

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION MONTHLY UPDATE



June 13, 2025

Greetings,

We hope you enjoy this issue of the National Council Monthly Update summarizing the pertinent operations at VFW National Headquarters over the last month.

Development

May proved to be another successful month for VFW fundraising efforts. Our revenue goal was \$4.8 million, and we closed the month exceeding expectations with over \$6 million raised. While Planned Giving revenue continues to trend below monthly projections, it's important to recognize that this area inherently involves longer timelines and unpredictable realization of bequests. That said, I remain confident that the cultivation strategy and targeted outreach currently in place are effectively laying the groundwork for future success.

As you travel to your Department conventions, please take the opportunity to educate your fellow members on the significant impact this revenue has on sustaining and expanding VFW programs. Your voice helps demonstrate the importance of continued support and engagement across all levels of the organization.

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

VFW Programs

- All VFW grants, specifically the VFW Foundation grants, are now officially closed until next year. We just awarded the last three this morning. We will open again after the National COA meeting in September. Lastly, starting next year, all grants will be 100% processed through the dashboard and will have a ticker that shows the remaining amount of money left. In addition, the MAP grants will show a special impact and ROI for all grants, showing transparency in what we are doing for our adopted units and the military.

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

Human Resources

- New Hires:
 - o Dana Blankowski is a new Administrative Specialist in the Adjutant Generals Office.
 - o Savanna Cavanaugh is a new Corporate Relations Manager in VFW Foundation.
 - o Jacquelyn Herron is a new Member Services Advisor in Membership & Member Services.
 - o Chaz Hoskins is a new Corporate Relations Manager in VFW Foundation.

- o Anthony Lowe is a new Director, Corporate and Foundation Relations in VFW Foundation.
- Promotions and Transfers:
 - o Anthony Heitman was promoted to Associate Director, DC Service Office in the Veterans Service Programs Department.
 - o Joseph Grassi transferred to Associate Director, Economic Opportunity in the National Legislative Services Department.
- Current Vacant Positions in Recruiting Process:
 - o National Pre-Discharge Representative – Naval Station, Norfolk, Virginia
 - o Claims Consultant, Veterans Service Programs – DC Office
 - o Grants & Social Media Manager, VFW Foundation – KC Office

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

Membership and Member Services

- Membership year-end push is underway, and we are climbing closer to our 102% requirement. We are encouraged by the response to our year-end email and direct mail campaigns, the number of events being held within individual Departments and the overall enthusiasm of those out recruiting and reinstating members. Every voice strengthens our mission. Let's finish the year strong and show our commitment to each other, our communities, and our fellow veterans.
- The Member Service Center and Online Membership System will pause membership processing on Monday, June 30, at 6:00 p.m. CDT in preparation for the membership year-end. All membership mail received prior to 6:00 p.m. CDT (including orders faxed and phoned in) will be processed. Shortly after 6:00 p.m., we will 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.
- The 2025-2026 VFW National Membership program is now available online on the Membership Recruiting & Retention page. The current, 2024-2025 National Membership program will remain online until after the National Convention.

Contact: VFW Membership and Member Services Director David Prohaska, DProhaska@vfw.org.

Administrative Operations

- There are currently 34 Posts and one District under Department or Commander-in-Chief suspension:

State	Post	Charter city	Suspension expiration date
Arizona	7401	Chandler	8.4.2025
California	6476	Colton	8.22.2025
California	7665	Lake Isabella	7.8.2025
Europe	2566	Germany	6.2.2025
Europe	10775	Germany	5.28.2025

