

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION WEEKLY UPDATE



July 7, 2023

Greetings,

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

Communications and Public Affairs

- The 124th VFW National Convention is right around the corner, so don't forget to download the VFW Events App! If you're heading to the VFW National Convention, the app is a MUST HAVE to keep up-to-date with all of the convention-related happenings and information. [Download the app today!](#)

Contact: VFW Communications and Public Affairs Director Randi Law, RLaw@vfw.org.

Development

This week's Development Campaigns are listed below:

- July 3 Appeal:
 - Thank you Independence Day eCard to Friends of Freedom identified as veterans and active military.
- July 4 Appeal:
 - Independence Day email #3 to all Friends of Freedom.
- July 5 Appeal:
 - July eNews to all nonmember Friends of Freedom.

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

Human Resources

- New Hire:

- o Carly Thompson is returning to the VFW as a Member Services Advisor in the Member Services Department in the K.C. Office.
- Positions Actively Recruiting For:
 - o Database Administrator – K.C. Office.
 - o National Pre-Discharge Claims Rep – Bethesda, Maryland.
 - o Part-time Shipping/Receiving Clerk – K.C. Office.

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

Administrative Operations

- There are currently 52 Posts under suspension, 14 of which are new. We have processed one Post consolidation pursuant to Section 209 of the National Bylaws. The organization has 5,734 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 21 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 13 administrative actions and 27 membership eligibility challenges.
- We have 31 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review, 10 of which are new; current turnaround time on Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions is approximately 30 days.

Contact: Administrative Operations Associate Director Zach Schwenk, ZSchwenk@vfw.org.

Programs

- First-Ever Annual VFW National Convention Cornhole Tournament
 - o This year the 124th VFW National Convention will bring one of the oldest and most popular games into the fold to help fundraise for a very special cause dear to everyone at the VFW, our VFW National Veterans Service program.
 - o Please encourage other VFW and VFW Auxiliary members to sign up at VFWCornhole.com. The more teams participating, the better, so please be sure and help spread the word!

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

Membership

- End-of-year numbers tell us that **9,732** members took part in the Commander-in-Chief's recruiting call to recruit at least one new member into the VFW this year. Great job to all of you! This effort resulted in a total of **39,350** members recruited!

- Membership Mondays! If you have a topic you would like to learn more about pertaining to membership or growing the organization in general, we'd love to hear from you. Send your comments to membership@vfw.org.
- Be sure and check out the 124th VFW National Convention [page](#), where you'll find the convention's tentative agenda (subject to change) and information on shuttle services, church services, and so much more!

Contact: VFW Membership Director Rick Butler, RButler@vfw.org.

Meetings and Events

- Preparing items to be shipped on the truck for convention – items pack on July 14.
- Preparing for the National Officer's drivers and volunteer drivers meeting for convention on July 19, 2023, at Hyatt Regency.
- Finalizing catering for functions at convention center.
- Finalizing internet/electric requirements for convention center.
- Finalizing signage for convention – signage packs on July 14.

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

VFW Foundation

- The VFW Foundation's Uniting to Combat Hunger (UTCH) Grant is nearing its close and will end on July 17, 2023. Posts and Auxiliaries in forty states have participated thus far. We would like to get at least one Post from each state to participate. The following states, Delaware, Hawaii, Louisiana, Maryland, Nebraska, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Vermont, West Virginia, and Wyoming have not yet submitted a grant application. To participate, all a Post needs to do is make a donation of \$500-\$1,500 to a local food bank and then send the receipt back to the VFW Foundation, along with a completed two-page application, which can be accessed [here](#). Please contact Jason Couch at JCouch@vfw.org or 816.968.1174 with any questions you might have.

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

National Legislative Service

- USAA has launched an initiative focused on veteran suicide prevention. Face the Fight is a coalition of 40 corporations, foundations, nonprofit and veteran-focused organizations that have joined together to raise awareness and provide support. VFW Washington Office Executive Director Ryan Gallucci was one of the many representatives of the coalition

partners in attendance at a special event held on June 29 to support the mission of breaking the stigmas surrounding suicide in order to open conversation on the topic. [Learn more.](#)

- The Department of Veterans Affairs has awarded \$11.5 million in legal services grants to help homeless veterans or those who are at risk of experiencing homelessness. These first-of-their-kind grants were made available through VA's new Legal Services for Veterans Grant program. They were awarded to 79 public or non-profit organizations to help veterans with various legal needs to ensure they retain their housing. [Learn more.](#)

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

National Veterans Service

- VFW's NVS Pre-Discharge representatives briefed transitioning service members on VA benefits at Fort Drum and Fort Cavazos.
- VFW's NVS Pre-Discharge leadership briefed general officers at the Pentagon.

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

