

# NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION WEEKLY UPDATE



Sept. 1, 2023

Greetings,

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

## Programs

- The National Awards and Citations Committee will meet prior to the Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C., to discuss and choose recipients for the awards to be given at the 125th VFW National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky in 2024, upon approval from the National Council of Administration at the Legislative Conference.

Specifically, the awards to be reviewed by the committee are as follows:

- o VFW Distinguished Fraternal Award
- o VFW Distinguished Patriotic Award
- o VFW Distinguished Historical Award
- o VFW Distinguished Citizenship Award
- o VFW Distinguished Educational Award
- o VFW Distinguished Service Award

A description of each award is on the form. The nominations will only be accepted through the form provided [here](#).

Adjutant General Dan West has asked for your recommendations for these awards if you believe you have a worthy candidate. **Deadline for submissions is Feb. 2, 2024.**

Questions can be submitted directly to Lynn Rolf at email below or by phone at 816.968.1116 (off.) or 913.290.1754 (cell).

Contact: VFW Programs Director Lynn W. Rolf, III, [LRolf@vfw.org](mailto:LRolf@vfw.org).

## Member Services

- Reminder, we are currently at the VFW fiscal year-end. Please be advised the Member Service Center will accept dues payments, installment payments, installment enrollment, magazine subscriptions, member transfers, and member updates, but will experience a slight delay in processing. We expect to resume normal processing on or before Friday, Sept. 8, 2023.

Contact: VFW Member Services Director David Prohaska, [DProhaska@vfw.org](mailto:DProhaska@vfw.org).

## **Development**

This week's Development Campaigns are listed below:

- Sept. 1 Appeals:
  - o Voice of Democracy promotion of entries email to all Friends of Freedom.
  - o September acquisition wallet tool, cards, and check.
  - o September wallet tool, cards, and check package to lapsed nonmember donors.
  - o September holiday card package to member and nonmember donors.
  - o September statements to member and nonmember donors.
  - o Partners in Patriotism quarterly statements to nonmember donors.

Contact: VFW Development Director Kelly Jones, [KellyJones@vfw.org](mailto:KellyJones@vfw.org).

## **Human Resources**

- New Hire:
  - o David Rogers is a new Database Administrator in the IT Department in the K.C. Office.
- Positions Actively Recruiting For:
  - o National Pre-Discharge Claims Rep – Bethesda, Maryland

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

## **Administrative Operations**

- Department Inspections: We are moving forward with the Department Inspection initiative for the 2023-2024 term and have plans to complete ten (10) inspections this year. The hope is that we will have the first inspection scheduled for the beginning of October and have all inspections completed by May 2024, prior to the start of Department conventions. In the coming weeks we will be reaching out to the Departments that have been selected by the Commander-in-Chief as well as the inspection team members to begin working through

availability and scheduling. Additionally, the inspection team will be conducting initial and refresher training in September before we start our schedule. We look forward to another successful year of inspections. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Quentin Carroll at [QCarroll@vfw.org](mailto:QCarroll@vfw.org).

- There are currently 51 Posts under suspension, one of which is new. We have processed zero Post consolidations pursuant to Section 209 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,708 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 16 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 10 Administrative Actions and 16 membership eligibility challenges.
- We have 51 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review, 19 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).

### **Meetings and Events**

- Continuing to recuperate at home from hip replacement surgery on Aug. 9. Doctor released me to work limited hours at home (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.) each day until Sept. 1. Will reevaluate going forward to gradually increase the time and to being back in the office soon.
- Tuesday, Aug. 22, 2023, notified by the Airport Marriott that HVAC (chiller) was down and wouldn't be receiving a replacement part until Thursday morning of Aug. 24. With internal temperatures in sleeping rooms and public space at 72-78 degrees, began preparations to shift entire meeting (Budget/Finance and Council of Administration meetings/events (Aug.

