

Sept. 11, 2026

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

While we have not completely closed out the fiscal year, the results to date reflect an exceptionally strong year for Development and demonstrate the continued strength and health of our fundraising program. We have raised more than \$80 million, compared to approximately \$74 million last fiscal year, representing significant year-over-year growth.

Just as importantly, we have continued to strengthen the long-term health of our donor file. Through strategic investments in acquisition, lapsed reactivation and donor retention, we have not only recouped all donors lost through natural attrition but also returned the donor file to growth mode. This is a critical accomplishment that positions the organization for continued fundraising success in the years ahead. While we would hope for consistently favorable fundraising conditions, experience tells us there will inevitably be challenging years. Strengthening the donor file today provides the stability, resilience, and momentum needed to weather those challenges while continuing to advance the VFW's mission.

Performance was strong across the program, with every campaign meeting or exceeding projections. This consistency demonstrates that our data driven strategies are working and that we have been able to generate strong current-year revenue while continuing to invest in the future.

Our Planned Giving program also remains exceptionally healthy, with a strong pipeline of anticipated bequests that provides significant opportunity for future revenue. While the timing of realized estate gifts will always fluctuate and is largely outside our control, the strength of the pipeline is an important indicator of the program's long-term success.

Although there are still final numbers to reconcile before we officially close the books, the overall picture is clear, my team (both staff and partners) delivered another outstanding year while simultaneously strengthening the foundation for future growth.

We didn't simply raise more money this year, we grew the donor base, strengthened the fundraising pipeline, and positioned the VFW for continued success in the years ahead.

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

Membership and Member Services

As the first quarter of the membership year comes to an end, we are showing a decrease in membership numbers as compared to one year ago, new member growth and lower membership reinstatement numbers are contributing factors. Additional factors include an increased percentage of deceased members over the

age of 100 in August. Recruiting and Retention will need to be the focus over the next quarter to grow our numbers. Please add recruiting and retention talking points to all your VFW speaking events!

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!

Grow the VFW and strengthen your Department with the Membership Outreach Event Grant Program. Eligible Departments can receive reimbursement assistance to host impactful recruiting and community outreach events that develop new recruiters, increase membership, engage local veterans, and build lasting recruiting success for the future of the VFW. Contact the director for more details!

Membership Mondays: Join the National Membership staff for an informative roundtable discussion covering the first quarter of the program year, where we stand as we progress towards our membership goals, how to plan for upcoming events and opportunities, and what's next for the VFW. All VFW members are welcome and encouraged to join us to take part in this learning opportunity. Join us on Oct. 5, 2026, at 7:30 p.m. CT for this online training by following the link:
teams.microsoft.com/meet/293701311229763?p=ADwLk29EUf7UN3nYII.

Important Contact Information: Member Service Center at 833.VFW.VETS (833.839.8387) or Membership at 888.JOIN.VFW (888.564.6839).

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

VFW Programs

- **VFW Military Appreciation Program (MAP) Grant Funds**

MAP Grant funds for the 2026-2027 program year opened Sept. 1, 2026.

The eligibility criteria have changed. There is a cap on how much funds can be received per adopted unit annually, and the grant is now a reimbursement grant. We no longer provide funds before an event. Once you complete an event, you will then request reimbursement. More information is provided on the All-American Eligible Dashboard under the Military Assistance Program Grant Guidelines application.

If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please contact us at M.A.P@vfw.org or 816.756.3390 ext. 6287.

- **NVS/DPAA Donations for All-American**

Donating to NVS (no longer referred to as VMS) and DPAA (new for 2026-2027) can only be done via the Dashboard by going to the link “NVS Donation” at the upper right-hand corner of the screen. For the 2026-2027 Program year, your \$125 or more donation to NVS meets the eligibility criteria for All-American in this category. Your \$75 donation or more to DPAA meets the eligibility criteria for All-American in this category. Donations must be received by June 30, 2027, to make All-American.

When you make your donation for either category, all that needs to be entered into the box is 125 for NVS or 75 for DPAA. No \$ and no .00 are required in the donation amount box.

PLEASE DO NOT USE ANY OF THE RED/WHITE DONATE LINK IN THE UPPER RIGHTHAND CORNER OF ANY WEBPAGE. THIS LINK GOES TO THE GENERAL DONATION PAGE AND WILL NOT BE CREDITED AS A NVS/DPAA DONATION.

