



## Program Engagement Plan 2024-2025

# LEGISLATIVE

### WHAT ARE THE GOALS OF THIS PROGRAM?

- The Legislative program provides information and assistance to ALA members to advocate for the legislative agenda of the American Legion.

**WHAT CAN ALA MEMBERS DO? Encourage and empower members to be more knowledgeable to take action on the American Legion's legislative priorities.**

### IDEAS: MEMBERS CAN

- ◆ Subscribe to the Legion's **Legislative Action Alerts** to receive notifications when they call upon all Legion Family Members to take immediate action on a topic. [www.capwiz.com/legion/mlm/signup](http://www.capwiz.com/legion/mlm/signup) to subscribe. Report to your unit chairman when you have done so.
- ◆ Subscribe to the Legion's **Legislative Update** to stay informed on veteran and military legislative issues. Report to your unit chairman when you have subscribed.
- ◆ Order a copy of the **ALA Legislative Advocacy Guide** through your unit or your department headquarters and follow the suggestions it contains to build legislative awareness in your community. The guide can also be downloaded from [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org)
- ◆ Visit the Legion's legislative website, [www.legion.org/legislative](http://www.legion.org/legislative), to keep current on legislative priorities. The site also contains the Legion's legislative priority sheets and point papers available for download.
- ◆ The priority/drop sheets outline the Legion's priorities and you can "drop" these in your elected official's office.
- ◆ The point papers provide more information on the issues and the Legion's position.
- ◆ Actively post The American Legion's legislative priorities on social media
- ◆ Identify your U.S. representative and your two U.S. senators. Work to build a relationship and rapport with these individuals and/or members of their staff.
- ◆ Subscribe to e-newsletters of your elected officials to monitor what they consider to be their priorities and to make sure that veteran/military and national security issues are among them.
- ◆ Follow them on social media as well. (See each elected official's website for details on how to sign-up and to find their social media links)
- ◆ Connect with other civic organizations to communicate The American Legion's legislative priorities for potential support and (as always) membership opportunities.
- ◆ Attend local informational town hall meetings to become better informed and to network with other community and civic organizations.

### **IDEAS: MEMBERS CAN (continued)**

- ◆ Attend department and/or legislative meetings and activities.
- ◆ Meet with state and national level public officials to discuss issues facing veterans, servicemembers and their families. If possible attend meetings with other Legion Family members.
- ◆ Remember, we're putting a face on legislative topics. We can share the human reality on how issues affect veterans and their families.
- ◆ Complete the Legion's Congressional Meeting Report Form following any meeting with your U.S. representative, U.S. senator and/or their legislative staff members. Visit [www.legion.org/legislative/aar](http://www.legion.org/legislative/aar) to complete the form.
- ◆ Let this committee know if you have a personal or professional relationship with a U.S. representative and/or U.S. senator who serves on the Veterans Affairs committees or a member of his/her legislative staff and that you'd be willing to participate in the ALA Veterans Affairs Legislative Mini-Council. Each of these members should be willing to contact the representative, senator or staff member when called to action by the Legion on an issue.

### **IDEAS: UNITS CAN**

- ◆ During a meeting, go over the steps outlined by the ALA Legislative Advocacy Guide and discuss legislative priorities.
- ◆ Invite a staff member of your U.S. representative and/or senator to a unit meeting so he/she can explain the best way to contact the official.
- ◆ Include legislative priorities in unit communications (social media and newsletters)
- ◆ Work with your Legion counterpart to make arrangements for Legion Family members to meet with respective Congressional delegation while on recess and in home districts.
- ◆ Choose a different legislative priority each month and allow time at each unit meeting for members to draft letters and communicate the importance of legislation related to veterans and their families. Watch for **Legislative Action Alerts** for any pressing priority.
- ◆ Take a laptop to your meeting and show the members how easy it is to "click" and write to your congressmen through the Action Alerts – or use your phones together.
- ◆ Invite a member of the Department Legislative Committee to a unit meeting to explain how the Department initiates legislative advocacy and how each unit can play a role.
- ◆ Work with your Legion Family to host a "Meet the Candidate" night. Make veterans/military issues the primary topic for discussion. (See the 'How-To' sheet for details)

**YEAR END REPORTS:** Annual reports should reflect the program work of the units and may result in a national award for participants if requirements are met. Each unit is asked to submit a narrative report to the Department Legislative Chairman following the protocol and deadlines. It is due to the chairman no later than May 1, 2025.

