

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION  
**WEEKLY UPDATE**



Sept. 8, 2023

Greetings,

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

**From the Adjutant General**

My fellow war veterans and patriots of the Auxiliary: As we move forward into the month of September your state legislative teams will be in D.C. next week along with the Commander-in-Chief pressing initiatives for the benefits of veterans and their families with our elected representatives. It is important work that changes lives and your support is greatly appreciated.

Life members have been credited in MEMSTATS and each Post, District and Department should now know where they are at in attaining the minimum goal of 102% before June 30 of next year.

We have two new videos that will be released next week from VFW University. One on how to fill out the membership application and one on VFW eligibility that will also run on social media.

Over \$180,000.00 was raised for disaster assistance in Maui and includes the \$30,000.00 matching funds from the VFW's National disaster assistance fund. The generosity of the VFW, Auxiliary, members, and nonmembers is overwhelming, and the Hawaii State Commander Ron Schaedal sends his appreciation and thanks for the veterans affected by the devastating fires.

The National Headquarters staff stands ready to help each of you be as successful as you want to be.

Thank you for your service to our country and dedication to the VFW. It is greatly appreciated.

Dan West  
Adjutant General

**Development**

This week's Development Campaigns are listed below:

- Sept. 5 Appeal:
  - o September eNews to all nonmember Friends of Freedom.

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

## **Human Resources**

- New Hires:
  - Nia Lambert is the new Planned Giving Major Gifts Coordinator in the Development Department in the K.C. Office.
  - Le’Nasia Williams is the new Internet Marketing Campaign and Special Online Projects Coordinator in the Development Department in the K.C. Office.

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

## **Administrative Operations**

- 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 50 Posts under suspension, four of which are new. We have processed zero Post consolidations pursuant to Section 209 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,707 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 18 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 11 Administrative Actions and 16 membership eligibility challenges.
- We have 52 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review, five 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**

- It is exciting to hear from so many Department Membership Chairs as they are organizing their fall membership events. Encourage your leaders to start planning now for those larger recruiting opportunities. We are here to help! Call us at 888.564.6839 or email us at [Membership@vfw.org](mailto:Membership@vfw.org).
- Another Membership Monday training webinar will happen on Monday, Sept. 11, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. CST. We will be covering the topic “Recruiting Basics & Utilizing Post Reports,”

where you'll get an expert look and understanding of where to find basic member reports and learn how to use them. The webinar will be recorded for future viewing as all Membership Mondays are. 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 <https://www.facebook.com/VFWmembershipHQ>.

Contact: VFW Membership Interim Director Corey Hunt, [CoreyHunt@vfw.org](mailto:CoreyHunt@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 [www.vfw.org/2023HAH](http://www.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).

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

### **National Legislative Service**

- Progress Against Claim Sharks: New Jersey Governor Phil Murphy signed state legislation which makes it a violation of the Consumer Fraud Act for unaccredited individuals to receive unlawful compensation for advising or assisting with veterans' benefits. VFW Post 1333 in Neptune City hosted the law's signing. "Our veterans put their lives on the line in service to our country and have more than earned the benefits for which they and their loved ones are eligible," said Murphy. "We must protect veterans and their families from unscrupulous individuals who would take advantage of them by overcharging for assistance with those benefits. This legislation will help ensure these bad actors either follow all applicable federal standards or face the consequences." [Read more](#).
- Don't Wait to Apply for PACT Act Benefits: VFW Communications and Public Affairs Director Rob Couture, and VFW National Veterans Service Director Mike Figlioli participated in a Facebook Live event to discuss PACT Act benefits and eligibility. One clear message from the discussion was don't wait to apply for benefits or appeal denials from previous claim applications. Military service in areas covered by law from 1955 to the present that resulted in a diagnosis of a presumptive condition may result in compensation by VA. Survivors are also encouraged to apply as deceased veterans may have benefits that extend to eligible family members. [Watch the video](#).
- Access Vet Center Mental Health Counseling: Vet Centers offer free and confidential mental health and readjustment counseling in communities across the United States and its territories. While widely known as a resource for veterans, they also assist eligible service members and families. Available services include individual and group therapy, family and bereavement counseling, and referral assistance. [Learn more](#).

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

## National Veterans Service

- NVS staff will conduct Skill Level and Basic Training for VFW Accredited Service Officers beginning this weekend through Sept. 15, 2023.
- This week on Sept 6-7, NVS BDD leadership participated in a two-day DOL TAP Redesign Summit in Washington, D.C.
- NVS leadership participated in the quarterly Wounded Warrior Project collaboration meeting.
- VFW's NVS Pre-Discharge representatives briefed transitioning service members on VA benefits at Fort Bliss, Texas, Joint Base Andrews, Maryland, Fort Cavazos, Texas, and Joint Base Anacostia Bolling, D.C.
- NVS health team participated in the VA advisory committee meeting on Gulf War illnesses.
- NVS received the final data from the VA Disability Claims Clinic held during VFW National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona:
  - o Number of toxic exposure screenings: **23**
  - o Number of new enrollments to VA Health Care: **Five**
  - o Total number of veterans seen: **331**
  - o Number of C&P exams complete: **74**
  - o Number of finalized claims: **23**
  - o Monetary benefits awarded in total from this event: **\$45,411.35 in retroactive benefits.**

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

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