

May 10, 2024

Development

April is generally a slower period for fundraising, but our results this year exceeded expectations. We set a goal of raising \$3.5 million, and by the end of the month, we reached \$5.4 million. This included approximately \$1.6 million from estate gifts.

This week's Development Campaigns are listed below:

- May 7 Appeal:
 - Military Appreciation Month matching gift email #1 to all Friends of Freedom.
- May 8 Appeal:
 - May eNews to all nonmember Friends of Freedom.

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

Human Resources

- Positions Actively Recruiting For:
 - Part-time Shipping Receiving Clerk – K.C. Office.
 - Member Services Advisor – K.C. Office.
 - National Pre-Discharge Claims Rep – Joint Base Lewis McChord, Washington.

Contact: VFW Human Resources Director Sari Maple, SMaple@vfw.org.

Programs

- VFW National Convention 2nd Annual Cornhole Tournament:

Please encourage our members to register teams and participate in the 2nd annual VFW Cornhole Tournament taking place at the 125th VFW National Convention in Louisville!

The series will take place on Sunday, July 28, and Monday, July 29, 2024. All proceeds from the competition go to VFW PACT Act benefit assistance. For more information and to sign up for this event, visit <https://kccrew.com/leagues/vfwcornholetournament/>.

Contact: VFW Programs Director Lynn W. Rolf, III, LRolf@vfw.org.

Administrative Operations

- There are currently 42 Posts under suspension, three of which are new. The organization has 5,635 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 27 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 14 Administrative Removals/Actions and 12 membership eligibility challenges.
- Currently Administrative Operations has 141 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review, 24 of which are new; current turnaround time on Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions is approximately 45-60 days.

Election Reports:

2024-2025 Election reports have been mailed out. Per the Bylaws and Manual of Procedures, Posts should have opened nominations for the upcoming year in March and closed the nominations and elections of Post Officers in April. To access the election report online; sign into VFW.org and proceed to My VFW. Select Online Membership System (OMS), then press the drop-down menu on the left side of the screen for Election Report and select Post Election Report Filing.

The 2024-25 Election Report is now available in OMS. Please ensure when you file your Election Report for the new term that you have selected 2024-25 from the drop-down option as OMS will typically default to the current term.

NOTE: The National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure require a properly completed Election Report for the ensuing year to be submitted to Department and National Headquarters by June 1, 2024.

Department Proof of Eligibility:

With the start of Department Conventions right around the corner I wanted to remind everyone of the requirement to submit proof of eligibility for all newly elected Junior Vice Commanders and any elected Department Quartermasters or appointed Department Adjutants who are new to their position this coming year (2024-25).

Additionally, proof of eligibility for any new Department Commanders or Senior Vice Commanders, who for whatever reason were not in the line of succession the previous year, to which we already have proof of eligibility on file.

This proof of eligibility must be submitted to the Adjutant General pursuant to Section 516 of the National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure.

This must be done after officers are installed and prior to National Convention and is most easily completed by sending documentation via email to Joseph Wolfgeher at JWolfgeher@vfw.org.

Department Approved Resolutions and Amendments:

This is a reminder to please send your Department-approved resolutions and/or amendments that require action to the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual Committee prior to the National Convention and immediately following the close of your Department Convention.

In order to meet the requirements mentioned in Article XIV of the National Bylaws/Manual of Procedure, stating “All proposed amendments will be available to Posts by the Adjutant General at least fifteen (15) days before the assembling of the National Convention for those amendments being proposed for consideration at the convention.”

It is extremely important we receive these documents within two (2) days from the conclusion of your Department Convention. A response is required even if your Department does not have any resolutions/amendments to submit.

Please send the electronic version (word document) to TGniotczynski@vfw.org.

Contact: VFW Administrative Operations Director Quentin Carroll, QCarroll@vfw.org.

Membership

- This is a busy time for membership drives. Make sure your recruiting events are set up for success. If you need assistance to fund a recruiting event, please have your Department leadership reach out to us in Membership at membership@vfw.org or 888.564.6839.
- If you have questions about Memstats, Post Query, or if you are trying to charter a Post and you have more than 15 members on a charter application, call Matt Nute at 816.968.1122. We have many resources available to help you.
- Need recruiting training/resources?! If you have a topic for training, we would love to hear from you! Contact us by emailing, Membership@vfw.org. Follow our Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/VFWmembership>.

Contact: VFW Membership Interim Director Corey Hunt, CoreyHunt@vfw.org.

VFW Foundation

- The Burger King®/VFW Unmet Needs fundraising campaign continues until May 31. Customers will be able to donate a dollar or round up their purchase price. Since 2007, Burger King Franchisees have raised nearly \$7.5 million in support of the Unmet Needs program which provides financial aid grants to veterans, service members and their families who are experiencing unexpected financial difficulties. Nearly 1,150 Burger King Franchise restaurants are participating in this year's campaign. [Find a participating restaurant near you across the U.S.](#) Any questions can be directed to VFW Foundation Donation Specialist Renee Martin at RMartin@vfw.org.

Contact: VFW Foundation Director of Donor Relations Richard Freiburghouse, RFreiburghouse@vfw.org.

National Legislative Service

- VFW Testifies with Partner VSOs on VA Budget Request: The Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs held an oversight hearing on VA's budget request for fiscal years 2025 and 2026. VFW National Legislative Deputy Director Kristina Keenan presented testimony on [*The Independent Budget Recommendations for the Department of Veterans Affairs for Fiscal Years 2025 and 2026*](#). This report serves as a comprehensive roadmap to ensure VA is fully funded and capable of carrying out its mission to serve veterans and their families, both now and in the future. She noted, "VA infrastructure funding has remained stagnant for far too long. In the past 10 years, it has only increased five%. Meanwhile, the construction backlog has grown exponentially —116% since 2014. Funding must increase to keep up." [Watch the hearing](#), which begins at the 12:47 mark.
- House Passes Four Veterans Bills: The House passed four VFW-supported veterans bills — [H.R. 5914](#), Veterans Education Transparency and Training Act; [H.R. 3738](#), Veterans Economic Opportunity and Transition Administration Act; [H.R. 1767](#), Student Veteran Benefit Restoration Act; and [H.R. 4016](#), Veteran Fraud Reimbursement Act. This legislation would provide veterans protection against education or fiduciary fraud, reduce red tape related to education benefits, and create a fourth administration within VA solely for economic opportunity benefits and transition assistance. These bills are now headed to the Senate.

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

National Veterans Service

- NVS director attended the VA secretary breakfast.
- NVS leadership attended the monthly VA undersecretary for benefits meeting.
- NVS leadership participated in the VA VBA VSO update to discuss the current state of the VA and upcoming changes to regulations.
- NVS leadership participated in the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs Subcommittee member-led roundtable to discuss VA notification letters.
- NVS deputy director attended the Cleland Dole Section 203 advisory group meeting to discuss residential energy costs for veterans.
- VFW's NVS Pre-Discharge representatives briefed transitioning service members on VA benefits at military installations across the country.
- NVS health team participated in a PTSD treatment innovation meeting.
- NVS health team participated in the biweekly ATLAS meeting.
- NVS BDD leadership collaborated in the TAP sync meeting with OTED.

Contact: VFW National Veterans Service Director Michael Figlioli, MFiglioli@vfw.org.

Veterans of Foreign Wars
406 W. 34th Street
Kansas City, Missouri 64111
© 2024 All rights reserved. | ® ™ SM
Trademarks and service marks of VFW.

