

# Legislative

## Program Engagement Plan 2025-2026

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.-Margaret Mead*

Margaret Meads famous quote drives my actions as the Department of Florida Legislative Chairperson. I know that I am not alone; members of the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Florida are comprised of thoughtful citizens with a mission to improve the lives of our veterans and their families through legislative action. Relevant changes are implemented through targeted, well-designed, thoughtful legislation. As Department Chair I will strive to give the Units the tools needed to create, support, and implement changes through education, developing relationships and taking targeted actions.

Districts and Units are encouraged to practice discussing legislation and verbalizing arguments supporting that legislation with elected officials. I encourage each Unit to identify issues facing Veterans and their families and encourage them to openly discuss and debate possible legislative solutions

System Change is difficult, but this group of dedicated members are indeed creating world change through their targeted legislative efforts.

Questions to think about and report on:

### **Committee-Specific Reporting Guidelines:**

As part of your narrative report, please include answers to the following questions:

- How did you educate members in the legislative issues promoted by The American Legion, and how did your members employ those methods?
- What legislative activities (town hall meetings, legislative receptions) did members attend in their communities and departments? What suggestions did members have to improve those activities? Please describe. How did members develop relationships with their elected officials? Please describe.
- Please describe how members were able to connect with their local and state officials, and what were their successes?

## **25-26 Legislative Program Awards Deadlines and Submission Requirements**

All award submissions must include a narrative (either a PDF or Microsoft Word document) explaining why the department or unit you're nominating should receive the award. The narrative can also be the department chair's report. You may also upload other supporting documentation that will give the committee a full picture of the important mission work your department or unit has accomplished this year. These files can be photos (JPG, JPEG or TIFs -- no larger than 14MB) or PDF documents. If you have more than three supporting files, please email the committee email address listed in the form.

### **Here are the national awards for this committee:**

Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Legislative Program (per division)

- All unit entries must be submitted via [electronic form](#) by 5 p.m. EST on June 1.

Note: You will receive a confirmation when your award is submitted. National Awards Form Link: <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>

Department Award: Best Department Legislative Program (per division)

- All department entries must be submitted via [electronic form](#) by 5 p.m. EST on June 1. Note: You will receive a confirmation when your award is submitted.

National Awards Form Link: <https://www.legion-aux.org/National-Awards-Form>

*Please note – when applicable, unit and department deadlines differ.*

Questions? Contact [legislative@ALAforVeterans.org](mailto:legislative@ALAforVeterans.org)

## **Department of Florida Legislative Award**

The Unit with the most passionate Legislative program will be presented with a US Flag that has been flown over the US Capitol.