

What is this program and why do we have it?

The Legislative Program provides information and assistance to American Legion Auxiliary (ALA) members to advocate for the legislative agenda of The American Legion.

While advocating for the legislative agenda of The American Legion, ALA members raise awareness for our mission and increase brand loyalty. (Goal 5).

<u>Department Chairman — Myrtle Johnson</u> Department Division Members:

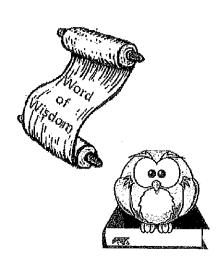
- 1. Myrtle Johnson, 1234 Adelaide Dr, Dallas, 75137 214-371-6449, Email: myrtlej08@yahoo.com
- 2. Ann Nicholson, P.O. Box 5985, Pasadena, 77087 713-540-4716, Email: annhas92140@yahoo.com
- 3. VACANT
- 4. Sara Herman, P.O. Box 252, Alpine, 79831 432-294-2187, Email: schilto@yahoo.com

What Can You Do?

Members:

Join the Veterans Council @ a VA Hospital.

- Subscribe to the Legion's Legislative Action Alerts to receive notification when they call
 on all Legion Family members to take immediate action on a topic. Visit:
- <u>www.capwiz.com/legion/mlm/signup</u> 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 help build legislative awareness in your community. The guide can also be downloaded from www.ALAforveterans.org
- Visit the Legion's legislative website, <u>www.legion.org/legislative</u> 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 issue and the Legion's position
- Actively post The American Legion's legislative priorities on social media.
- Identify your U.S. Representative and the two U.S. Senators and 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 how to sign-up and social media links).
- Connect with other civic organizations to communicate The American Legion's legislative priorities for potential support and membership opportunities.
- Attend local informational town hall meetings to become better informed and to network with other community and civic organizations.
- 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 are 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 to complete the form.
- Contact your Department Division Legislative Committee member to inform her 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 MiniCouncil. 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.

Districts and Units:

- Hold a meeting to go over the steps outlined by the ALA Legislative Advocacy Guide and discuss the 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 communications (social media, newsletters, etc.)
- Work with your Legion counterpart to make plans for Legion Family members to meet with respective Congressional delegation while on recess and in-home districts.
- Choose a different legislative priority for each month and allow time 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.
- Invite your Department Chairman or Division Committee member 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 on www.alatx.org Program Action Plan for details).

Legislative Awards:

Taking the time to share a story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission is worth doing! It helps us tell the world "Who we are; What we do; and Why we matter".

Just three simple steps to add your part to our National success story:

- 1. Please be sure to follow the instructions as you fill out the National Report and Awards Cover Sheet found in the awards section of the National Program Action Plan.
- 2. Provide details/examples about the activity as outlined in the award's materials and guidelines section,
- 3. Submission is different for every level of award opportunities. Please see the award description for the submission process.

NATIONAL REPORT AND AWARD

A. Unit Award

Most Outstanding Unit Legislative Program

• Deadline: June 1, 2019

• Send to national division chairman postmarked or emailed by 5 p.m. EST on the deadline listed above. It MUST have the cover sheet indicating the type of award for which you are submitting. Photos and news clippings may be included in the submission.

Susan Campbell, Department of North Carolina 114 Bayview Dr., Edenton, NC 27932 (252) 340-1058 sweetsue1950@embargmail.com

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

<u>Member Award</u> One member within each Division will be chosen from submitted entries as *ALA LEGISLATIVE ADVOCATES of the YEAR*. A narrative report detailing the legislative efforts conducted by or in which she participated and highlighting her personal contacts and efforts to further TAL's legislative efforts.

<u>Unit Award</u> One unit in each Division in Texas will be recognized as having the *Best Unit Legislative Program*. A narrative report detailing the Unit's legislative efforts conducted by the Unit or in which the Unit participated.

<u>Division Award</u> A Department Citation will be issued to the Division President with the most Districts (per capita) appointing a Legislative Program Chairman and a report from that Chairman is submitted detailing the efforts working together with her counterpart in The American Legion's Legislative Commission member in that District.

<u>District Award</u> A Department Citation will be issued to any District that reports conducting training on the Legislative Program to the District.

