

LEGISLATIVE
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As we enter this 90th anniversary of the American Legion Auxiliary we need to follow the National Presidents theme of "Reconnect and Energize" and pass this philosophy on to our Representatives, Senators, and other Elected Officials. These people will only know how we feel if we contact them and let them know where we stand on issues that are important to veterans.

The American Legion Auxiliary Legislative Program has two main objectives: **1.** To increase the influence American Legion Auxiliary has on legislative offices on Capitol Hill and give members talking points and specific reasons to contact their legislators at least twice a year. **2.** To raise awareness of grassroots involvement by quarterly visits to local congressional offices when advocating for veterans issues or concerns.

We need to train and inform our members to become grass root advocates for veterans and their families with local, state, and nationally elected officials, supporting the Legislative agenda and initiatives of the American Legion. In doing this we must always remember that the American Legion Auxiliary is patriotic and veteran's advocacy group that remains nonpartisan.

Resources:

1. ALA Legislative Advocacy Guide; available for free download at www.legion-aux.org
2. "The Dispatch"; periodical publication of The American Legion, subscription price is \$15.00 annually.
3. TAL Legislative Action Center; sign up with your email to receive alerts directly at <http://scapwiz.com/legion/home/>
4. Congressional Yellow Pages; comprehensive guide to all Federal agencies and government offices, (212) 627-4140 www.leadershipdirectories.com

Seen program page on www.legion-aux.org for additional resources

Mid-Year Report. I am asking Unit Legislative Chairman to submit a brief, informal mid year report to me, Kathleen Obermiller, 257 North 7th Street, Loup City, NE 68853, no later than December 31, 2009. If the Unit does not have a chairman and members have written to their Representatives regarding veteran's issues, please send them. I will forward them to the National Legislative Chairman.

AWARDS: Legislative awards will be given for activities promoted by members and Units. The legislative Committee encourages your participation. It is most helpful if you include the name of the award you are submitting an entry for on the cover sheet.

1. Department Legislative Awards

A plaque presented to the Department Chairman in each Division reporting the Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program. Entry must be typewritten in narrative form, not to exceed 1,000 words. Do not include pictures, clippings, scrapbook, folders, etc. All entries must be postmarked by June 1, 2010 and sent by the Department Chairman to the Division Chairman.

2. Unit Legislative Awards

A plaque presented to the Unit Chairman in each Division reporting the Most Overall Legislative Program. Entry must be typewritten in narrative form, not to exceed 1,000 words. Do not include pictures clippings scrapbooks, folders, etc.. Units will submit entries to Department Chairman Kathleen Obermiller, 257 North 7th Street, Loup City, NE 68853 -post marked on or before May 1, 2010.

3. Individual Recognition certificates will be presented to individual Unit members that forward the National Legislative Chairman copies of responses received from congressional leaders as a result of their advocacy efforts; letters, emails visits, etc. Packets of correspondence must be post-marked by June 1, 2010 to be considered.

Legislative citation points next page:

CITATION POINTS - 15 points assigned

5 pts...Unit or individuals scribe to THE DISPATCH

5 pts... Unit devoted ten minutes each meeting to Legislation and held a special meeting in January

5 pts... Unit sent letters on bills to members of congress on Legislative issues and replies received by members were forwarded according to instructions in the ABC Book