- **Post Assistance Grant**

The three-year grant limit has been eliminated. A VFW Post may now apply for one grant annually.

Human Resources

- **New Hires:**

- o Jeremy Heitz, National Pre-Discharge Claims Rep – Fort Carson.
- o Stefani Stephens, National Pre-Discharge Claims Rep – Joint Base Myer JBAB.
- o Laura Galindo, Member Services Advisor, Membership & Member Services – KC Office.

- **Promotions:**

- o John Orzulak was promoted to Mentorship Program Manager in the VFW’S National Training Department – KC Office.

- **Positions Actively Recruiting For:**

- o National Pre-Discharge Claims Rep, Norfolk – Veterans Service Programs, Norfolk, Virginia.

Contact: VFW Human Resources Acting Director Brian Walker, BWalker@vfw.org.

Administrative Operations

Administrative Operations Updates and Actions Since Aug. 7, 2026:

- There are currently 36 Posts and one District under Department suspension:

State	Post	Charter city	Suspension expiration date
Arkansas	3252	Marshall	11.22.2026
Arkansas	4679	Harrisburg	9.13.2026
California	5845	Biola	11.26.2026
Colorado	6482	Holyoke	10.30.2026
Connecticut	10004	Jewett City	10.10.2026
Georgia	665	Salisbury	9.11.2026
Georgia	8480	Griffin	11.24.2026
Illinois	Dist. 8		9.2.2026
Illinois	450	Alsip	9.23.2026
Illinois	2153	Moline	9.30.2026
Illinois	2859	Wood River	9.30.2026
Illinois	5418	Rock Falls	9.3.2026
Illinois	8821	Chicago	9.29.2026
Illinois	8890	East Moline	9.30.2026

Illinois	12014	Crystal Lake	9.25.2026
Kansas	9076	Hays	11.18.2026
Kentucky	1178	Harlan	11.20.2026
Massachusetts	6536	South Boston	Ongoing litigation
Michigan	3314	Arcadia	9.12.2026
Michigan	3941	Livonia	12.8.2026
Michigan	6015	Marion	9.12.2026
Nebraska	8332	Arlington	9.12.2026
Nebraska	9897	Valley	9.12.2026
North Carolina	1160	Charlotte	11.25.2026
North Carolina	9337	Gastonia	11.4.2026
Ohio	8054	Mount Gilead	10.13.2026
Ohio	9936	Dayton	6.11.2026
Oklahoma	2855	Blackwell	8.23.2026
Pennsylvania	23	Lebanon	9.1.2026
Pennsylvania	148	Harrisburg	9.3.2026
Tennessee	1970	Nashville	9.2.2026
Texas	4700	San Antonio	Hearing held on 8.27.26. Pending CIC decision.
Texas	8627	Richardson	9.26.2026
Washington	6853	Chelan	11.27.2026
West Virginia	826	Kingwood	10.8.2026
West Virginia	7695	Ansted	10.8.2026
Wisconsin	10405	Altoona	9.3.2026

- There is one Post under Commander-in-Chief suspension due to not submitting a 2025-2026 election report:

State	Post No.	Charter City	Suspension Expiration Date
Pennsylvania	245	Sellersville	Pending outcome of possible trial

- There are 25 Posts under Commander-in-Chief suspension due to not submitting a 2026-27 election report. Suspensions expire 9.13.26.

State	Post	City
Iowa	580	Sioux City
Iowa	674	Ames
Iowa	3328	Remsen
Iowa	3932	Grinnell
Iowa	6637	Manchester
Kentucky	12238	Berea
Maine	5723	Jackman
Maryland	9505	Princess Anne
Michigan	3023	Grand Rapids
Montana	12181	Billings
Nebraska	5763	Madison
New Jersey	4697	North Arlington
New York	1615	Blauvelt

North Dakota	3545	Ellendale
North Dakota	6547	Fort Totten
North Dakota	9367	Drayton
Oregon	965	Coquille
Oregon	2928	Myrtle Point
Oregon	4166	Marcola
Oregon	4567	Milton Freewater
Pennsylvania	520	Midway
Pennsylvania	5945	Beaver Falls
Pennsylvania	7375	Hyndman
Rhode Island	602	Pawtucket
South Dakota	5126	Eureka

