

# NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MONTHLY UPDATE



Oct. 11, 2024

Greetings,

We hope you enjoy the first issue of the National Council Monthly Update summarizing the pertinent happenings of your VFW departments. The National Council Monthly Update will be distributed on the second Friday of the month.

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

Comrades and Commanders,

I am back from my Honeymoon that I delayed taking for 3.5 years to serve as your Adjutant General and in true form it's not a real vacation unless you have a VFW Crisis or a Disaster, lucky me got both at the same time. Yes, Verizon cellular at sea works and I have no idea how to turn the phone off.

I wanted to update you that on October the 8th, both Chief Lipphardt and I signed the cancellation of Post 12226 also known as the Prison Post as they fell below 10 members. I know there have been a lot of questions about the Chief's decision that incarcerated veterans did not meet the high standards of VFW membership and what that means for those on probation or still doing community supervision or service.

The intent of the Chief's decision is that if the justice system has deemed a person ineligible to be a member in the public and that you must be incarcerated, then you would not be eligible to join the VFW until such time as you are able to be back out in the public; at which time it becomes a decision of the Post the person wants to join.

If you are a member and subsequently are incarcerated due to a conviction, then the Post already has the right to initiate Disciplinary Action that can include a punishment up to termination of membership. This has been relayed to the Bylaws Study Committee for review and final recommendation to the delegates at the National Convention who will have the final say.

Additionally, the Chief, Marc and I are proud of the members of the VFW and Auxiliary as they came together to assist those areas greatly affected by Hurricane Helene and who are now prepping for the landfall of Hurricane Milton headed for Tampa, Florida. Please know that any donations sent to National for either one of these Hurricanes or any disaster will be forwarded to those areas that need it the most. Money is the fastest way to make sure the right supplies are distributed to those in need as many times the donations of supplies end up never being used and end up being thrown away.

For our comrades in Florida, please be safe, keep in touch and may the Lord watch over you and your families.

Dan West  
Adjutant General

## **Development**

### **FY 23-24 Update:**

In August, we fell \$583K short of our monthly projections. Early in the month, we anticipated this shortfall due to the significant fundraising efforts by Kamala Harris, which created increased competition. Non-profits across the board experienced a similar strain as her campaign fundraising ramped up.

Innovairre's shortfall for FY 23-24 totaled \$2.9M, aligning with expectations due to multiple postage rate increases. We proactively managed the shortfall by collecting over \$2M from April through August leaving approximately \$879K as the final shortfall balance for the fiscal year-end. We have completed the reconciliation process, and the outstanding shortfall amount has been collected and we have now closed out FY 23-24.

### **RFP Update:**

The committee has completed its review of the seven proposals submitted, ensuring that we met the September 26th deadline. The third-party firm, contracted to oversee the process and maintain objectivity and integrity, is currently summarizing the scoring. Following this, we plan to invite the top three finalists for in-person presentations during early November. After these presentations, the committee will make its final determination on the proposal that will move forward.

### **FY 24-25 Update:**

For the current fiscal year, our projected revenue for September was \$3.3M. I'm pleased to report that we not only met but slightly exceeded this projection by \$453K. September still had the ongoing challenge of competing with political fundraising efforts. However, we were able to offset this by distributing 2.9M mail pieces at the beginning of September, which contributed significantly to the donations received for the month. We are closely monitoring the effects of the devastation caused by Hurricane Helene and Hurricane Milton, as we anticipate its impact on our fundraising efforts. The situation remains fluid, and we are assessing the potential challenges it may pose.

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

## **Human Resources**

- New Hire:
  - Crystal Brock is a new Member Services Advisor in the Member Services Department in the KC Office.
  - Jeff Malone is a new National Pre-Discharge Claims Representative at JB Andrews in Maryland.
  - Sarah Ulveling is a new Administrative Assistant in National Veterans Service in the DC Office.
- VFW Vacant Budgeted Positions as of 10.4.2024:
  - Project Coordinator (2) - Development, KC Office
  - Planned Giving/Major Gifts Coordinator - Development, KC Office

- o Member Services Advisor (2) - Membership & Member Services, KC Office
- o Affinity and Member Benefit Specialist - Membership & Member Services, KC Office
- o Graphic Design Layout Tech - Marketing & Communications, KC Office
- o Graphic Art Layout Designer - Marketing & Communications, KC Office
- o Assistant Director - Administrative Operations, KC Office
- o Appeals Consultant, Veterans Service Programs, DC Office
- o Claims Consultant, Veterans Service Programs, KC Office
- o Pre-Discharge Claims Rep, Veterans Service Programs, Korea
- o Pre-Discharge Rating Rep, Veterans Service Programs, DC Office

