

April 29, 2022

Greetings,

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

Development

- April 28 Appeal:
 - o May engagement email #1.

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

Human Resources

- Sari Maple is the new Director in the Human Resources Department – Kansas City Office.
- Dara Gaudin rejoins the VFW and will be a Member Services Advisor in the Kansas City Office.
- Elizabeth Salvador is a new Regional Quality Assurance Specialist in Veterans Service Programs – DC Office.
- Todd Gruchalla is a Regional Quality Assurance Specialist in Veterans Service programs – DC Office.

Contact: VFW Human Resources Director: Sari Maple, SMaple@vfw.org.

Administrative Operations

- There are currently 40 Posts under suspension, four of which are new. We have completed one Post consolidation pursuant to Section 209 of the National Bylaws and we have completed one charter revocation pursuant to Section 210 of the National Bylaws. The organization currently has 5,882 active chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 25 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, six administrative actions and three pending membership eligibility challenges.

- This past week we received 11 new Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review. We reviewed and approved 11 total Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions and currently have seven submissions pending review and approval. Current turnaround time on Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions is approximately 14 days.
- The online Post Election Report is up and running with 2,506 complete reports submitted to date. The online District Election Report is running with 126 complete reports submitted to date.

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

Meetings and Events

- Convention housing pick up to date, 1,133 reservations made. Housing cutoff is June 13, 2022.
- Ongoing processing exhibitor registrations. Deadline was April 25. Will continue to accept applications as space permits.
- Following up on various contracts/billings/deposits that will be required for the national convention in July.
- Ongoing – working on miscellaneous convention related projects.

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

National Legislative Service

- More than 120 people gathered outside the VFW National Headquarters in Kansas City, Missouri, to urge the Senate to pass the *Honoring our PACT Act*. “The cost of war must include the cost of taking care of our injured and sick veterans,” said VFW National Commander Matthew “Fritz” Mihelcic to rousing applause from the crowd. “Every veteran that has been in harm’s way has earned the right to health care.” Featured speakers also included veteran advocate Jon Stewart, Rep. Sharice Davids (D-KS), and representatives from Disabled American Veterans, Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Wounded Warrior Project, and Burn Pits 360. [Watch the video](#).
- The VFW and Wounded Warrior Project have co-authored an op-ed for *Military Times* on how to protect our veterans from predatory claims practices. VA’s current process of applying for earned benefits can be confusing, and sadly some non-accredited businesses take advantage of the confusion and prey on vulnerable individuals. Veterans Service Organizations provide free assistance from VA-accredited representatives, and want to raise awareness of the fraudulent methods used by predators. [Read the op-ed](#).
- The VFW currently [supports 168 bills; and opposes one bill](#) pending before the 117th Congress.

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

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