.
 - o Certificate reminder package with nickel, label and check to member donors.
 - o Label with nickel, and certificate with check reminder package to member donors.

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

Communications

- Communications and Public Affairs Director Rob Couture interviewed Executive VP/Historian Mr. George Pettigrew, for the Alexander/Madison Chapter of the KC Buffalo Soldiers, for a future episode of #StillServing: The VFW Podcast.
- Director Couture collaborated with NLS directors in developing content to share on the VFW National social media platforms and VFW Washington Office Twitter account, https://twitter.com/VFW_OfficeDC.
- Director Couture collaborated with other directors to respond to media queries on a variety of topics, to include phone interviews with freelance journalists.
- Director Couture continued to coordinate for guest interviews for future episodes of the podcast.

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

Administrative Operations

- There are currently 37 Posts under suspension, one of which is new. We are working one and have completed one Post consolidation pursuant to Section 209 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,904 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 20 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 13 administrative actions and three membership eligibility challenges.
- We have 17 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review, 12 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

- Convention housing opened on Feb. 17, 2022.
- Convention related information posted to convention webpage to include general information, housing link, tentative web agenda.
- Finalizing details for upcoming modified DC (NCOA meeting) Feb. 27 to March 3, 2022, at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City, Arlington, Virginia.

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

VFW Foundation

- Comcast NBC Universal made a \$5K donation to support a Buy One Get One-year free women membership recruitment initiative. Since the campaign went live on Feb. 4, 2022, there has been seven approved BOGO applications.
- Lockton Insurance gave a \$6K donation to support the VFW Unmet Needs program.
- VFW Foundation was nominated by VFW Lifetime member Jim Wood, for the myWalgreens Donation Program, to be one of three nonprofits featured nationally in over half of their 200+ markets launching March 1, 2022, for 90 days. Walgreens has partnered with in/PACT and The GoodCoin Foundation (“GCF”) to help implement the program across the country (see announcement [here!](#)). Members of the myWalgreens loyalty program will be able to earn and donate Walgreens Cash rewards to local nonprofits that share Walgreens’ values. This program will be available through the Walgreens mobile app and online at [Walgreens.com](https://www.walgreens.com).

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

National Legislative Service

- Leading veterans service organizations (VSOs) — the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), DAV (Disabled American Veterans), and Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) — have released [The Independent Budget \(IB\) Recommendations for the Department of Veterans Affairs \(VA\) for FY 2023 and FY 2024](#). This report serves as a roadmap to ensure VA is fully funded and capable of carrying out its mission to serve veterans and their families, both now and in the future. “For over 30 years, the IBVSOs have co-authored the IB, offering substantive solutions and policy recommendations to ensure the timely delivery of specialized health care, as well as appropriate earned benefits for the men and women who served,” said Bob Wallace, executive director of the VFW Washington Office. “While this year’s report is now complete, it is now imperative Congress and VA work together, along with veterans service organizations and other veterans stakeholders to put veterans interests on the top of their list.”
- The House Veterans’ Affairs Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held an oversight hearing on the effectiveness of VA services for dependents and survivors. VFW National Legislative Associate Director Kristina Keenan submitted a statement for the record explaining how VA needs to improve outreach to military and veteran families and better explain the benefits available to survivors. “Pre-planning is key. Veterans and their families need to receive clear and continuous communications informing them of future benefits and the documentation needed to ensure that survivors are supported in the event of the veteran’s passing,” stated Keenan. She stressed that surviving family members are often unaware that the benefits they may be entitled to receive are significantly less than what veterans receive in disability compensation, resulting in unanticipated financial hardship. [Read the statement](#) or [watch the hearing](#).
- The VFW currently [supports 147 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 is currently conducting an extensive review of VA's proposed changes to the disability rating schedule pertaining to respiratory, auditory, and mental health disorders published in the Federal Register on Monday. VA is proposing substantial changes to how it rates conditions like post-traumatic stress disorder, sleep apnea, and tinnitus. Comments on the proposed changes are due in early April and the VFW intends to comment after a full analysis of the changes and what they would mean for our veterans.
- The National Veterans Service Advisory Committee met on Thursday, Feb. 17, to deliberate the business of NVS over the last year in advance of the upcoming National Council of Administration meeting.
- NVS VFW's Pre-Discharge Claims Representatives hosted a series of benefit briefings for separating service members around the country this week to include U.S. Naval Academy, Fort Hood, Nellis Air Force Base, and Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling.

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

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