

Legislative

2011-2012 American Legion Auxiliary Plan of Action

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



Department Chairman

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Committee Members:

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Department-level Objectives

1. **Objective:** Promote support of The American Legion priorities/agenda by American Legion Auxiliary members.

Action Steps

- a. Distribute to members The American Legion's materials on legislative advocacy fundamentals. See the How To sheet for steps on achieving legislative goals.

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Legislative Awards

1. Department Legislative Awards: A citation presented to the Department Chairman in each Division reporting the most outstanding overall Legislative program. Each entry must be typewritten in narrative form, not to exceed 500 words. All entries must be postmarked by June 1, 2012, and sent to the Divisional Chairman. You are encouraged to include pictures and newspaper articles.
2. Unit Legislative Awards: A citation presented to the Unit Chairman in each Division reporting the most outstanding overall Legislative program. Each entry must be typewritten in narrative form, not to exceed 500 words. All entries must be sent to the **Department Chairman** by May 1, 2012, and the winning entry will be postmarked by June 1, 2012, and sent to the Divisional Chairman. You are encouraged to include pictures and newspaper articles.
3. American Legion Legislative Awards:
A certificate of appreciation will be presented to those individuals in each Department who have made an outstanding contribution to the legislative program of The American Legion. Send nominations to **Committee Member Joyce Porter** by May 1, 2012, who will forward to National Chairman Ann Rehbein by June 1, 2012.

A medal will be awarded to those Department Legislative Chairmen who have achieved excellent results in promoting the weekly updates and in organizing effective legislative support within the Department. Send nominations to National Chairman Ann Rehbein by June 1, 2012.

A Certificate of Merit will be awarded the top four Auxiliary Departments. Rules for this certificate will be the same as the Department Legislative Award listed above. Send nominations to National Chairman Ann Rehbein by June 1, 2012.

Resources

1. *American Legion Auxiliary Legislative Advocacy Guide* – Contains pertinent information about advocacy, building relationships, issues, personal visits, building rapport with congressional staff, communicating with your legislator, sample letters and legislative websites.
www.ALAforVeterans.org
2. *ALA e-News* – Sign up for email delivery at www.ALAforVeterans.org to receive this monthly newsletter.
3. *The Dispatch* is published 12 times a year to keep you informed on National Security/Foreign Relations, Economic and Legislative issues, and Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation. Published by The American Legion. A 12-month subscription is \$15, or you can read it online at <http://www.legion.org/dispatch>.
4. Congress for Kids - Interactive, fun-filled experiences designed to help grades 4-12 learn about the foundation of our federal government and how its actions affect them.
<http://www.congressforkids.net/index.htm>
5. Members of Congress can be found at www.senate.gov and www.house.gov.
6. Additional resources can be found at <http://www.legion.org/legislative/resources> and www.ALAforVeterans.org.

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Department of Mississippi 2011-2012 LEGISLATIVE ANNUAL REPORT

Please complete and return to Rana Richmond, 30092 Guyton Road, Amory, MS 38821,
on or before May 1, 2011.

Unit Name/No: _____ Unit Chairman: _____

Complete Address: _____

Total # Members in Unit _____

1. Did your Unit hold a special Unit Legislative meeting? _____
Legislative Rally? _____ Town Hall Meeting? _____
Meet the Candidates Night? _____
Please give details (if necessary please use back or a separate sheet of paper)
2. Did you promote The American Legion's publication "The Dispatch"? _____
If so, how? _____
How many Unit members subscribed to "The Dispatch"? _____
3. How many letters were sent by Unit members to U.S. Senators? _____
U.S. Representative? _____ State Officials? _____ The White House? _____
Local Officials? _____
4. How many personal visits were made by Unit members to: U.S. Senators? _____
U.S. Representatives? _____ State Officials? _____ Local Officials? _____
5. Number of other contacts (telephone calls, e-mails, etc.) made by Unit members to:
U.S. Senators? _____ U.S. Representatives? _____ State Officials? _____
The White House? _____ Local Officials? _____
6. Number of replies received by Unit members: U.S. Senators? _____
U.S. Representatives? _____ State Officials? _____ The White House? _____
Local Officials? _____
7. Did your Unit submit any activities to the Congressional Record? _____
Briefly describe: _____

8. Does your Unit have a member who is on the Department's Legislative Council? _____
List name(s)? _____
9. Number of Unit members enrolled in TAL Legislative Action Center? _____
List Members' Names: _____

10. How many Unit members are subscribers to the Auxiliary's Legislative eNews? _____
11. Describe any other outstanding activity: _____

