

# NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION WEEKLY UPDATE



August 25, 2023

Greetings,

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

## **VFW Foundation**

- The May 2023 Burger King/VFW Unmet Needs campaign raised over \$430,000, which brings total fundraising for this fiscal year to \$745,000. Since the fundraiser's inception in 2007, Burger King and its supporters have donated over \$7.6 million to Unmet Needs!

Contact: VFW Foundation Director of Donor Relations Richard Freiburghouse, [RFreiburghouse@vfw.org](mailto:RFreiburghouse@vfw.org).

## **Human Resources**

- New Hire:
  - Joshua Langenfeld is a new Sr. Application Developer in the IT Department in the K.C. Office.
- Positions Actively Recruiting For:
  - Member Services Advisor – K.C. Office
  - National Pre-Discharge Claims Rep – Bethesda, Maryland

Contact: VFW Human Resources Director Sari Maple, [SMaple@vfw.org](mailto:SMaple@vfw.org).

## **Administrative Operations**

- There are currently 51 Posts under suspension, one of which is new. We have processed two Post consolidations pursuant to Section 209 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,711 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 16 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, nine administrative actions and 14 membership eligibility challenges.

- We have 55 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review, 24 of which are new; current turnaround time on Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions is approximately 30 days.

Contact: VFW Administrative Operations Associate Director Zach Schwenk, [ZSchwenk@vfw.org](mailto:ZSchwenk@vfw.org).

## **Membership**

- Membership is working hard to deliver All-American packets to Departments along with All-American Post citations for the 2022-2023 membership year. Your patience is appreciated as we work through all 1,136 packages.
- As you begin to get your membership teams together, know there are great resources for you to use. Check out our learning & education on [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) under the Membership Recruiting and Retention page. Everything from recruiting training videos to learning about VFW eligibility can be found there. All learning resources are downloadable.
- Remember to see your CiC's National Membership Program on [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) under the Membership Recruiting and Retention page. Find this year's membership objectives, incentives for membership growth, and All-American Program essential information for Post, District and Department levels all in one place.
- We are pleased to announce the Membership Facebook page. Find our page at <https://www.facebook.com/VFWMembership>.

Contact: VFW Membership Interim Director Corey Hunt, [CoreyHunt@vfw.org](mailto:CoreyHunt@vfw.org).

## **National Legislative Service**

- VA Health Care Open Enrollment: As part of the PACT Act, VA has expanded health care eligibility for certain veterans who were discharged after Sept. 11, 2001, and before Oct. 1, 2013. A one-year open enrollment period began on Oct. 1, 2022, and **will end on Sept. 30, 2023**, for this group of veterans depending on their dates and locations of service, regardless of disability claim status. Once the open enrollment period has closed, veterans from this group will be eligible for VA health care as part of a phase-in process based on discharge date. Don't wait until Sept. 30. [Apply for your health care today](#).
- Review of VA Presumption Decision Process: The PACT Act caused VA to make a series of changes in how presumptive claims were processed and called for VA presumption processes to be reviewed. The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine completed its mandated review of VA processes used to determine medical conditions that are presumed to be service connected. In its recommendations on moving forward the report included, "To promote understanding by veterans and other stakeholders, it is vital to make the rationales and justifications for decisions and the criteria and methods used to make them publicly available." [Read more](#).

Contact: VFW National Legislative Service Director Patrick Murray, [PMurray@vfw.org](mailto:PMurray@vfw.org).

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