Florida	10733	Orange Lake	6.16.2025
Georgia	5456	Elberton	6.4.2025
Illinois	3510	Danville	6.10.2025
Illinois	5418	Rock Falls	6.24.2025
Illinois	7682	Mascoutah	6.19.2025
Indiana	1550	Greencastle	9.2.2025
Louisiana	7755	Bourg	8.14.2025
Maryland	10078	Baltimore	4.8.2025
Massachusetts	144	Boston	Pending appeal to COA
Massachusetts	6536	South Boston	Ongoing litigation
Minnesota	9641	Littlefork	7.30.2025
Nebraska	9897	Valley	6.15.2025
Nebraska	10045	Deweese	6.15.2025
New Mexico	6216	Albuquerque	7.24.2025
North Carolina	1142	North Wilkesboro	9.3.2025
North Dakota	Dist. 8		6.1.2025
Ohio	3307	Youngstown	6.4.2025
Ohio	3494	Mansfield	8.14.2025
Ohio	8673	Springfield	7.23.2025
Oklahoma	5307	Salina	7.11.2025
Oklahoma	11201	Chickasha	7.9.2025
Pennsylvania	43	Martinsburg	6.25.2025
Pennsylvania	9765	Oakford	8.23.2025
Rhode Island	602	Pawtucket	7.11.2025
Tennessee	1733	Knoxville	6.25.2025
Texas	8911	Fort Worth	8.4.2025
Virginia	5715	Big Stone Gap	7.23.2025
West Virginia	410	Belington	7.15.2025
Wisconsin	5470	Whitewater	8.26.2025
Wisconsin	8123	De Soto	7.17.2025

- There were two Post Consolidations:

State	Post No.	Consolidated w/Post No.	Date Approved
California	5868	9934	5.2.2025
Mississippi	5318	6809	5.22.2025

- There were four Defunct Posts:

State	Post No.	Termination Date
Arizona	12031	5.15.2025
Indiana	10006	5.15.2025
New York	851	5.20.2025
New York	10844	5.6.2025

- Administrative Operations is engaged in 13 Article IX Disciplinary Actions:

- o Florida:
Post 4353 Life member – disciplinary action

- o Georgia:
Post 4326 Life member – disciplinary action
- o Idaho:
Post 3622 Life member – disciplinary hearing
- o Massachusetts:
Post 545 Dept. Junior Vice Commander – disciplinary hearing
- o New Jersey:
Post 9563 Post Commander – summary disposition – Aug. 8, 2025
Post 9563 Post Quartermaster – summary disposition – Aug. 8, 2025
- o New Mexico:
Post 6216 Post Commander – disciplinary action
Post 6216 Post Quartermaster – disciplinary action
Post 6216 Life member – disciplinary action
- o Oklahoma:
Post 2976 Post Commander– awaiting CIC’s decision
Post 5263 Past Dept. Commander – disciplinary action
Post 9265 Post Senior Vice Commander – disciplinary action
Post 9265 Post Commander – request for hearing
- Three Administrative Removals/Actions:
 - o Georgia:
Post 4092 Commander – awaiting possible appeal
 - o Massachusetts:
Dept. Junior Vice Commander – submitted appeal
 - o Pennsylvania:
Post 3376 Commander – awaiting CIC’s decision
- Six Membership eligibility challenges:

Member Name	Post No.	Dept	Due Date
Kevin Green	9265	OK	6.9.2025
James Statham	3036	MS	6.23.2025
Greg Goodwin	8951	PA	6.30.2025
Michael Segura	2951	NM	7.2.2025
Lonnie Allmon	5156	TN	7.2.2025
Sean Scott	10141	FL	7.2.2025

- There have also been five voluntary resignations, six voluntary surrenders, and one termination.
- Administrative Operations has 35 Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation submissions for review. Since May 5, 2025, 84 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporations have been received, 65 have been approved and distributed, and six have been returned for corrections and resubmission through proper channels.
- There have been nine total Charters produced since May 6, 2025:

- o One Post Name Change
- o Two Post Replacement Charters
- o Two District Replacement Charters
- o Three Consolidation Charters
- o One Auxiliary Charter

