

LEGISLATIVE

2022-2023

The goal of the Legislative Program is to improve the lives of our Veterans, service members and their families through advocacy. The way we can accomplish this goal is by “getting our boots on the ground” to get out and vote. Reach out to young adult voters by building relationships with political and civic organizations geared toward young adults, such as the Young Republicans National Federation or the Young Democrats of America. Also, it is time for our Democrats and Republicans to



get their “Boots on the Ground for Our Veterans”. For this to happen, Auxiliary members must meet their current Representatives and new candidates to voice their opinions. Remember, although our Veterans and Auxiliary members have strong opinions about many important topics and many act as activists when vocalizing their opinions, they do so as a private citizens, not as representatives of the VFW or Auxiliary.

Many resources are available to help us achieve our goal of improving the lives of our Veterans, service members and their families through advocacy:

VFW Priority Goals are published annually by the VFW bringing attention to the issues that need corrected in order to strengthen the VA system for our Veterans. The VFW has a huge responsibility in D.C. and are actively lobbying Congress on behalf of Veterans. The *VFW Priority Goals* are grouped into six areas:

- Budget
- Health Care
- Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs
- Education, Employment and Transition Assistance



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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Reaching out to young adult voters
- ✓ Building relationships young adults' political and civic organizations
- ✓ Promoting the VFW Priority Goals
- ✓ Using Legislative resources available to make a difference

GOALS

- ✓ Be an advocate
- ✓ Be informed
- ✓ Be engaged



- Military Quality of Life
- National Security, Foreign Affairs and POW/MIA

A copy of the *VFW Priority Goals* pamphlet is available at www.vfw.org. Share this important information with all Auxiliary and community members to raise awareness of the issues our Veterans and military face.



VFW Action Corps Weekly is a free digital newsletter published to help members stay up to date on Veterans and national security-related legislation being discussed on Capitol Hill. Please subscribe to this free publication on the VFW Auxiliary National

website: vfwauxiliary.org, select “What We Do” then click on “Legislative.” The *VFW Action Corps Weekly* is a good source of information and notifies Auxiliary members of important topics and upcoming legislation about which members need to contact their Representatives.

Other resources and websites that can help us to help our Veterans are:

VFW Auxiliary: www.vfwauxiliary.org

Veterans of Foreign Wars:
<https://vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts>

VFW Checkpoint Magazine: www.vfwmagazine.org

VFW DC Office: www.vfwdc.org

VFW Legislative Blog: www.vfwonthehill.gov

House of Representatives: www.house.gov



Remember, the three things an Auxiliary member can do when putting his or her “Boots on the Ground for Our Veterans” are: 1) be an advocate, 2) be informed, and 3) be engaged. If every Auxiliary member does these things, there will absolutely be a positive impact on the lives of our Veterans, service members and their families.



LEGISLATIVE

Program Awards

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

Auxiliary Awards

1. A citation to each Auxiliary that is reported in the Legislative Program by December 31, 2022.
2. An award to the Auxiliary with the most outstanding consistent partnership and/or communication with young adult civic and/or political groups. An entry form (required) is available at vfwauxiliary.org/resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Youth Activities Chairman by March 31, 2023.
3. An award to the Auxiliary Chairman with the best promotion of the Legislative Program in the Auxiliary meeting. Reports must be received by the Department Chairman within 30 days of the meeting, but no later than April 15, 2023. Monthly reports are encouraged.

District Awards

1. A citation to each District Chairman who has 100% of his/her Auxiliaries in the District reported in the Legislative Program by December 31, 2022.
2. An award to the District Chairman with the best promotion of the Legislative Program in a District meeting. Report must be received by the Department Chairman within 30 days of the meeting, but no later than April 15, 2023.

NATIONAL AWARDS

Auxiliary Awards

1. Most outstanding consistent partnership and/or communication with young adult civic and/or political groups.
 - Citation to every Auxiliary that maintains a consistent partnership and/or communication with young adult civic and/or political groups. Criteria and entry form (required) available at vfwauxiliary.org/resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Legislative Chairman by March 31, 2023.

The Department Legislative Chairman must send a copy of all submitted entry forms to National Headquarters by April 30, 2023.

Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.

- Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences with the most outstanding consistent partnership and/or communication with young adult civic and/or political groups. Winners will be announced and awards presented at the 2023 National Convention in Phoenix, Arizona.

The Department Legislative Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National Legislative Ambassador Bobbie Goldman by April 30, 2023 for judging.