

# NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION WEEKLY UPDATE



Oct. 7, 2023

Greetings,

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

## **Development**

This week's Development Campaigns are listed below:

- Oct. 2 Appeal:
  - o September acquisition reminder with check.
- Oct. 3 Appeal:
  - o October eNews to all nonmember Friends of Freedom.
- Oct. 5 Appeal:
  - o Veterans Day engagement sign a card email #1 to all Friends of Freedom.
- Oct. 6 Appeal:
  - o Patriot Circle annual personal note to member and nonmember donors

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

## **Human Resources**

- Positions Actively Recruiting For:
  - o National Pre-Discharge Claims Rep – Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.
  - o Associate Director of Communications and Public Affairs – D.C. Office.
  - o Member Services Advisor – K.C. Office.
  - o Part-time Shipping/Receiving Clerk – K.C. Office.

- o Director of Administrative Operations – K.C. Office.

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 and if you have any questions or concerns, please contact Quentin Carroll at [QCarroll@vfw.org](mailto:QCarroll@vfw.org).

- There are currently 42 Posts under suspension, two of which are new. We have processed zero Post consolidations pursuant to Section 209 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,698 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 22 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 11 Administrative Actions and 16 membership eligibility challenges.
- We have 46 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review, 20 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**

- Another Membership Monday training webinar will happen Monday, Oct. 9, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. CST. We will be covering the topic “Best Practices for Communication.” Get recommendations on how to best communicate with your membership and find out what others do to effectively communicate throughout the year. The webinar will be recorded for future viewing as all Membership Mondays are.
- As of Oct. 4, 2023, we are at 83.63% in membership. With a current growth average of +655 members/day thus far, we look to be on track to meet the 102% goal by June 30, 2024. This will require constant effort at all levels, from Posts to Departments to National, focusing on recruiting and just as importantly, retention, but the numbers show that 102% is going to be attainable!
- We are gearing up for the Junior Vice and Quartermaster conference on Oct. 13-15.
- If you have a topic for training, we would love to hear from you! Contact us by emailing, [Membership@vfw.org](mailto:Membership@vfw.org). Follow our Facebook page at [facebook.com/VFWMembership](https://facebook.com/VFWMembership).

## **Meetings and Events**

- Continuing to work limited hours (in office and from home) pending doctor's approval to return to full-time the second or third week of October.
- Scheduled preconference meeting on Oct. 3, 2023, at the KCI Airport Marriott to meet new hotel staff and to introduce Taylor Engle to hotel staff.
- Working with legal to finalize two hotel contracts for 2024 Louisville. The Hyatt contract was completed on Oct. 10, 2023, and sent to the hotel for countersignature. The last contract is for Marriott.
- The Request for Proposal (FRP) is out for the 2025 and the 2026 D.C. Legislative Conference at Hyatt Regency Crystal City, holding dates for both years. Alternative possibilities are being sourced per leadership's direction. Once I receive information, it will be determined if a change is to be made for the years 2025 and 2026. The due date is Oct. 15, 2023.
- 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 10th anniversary of the VFW's "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" campaign will run from Oct. 8 – Nov. 11, 2023, with over 1,800 franchised stores participating. Join the campaign and donate at [vfw.org/2023HAH](https://vfw.org/2023HAH).

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations Brooke Brown, [BBrown@vfw.org](mailto:BBrown@vfw.org).

- The 2023-2024 VFW Foundation grant cycle opened on Oct. 1, 2023, and applications are available at [vfw.org/Grants](https://vfw.org/Grants). VFW Posts, Districts and Auxiliaries may qualify for grant funding. A total of three reimbursement-based grant opportunities will be provided:
  - o #StillServing Grant (SSG) – This grant provides reimbursement of up to \$1,500 for expenses incurred while performing community service activities where Post/District/Auxiliary members engaged community members directly.
  - o Post Assistance Grant (PAG) – This grant provides reimbursement of up to \$2,500 for expenses incurred from purchasing qualifying equipment or making repairs/renovating a Post owned property.
  - o Uniting to Combat Hunger (UTCH) Grant – This grant provides reimbursement of up to \$1,500 for donations made to food insecurity organizations or for the purchase of food that supports a Post or Auxiliary ran food pantry.

- The VFW Foundation Board meeting was held on Tuesday, Oct. 3, at the National Museum of Military Vehicles in Dubois, Wyoming. VFW Adjutant General and Board President Dan West gave an overview of VFW activities including how military families would be helped through Unmet Needs if there was a federal government shutdown. VFW Quartermaster General and Board Secretary-Treasurer Marc Garduno discussed the Foundation's financial health and 2022-2023 FY results. Additionally, there was discussion about the VFW National Convention sponsorship process, board member nominations and informative reports from staff members Lisa Baronio, Brooke Brown and Ben Vargas as well as input from consultant Tony Lowe.

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

### **National Legislative Service**

- Claims Representative Access Bill Introduced: Sens. King (I-ME), Cramer (R-ND), Shaheen (D-NH), and Rounds (R-SD) have introduced [S. 2888](#), *TAP Promotion Act*, to authorize accredited claims representatives to be present in DOD Transition Assistance Program (TAP) classrooms. This legislation is the companion bill to [H.R. 3933](#) introduced by Rep. Van Orden (WI-3). The goal of these bills is to help mitigate gaps in care for transitioning service members who use the VA Benefits Delivery at Discharge program, which provides an expedited VA disability claims pathway for benefits and services. The VFW has been a long-standing supporter of this initiative as a means to reduce suicide risk among recently transitioned veterans. [Read the press release](#).
- Report on Military Barracks Released: The Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report on its review of military barracks. The study, which was required as part of the *National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022*, found mold and raw sewage among other health, safety, and well-being concerns. GAO also found that DOD lacks reliable mechanisms to track barracks conditions and the funding spent on improvements. This report bolsters the need to pass VFW-supported H.R. 3165, *Military Housing Transparency and Accountability Act*. [Read the report](#).
- National Cemetery Administration Survey: VA has released a survey to determine awareness of burial options and end-of-life benefits. If you are a veteran, family member, survivor, caregiver, or friend, please take a few minutes to answer these questions so VA is better able to serve you. [Take the survey](#).

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

