

June 7, 2024

### **General Counsel**

- The VFW filed an amicus curiae ("friend of the court") brief in support of New Jersey's law prohibiting Claim Sharks. The law was challenged by a particular company, which sought an injunction against the law while the matter was being considered. The federal district court denied the injunction and the company appealed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit. The VFW led the way in not only submitting the amicus brief, but coordinated a coalition of VSOs support, including the American Legion, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Vietnam Veterans of America, arguing to uphold the decision and New Jersey's right to pass the law. Also, a large coalition of states (Washington, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, the District of Columbia, Illinois, Maine, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island) submitted a separate amicus brief showing their support for the decision and the law, and, by extension, VFW's position on claim sharks. The VFW continues to lead the way on this issue.

Contact: VFW General Counsel John Muckelbauer, [JMuckelbauer@vfw.org](mailto:JMuckelbauer@vfw.org).

### **Development**

We concluded May \$1.3 million ahead of our projected \$4.1 million. While we have consistently exceeded our projections each month, we did project a shortfall of \$1.7 million at the beginning of the fiscal year. This shortfall is a result of the two postage increases and the continued rising cost in the printing industry. In April, we began applying credits against invoices, and to date, over \$1 million in credits have been applied to production invoices. We will continue this through the end of the fiscal to ensure the shortfall is resolved or at a manageable level for Innovairre to issue a check as outlined in the contract.

The RFP for VFW's agency work was released on June 3. Below is the schedule of events for the entire RFP process:

#### **RFP Schedule Due Date**

Invite to vendors	June 3, 2024
Electronic intent to participate from vendors	June 10, 2024
Non-disclosure agreements sent to vendors	June 17, 2024
Signed non-disclosure Agreements to VFW	June 21, 2024
VFW issues Dropbox links to participants	June 21, 2024
Electronic receipt of vendor's clarification questions	June 28, 2024
Response to vendor's clarification questions	July 24, 2024
RFP materials due from vendors	Aug. 21, 2024
Notification of finalists	Week of Sept. 30, 2024
Agency interviews begin	Oct. 22, 2024

Agency selection  
FY26 budgeting process  
Contract start date

Dec. 10, 2024  
Jan. 2 – Feb. 25, 2025  
Sept. 1, 2025

This week's Development Campaigns are listed below:

- June 4 Appeal:
  - o June eNews to all nonmember Friends of Freedom.
- June 7 Appeals:
  - o May acquisition #1 reminder email #2 to all recipients of May acquisition package.
  - o Quarterly newsletter #4 to nonmember donors.
  - o Quarterly newsletter #3 to members.

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

### **Communications and Public Affairs**

- VFW Kicks Off 125th Anniversary Commemoration:

This year the VFW enters its 125th year of service to veterans, service members and their families. On Wednesday, June 5, 2024, the VFW proudly launched a year-long campaign to commemorate this momentous occasion.

This week's launch of the commemorative campaign celebrates the VFW's legacy of service with a [dedicated microsite](#), commemorative VFW Post program and a sneak peek into an upcoming line of commemorative VFW Store items. New initiatives will be added as the organization builds momentum to its official founding date of Sept. 29 and to its conclusion at the 125th VFW National Convention in August 2025.

As a reminder, you can access resources and information by logging into [vfw.org](http://vfw.org) and selecting the VFW 125th Anniversary link under Member/Post resources from the My VFW page. You can also access these items in the Communications & Public Affairs section of Training and Support of [vfw.org](http://vfw.org).

Thank you for your support in our endeavor to celebrate this important occasion in our organization's history! For questions about the campaign, please email [communications@vfw.org](mailto:communications@vfw.org).

Contact: VFW Communications and Public Affairs Director Randi Law, [RLaw@vfw.org](mailto:RLaw@vfw.org).

### **Member Services**

The Member Service Center will pause membership processing on Friday, June 28, at 4:30 p.m. CDT in preparation for the membership year-end. All membership mail received prior to 4:30 p.m. CDT (including orders faxed and phoned in) will be processed.

The Online Membership System (OMS) will remain open for membership submissions until Sunday, June 30, at 6:30 p.m. CDT. Please be sure to advise all Posts to submit their final membership orders by then. Shortly after 6:30 p.m., all membership processing will shut down so we can 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.

Contact: VFW Member Services Director David Prohaska, [DProhaska@vfw.org](mailto:DProhaska@vfw.org).

## **Programs**

- VFW National Convention 2nd Annual Cornhole Tournament:

Please encourage our members to register teams and participate in the 2nd annual VFW Cornhole Tournament taking place at the 125th VFW National Convention in Louisville!

The series will take place on Sunday, July 28, and Monday, July 29, 2024. All proceeds from the competition go to VFW PACT Act benefit assistance. For more information and to sign up for this event, visit <https://kccrew.com/leagues/vfwcornholetournament/>.

Contact: VFW Programs Director Lynn W. Rolf, III, [LRolf@vfw.org](mailto:LRolf@vfw.org).

## **Administrative Operations**

- There are currently 39 Posts under suspension. The organization has 5,629 chartered Posts.
- Administrative Operations is engaged in 20 Article IX Disciplinary Actions, 11 Administrative Removals/Actions and nine membership eligibility challenges.
- Currently Administrative Operations has 153 Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions in for review, 10 of which are new; current turnaround time on Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation submissions is approximately 45-60 days.