- There are four Post Consolidations:

State	Post No.	Consolidated w/Post No.	Date Approved
California	5551	2924	8.20.2026
Nebraska	5639	1375	9.3.26
Pennsylvania	7949	4545	8.20.2026
Wisconsin	8813	3071	8.20.2026

- There are seven defunct Posts:

State	Post No.	Termination Date
Illinois	2301	8.26.2026
Massachusetts	8771	8.27.2026
Minnesota	9703	8.26.2026
North Carolina	3006	8.20.2026
North Carolina	10777	9.3.26
North Dakota	9049	8.26.2026
Pennsylvania	5758	8.27.2026

- Administrative Operations is engaged in 18 Article IX Disciplinary Actions:
 - o Alabama:
 - Post 5658 (2024.25 District 2-Year Trustee and Post 1-Year Trustee) – disciplinary action
 - Post 5658 (2025.26 Post 3-Year Trustee - July 2025 thru October 2025) – disciplinary action
 - Post 5658 (2025.26 Post 3-Year Trustee – December 2026 thru June 2026) – disciplinary action
 - Post 5658 (2025-26 District and Post 2-Year Trustee) – disciplinary action
 - Post 5658 (2025.26 Post Adjutant/Quartermaster and Benefits Advisor) – disciplinary action
 - Post 5658 (2025.26 Dept. Inspector, District SVC and Post Commander) – disciplinary action
 - Dept of Alabama MAL (Life member) – disciplinary action
 - o Arizona:
 - Post 285 (District Quartermaster/Post Commander) – awaiting CIC’s decision
 - Post 1677 (Life member) – disciplinary action
 - o Indiana:
 - Post 717 (Life member) – 15 days to appeal CIC’s decision to COA

- o Minnesota:
Post 3723 (Life member) – Summary Disposition
- o North Carolina:
Post 2514 (Post 2-Year Trustee) – disciplinary action
- o Ohio:
Dept. MAL (Life member) – disciplinary hearing
- o Oregon:
Post 4108 (Life member) – disciplinary hearing
- o Pennsylvania:
Post 477 (District Surgeon & Post Adjutant/Quartermaster) – disciplinary action
Post 3376 (Post Commander) – disciplinary action
Post 7842 (Life member) – awaiting CIC’s decision
- o Washington:
Post 969 (Past COA Member/Past Dept. Commander) – 15 days to appeal CIC’s decision to COA
- There are four Administrative Removals/Actions:
 - o Arizona:
Post 3713 (Commander & Benefits Advisor) – awaiting possible appeal
 - o Florida:
Post 6827 Commander – awaiting CIC’s decision
Post 8195 Commander – awaiting CIC’s decision
 - o Texas:
Post 1815 Commander – awaiting CIC’s decision
- There are four Pending 518’s:
 - o New Jersey – Department – Due Date – Sept. 25, 2026
 - o Missouri – Post No. 4107 – Due Date – Sept. 25, 2026
 - o Florida – Post No. 9272 – Due Date – Sept. 25, 2026
 - o Wyoming – Post No. 1881 – Due Date – Oct. 8, 2026

- There are seven Membership Eligibility Challenges:

Member Name	Post No.	Dept	Due Date
Michael Kopera	1586	PA	9.15.2026
Gary Holmes	342	IL	10.5.2026
Timothy Wright	6168	PA	10.6.2026
Gary Bouc	1984	IL	10.7.2026
April Acevedo	9342	EU	10.11.2026
Lisa Rua	566	PA	10.17.2026
Todd Kebler	9926	WV	10.25.2026

- There have also been seven Voluntary Resignations, two Terminations and one Reinstatement.
- Since Aug. 5, 2026, Administrative Operations received a total of 56 new sets of Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation and currently has 105 sets pending review. In the same time frame we reviewed,

approved, and distributed 53 sets and have returned three for corrections and resubmission through proper channels which include those that were not completed the month prior.

