

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ADMINISTRATION WEEKLY UPDATE



Sept. 6, 2024

Greetings,

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

Human Resources

- New Hire:
 - o Joy Craig is a new Associate Director in National Legislative Services in the D.C. Office.
 - o Megan Aguirre is a new Direct Mail Project Coordinator in the Development Department in the K.C. Office.
 - o Erick Asero is a new National Pre-Discharge Claims Rep at the Naval Base in San Diego, California.
- Positions Actively Recruiting For:
 - o Member Services Advisor – K.C. Office.

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

Meetings and Events

- Preparation of upcoming events:
 - o Budget & Finance/Council meeting at K.C. Airport Marriott, Sept. 3-7
 - o Fall Legislative Committee meeting at Hyatt Crystal City in D.C., Sept. 9-12
 - o Adjutant/Quartermaster training at K.C. Airport Marriott, Sept. 10-13
- Currently in the final stages of bill payment for convention hotels & vendors.

Contact: VFW Meetings and Events Director Taylor Engle, TEngle@vfw.org.

Membership

- The 2024-2025 VFW National Membership Program is now available online. Find the National Membership Program on vfw.org, at the top of the Membership Recruiting & Retention Page. **Home>MyVFW>VFW Training & Support.**
- If you have questions about Memstats, Post Query, or if you are trying to Charter a Post and you have more than 15 members on a charter application, give Matt Nute a call at 816.968.1122. We have many resources available to help you.
- Yes, it is true. The VFW National Membership department can reimburse Departments for membership event costs/fees. A request from the Department Quartermaster with event info/cost(s) is needed for approval. The request should provide the type of event, how many veterans are expected to attend and to what extent the Department requesting funds is willing to cover for event costs. Event(s) must be approved by National Membership prior to the event taking place. Encourage Post leaders to start planning their springtime recruiting events now. Mitigate challenges early to ensure success! Order up-to-date recruiting materials on vfw.org. Don't forget we have some swag for your events as well.
- Need recruiting training / resources?! If you have a topic for training, we would love to hear from you! Contact us by emailing, Membership@vfw.org. Find us on Facebook for more [VFW Membership](#) information.

Contact: VFW Membership Interim Director Corey Hunt, CoreyHunt@vfw.org.

Administrative Operations

- There are currently 70 Posts under suspension, 43 of which are CIC suspensions due to no election report. The organization has 5,607 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 12 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, six Administrative Removals/Actions and 10 membership eligibility challenges.
- Currently Administrative Operations has 193 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review, 20 of which are new.

Department Inspections

- As the 2024-2025 term is getting started, the following 10 Departments have been identified and are tentatively scheduled for inspections. We are currently working on availability, scheduling and logistics with hopes that the first inspection will take place in early October 2024. Special orders will be sent to each Department with instructions on the next steps once they have been officially scheduled. Departments that have been identified for inspections are as follows:
- Western Conference:
 - Pacific Areas
 - Utah
 - Washington
- Eastern Conference:

- o Europe
- o Delaware
- Southern Conference:
 - o Mississippi
 - o Oklahoma
- Big 10 Conference:
 - o Michigan
 - o South Dakota
 - o Iowa

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Quentin Carroll at QCarroll@vfw.org.

2023-2024 End of Year Roll Up:

- Administrative Operations processed 262 total Post suspensions of which 155 were CIC suspensions due to no election reports for the 2023-24 & 2024-25 terms. There were 36 Post consolidations, 91 cancellation of Charters, and 13 new Posts processed and completed. Additionally, we issued 113 VFW Charters and 115 Auxiliary Charters for various reasons to include replacements, Post name or location changes, and Post consolidations.
- A total of 10 Department Inspections were scheduled and completed by the National Inspection team.
- A total of 107 Article IX Disciplinary Actions adjudicated: 63 officer removals, 22 - 518 letters, 87 eligibility challenges of which 73 were terminated due to ineligibility, four were found eligible, 48 voluntary resignations, 26 voluntary surrenders, and 13 reinstatements.
- 759 Bylaws and Articles of Incorporation have been received for review and approval during the 2023-2024 term.

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

Information Technology

- Project Progress and Development Environment Discussion:
 - o Discussed the project progress, noting recent reviews with the e-commerce team that provided good implementation direction for the e-commerce platform. Current thoughts are focused on planning to build a custom environment for the platform that will meet the e-commerce needs and future meetings may be needed for further discussion on the platform. Also mentioned that they are working on wireframes for the command Post side and planning to review form field requirements with MSC. Assistance as needed was agreed to as they planned to meet separately to discuss the development environment in Azure. Reviewed the need for ongoing collections of requirements and information. Agreeing to the need for establishing core setups for the development environment and beginning initial to identify resources in the coming weeks. The focus is on understanding in depth data layouts and forms to drive and build the custom wireframes, with a shift from high and mid-level

understandings into the deeper details.

- System Access and Licensing Issues Discussion:
 - o Discussed issues with accessing the test side of the Aptify system. The team was able to access the dev side but not the test side, receiving a message about user access license. They attempted to troubleshoot the issue, suggesting that it might be related to licensing. It was mentioned that reaching out to Jason may be the better direction to resolve the licensing issue. Also mentioned two other issues, these being lost access to production and unable to run reports.
- Completed:
 - o Implementation direction for eCommerce platform
 - o Base understanding for UX/UI eCommerce needs
 - o eCommerce Acumatica and dropships overview

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

National Legislative Service

- **Applications Now Being Accepted for 2024-2025 VFW-SVA Legislative Fellowship:**
The application process for the 2024-2025 class of VFW-SVA legislative fellows is now open. VFW members who attend an accredited institute of higher learning will be chosen for the semester-long program that focuses on real policy issues faced by veterans, service members, and their families. The capstone of the program is participation in the 2025 VFW Washington Conference in Washington, D.C. Alumni of the program have become more active at all levels of the VFW and SVA, and have been instrumental in changing laws to improve care and benefits for veterans. [Learn more](#) and [apply for the fellowship](#).

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

National Veterans Service

- NVS leadership participated in a VBA VSO Partnership meeting.
- NVS BDD reps briefed transitioning service members on VA benefits at military installations across the country.
- NVS health team leadership participated in the Office of Patient Advocacy briefing.
- NVS health team attended the WWP Suicide Prevention seminar.
- NVS health team met with the VA ATLAS team for an update on rural support.
- NVS health leadership attended a VA Women's Veterans Summit.

- NVS health leadership participated in the FDA hearing on MDMA-AT treatment.

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

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