

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.

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For examples on how to implement each objective in this Plan, refer to the *How To* component at the end of this section.

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National-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.

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 her deadline and the winning entry 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 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

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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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