

# NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION WEEKLY UPDATE



June 21, 2024

## **From the Office of the Adjutant General**

Comrades, as our year draws to an end, we have many reasons to celebrate and one more we can add that is within our grasp is to continue to process membership, so we hit the 100% mark for our organization. We all know what almost means and as an organization we can show positive growth for two years in a row. I am asking that instead of holding on to the new members we haven't processed as you want to get a jump on next year starting in July, that we process those or some of them without delay.

Let's show the world that we are not a dying organization, that in fact we are a very viable and relevant organization that is growing and will continue to grow for years to come.

Dan West  
Adjutant General

## **Development**

This week's Development Campaigns are listed below:

- June 18 Appeals:
  - o June acquisition announcement email #1 to all recipients of the acquisition package.
  - o June acquisition package with nickel, notepad, and check.
- June 20 Appeal:
  - o July 4 engagement email #1 to all Friends of Freedom.
- June 21 Appeal:
  - o July matching gift package to member and nonmember donors.

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

## **Communications and Public Affairs**

- Celebrating the Legacy – VFW History Video to Celebrate 125th Anniversary Commemoration:

We've updated the VFW History video and gave it a new name bringing it current to 2024. The new name reflects our 125th anniversary theme.

What does 125 years of service for veterans, service members and military families in communities across the nation and around the world look like? Here's a [peek!](#)

Contact: VFW Communications and Public Affairs Director Randi Law, [RLaw@vfw.org](mailto:RLaw@vfw.org).

## **Human Resources**

- New Hires:
  - o LaDesta Brockman is a new Member Service Advisor in Member Services, Kansas City Office.
  - o Jason Scott is a new Pre-Discharge Claims Representative in Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Tacoma, Washington.
- Positions Actively Recruiting For:
  - o National Pre-Discharge Claims Representative Naval Base – San Diego California.
  - o National Pre-Discharge Claims Representative – Joint Base Andrews, Maryland.
  - o Executive Director, VFW Foundation – K.C. Office.

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

## **Member Services**

The Member Service Center will pause membership processing on Friday, June 28, at 4:30 p.m. CDT in preparation for the membership year-end. All membership mail received prior to 4:30 p.m. CDT (including orders faxed and phoned in) will be processed.

The Online Membership System (OMS) will remain open for membership submissions until Sunday, June 30, at 6:30 p.m. CDT. Please be sure to advise all Posts to submit their final membership orders by then. Shortly after 6:30 p.m., all membership processing will shut down so we can begin the year-end processing reports.

As in the past, IT will require a short period of time to reconcile VFW final year-end processing reports and will keep you posted as to when the system(s) will be returned to service.

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

### **Meetings and Events**

- TEAMS meeting on June 17, 2024, reviewed 122 pages of BEOs (banquet event orders) for the convention center with Levy catering contact, making changes and revisions.
- Finalizing internal room blocks (National Council, Past Chiefs, staff) to send to housing manager for download into hotel's reservations system. Due date for completion June 21.
- Finalizing with FERN/Expo – floorplans for convention center. Note: these will be included in the Mobile app that will be available for download closer to the convention dates.
- Reviewed overall convention signage (workshops, meetings, etc.) (trunk), prepared list for new signs that are needed for convention.
- Preparing to update and send out – furniture, office equipment, electrical and internet spread sheet to convention center contacts for items in each category that are required for the convention.
- Continuing to work with Taylor on processes within department and weekly review meetings. Updating Director's SOP as items come up.

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

### **Administrative Operations**

- There are currently 36 Posts under suspension. The organization has 5,629 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 20 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 10 Administrative Removals/Actions and 11 membership eligibility challenges.
- Currently Administrative Operations has 141 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.

### **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](mailto:TGniotczynski@vfw.org).

### **Election Reports:**

**The deadline for submitting a completed election report for the 2024-25 term has passed.** The National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure require a properly completed Election Report be submitted to Department and National Headquarters by **June 1**. Please continue to work with Posts that have not met this requirement as we will begin suspending Posts after July 1 for failure to submit an election report for the 2024-25 term. This suspension by the Commander-in-Chief will result in the Post being placed in arrears and denied any representation at the National Convention.

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.

### **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](mailto:JWolfgeher@vfw.org).

Contact: VFW Administrative Operations Director Quentin Carroll, [QCarroll@vfw.org](mailto:QCarroll@vfw.org).

### **National Legislative Service**

- VFW Testifies at House Subcommittee Oversight Hearing: VFW National Veterans Service Director Michael Figlioli testified at a House Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and

Memorial Affairs oversight hearing on the question of whether a rating of Total Disability based on Individual Unemployability (TDIU) properly compensates today's veterans. [Eligible individuals](#) receive a 100% disability rating if their service-connected disabilities preclude employment. Figlioli commented, "Discussions around TDIU often focus on financial aspects, but at its core it's about people whose lives have been irrevocably changed." [Read the testimony](#) or [watch the hearing](#), which begins at the 14:21 mark.

- House Subcommittee Pending Legislation Hearing: VFW National Legislative Deputy Director Kristina Keenan provided a statement for the record on pending legislation to the House Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity. The proposed bills included H.R. 7543, *Guard and Reserve GI Bill Parity Act of 2024*, which is a VFW top legislative priority. It recognizes the sacrifices that National Guard and Reserve members make when serving stateside, during short activations, and on long deployments. It would allow any day in uniform receiving military pay to count toward Post-9/11 GI Bill eligibility. Keenan wrote, "For years, the sacrifices of Guard and Reserve service members have been overlooked in achieving GI Bill eligibility. The time is now for parity with all the armed forces in earning VA education benefits." [Read the testimony](#).

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

