

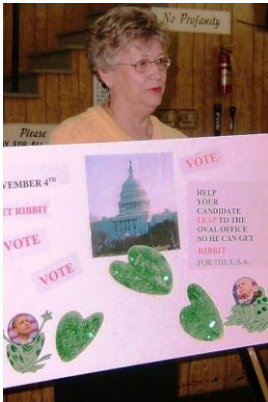
Legislative

2010-2011 National President's Theme: The Power of One
2010-2011 Department President's Theme: It is Great to be an American!

Plan of Action: Legislative Committee

Purpose: To train and inform our members to become grassroots advocates for veterans and their families with national, state and local elected officials, supporting the legislative agenda and initiatives of The American Legion.

Committee Contact Information



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Let the Stars and Bars of the Red, White and Blue shine through for the American Legion Auxiliary, Department of Mississippi, by our Legislative Programs service and efforts.



Legislative

Department Objectives

1. **Objective:** Educate Auxiliary members on their rights and responsibilities as citizens to let their voices be heard through active communication by writing letters, e-mails and making phone calls to their legislators.

Action Steps

- a. Include a regular column on The American Legion legislative activities in Department or Unit newsletters.
 - b. Host presentations on The American Legion legislative priorities and advocacy fundamentals by national, Department and Post Legislative Chairmen or staff members at Department conferences and Unit meetings.
 - c. Distribute to members The American Legion's materials on legislative advocacy fundamentals.
2. **Objective:** Promote support of The American Legion initiatives/agenda by Auxiliary members.

Action Steps

- a. National Legislative Council – Per request of The American Legion, Auxiliary Departments and Units are requested to identify an Auxiliary member(s) with a substantive professional or personal relationship with each member of their U.S. Congressional delegation (Senators and Representatives) and to request those individuals to serve as representatives for the Auxiliary on legislative matters. Department Legislative Chairmen will prepare a roster of these Mississippi representatives and submit to the Divisional Legislative Committee Chairman for enrollment into the National Legislative Council. Council members will be called upon for action on an as-needed basis.
- b. Relationship building – Send invitations to local public officials to participate in Auxiliary Unit programs and events or to speak meetings.
- c. Relationship building – Send requests to local public officials to issue resolutions, proclamations and/or written remarks acknowledging the American Legion Auxiliary or member key accomplishments and awards. Ask these officials to include recognition of an Auxiliary accomplishment in the Congressional Record.
- d. Take action – Promote American Legion Auxiliary member enrollment in the online Legislative Action Center of The American Legion. To view information, go to www.legion.org and click on Action Center link. To receive information by e-mail, enroll in the Action e-list by going to the following link: <http://capwiz.com/legion/mlm/signup/>
- e. Take action – Develop an email or phone system for activating American Legion Auxiliary leaders to take action in response to requests from the Legion.
- f. Take action – Increase the number of e-mails for the national ALA e-News and include a Legislative Corner in each e-newsletter.
- g. Take action – Provide Units and Departments a sample letter, e-mails and phone scripts to encourage them to contact their national and state elected officials to bring awareness to The American Legion's agenda regarding veterans and military legislative issues.

**BE SURE TO VISIT THE DEPARTMENT'S LEGISLATIVE PAGE
ONLINE AT WWW.MISSALA.COM**

Legislative

Legislative Awards

1. Department Legislative Awards

A citation 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 500 words. All entries must be postmarked by June 1, 2011, and sent by the Department Chairman to the Divisional Chairman. You are encouraged to include pictures and newspaper articles.

2. Unit Legislative Awards

On the Department level, a 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place award will be presented to deserving units, based on year-end reporting. Certificates of participation/appreciation will be given to each reporting Unit.

The most outstanding Unit Legislative program in the Department, based on year-end reports, will be submitted to the National Southern Division Legislative Chairman by June 1, 2011, for consideration for the Most Outstanding Overall Legislative program in the Southern Division. The Department's Unit entry will be typewritten in narrative format, not to exceed 500 words and written by the selected unit, and should include pictures and newspaper articles, also provided by the selected Unit.

Resources

1. *American Legion Auxiliary Legislative Advocacy Guide* – an informative tool discussing advocacy, relationship building, and communication with your legislators; a list of key legislative websites also is included. Available for free download at www.legion-aux.org. Contact your Department to order a hard copy.
2. *ALA e-News* – the American Legion Auxiliary's monthly e-newsletter. Sign up with your e-mail address on the Auxiliary's website to receive legislative updates.
3. *The Dispatch* – a monthly publication by The American Legion describing current legislative issues and other news pertinent to The American Legion Family. To subscribe, call The American Legion at 317.630.1298 or subscribe online at <http://www.legion.org/media/subscribe>. Cost is \$15 per year.
4. The American Legion Legislative Action Center at <http://capwiz.com/legion/home> – obtain information on legislative issues regarding veterans and the military; access The American Legion position on legislation; e-mail your elected officials from this site; sign up for the action e-list to receive alerts regarding current legislation at <http://capwiz.com/legion/mlm/signup/>
5. www.leadershipdirectories.com – a guide to federal agencies and governmental offices.
6. *Congress at Your Fingertips*: This award-winning publication is the most popular version! The standard version has been enhanced for the new Congress and will include Congressional district maps within the state delegation listings. Organized by state delegation, this directory offers biographical data for each member of Congress. It includes members' current color photos, phone and fax numbers, websites, e-mail addresses (where available), Hill offices, district offices and key staff. Committee and subcommittee rosters include phone and fax numbers, websites, Hill offices, and staff directors. Includes e-mail updates. Item sells for \$18. Contact Customer Service at 703.550.9500 or 877.827.3321.

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