

April 12, 2024

Greetings,

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

Development

After going through the first half of the fiscal review, when compared to the previous year, the net income is higher by \$4,244,882.00, indicating an overall improvement in financial performance year-over-year. This is a strong indicator of effective budget management as well as growth in income and cost-saving measures. Factors contributing to these results include improvements in consumer confidence (economy), rollout of product scoring wins and a slight overhaul of the mail plan by implementing more domestic package strategies to offset some of the postage increases. As we head into the summer months, which we have historically seen suppressed responses/revenue, we are hopeful these new strategies will continue to show positive outcomes through the end of the fiscal.

This week's Development Campaigns are listed below:

- April 10 Appeal:
 - o Dormant reengagement email #2 to all Friends of Freedom.
- April 12 Appeal:
 - o Planned Giving mailing #3 – survey to nonmembers.

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

Human Resources

- New Hire:
 - o Colin Witte is a new part-time Shipping/Receiving Clerk in the VFW Store in the K.C. Office.
 - o Shawn Spencer is a new part-time Shipping/Receiving Clerk in the VFW Store in the K.C. Office
- Positions Actively Recruiting For:

- o National Pre-Discharge Claims Rep – Norfolk, Virginia.
- o National Pre-Discharge Rep – Joint Base Andrews, Maryland.

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

Programs

- VFW Combat Tested Gaming Update:

Season 3 registration closes April 12! For more information about Combat Tested Gaming leagues or to register, visit <https://vfwgaming.com/>.

One option is to sign up as a team if you have a full team ready to roll. The other is to sign up individually on one of our free-agent teams. If you go the free-agent route, we monitor those teams and will set the team as private once it's full. From there, we will email everyone and ask for an email response to confirm you are in to play. If we do not get a response, you will be removed from the team to open up the spot for a new player.

We are more than 1,000 veteran gamers strong. Please share this and help us continue to grow.

- VFW National Convention 2nd Annual Cornhole Tournament:

Please support 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, which was an instant hit last year in Phoenix, visit <https://kccrew.com/leagues/vfwcornholetournament/>.

We need board sponsors and tons of teams from our membership. Please share this far and wide and support our amazing NVS PACT Act initiatives.

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

Administrative Operations:

- There are currently 48 Posts under suspension, one of which is new. The organization has 5,643 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 20 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 11 Administrative Removals/Actions and eight membership eligibility challenges.
- Currently Administrative Operations has 120 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review, 10 of which are new; current turnaround time on Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions is approximately 45-60 days.

Disciplinary Action Guide:

There have been recent updates to the Disciplinary Action Guide that outlines the process to successfully complete a disciplinary action. We have included information to the guide that encompasses sentencing guidelines which is located as an appendix at the end of the guide and outlines sentencing/penalty considerations, clarifications, and examples.

The guide is available on the Document Repository in the “Guide to Disciplinary Action” folder or on the VFW website behind the login under My VFW/Bylaws: Training, Forms & Templates/ Training/Training Guides & Standard Operating Procedures.

Department Inspections:

At the beginning of the 2023-2024 term, we planned for a total of 10 Department inspections. At this time a total of nine Department inspections have been completed with one scheduled and pending. All inspections will be completed by the end of April, at which time we will compile an updated list of common issues and best practices.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Quentin Carroll at QCarroll@vfw.org.

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 close the nominations and electing the Post Officers in April. To access the election report online; sign in to 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.

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

Membership

- You have recruited 3,785 female VFW members, which is roughly 13% of our new member total for this year! It is a goal every year to increase our female comrades, your efforts are working! Keep up the great work out there!
- Did you know? Commanders and Quartermasters can view a list of Post members whose membership will expire during the year. Check your Post Query for those who expire this year. Members with less than 90 days will be annotated with number of days until expiration. Your membership committee can use this info!
- Retaining continuous members is key to a strong membership. Make an extra effort to engage with members you have not seen around the Post in a while. A personal, handwritten

letter will go a long way toward retaining your less active members. Times are hard, check on your annual members and find out what they need, then provide it.

- Do you understand MEMSTATS? Are you able to answer common questions to help Post leaders such as: “How do I check a Post’s All-American Dashboard?” or “Do you know how to view and use your KPI Tools?” If these are questions you cannot answer, chances are good there are leaders in your Districts that cannot either. Please do NOT wait to ask questions! If you need help in this arena, call us! We will 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.

Meetings and Events

- Ongoing, exhibitor requests processed into eShow for Louisville 2024. Currently at 67 exhibits representing \$87,026 in revenues. **Note:** Exhibitor fees increased in 2024. The last increase was in 2010.
- Ongoing, convention housing. As a reminder, Departments with sold-out blocks are being asked to proceed with reservations and waitlist. Moving forward as rooms become available, waitlisted reservations will be satisfied before new reservations are confirmed. Goal to fill all blocks before moving to additional hotels (overflow).
- Ongoing working with Taylor on processes within department.
- Preparing for National Officer Implementation – April 14-17, 2024, and Senior Vice Commander training – April 18-21, 2024.
- Scheduled the second and final local (National) convention (Louisville) committee meeting for later in month of April. Revisit with convention committee chairs updates and any challenges they may be facing as we move closer to National convention dates.

Contact: VFW Meetings and Events/Exhibits Director Vanessa Kane, CMP, CMM, VKane@vfw.org.

National Legislative Service

- Camp Lejeune Justice Act Informational Update: Veterans and family members seeking to file lawsuits because of water contamination at Camp Lejeune have only months left to do so. The VFW has partnered with trusted law firms to help those seeking to file suit against the government. [BMBF Law](#) and [Bergman & Moore](#) are here to help affected individuals. Section 804 of the PACT Act (P.L. 117- 168), the Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022, allows that individuals may qualify if they resided, worked, or were otherwise exposed (including in utero) to the ground water at Camp Lejeune for not less than 30 days during the period from Aug. 1, 1953, to Dec. 31, 1987; and have been diagnosed with a cancer, serious illness, or numerous other health conditions including neurological, kidney and liver diseases, miscarriages, infertility, and birth defects/cognitive disabilities in children. Your

condition does not have to be on the VA presumptive list or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry to file a claim.

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

National Veterans Service

- NVS deputy director testified before a House subcommittee on pending veterans' legislation.
- NVS staff participated in VA Survivor Summit.
- VFW's NVS Pre-Discharge representatives briefed transitioning service members on VA benefits across the country.
- NVS BDD team briefed Air Force general officers at their transition course and provided individual counseling.
- NVS BDD leadership met with Qualtrics and Columbia University teams to discuss improving the BDD surveys.
- NVS health leadership participated in a Vets4Warriors briefing.
- NVS health leadership participated in a Wounded Warrior Project briefing on legislative priorities.
- NVS health team collaborated with VA ATLAS at the biweekly meeting.
- NVS health team participated in the Advisory Committee for Geriatric Care meeting.

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

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