24 to Aug. 27) to their sister property, Crowne Plaza Hotel – downtown K.C., who thankfully, could accommodate our requirements of sleeping rooms as well as meeting space. Worked with director of sales, and the catering sales manager (both were quarantined at home with COVID as was hotel's general manager. The largest issue was ground transportation as Crowne Plaza does not provide complimentary airport to hotel shuttle which the Airport Marriott does. Meeting details forwarded from Marriott to Crowne Plaza. On Aug. 24, held a TEAMS meeting (pre-con) to review all meeting details with the hotel's catering sales manager, myself and VFW Manager of Meetings Taylor Engle. My personal thanks to the Airport Marriott and to the Crowne Plaza for handling these 'last minute' details as efficiently as possible given the circumstances. In addition, I thank Quentin Carroll for standing in for me onsite. His attention to detail, calm demeanor and assistance was much appreciated by myself, who could not be in attendance as I normally would have been.

- Ongoing, review and processing last of the Phoenix convention billings.
- List of Phoenix volunteers from co-chairs provided to Taylor to prepare certificates of appreciation to be distributed by them at an upcoming Arizona meeting.
- Ongoing, working with legal on upcoming meeting contracts and addendums.

Contact: VFW Meetings and Events/Exhibits Director Vanessa Kane, CMP, CMM,  
[VKane@vfw.org](mailto:VKane@vfw.org).

### **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).

### **National Legislative Service**

- **Make Your Voices Heard on Capitol Hill and in Your Communities:** In keeping with the VFW's commitment to student veteran success, every year the VFW partners with Student Veterans of America (SVA) to host the VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship program, providing exemplary VFW members who are student veterans the opportunity to make their voices heard on Capitol Hill and in their communities. Submit your 2023-2024 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship applications BEFORE the Sept. 6 deadline. [Apply today](#).
- **VA Education Benefits Fraud Alert:** As student veterans prepare for the 2023-2024 academic year, the VA Office of Inspector General (VA OIG) is warning about education benefits fraud. Some VA-approved schools engage in fraudulent activity that involves disparities in tuition rates and billing practices for veterans versus civilian students for the same courses. The VA OIG asks that you report any such cases. [Learn more](#) about the signs of fraud or [submit a complaint](#).

- Pre-Need Eligibility for VA Cemetery Burial: VA Under Secretary of Memorial Affairs Matthew T. Quinn spoke about pre-need eligibility for burial benefits during a presentation at the 124th VFW National Convention. Over the last five decades, VA has expanded the number of national cemeteries creating more access for urban veterans and jumpstarting an initiative for those in rural areas. However, Quinn revealed that only 16% of veterans will choose a VA national cemetery for their final resting place. [Read more](#) about national cemeteries or [learn more](#) about VA burial benefits.

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

### **National Veterans Service**

- NVS BDD staff conducted a briefing for VA OIT staff on how we interact with each other providing benefits assistance, explained our systems accesses, the VFW's internal claims management system and PACT Act issues.
- NVS Director Mike Figlioli met with the Undersecretary for Health and participated in a VSO roundtable on Thursday, Aug. 31, 2023.
- NVS leadership will meet with Hillcrest Children and Family Center to discuss issues related to behavioral and mental health and Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics.
- NVS QA/training staff are continuing to finalize preparations for VFW Accredited Service Officer training to be held Sept. 10-15, 2023, in Annapolis, Maryland.
- NVS leaders participated in a USAA Impact Days Scoping brief which will provide additional NVS funding if selected to participate in their project.
- NVS health team will meet with the GAO to discuss VA Telehealth programs.
- NVS health team will participate in the annual VA Winter Haven Outreach Project 2023 planning session for homeless and underserved veterans.
- The VFW's National Capital Region Benefits Office (NCRBO) staff will provide a VA Benefits and Outreach Services briefing to the Defense Health Agency.

Contact: VFW National Veterans Service Director Michael Figlioli, [MFiglioli@vfw.org](mailto:MFiglioli@vfw.org).

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