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

### **Membership**

- Our most recent Membership Monday webinar, “**Recruiting 101**,” is available for view on the [VFW Membership Facebook page](#) or on the Membership Recruiting and Retention page behind the member login at vfw.org, along with many other informational videos about all aspects of membership from recruiting and retention to interpreting Memstats reports. If you have requests or ideas for future training, email us at [Membership@vfw.org](mailto:Membership@vfw.org).
- After the first quarter of the membership year, we show increased membership numbers as compared to one year ago, with more than 2,000 members ahead of last year’s end of September benchmark. If this rate of growth, fueled by retention and recruiting, keeps up then we are well on track to meet the 102% membership goal set out by the Commander-in-Chief.
- The last weekend of September saw a successful recruiting event out at the Kansas Speedway led by the VFW National Headquarters, bringing in over 70 members to the organization. If your Department is looking to take part in state-level events and would like support or possible reimbursement of costs, have your Department Quartermaster contact the Membership Department at 888.564.6839 or email us at [Membership@vfw.org](mailto:Membership@vfw.org) and we will work to help you meet those goals.
- If your Posts, Districts, or Departments need membership brochures, applications, or supplies to fulfill their recruiting and retention goals, they can be ordered online through our website. Simply log into vfw.org, click on the “Membership Recruiting Brochures Order Form” link, and let us know what you need!

Contact: VFW Membership Interim Director Corey Hunt, [CoreyHunt@vfw.org](mailto:CoreyHunt@vfw.org).

### **Administrative Operations**

- There are currently 30 Posts under Department suspensions, of which 26 are CIC suspensions due to no election report:

State	Post	Charter city	Suspension expiration date
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California	8988	Bishop	12.17.2024
Colorado	501	Denver	11.25.2024
Colorado	7945	Thornton	11.23.2024
Colorado	10649	Elizabeth	10.22.2024
Connecticut	6990	Colchester	12.18.2024
Connecticut	10169	Durham	12.18.2024
Illinois	728	Danville	12.4.2024
Illinois	1559	Heyworth	11.28.2024
Illinois	4528	Jerseyville	9.28.2024
Illinois	4826	Hoopeston	Revocation of Charter Hearing held 9.12.24. Pending CIC approval of decision letter (9.30.24).
Iowa	6792	Nashua	11.30.2024
Louisiana	3686	Jennings	11.14.24 (also CIC sus - no ER)
Massachusetts	6536	South Boston	Ongoing litigation. Lawyers asked to not cancel Charter until litigation has run its course. Suspended since 3.21.19.
Massachusetts	9813	Holbrook	12.10.2024
Ohio	3288	Brookville	12.18.2024
Oklahoma	1843	Glencoe	11.17.2024
Oklahoma	3698	Westville	11.17.2024
Oklahoma	11194	Konawa	11.17.2024
Pennsylvania	25	Scranton	11.9.2024
Pennsylvania	554	Somerset	10.18.2024
Pennsylvania	974	Darby	11.3.2024
Pennsylvania	3491	Carmichaels	10.23.2024
Rhode Island	1271	Central Falls	Expired 6.26.2024. Pending consolidation information - per Dept. Adj. on 9.5.24.
Tennessee	1733	Knoxville	12.25.2024
Tennessee	5033	Pikeville	12.16.2024
Tennessee	9673	Ripley	10.1.2024
Texas	4133	Trinidad	12.25.2024
Wisconsin	8090	Columbus	10.8.2024
Wisconsin	8123	De Soto	10.17.2024
Wisconsin	10301	Racine	12.20.2024

- There has been one Post consolidation:

State	Post No.	Consolidated w/Post No.	Date Approved
North Carolina	10349	9116	10.1.2024

- There has been one defunct Post:

State	Post No.	Termination Date
Illinois	7191	9.17.2024

- There has been one new Post:

<b>Date Charter Application Received</b>	<b>Date approved</b>	<b>Post No.</b>	<b>City/State</b>
9.16.2024	9.18.2024	12238	Berea, Kentucky