## **Department Approved Resolutions and Amendments:**

This is a reminder to please send your Department-approved resolutions and/or amendments that require action to the National Bylaws, Manual of Procedure and Ritual Committee prior to the National Convention and 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](mailto:TGniotczynski@vfw.org).

### **Election Reports:**

**The deadline for submitting a completed election report for the 2024-25 term has passed.** The National Bylaws and Manual of Procedure require a properly completed Election Report be submitted to Department and National Headquarters by **June 1**. Please continue to work with Posts that have not met this requirement as we will begin suspending Posts after July 1 for failure to submit an election report for the 2024-25 term. This suspension by the Commander-in-Chief will result in the Post being placed in arrears and denied any representation at the National Convention.

To access the election report online; sign in to VFW.org and proceed to My VFW. Select Online Membership System (OMS), then press the drop-down menu on the left side of the screen for Election Report and select Post Election Report Filing.

### **Department Proof of Eligibility:**

With the start of Department Conventions right around the corner I wanted to remind everyone of the requirement to submit proof of eligibility for all newly elected Junior Vice Commanders and any elected Department Quartermasters or appointed Department Adjutants who are new to their position this coming year (2024-25).

Additionally, proof of eligibility for any new Department Commanders or Senior Vice Commanders, 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](mailto:JWolfgeher@vfw.org).

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

### **Membership**

- Join us for another Membership Monday training webinar on June 10, 2:00 p.m. CST, for an interactive discussion on the latest training topics. The topic for June 10 is, “**Mistakes to Avoid at Year-End.**” As you push through the end to finish strong this year, there are some things you can do to make next year even better! Join the webinar to learn those best practices.
- The 2024-2025 VFW National Membership program is now available online. Find next year’s National Membership program on vfw.org, at the top of the Membership Recruiting & Retention Page. **Home>MyVFW>VFW Training & Support.** The current, 2023-2024 National Membership program will remain online until after the National Convention elections in July 2024.

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

## Meetings and Events

- Exhibit space is **SOLD-OUT** for Louisville. Finalizing the exhibit hall floorplan with Louisville fire marshal. Total 86 exhibitors for \$101,283.75.
- Continuing to work with Taylor on processes within department and weekly review meetings. Updating director's SOP as items come up.
- Working with Louisville housing manager to clear waitlisted room reservations.
- Secured three overflow hotels to cover any remaining waitlisted reservations not covered by clearing the waitlist at each of the VFW hotels. Note: Housing cut-off is June 10, 2024.
- TEAMS meeting with Lori Kennedy, general manager of Levy Catering (exclusive caterer for Louisville convention center) to discuss locations of food outlets at the center. Finalized days and times for those food outlets.
- Reviewing convention signage to prepare any signage (new/revised) required for Louisville. Will provide list to general services for them to provide quote and preparation of final signs used for the convention e.g. meetings, workshops etc.

Contact: VFW Meetings and Events/Exhibits Director Vanessa Kane, CMP, CMM,  
[VKane@vfw.org](mailto:VKane@vfw.org).

## VFW Foundation

- The VFW Foundation Board meeting was held on Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at VFW Headquarters. Three new Board members were welcomed, past VFW Commander-in-Chief and former Executive Director of the VFW Washington Office Robert Wallace; CEO of Twisted X Global Brands Prasad Ready; and Vice President of Franchising and Development for Midamerica Hotels Corporation Jordan Drury.
- The Wounded Warrior Project has awarded a \$250,000 renewal grant to the VFW Foundation in support of sustained operations for the Benefits Delivery at Discharge (BDD) component of VFW's National Veterans Service (NVS) program.

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

## National Legislative Service

- VA Grants One Millionth PACT Act Claim: VA has granted its one millionth claim attributed to the *Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxins (PACT) Act of 2022* (P.L. 117-168). This law streamlined the claim process for millions of toxic-exposed veterans, culminating in the delivery of more than \$5.7 billion in earned benefits. [Read more](#) about disability compensation eligibility or find an [Accredited Service Officer](#) for claims assistance.
- Home Foreclosure Pause Extended: Due to loss of income and financial constraints during the COVID-19 pandemic, thousands of veterans were unable to pay the mortgages on their

homes. VA worked with mortgage servicers of VA-guaranteed home loans to pause foreclosures through the end of the pandemic. While many of those veterans are back on track paying their mortgages, some still struggle to make missed payments. For these veterans, VA has extended the foreclosure pause through Dec. 31, 2024. [Learn more.](#)

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

### **National Veterans Service**

- VFW's NVS Pre-Discharge representatives briefed transitioning service members on VA benefits at military installations across the country.
- NVS leadership participated in a VA VSO innovation meeting.
- NVS health leadership collaborated with Optum at a quarterly VSO meeting.
- NVS health leadership participated in the FDA hearing concerning MDMA treatment for PTSD.
- NVS health team participated in a Women's Veterans Advisory meeting and LGBTQ Outreach Symposium.
- NVS BDD leadership attended a meeting for Qualtrics survey.

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

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