Dept	Post/District No.	Unit Designation	Document Type
TX	4700	Post	Replacement Name Correction Charter
NM	3	District	Replacement Charter
CA	9934/5868	Post	Consolidation Charter
WV	5469/3757	Post	Consolidation Charter
AZ	2	District	Replacement Charter
MI	10	District	Auxiliary Charter
NM	9517	Post	Replacement Charter
MS	6809/5318	Post	Consolidation Charter
IN	10003	Post	Name Change Charter

Department Approved Resolutions and Amendments

- This is a reminder to please send your Department-approved resolutions and/or amendments to the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual that require action by the National Convention, 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 June 1 deadline to submit election reports for the ensuing 2025-26 term has passed. Failure to meet this requirement will result in Post suspensions by the Commander-in-Chief which will be issued in the coming weeks.

To date there are 321 Posts organizationally wide who have failed to meet this requirement. Departments should be working with these Posts to clear this deficiency as soon as possible.

Department Officer Proof of Eligibility

- With the start of Department Conventions, I want to remind everyone of the requirement to submit proof of eligibility for all newly elected Junior Vice Commanders and any elected Department Quartermaster or appointed Department Adjutant who are new to their position this coming year (2025-26).

Additionally, proof of eligibility is required for any new Department Commander or Senior Vice Commander, 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 National Administrative Operations Director Quentin Carroll, QCarroll@vfw.org.

Information Technology

- Quick recap of Command Post Progress:
 - o Reviewed progress of the project, including member pages, people search, data resolution and API testing. They also addressed the need for a new IDP to replace [ID.me](#), and the setup of automatic startup for a database VM.
- Next steps:
 - o Sean to discuss with Jeff about the status of the new IDP replacement for [ID.me](#), and provide information to John.
 - o Sean to schedule a meeting with John for Friday afternoon to discuss Azure-related items.
 - o Sean to add David, Josh and Robert to the Azure resource group with administrative privileges.
 - o Troy Brooks with the Condado Group to set up access for the Tricension DevOps for the VFW Dev team to see the repository.
 - o Troy to reach out to Jeff and Jason regarding Aptify system level duplication checks.

Contact: VFW Information Technology Director Sean Barnes, SBarnes@vfw.org.

National Legislative Service

- **VFW Meets with House Subcommittee Chairwoman:** VFW National Senior Vice Commander Carol Whitmore and National Legislative Service Director Kristina Keenan met with House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health Chairwoman Mariannette Miller-Meeks. They discussed the [VFW's legislative priorities](#) including needed research on alternative treatments for post-traumatic stress disorder, and ways to improve VA's Foreign Medical Program.
- **VFW Meets with Committee Leadership:** VFW Washington Office Executive Director Ryan Gallucci and National Legislative Service Director Kristina Keenan had meetings with Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs Ranking Member Richard Blumenthal and House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Ranking Member Mark Takano to discuss the [VFW's legislative priorities](#) and our call to [Honor the Contract](#) to ensure that veterans receive the benefits they have earned and deserve as promised in military service contracts.

