

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION
WEEKLY UPDATE



September 10, 2021

Greetings,

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

Human Resources

- New Employee:
 - Dan West is our new Assistant Adjutant General.

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

Development

- September 7 Appeal:
 - September eNews to all nonmember Friends of Freedom.

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

Communications

- The C&PA director supported Commander-in-Chief Fritz Mihelcic's and Executive Director B.J. Lawrence's visit and wreath laying at the Pentagon outdoor 9/11 memorial.
- The C&PA director continued to field media inquiries on the end of the Afghanistan War and for the 20th anniversary of 9/11.
- The C&PA director continued to coordinate for guest interviews for future episodes of #StillServing: The VFW Podcast.
- The C&PA director continued coordination for fall conferences.

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

- The VFW is pleased to announce it has teamed up with [JDog Junk Removal & Hauling](#), a veteran and military family owned company, to offer VFW Posts an opportunity to clear out their junk!

On Saturday Nov. 6, 2021, *participating JDog franchisees nationwide will haul away an item the Post no longer needs with the option to replace it with a donated item from a previous job – free of charge. [Watch a preview of the initiative in action.](#)

The initiative comes in support of JDog’s upcoming Discovery Channel series, [Operation Hidden Treasures](#), debuting Oct. 10 on the Discovery Channel.

The series showcases JDoggers’ efforts to salvage and transform unwanted or unused items in to ‘hidden treasures’ for others in need.

Be sure to catch the season debut on Oct. 10, and mark your calendars for Dec. 12, when Operation Hidden Treasures features an interesting find at a VFW Post.

*Please note participating JDog franchisees will contact their local Posts directly.

Contact: VFW Communications Manager Randi Law, RLaw@vfw.org.

Administrative Operations

- There are currently 37 Posts under suspension. We are currently working one Post Consolidation pursuant to Section 209 of the National Bylaws; we are working one and have completed two charter surrenders pursuant to Section 210 of the National Bylaws; and are working three and completed four charter revocations pursuant to Section 212 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,958 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 19 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, five of which are pending disciplinary hearings; one administrative action; and five membership eligibility challenges.
- Administrative Operations has processed, approved, and distributed five Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation this week. We have received five new Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions and currently have 17 total pending review and approval. 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

- Finalizing details with hotel for upcoming Budget, Finance & Council of Administration meeting – Sept. 12-16, 2021, at KCI Airport Marriott.
- Reminders out to remaining outstanding 2022 convention hotel contracts. Finalizing those remaining two contracts.

- After follow-ups, received a contract from Valley Forge Casino for May 2022 NVS Officer proficiency training. Reviewing contract, forwarding to legal for their review.
- Update job duties/responsibilities document to be used for orientation – Sept. 16 for national officers and new AAG.
- Updating meeting resume (specifications) for Oct. 7-10, 2021, Junior Vice Commanders/New Adjutants meeting. Due to the hotel Sept. 16, 2021, along with rooming list.

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

VFW Foundation

- VFW Departments and Posts who hold Stand Down events for homeless and in need veterans might consider applying for federal grant [VPL-02-18](#). The grant provides up to \$10,000 in assistance with applications accepted until Dec. 31, 2021.

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

D.C. Operations

- D.C. Ops will provide logistical support for Commander-in-Chief Fritz Mihelcic, who will be traveling to Washington, D.C., to take part in 9/11 ceremonies at the Pentagon and at VFW Post 10076 (Mt. Airy, Maryland) on Sept. 7-12.
- D.C. Ops monitored the House Armed Services Committee markup hearing for the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) FY2022.

Contact: Washington D.C. office Operations Director Robert Jackson, RJackson@vfw.org.

National Legislative Service

- Applications are now being accepted for the 2022 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship. The program, which is in its eighth year, is for VFW members who attend an accredited institute of higher learning. Select student veterans will be chosen for the semester-long program that focuses on real policy issues faced by veterans, service members, and their families. The highlight of the program is participation in the VFW Legislative Conference, which in the past has included meetings at the White House and with senior officials from the Department of Veterans Affairs and members of Congress. Those selected also spend time with their VFW Department leaders on Capitol Hill pushing the VFW's legislative priorities. Alumni of the program have become more active at all levels of the VFW and have been instrumental in changing laws to improve care and benefits for veterans. [Learn more and apply for the fellowship](#).

- The VFW currently [supports 87 bills; and opposes one bill](#) pending before the 117th Congress.

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

National Veterans Service

- The National Veterans Service VFW Pre-Discharge Claims Representatives team is conducting separation and benefits briefings at NAS Annapolis, Maryland, and Andrews AFB, Maryland, this week.
- VFW leadership is meeting with the VBA to discuss current COVID posture, precautions, and vaccination policies as they pertain to federal building access.
- The VFW will be reviewing and commenting on proposed changes published in the Federal Register regarding request for comments on changes to Character of Discharge policies
- NVS QA/Training staff are finalizing plans for upcoming Advanced Skill Level (ASLT) and Basic Training to be held in Annapolis, Maryland, Sept. 19-24. 2021.

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

