

Legislation

Programs Action Plan – 2018-2019

Rose Ann Dzieglowicz, Chairman

What is one of the best ways of “**Celebrating Their Service and Ours**”? By advocating for the legislative agenda of The American Legion. The Legislative Program provides information and assistance to the American Legion Auxiliary to do just that. Through lobbying efforts The American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary are able to influence legislation of benefit to veterans, military, the community and to our nation.

When issues important to The American Legion Family are before our legislators for consideration, appeals go out for support on these issues. These are the times the Unit members should contact their representatives and senators urging them to take the necessary action.

What can you do?

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

As a Unit member you can:

- Subscribe to The American Legion’s *Legislative Action Alerts* so that you receive notification when they call on The American Legion Family members to take immediate action on a bill. Visit www.capwiz.com/legion/mlm/signup to subscribe.
- Subscribe to The American Legion’s *Legislative Update* to stay informed on veteran and military legislative issues.
- Subscribe to The American Legion’s publication, *The Dispatch*. You can subscribe on-line for the e-newsletter at [/www.legion.org/dispatch](http://www.legion.org/dispatch).
- Visit The American Legion’s legislative website, www.legion.org/legislative to keep current on legislative priorities. From this website you can download “drop sheets” that you can drop at your legislator’s office. The Point Papers give additional information on the issues and The American Legion’s position.
- Download and print the *ALA Legislative Advocacy Guide* at www.alaforveterans.org. It is designed to help members in building relationships with local and national legislators and provides a wealth of information covering many important issues including setting up visits with legislators, communicating with elected and appointed officials, sample letters written to express ideas and opinions and advocating for veterans. It also lists informative websites and phone numbers.
- Put a list of legislative priorities in your Post Home and on social media.
- Identify your State and U.S. Legislators. Check their website where you can sign-up for regular up-dates on their views and priorities and how they are voting. Subscribe to their newsletters and e-newsletters.
- Attend local town hall meetings to become better informed and to network with others.

- Meet with local, state and national officials to discuss issues facing veterans, service members and their families. You might even want to invite other members of your American Legion Family to go with you.
- If you meet with your U.S. Legislator or their staff, complete The American Legion's Congressional Meeting Report Form. The form is available at www.legion.org/legislative/aar.
- Be sure to inform your Unit, District and Department Chairman about all contacts. Keep copies of all communications from your legislator to forward with your mid-year and year-end reports.

When I receive word from The American Legion Department of Indiana and the National Legislative Committees regarding the legislative priorities for this year, I will advise your District Chairman and, through the monthly mailings, your Unit Chairman. Also, work with your VA&R, Americanism, and National Security Chairmen on issues that affect them. Keep track of all your communications so you can report them at mid-year and year-end.

Unit Chairman, your mid-year report is due to your District Legislative Chairman by December 15, 2018.

District Chairman, your combined mid-year report is due to me by January 1, 2019.

Unit Chairman, your year-end report is due to your District Legislative Chairman by April 15, 2019.

District Chairman, your combined year-end report is due to me by May 1, 2019.

AWARDS:

Department

- The **Jean Buyer Legislative Excellence Award Revolving Plaque** to the District with the Best Legislative Program.

Personal

- Best mid-year report from a District Legislative Chairman.
- Best year-end report from a Unit Legislative Chairman.
- Best year-end report from a District Legislative Chairman.

NATIONAL

Unit Legislative Award – Citation (one in each division)

- For the most outstanding overall legislative program in the division.
- Each entry must be typewritten in narrative form and must tell the story of legislative activism and how it made a difference in the lives of veterans and their families.
- Include pictures and newspaper articles.
- Units should submit the entry to their Department Legislative Chairman by May 1, 2019.

- Attach an award cover sheet, including the name of the award, the name and contact information for the Department of Indiana and Unit Legislative Chairman.

Additional Resources You Can Use

1. www.ALAforVeterans.org on the Legislative program page:
 - *ALA Legislative Advocacy Guide*
 - How to fill out the Congressional Contact Form
 - How to contact legislators to advocate for veterans, service members and their families
2. www.legion.org/legislative (The American Legion's Legislative Center)
 - Legislative Testimony information
 - Point Papers, Priority Sheets, Letters of Support
 - Congressional Contact Report Form
3. Follow us on Facebook
 - ALA National Headquarters: www.facebook.com/ALAforVeterans
 - To find the National Legislative Committee Facebook group, search "ALA National Legislative Group Page"

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