

2018-2019 American Legion Auxiliary Programs Action Plan

Department of New Jersey

Legislative

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

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What is this program and why do we have it?

The Legislative Program provides information and assistance to American Legion Auxiliary members to advocate for the legislative agenda of The American Legion.

How can I reach our goals?

Encourage and empower members to be more knowledgeable to take action on The American Legion's legislative priorities.

Ideas:

- Subscribe to the Legion's *Legislative Action Alerts* to receive notifications when they call on all Legion Family members to take immediate action on a topic. Visit www.capwiz.com/Legion/mlm/signup to subscribe & report to your County and/or Dept. Chairman when you have done so.
- Subscribe to the Legion's *Legislative Update* to stay informed on veteran and military legislative issues & also report to your chairman when you have subscribed.
- Order a copy of the *ALA Legislative Advocacy Guide* through your Department headquarters and follow the suggestions it contains to help build legislative awareness in your community. The guide can be downloaded from www.ALAforVeterans.org.
- Visit the Legion's website, www.legion.org/legislative, to keep current on legislative priorities. The site also contains the Legion's legislative priorities sheets and point papers, available for download.
 - The priority/drop sheets outline the Legion's priorities and you can "drop" these to your elected official's office.
 - The point papers provide more information on the issues and the Legion's position.
- Actively post The American Legion's priorities on social media.

- Identify your US Representative and two US Senators and build a relationship and rapport with these individuals and/or members of their staff.
- Subscribe to e-newsletters of your elected officials to monitor what they consider to be their priorities and make sure that veteran/military and national security issues are among them.
- Attend department and /or legislative meetings and activities.
- Meet with state and national – level public officials to discuss issues facing veterans, service members and their families. Remember, we are putting a face on legislative topics. We can share the human reality on how issues affect veterans, service members and their families.
- Complete the Legion's *Congressional Meeting Report Form* following any meeting with your US Representative, US Senator and/or their legislative staff members. Visit www.legion.org/aar to complete the form.
- Invite your Department chairman to a Unit/county meeting to explain how the department initiates legislative advocacy and how each unit can play a roll.

Legislative Reporting

Reports are due to this chairman one week before the Department meeting September through April and should include answers to the following questions:

- How many times did members contact (phone calls, emails, letters, faxes, visits. etc.) their national elected officials about Legislative priorities of The American Legion? Please provide details and specific topics/priorities.
- What legislative activities (town hall meetings, legislative receptions) did members attend in their communities and departments? Please describe: function (town hall meeting, etc.), # members attended, # of hours, location of event, topics discussed.
- How did members develop relationships with their elected officials? Please describe: signed up e-newsletters, "friended" on social media, etc.
- How many times did members contact (phone calls, emails, letters, faxes, visits. etc.) their state elected officials (Senators and/or Assembly person) about legislative issues affecting veterans, service members and their families. Please provide details and specific topics/priorities.
- Reports may be submitted by either the county or Unit Legislation Chairman or designated member. If a Unit is submitting a report, please send a duplicate to your county chairman or president.
- Please include your name, address, phone #, e-mail address, county, and Unit # on all correspondence/reports submitted. Reports may be sent by e-mail or "snail" mail.

Thank you for your participation and reporting which assists us in reaching our goals to serve our veterans and their families.