- Administrative Operations is engaged in 13 Article IX Disciplinary Actions:
  - o Arizona:  
Post 5990 (Life member) – completed
  - o Arkansas:  
Post 8845 (District officer) – remanded back to Post
  - o California:  
Post 5059 (District officer) – 30 days to appeal imposition of penalty  
Post 5394 (Life member) – completed
  - o Connecticut:  
Post 9929 (Life member) – completed
  - o Oklahoma:  
Post 1335 (Life member) – completed  
Post 4465 (Department officer) – completed
  - o Pennsylvania:  
Post 566 (Post officer) – completed  
Post 1785 (Life member) – 30 days to appeal imposition of penalty
  - o Texas:  
Post 1475 (Life member) – completed  
Post 1475 (Life member) – completed  
Post 4700 (Life member) – 30 days to appeal imposition of penalty  
Post 8782 (Life member) – pending hearing panel decision
- Ten administrative removal/actions:
  - o Alabama:  
Post 668 Commander – appealed to CIC  
Post 668 Quartermaster – appealed to CIC  
Post 4850 Commander – awaiting possible appeal  
Post 4850 Quartermaster – awaiting possible appeal
  - o Colorado:  
Post 7945 Commander – awaiting possible appeal
  - o Massachusetts:  
Post 144 Commander – awaiting possible appeal  
Post 144 Quartermaster – awaiting possible appeal  
Post 144 Adjutant – awaiting possible appeal
  - o Oklahoma:  
Post 1335 Commander – completed
  - o Pacific Areas:  
Post 9951 Commander – sent back to Post as it was not properly initiated
- One investigation:

- o Department of South Dakota – awaiting CIC review and decision
- Four pending 518’s:
  - o Louisiana, Post No. 3121 - pending Department final report 10.4.2024
  - o Oklahoma, Post No. 8706 - pending Department final report 10.4.2024
  - o California, Post No. 4647 - pending Department response 10.4.2024
  - o New York, District 6 - Department response due 10.20.2024
- Five Membership Eligibility Challenges Since Sept. 11, 2024:

<b>Member Name</b>	<b>Post No.</b>	<b>Dept</b>	<b>Due Date</b>
Timothy Holland	10117	NJ	10.7.2024
Ronald Lockwood	8616	HI	10.13.2024
Jennifer Todd	6408	IL	10.21.2024
Tommy Wittmann	7968	AZ	10.28.2024
John Maye	2357	AZ	10.28.2024

- There has also been one termination, 16 voluntary resignations, and one reinstatement.
- Administrative Operations has 136 Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation submissions for review. Since Sept. 11, 2024, 61 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporations have been received, 59 have been approved and distributed, and nine have been returned for corrections and resubmission through proper channels.
- Total Charters from Sept. 11, 2024, produced:
  - o Nine Post Consolidations
  - o One Post Location and Name Change
  - o Four Posts Name Change
  - o Two Posts Perpetual
  - o One Post Replacement
  - o Two District Replacements
  - o 12 Auxiliary Replacements

<b>Dept</b>	<b>Post/District No.</b>	<b>Unit Designation</b>	<b>Document Type</b>
TX	8273	Auxiliary	Replacement
VA	7854	Auxiliary	Replacement
PA	1074	Auxiliary	Replacement
IL	1379	Auxiliary	Replacement
GA	8385	Auxiliary	Replacement
OK	539	Auxiliary	Replacement
ME	8835	Auxiliary	Replacement
TX	1309	Auxiliary	Replacement
TX	10455	Auxiliary	Replacement
KS	7972	Auxiliary	Replacement
FL	10095	Auxiliary	Replacement
AR	4562	Auxiliary	Replacement
MS	4	District	Replacement
AL	7	District	Replacement
MN	1210/295	Post	Consolidation Charter
FL	4127/10068	Post	Consolidation Charter

NC	8297/7999	Post	Consolidation Charter
PA	7343/6070	Post	Consolidation Charter
MD	10078/2916	Post	Consolidation Charter
NH	8393/8270	Post	Consolidation Charter
PA	3368/7781	Post	Consolidation Charter
MN	1914/9607	Post	Consolidation Charter
NC	9116/10349	Post	Consolidation Charter
KY	12175	Post	Location and Name Change Charter
TX	4149	Post	Name Change Charter
WA	7139	Post	Name Change Charter
TX	2375	Post	Name Change Charter
NV	12119	Post	Name Change Charter
PI	12224	Post	Perpetual Charter
TX	12232	Post	Perpetual Charter
AL	6020	Post	Replacement Charter