- There have been 16 total Charters produced:
 - o One New Post Charter
 - o 11 Auxiliary Replacement Charters
 - o Four Consolidation Charters

Dept	Post/District No.	Unit Designation	Document Type
TN	12249	Post	New Charter
OH	4953	AUX	Replacement Charter
TX	5875	AUX	Replacement Charter
PA	509	AUX	Replacement Charter
WY	3511	AUX	Replacement Charter
CT	1265	AUX	Replacement Charter
SD	1273	AUX	Replacement Charter
LA	3106	AUX	Replacement Charter
MA	2846	AUX	Replacement Charter
PA	3448	AUX	Replacement Charter
MD	1411	AUX	Replacement Charter
PA	6555	AUX	Replacement Charter
NE	1375/5639	Post	Consolidation Charter
PA	2924/5551	Post	Consolidation Charter
ID	2738/6232	Post	Consolidation Charter
MN	1791/5462	Post	Consolidation Charter

- **Replacement Charter – Price Increase**

National Headquarters has implemented a revision to the fee structure for charters. This adjustment applies to all requests for replacement charters, including those required due to name changes or changes in charter location.

As of **July 1, 2026**, all such requests will be subject to the updated pricing structure below:

- o \$50.00 – Date of Institution from 2003 to present
- o \$75.00 – Date of Institution from 1980 to 2002
- o \$100.00 – Date of Institution prior to 1980

This updated fee structure ensures we can continue to provide accurate and timely charter processing while accounting for the additional resources required.

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

National Legislative Service

- Although Congress remains in recess until Sept. 14, 2026, the VFW continues to strongly oppose Section 108 of the *Take Care of America's Veterans Act* and urges its removal before this legislative package goes to another vote. Advocates who stand with the VFW and other opposing organizations are asked to continue contacting their members of Congress by phone, email, or in person to voice their concerns and remind them of their obligation to Honor the Contract for all veterans, present and future. [Take action](#).

- Earlier this year, the VFW launched VFW Voices of Service – Stories in Action, a new national initiative to collect information to inform and strengthen our legislative advocacy. The VFW is gathering stories about challenges in the veteran and military community, including concurrent receipt and the Major Richard Star Act; mental health and suicide prevention; education, employment and transition; VA disability claims and benefits; VA health care access; toxic exposures; food insecurity; and caregiver and survivor benefits. Submissions are being reviewed to identify patterns, gaps, and real-world impacts to shape legislative priorities, congressional engagement, testimony, education and grassroots advocacy throughout the year. Every voice adds to the overall picture. Individuals may [share a story](#) and help the VFW turn personal experiences into advocacy action.

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

National Veterans Service

NVS is proud to recognize VFW member Robert Sherrill, who was honored as the VAVS Male Volunteer of the Year for his outstanding dedication and service to veterans. His recognition reflects the impact VFW members make every day in support of those who have served. Here's a look at some of the latest news and highlights from NVS:

- BDD leadership briefed Air Force GO TAP General Officers, Navy flag officers and Army general officers at their TAP courses.
- BDD teams provided individual counseling to GO and Flag officers about claims and support VFW can provide.
- BDD reps in the United States and Korea briefed service members at TAP classes on VFW assistance to them.
- BDD leadership briefed Kentucky Veterans Affairs leadership on the VFW's programs of benefits assistance to service members.
- Deputy director health/field ops provided Statement for the Record for HVAC testimony concerning VA's EHRM deployment.
- BDD leadership farewelled the BDD rep at Naval Station Norfolk. Position is being advertised.
- NVS health team attended the VA Vet Resources quarterly briefing.
- NVS health team participated in the VA Survivor forum.
- NVS health leadership attended the VAVS meeting - VFW member Robert Sherrill was honored for VAVS Male Volunteer of the Year.
- NVS leadership attended the VA OIG Meet and Greet with Dr. Krulak.
- NVS hosted the August NVS Update forum for accredited representatives with more than 50 representatives in attendance.



Photo Caption: NVS Special Assistant Julie Holt, VAVS Male Volunteer of the Year Robert Sherrill, and NVS Deputy Director Gregg Orto

- NVS deputy director attended the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA) annual training conference in Savannah, Georgia, and participated in a VSO discussion panel.

Contact: VFW Washington Office Chief of Staff and National Veterans Service Acting Director Michael Figlioli, MFiglioli@vfw.org.

