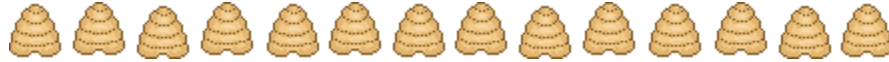


Legislative

2009-2010 Celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the Auxiliary

THE DEPARTMENT OF MISSISSIPPI CAN GET BUSY--BUZZING OUR SENATORS AND CONGRESSMEN ON THE ISSUES WE BEE-LIEVE IN!



Plan of Action: Legislative Committee

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

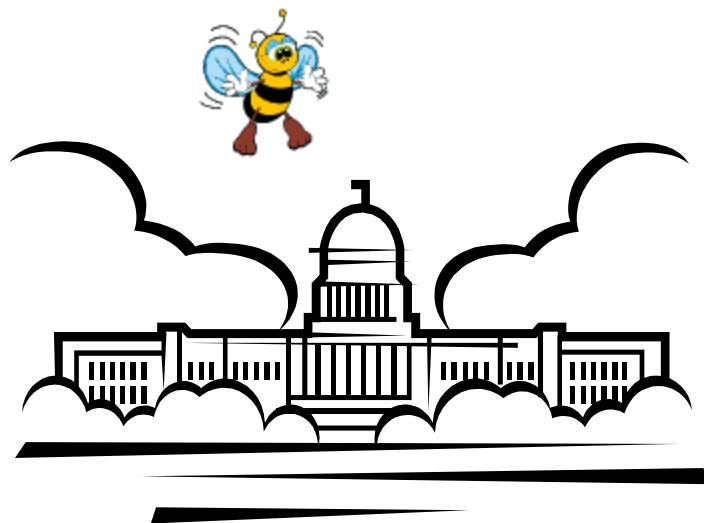
Committee Contact Information

Sue McGuire, Chairman
3309 Wall Ave.
Pascagoula, Ms 39581
(228) 769-8080

Patricia Trest
1004 Edgewater Dr.
Philadelphia, MS 39350
(601) 656-9899

Diane Lawrence
2835 Nashville Ferry Rd E
Columbus, MS 39702
(662) 327-4141

Chris Lee
2917 Rhonda Lane
Pascagoula, MS 39581
(228) 762-5358



Legislative

Department Objectives for 2009-2010

1. **Objective:** To increase the influence of the ALA on legislative offices on Capitol Hill and in our state Capitol in Jackson and give members talking points and specific reasons to contact their legislators at least twice a year.

Action Steps

- a. The American Legion Auxiliary is a nonpartisan group.
 - b. Write letters, send emails, faxes, and make phone calls to share your point of view with elected officials on legislative issues. Save your responses—see Individual Recognition Award below.
 - c. Build working relationships with reliable and dedicated staff people in those offices.
 - d. Provide frequent communication to elected officials for the purpose of legislative updates and status of specific legislation.
 - e. Ask legislators how they will vote on specific issues and ask for their response in writing.
 - f. Use technology (email, Dept. Web site, Facebook group) to get the information out to the members.
 - g. Provide each Senate and House VA Committee members' office with a subscription of *HomeFront*.
 - h. Thank legislators immediately after votes are taken.
 - i. Sign up for the ALA Spirit of America eNewsletter.
2. **Objective:** To raise awareness of grassroots involvement by quarterly visits to local congressional offices when advocating for veterans issues/concerns.

Action Steps

- a. Form good relationships with local legislators by inviting them to address TAL, ALA, and SAL.
 - b. Most Congressional offices include: Chief of Staff, Director of the District or State Office, Appointment Secretary, Legislative Assistants, Committee/Subcommittee Staff, and Case/Project Workers.
 - c. Contact your local, county and state elected officials frequently and let them know your feelings/concerns on specific issues.
 - d. Ask for email addresses to stay in touch with the latest and greatest information.
 - e. Partner with other organizations that share similar interests and work together on issues related to veterans and/or military families.
 - f. In conjunction with the Americanism Committee, inform your members to "Get Out and Vote."
 - g. Provide transportation and babysitting services to get members and public to the polls.
 - h. Contact military family members to get absentee ballots early enough to be counted.
3. **Objective:** To provide updates, information, and tools to accomplish our objectives

Action Steps

- a. Update new directives and helpful tips on the Department Web site (www.missala.com).
- b. Utilize the Department monthly newsletter to offer Units updates and suggestions for action by the Department Chairman

Legislative

Committee Awards

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, scrapbooks, folders, etc. All entries must be post-marked 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 Outstanding 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 the Department Chairman by May 1, 2010.** The Department's selected entry will be post-marked by June 1, 2010, and sent by the Department Chairman to the Division Chairman.

3. Individual Recognition Certificates

A recognition certificate will be presented to each individual Unit member that forwards the National Legislative Chairman copies of responses received from congressional leaders as a result of their advocacy efforts; letters, emails, visits, etc. Unit Chairman, to make this easy, gather your letters throughout the year, include a cover letter with the name and number of the Unit, the name and address of the Unit Legislative Chairman or Unit representative, and send to the Department Chairman by May 1, 2010. **BE SURE THE NAME OF THE INDIVIDUAL UNIT MEMBER WHO RECEIVED THE RESPONSE IS ON EACH PIECE OF CORRESPONDENCE. IF THERE IS MORE THAN ONE RESPONSE PER PERSON, PAPERCLIP OR STAPLE THE PERSON'S CORRESPONDENCES TOGETHER.** Packets of correspondence/responses will be post-marked by June 1, 2010 and sent to the National Legislative Chairman.

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 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, www.leadershipdirectories.com, (212) 627-4140

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



Legislative

Department of Mississippi 2009-2010 LEGISLATIVE ANNUAL REPORT

Please complete and return to Sue McGuire, 3309 Wall Ave., Pascagoula, MS 39581, on or before May 1, 2010.

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. Did your Unit promote the woman veteran? _____
How did the Unit promote the woman veteran? _____

9. Did your Unit promote military absentee voting? _____
Briefly describe: _____

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

12. Do you plan to send the Dept. Chairman a packet of responses from elected officials for National Certificates (**due by May 1, 2010**)? _____ How many total individuals? _____