

American Legion Auxiliary loves our Veterans. When it comes to “Politics” our goal is simply, protect their rights under the law and to take action with all American Leaders to protect their rights. As your Department Legislative Chair, I promise to give you all the information on Bills and the resources needed to write your leaders. Together we will make a difference on issues concerning veterans, military life, national security and patriotism. You can #RingyourBELL by... empowering ourselves to be more knowledgeable in order to take action on The American Legion’s legislative priorities. Start by taking the following actions and you will soon be able to help our American Veterans in a way you never thought possible.

1. Subscribe to The American Legion’s *Legislative Action Alerts* at [Action Center \(votervoicenet\)](https://www.votervoicenet.com/action-center) to receive notifications. When they call on Legion Family members to take immediate action on legislative issues you will be notified. You don’t have to even write the letter. The American Legion has the form letter all ready for you. All you have to do is type in your name and hit send. Yes it’s just that easy to Ring your Bell for our Veterans.
2. Plug into the American Legion’s *Legislative Update and e-newsletters* by going to <https://www.legion.org/legislative> this will keep you informed on recurring veteran, military, budget and funding, healthcare, patriotism, and awareness issues..
3. Order a copy of the *ALA Legislative Advocacy Guide* through Department Headquarters or download from their website at [https://www.legion-aux.org/cmsdesk/ALA/media/PDF/Guides/Legislative\\_Advocacy\\_Guide.pdf](https://www.legion-aux.org/cmsdesk/ALA/media/PDF/Guides/Legislative_Advocacy_Guide.pdf) Follow the suggestions and guidelines to help build legislative awareness within your American Legion family and your community.
4. Connect with your Legislators and send them letters at this site. <https://www.votervoicenet.com/AmericanLegion/Campaigns>

## **National and State Legislative Committee**

The national organization of the American Legion Auxiliary has a National legislative Committee which works closely with the National Legislative Commission of The American Legion. The American legion Commission has offices in Washington. D.C. and continually promotes the passage of The American legion sponsored legislation. Departments of the American legion and Auxiliary also have Legislative Committees which function in a similar manner within the states.

## **Unit Support in Legislative Work**

When measures important to the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary are before the lawmaking bodies for consideration appeals go out for support on these measures. At such times the unit members should contact their representatives urging them to take the action desired. Reach out to your local officials, mayors, council, candidates, etc.

## **How Legislative Policy is Formed**

In all matters of legislation the American Legion Auxiliary follows the action of The American Legion, never endorsing any measure until The American Legion has first endorsed it and never following a policy which does not coincide exactly with The American Legion's stand.

The Department Conventions formulate the legislative program for each Department and also follow the action of The American Legion Department Convention. They outline the policy to be followed in regard to measures to come before the legislatures of their states and also pass resolutions on national measures to be referred to the national Conventions.

## **Legislative Work for the Unit**

The legislative activities of the Unit may be handled by the Unit President, by a standing Unit committee, or by a special committee appointed to conduct the work in special emergencies. The legislative matters usually deal with some other phase of Auxiliary work, such as Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation – getting beneficial legislation for veterans; Children and Youth – securing legislation beneficial to children of veterans and children generally; National Security – securing national security measures; or Americanism – obtaining the passage of measures to promote better citizenship or to curb the activities of radicals. The arousing of public sentiment in support of such measures might well be left to the committee handling the activity under which they fall.

All Unit Legislative Chairmen should subscribe to the ala Legislative Facebook page. This helps to locate current legislative issues and other news pertinent to The American Legion family.

## **National Award**

### **Unit award**

An award will be presented to the Unit for the most outstanding Unit Legislative Program. Must be sent to Department Chairman, in electronic form, no later than May 1, 2024

**Always remember we are a non-partisan Legislative team fighting for our Veterans. We must keep an eye on our elected officials, hold them accountable for their actions towards the American Veterans. We must stay politically connected to our government.**

Shirley Fashano

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