### **Department Inspections**

- The following nine Departments have been identified and are tentatively scheduled for inspections. Those Departments that have been identified are as follows:
  - Western Conference:
    - o Pacific Areas
    - o Utah
    - o Washington
  - Eastern Conference:
    - o Europe
    - o Delaware
  - Southern Conference:
    - o Mississippi
    - o Oklahoma
  - Big 10 Conference:
    - o Michigan – inspection has been scheduled for Nov. 13-15, 2024
    - o South Dakota

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

### **Meetings and Events**

- Preparations for upcoming meetings/visits:
  - o Junior Vice Commander’s Training Oct. 10-13.
  - o Bylaws Study Group Oct. 13-17.
  - o Grunt Style Oct. 28-30.
  - o Hondo Event Nov. 6-10.

- o Miscellaneous travel for staff/officers to KC/DC.
- Billing:
  - o Completed review and reconciliation of all convention expenses.
  - o Currently working to close out all September meetings.
- Negotiations with Hyatt Hotels Representative:
  - o Collaborating with national sales rep to establish favorable rates for frequently traveled locations for individual travel on behalf of the VFW.

Contact: VFW Meetings and Events Director Taylor Engle, [TEngle@vfw.org](mailto:TEngle@vfw.org).

### **VFW Foundation**

- Sport Clips locations have launched the in-store “Help A Hero” fundraiser from Oct. 6 – Nov. 16, 2024, and participating stores will offer free haircuts for veterans and active-duty service members on Veterans Day, Nov. 11, 2024.

Since 2013, Sport Clips has been the primary supporter of the VFW’s "Sport Clips Help A Hero Scholarship" program, which provides scholarships for service members and veterans for use at post-secondary and trade schools. To date, the program has awarded more than 3,000 scholarships totaling nearly \$14 million. We ask that during the fundraiser you visit our great friends at your local Sport Clips, get a haircut and donate to the campaign!

- A VFW Foundation Board meeting was held on Tuesday, Oct. 1, 2024, at the VFW National Headquarters presided over by Chairman Mike DeRosa. Of special interest was the Foundation's Financial Report for the period ending fiscal-year end Aug. 31, 2024, presented by Secretary-Treasurer Marc Garduno. Other main topics included reports from Chairman of the Finance Committee Board member Gordon Logan, Interim Director Brian Walker, who discussed the search for a new director and staff members Richard Freiburghouse (vehicle donations, member benefits, Planned Giving, etc.) and Chris Johnson (grants) as well as Foundation Consultant Tony Lowe (fundraising activities).

Contact: VFW Director of Donor Relations, Richard Freiburghouse, [RFreiburghouse@vfw.org](mailto:RFreiburghouse@vfw.org).

### **National Legislative Service**

- The House Committee on Veterans’ Affairs held an oversight hearing titled *Everyday Heroes: Supporting the Veteran Caregiver Community*. VFW National Legislative Associate Director Meggan Coleman submitted written testimony for the record. [Read the testimony](#).
- VFW National Legislative Service Director Pat Murray took part in a roundtable event which featured discussions on alternative therapies for mental health. The meeting was led by Reps. Derrick Van Orden and Morgan Luttrell. [Watch the roundtable](#).
- The VFW Washington Office hosted the 2nd Annual Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors (TAPS) Gold Star Families Advocacy Week Event. [Read more](#).

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



## **National Veterans Service**

- NVS held the Fall Skill Level Training Conference and the Basic Training Conference for accredited representatives in Annapolis, Maryland, with more than 200 accredited representatives in attendance live or virtually.
- NVS leadership held a POW/MIA commemoration at the Service Officer training course.
- NVS BDD reps briefed transitioning service members on VA benefits at military installations across the country.
- NVS BDD leadership participated in a For Country Caucus panel discussion.
- NVS assistant director for Compensation and Pension Policy attended a Humana sponsored benefits briefing in Portsmouth, Virginia.
- NVS health team participated in VA ATLAS program updates.
- NVS health team participated in a GAO interview for Vet Centers.
- NVS health team participated in the quarterly federal electronic health records briefing update.
- NVS health team was briefed by the Office of Special Council on VSO updates.

Contact: VFW National Veterans Service Director Michael Figlioli, [MFiglioli@vfw.org](mailto:MFiglioli@vfw.org).