- **Take Action to Say NO to Putting Veterans in Debt:** Make your voices heard by taking action TODAY. Veterans should never go into debt to access their earned benefits! The VFW has repeatedly expressed concerns about charging veterans for initial claims assistance based on their future benefits, and thus, we strongly oppose H.R. 3132, CHOICE for Veterans Act of 2025, as written. This would potentially put veterans into debt even before utilizing their benefits. [Tell your representatives](#) to vote NO when this bill is brought to the House floor for a vote.
- **VFW Speaks at Star Act Press Conference:** The VFW stood alongside partner Veterans Service Organizations, supporters, and advocates to urge for swift passage of VFW-championed H.R.2102.S.1032, Major Richard Star Act. America's veterans have served and sacrificed for this country, and the VFW is calling upon Congress to pass this commonsense bill to finally take care of medically retired veterans who were wounded in service. Former VFW National Legislative Service Director Pat Murray spoke at the press conference. [Watch the press conference.](#)
- **House Passes Nine Veteran Bills:** The House passed nine bipartisan bills for veterans and their families. The VFW recently provided written testimony in support of H.R. 1286, Simplifying Forms for Veterans Claims Act, that would improve VA forms sent to veterans regarding their claims for benefits; H.R. 1578, Veterans Claims Education Act of 2025, that would inform and provide resources to veterans who file VA disability claims on how to seek free, accredited representation, and how to report unaccredited representatives who charge unauthorized fees for their services; and H.R. 2201, Improving VA Training for Military Sexual Trauma Claims Act, that would provide annual sensitivity training to VA employees who process disability claims for conditions related to military sexual trauma. [Read more.](#)
- **VFW Joins Roundtable on Underserved Veterans:** House Committee on Veterans' Affairs Ranking Member Mark Takano convened a roundtable with veteran organizations and advocacy groups to discuss disparities in access to VA care and benefits for minority and underserved veterans. VFW National Legislative Service Director Kristina Keenan highlighted the need for VA to collect more data to identify areas of need, conduct research on women veterans during all phases of life to include during menopause, reach veterans on tribal lands, and provide mandatory military cultural competency training for Community Care Network providers.

Contact: VFW National Legislative Service Director Kristina Keenan, KKeenan@vfw.org.

National Veterans Service

This has been another busy month for NVS and our accredited representatives. Thanks to the efforts of our accredited representatives, veterans and their families represented by the VFW have received more than \$9.2 billion in benefits this fiscal year, which is over an 11% increase from this time last year. As always, if you see a veteran in need, direct them to an accredited representative so that they can receive assistance. A listing of accredited representatives can be found at www.vfw.org.NVS. Just use the "Find a Service Officer" tab on the right side of the screen to find an accredited representative in your area.

Below is a snapshot of what NVS has been doing:

- NVS leadership participated in Memorial Day ceremonies in Washington, D.C., to include laying a wreath at the Vietnam Memorial and honoring past VFW Commanders-in-Chief who are buried in Arlington National Cemetery.
- NVS director attended the Grand Ole Opry's Salute the Troops event in Nashville, Tennessee. Presenting sponsor Humana also partnered with



NVS and VFW Commander in Chief Al Lipphardt at the Vietnam Memorial Wall on Memorial Day 2025

CenterWell Senior Primary Care, USAA and the VFW in hosting a VFW Day of Service event and a coffee with veterans.

- NVS attended a press conference in support of the Major Richard Star Act, which if passed, would eliminate the benefits offset that is currently affecting medically retired veterans.
- NVS D.C. staff teamed up with Grunt Style and Irreverent Warriors for a march on Capitol Hill and press conference for awareness of overprescribing psychiatric drugs for veterans.
- NVS leadership participated in the NLS VSO Transition Working Group.
- NVS director will attend the Department of Rhode Island convention as an NVS representative.
- NVS leadership attended the D.C. Mayor's Office Veterans Resource Event in Washington, D.C.
- NVS director participated in Episode 43 of the VFW Still Serving podcast which included Reporting for Duty ... Remotely," a poignant Memorial Day recap, a deep dive into the fight for the Major Richard Star Act, and what veterans really need to know about Claim Sharks and VA transitions. Listen in at vfw.org/Podcast or wherever you get your podcasts!
- NVS leadership attended the Army Birthday Twilight Tattoo at Ft. Meyer.
- NVS QA team completed site visits to the Newark, New Jersey and New York City Department Service Offices.
- NVS pre-discharge representatives briefed service members around the country about how VFW can assist with their VA benefits.
- NVS BDD leadership briefed spouses and service members at the Spouse Transition and Readiness Seminar.
- NVS BDD leadership briefed at the U.S. Coast Guard TAP at the Baltimore Coast Guard Yard.
- NVS health team participated in a quarterly VA community care briefing.
- NVS health leadership participated in the Elizabeth Dole Foundation Convening featuring the Secretary of the VA as a guest speaker.
- NVS health leadership attended the Federal Electronic Health Record update.

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