LEGISLATIVE REPORTING:

<u>Mid-year Report</u> Mid-year reports should reflect the program activities of the Units and Districts. A report from each Unit and District should be submitted to their Department Legislative Program Division Committee Member (see page one) no later than **December 01**, **2018** and copy the Department Legislative Program Chairman.

<u>Year-End Report</u> Annual reports reflect the program work of the Department Units and Districts. Each Unit & District Legislative Chairman is asked to submit a narrative report to their Department Legislative Program Division Committee Member (see page one) no later than **April 10, 2019**, and copy the Department Legislative Program Chairman.

THE AMERICAN LEGION (TAL) FAMILY

Please see the next page with the list of the TEXAS AMERICAN LEGION LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION Members so that members, units, Districts and Divisions can reach out and contact them to ask:

- Please keep me informed and involved in the Legislative Activities within my area.
- Please forward legislative program information that is received so that I can ask the Auxiliary members to participate and strengthen the efforts from the Legion Family to our government leaders to benefit our military and veterans and their families.

TEXAS AMERICAN LEGION LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION

Chairman: Will Martin 361-564-8436 wimaty48@gmai1. com Vice

Chairman: Sheila Schulte 936-827-6777 skiflat@aol.com

Division Cdr: Bobby Baker 903-720-2316 or 903-645-5812

LegionIsdis@aol.com

Division Members

- 1. David Eagan, 210 Oak Forest Trail, Euless 76039 2020 817/532-8433, <u>d •</u> ea @yahoo.com
- 2. Sheila Schulte, 14307 Sasher Ln, Cypress 77429 2021 936/827-6777, skiflat@aol.com
- 3. Will Martin, 5207 FM 1685, Victoria 77905 2018 361/564-8436, wimaty48@gmai1.com
- 4. Ralph Langley, 228 NE Alpine, <u>Plainview</u> 79072 2019 806/292-4545) <u>miss fluffy@sbcglobal . net</u>

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

- 1. Bobby Baker, 493 CR 1100 Daingerfield 75638 2018
- 2. Don Toohey, 12820 Parmer L n, Apt 12104, Cedar Park 2018
- 3. Tom Marty 4324 Ledgestone Trail, College Station, 77845 20184
- 4. Ed Jarvis, 561 CR 3378, Cleveland 77327 2018
- 5. Will Martin, PO Box 1751, Victoria 77902 2018
- 6. Joe Page, 6758 Winifred Dr., Ft Worth 76133 2018



- 7. Connie Jo Popham, 3394 CR 106, Floresville 78114 2018
- 8. Richard Britton, 5328 Alps Dr., El Paso 79904 2018
- 9. Dan Dutton, 129 Bowie Rd, Weatherford, 76088 2018
- 10. Robert Overton, PO Box 532, Perryton 2018
- 11. Ron Cherry, 7915 Glen Stone, San Antonio 78239 2018
- 12. William Corl<, 15222 Cedar Ridge, Houston 77082 2018



2018 - 2019 Annual Supplement to the Programs Action Plan Legislative

Legislative Awards Deadlines and Submission Requirements:

Taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission is worth doing! It helps us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Just three simple steps to add your part to our national success story:

- 1) Please follow instructions as you fill out the National Report and Awards Cover Sheet found in the awards section of the National Programs Action Plan.
- 2) Provide details/examples about the activity as outlined in the award's materials and guidelines section.
- 3) Submit as indicated in the Annual Supplement to the Programs Action Plan. National Report and Awards Cover Sheet, deadlines, and Legislative committee contact information may be found on the Legislative committee page on the national website, www.ALAforVeterans.org.
- A. Unit Award: Most Outstanding Unit Legislative Program
- Deadline: June 1, 2019
- Send to **national division chairman** postmarked or emailed by 5 p.m. EST on the deadline listed above
- B. Department Award: Best Department Legislative Program
- Deadline: June 1, 2019
- Send to **national division chairman** postmarked or emailed by 5 p.m. EST on the deadline listed above

The National President's Award for Excellence (NPAE) will be awarded to those who emphasize the national president's focus through the American Legion Auxiliary's programs. See criteria and guidelines in the NPAE cover sheet located under "General Information" in the 2018-2019 Annual Supplement to the Programs Action Plan.