

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY LEGISLATIVE

Legislative Strategic Plan

The Legislative Program and the 2014-2019 Centennial Strategic Plan – While advocating for the legislative agenda of the American Legion Auxiliary members raise awareness for our mission and increase brand loyalty. (Goal 5)

Our National Legislative Chairman, Mary Ann Boldt, Department of Callaway NE (dboldt0304dc@gpcom.net) has listed her 2016-2017 Plan of Action: The Legislative program provides information and assistance to members to advocate for the legislative agenda of The American Legion.

The **National Headquarters Chairman** is: Elaine Mackenzie, --PO Box 473 – Essex Junction, VT. 05453 -- (802) 878-0726 – elainemackenzie61@gmail.com

What can you do? Encourage and empower members to be more knowledgeable to take action on The American Legion's legislative priorities.

National-level Objectives

1. **Objective:** Assist Auxiliary members in advocating at the local, state and national levels for The American Legion's legislative priorities.

Action Steps

- a. Distribute the American Legion Auxiliary Advocacy Guide within departments and units.
- b. Organize informational sessions or workshops on advocacy fundamentals or Legion legislative priorities at Department meetings and conventions. (Legion legislative staff is authorized to travel to Auxiliary Department functions by submitting a request to the national adjutant).
- c. Facilitate a discussion on advocacy fundamentals at a unit meeting.
- d. Subscribe to the *Weekly Legislative Update* for a detailed report of current legislative activities of the Legion. Subscribe to this e-newsletter by sending an email request to walexander@legion.org.
- e. Write articles on Legion current legislative activities and publish them in ALA newsletters, newspapers, and on websites. Article content can be drawn from the *Weekly Legislative Update*, or reprints of articles in the Legion's *Dispatch* newspaper or other Legion media.
- f. Subscribe to e-newsletters of elected officials to monitor what they consider to be their priorities – and to make sure that veterans and national security are among them!
- g. Communicate with Legion Department and Post legislative chairmen and request that the Auxiliary be included in Legion meetings with national, state, and local officials, and be invited to Legion legislative briefings and other functions.

2. **Objective:** Organize Auxiliary members to take action on legislative priorities of The American Legion.

Action Steps

- a. Encourage Auxiliary members to subscribe to the Legion's Action e-List online legislative action system. Ask members to report back when they have subscribed, and keep a tally of growth in subscriptions.
- b. Identify Auxiliary members with personal or professional relationships with U.S. Representatives and U.S. Senators and nominate them for addition to the Legion Legislative Council.
- c. Encourage Auxiliary members to attend the annual Washington DC Conference, which

includes legislative training sessions and opportunities to visit Members of Congress.

Legislative Awards

1. Department Legislative Awards: A citation presented to the Department Chairman in each Division reporting the most outstanding overall Legislative program. Each entry must be typewritten in narrative form, not to exceed 500 words. All entries must be postmarked by June 1, 2013, and sent to the Divisional Chairman. You are encouraged to include pictures and newspaper articles.

2. Unit Legislative Awards: A citation presented to the Unit Chairman in each Division reporting the most outstanding overall Legislative program. Each entry must be typewritten in narrative form, not to exceed 500 words. All entries must be sent to the Department Chairman by her deadline and the winning entry postmarked by June 1, 2013, and sent to the Divisional Chairman. You are encouraged to include pictures and newspaper articles.

3. American Legion Legislative Awards:

A certificate of appreciation will be presented to those individuals in each Department who have made an outstanding contribution to the legislative program of The American Legion. Send nominations to National Member Anita Biggs (abiggs@oneunited.com) by June 1, 2013.

A medal will be awarded to those Department Legislative Chairmen who have achieved excellent results in promoting the weekly updates and in organizing effective legislative support within the Department. Send nominations to National Member Lois M. Hubbard (misslois@mgemaine.com) by June 1, 2013.

A Certificate of Merit will be awarded the top four Auxiliary Departments. Rules for this certificate will be the same as the Department Legislative Award listed above. Send nominations to National Chairman Coral May Grout (cmgrout@comcast.net) by June 1, 2013.

Resources

1. *The American Legion Auxiliary Legislative Advocacy Guide* contains pertinent information about

advocacy, building relationships, issues, personal visits, building rapport with congressional staff, communicating with your legislator, sample letters and legislative websites. It is available online at www.ALAforVeterans.org

2. Subscribe to *the American Legion Auxiliary eNews*. This is also available via email at www.ALAforVeterans.org.

3. *The Dispatch* is available online at <http://www.legion.org/dispatch>. Download and share this publication with members. This publication includes information about National Security/Foreign Relations, Economic and Legislative issues, and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation.

4. Congress for Kids - Interactive, fun-filled experiences designed to help grades 4-12 learn about

the foundation of our federal government and how its actions affect them.

<http://www.congressforkids.net/index.htm>

5. Members of Congress can be found at www.senate.gov and www.house.gov.

6. Additional resources are available through the Legion Legislative Action Center -- <http://www.legion.org/legislative>

Sandra Petermann,

ND Dept. Legislative Chairman