### AWARDS TO STRIVE TOWARDS:

- ◆ Thank you in advance for choosing to take the time to share a story about the positive impact you or someone in your unit has had on our mission through working the Legislative program. Your story may inspire another member into service and it helps tell the world who we are, what we do and why we matter.
- ◆ As part of your narrative report, please include answers to the following questions:
- ◆ How did you educate members in the legislative issues promoted by The American Legion and how did your members employ those methods?
- ◆ What legislative activities (town hall meetings, legislative receptions, etc) did members attend in their communities and departments? What suggestions did members have to improve those activities? Please describe.
- ◆ How did members develop relationships with their elected officials? Please describe.
- ◆ Please describe how members were able to connect with their local and state officials and what were their successes.
- ◆ Face to Face Communication Opportunities with Legislatures
- ◆ Members Reporting sending personal letters, e-mails & phone calls
- ◆ Legislative can be so very exciting because this is where the American Legion Auxiliary can truly have an impact and make a difference in the lives and in the futures of our military and for our veterans as laws are passed or changed that provide benefits and improve care for our veterans, our military and their families along with all the other programs of the American Legion Auxiliary.
- ◆ Historically it can be proven that letter writing campaigns by the ALA have truly persuaded our government leaders to tackle issues and change laws that affected change – and each member of the American Legion Auxiliary can take pride in that history and can make that same impact on the future by working this Legislative program.

### MEMBER AWARD: “BEST TEXAS MEMBER-LEGISLATOR”

- ◆ Deadline: May 1, 2025

Submit a narrative to nominate an inspiring member that has embraced the concepts of the Legislative program and has put forth the effort to:

- ◆ learn and implement the ideas in the *Legislative Advocacy Guide*
- ◆ has subscribed to the herein suggested websites, alerts and updates
- ◆ has worked with The American Legion on Legislative efforts at local or state levels
- ◆ Has created or been instrumental in receiving proclamations from local governments
- ◆ A special “BEST TEXAS MEMBER-LEGISLATOR” AWARD will be presented at Department Convention

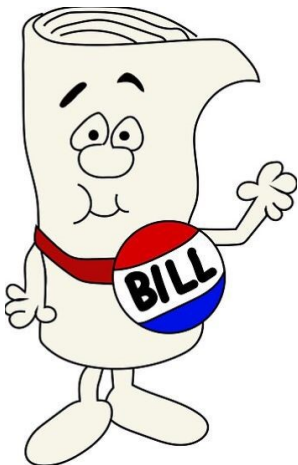
### UNIT AWARD: “MOST OUTSTANDING UNIT LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM”

- ◆ Deadline: May 1, 2025 Must be sent by 5pm CST on deadline. Photos of “Legislation in Action” are encouraged and should be emailed separately as jpg or pdf

The best narrative will be forwarded to National for consideration of a National Award.

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES AVAILABLE

- ◆ [www.ALAforVeterans.org](http://www.ALAforVeterans.org) on the Legislative program page:
- ◆ ALA Legislative Advocacy Guide
- ◆ How to Fill Out the Congressional Contact Form
- ◆ How to Contact Legislators to Advocate for Veterans, Servicemembers & their families [www.Legion.org/legislative](http://www.Legion.org/legislative) [The American Legion's Legislative Center]:
- ◆ Legislative Testimony Information Point Papers, Priority Sheets, Letters of Support
- ◆ Congressional Contact Report Form
  
- ◆ Facebook:
  - ◆ ALA National Headquarters: [www.facebook.com/ALAforVeterans](http://www.facebook.com/ALAforVeterans)
  - ◆ The National Legislative Committee Facebook group: ALA National Legislative Group
  - ◆ ALA Department of Texas Legislative (please keep all posts pertinent to Texas Legislative information only)



### COMMITTEE MEMBER

1st Division , Candace Wicks, Chair  
cwdst1913@yahoo.com  
214-694-5767

