

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION WEEKLY UPDATE



June 28, 2024

Greetings,

We hope you enjoy this week's National Council Weekly Update on the pertinent happenings of your VFW departments. Due to Independence Day next week, there will not be a COA Update. We will resume on July 12. We hope your holiday is a safe and enjoyable one.

Development

June's revenue goal of \$4 million was achieved and surpassed with the deposit on Friday, June 21. I will update the final number for June next week. Regarding the RFP process, the next deliverable is the electronic receipt of participant's clarifying questions. These are due to VFW by June 28.

This week's Development Campaigns are listed below:

- June 27 Appeal:
 - o July 4 engagement email #2 to all Friends of Freedom.

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

Human Resources

- New Hires:
 - o Kat DeFreece is a new Member Service Advisor in Member Services, Kansas City Office.
- Positions Actively Recruiting For:
 - o Regional Quality Assurance Specialists-East – D.C. Office.
 - o National Pre-Discharge Claims Representative Naval Base – San Diego California.
 - o Associate Director, Service Member Affairs – D.C. Office.
 - o National Pre-Discharge Claims Representative – Joint Base Andrews, Maryland.
 - o Executive Director, VFW Foundation – K.C. Office.

Contact: VFW General Counsel John Muckelbauer, JMuckelbauer@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.

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.

Meetings and Events

- Finalized Excel workbook – furniture, office equipment, electrical and internet, sending to convention center contacts for items in each category required for the smooth operation of the convention.
- Finalized requirements/florist (provider) for stage (décor) that goes across the front of the main VFW stage. The florist will also supply fresh flowers as required for the memorial service.
- Forwarded internal rooming lists to housing manager for input into housing reservations system: Staff/K.C. and D.C., NCOA/PCIC/VIP awards/speakers & National Officer's room reservations. Will continue to work with Louisville housing manager on last minute changes required.
- Continuing to work with Taylor on processes within department.

- Tasked Taylor with updating vehicles we will use from Enterprise for transportation (input correct dates and names for reservations) for the convention.
- Weekly review meetings with Taylor. Updating Director's SOP by month of items required of the position.

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

Administrative Operations

- There are currently 36 Posts under suspension. The organization has 5,628 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 17 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, seven Administrative Removals/Actions and 11 membership eligibility challenges.
- Currently Administrative Operations has 146 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review, nine 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.

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.

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

VFW Foundation

- VFW Foundation Director of Foundation & Corporate Relations Brooke Brown has accepted the position of Vice President of Philanthropy at Guadalupe Centers in Kansas City, Missouri. Under Brooke's leadership, the VFW Foundation made significant strides by dramatically increasing the number of corporate supporters, VFW National Convention sponsors and overall fundraising revenues. We wish Brooke all the best in this exciting new career appointment!

“Thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve our veterans and military families along beside you. It has been an honor and a privilege, with so many wonderful memories and professional relationships that I will treasure and hope to keep.”

-- Brooke Brown, personal email: hope22photo@gmail.com

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

National Legislative Service

- VA Expands Toxic Exposure Presumptions: VA has added three cancers to the list of presumptive diseases covered under the *Honoring our PACT Act of 2022* (P.L. 117-168). Male breast cancer, urethral cancer, and cancer of the paraurethral glands are [now presumed](#) service-connected disabilities due to toxic exposure, streamlining the claims process for eligible veterans with evidence of a diagnosis. [Learn more](#) about PACT Act benefits or find an [accredited service officer](#) to help file a claim.

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

National Veterans Service

- NVS leadership attended the Congressional Notice Letter Roundtable.
- NVS leadership attended the BVA chairman's quarterly meeting.
- NVS leadership attended the GI Bill panel in D.C.
- NVS leadership conducted site visits of National Capital Region BDD offices.
- NVS leadership attended the SecVA press conference.
- NVS health leadership attended a VA Undersecretary of Health monthly meeting.
- NVS health team participated in VAVS training.
- NVS and NLS health teams collaborated on operational and legislative updates.
- NVS health team participated in the quarterly VA hazardous exposure outcomes meeting.
- VFW's NVS Pre-Discharge representatives briefed transitioning service members on VA benefits at military installations around the country.

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.

VFW
VETERANS OF FOREIGN WARS.

