

LEGISLATIVE

2023-2024

One of the main objectives of the Legislative Program is to improve the lives of our Veterans, service members, and their families through advocacy. VFW and Auxiliary members can influence lawmakers where decisions affect Veterans and their families every day. We need to inform our members just what the Legislative Program is and how to use it.

Priority Goals

Study the issues laid out in the VFW Priority Goals which can be found on the National website. Go to vfwauxiliary.org, click on "What We Do", scroll down, and click on "Legislative". The goals are grouped under six areas of concern:

- Budget
- Health Care
- Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs
- Education, Employment, and Transition Assistance
- Military Quality of Life
- National Security, Foreign Affairs, and POW/MIA

Working together we can create good relationships with our elected officials and their staff to understand their positions on specific legislation and their reasons for taking that position. When communicating with elected officials and candidates for election, deliver a brief, concise message, but make your questions or statements clearly understood. Identify yourself, who you represent, and why you are contacting them in person, calling, writing, or emailing.

Host a town hall meeting and invite all candidates to attend and comment on Veterans' issues. Encourage members to attend town hall meetings where they can ask the legislators their views on Veteran issues.

Be an advocate by building relationships with political and civic organizations geared toward young adults.



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PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- ✓ Be an Advocate
- ✓ Be Informed
- ✓ Be Engaged



Ensure that legislative activities are nonpartisan.

Work with the Young Republicans National Federation and the Young Democrats of America, the ROTC, sororities, and fraternities of nearby colleges. Young people of today are becoming more involved with our political system, check with your local schools to see if they have a group you can work with. **Remember Legislative activity is not the same as political activity. We support bills, not people or political parties.**

VFW Action Corp Weekly is another way to stay informed and up to date. It is a free digital newsletter about what's happening on Capitol Hill, with Veterans and service member issues and with our national security. Subscribe at the National website vfwauxiliary.org under "What We Do," scroll to legislative, and click on then roll down and click on "VFW Action Corp Weekly" to sign up.

To follow **A Bill** through the stages of the legislative process, visit congress.gov where you may find a specific bill by its number or by a keyword or phrase.

VFW in D.C. One of the most crucial responsibilities of the VFW Washington, D.C. office is to actively lobby Congress and the administration on behalf of all Veterans. The office monitors all legislation affecting Veterans and alerts VFW and Auxiliary members about key legislation under consideration.

To contact the D.C. Office:

Website: vfw.org/advocacy

Phone: 202-543-2239

Mail: 200 Maryland Ave., N.E.

Washington, D.C. 20002

National President, Carla Martinez says we are **"Banding Together For Our Veterans"**.

Department President, Lynn Smith is asking us to **"Be A Warrior"**.

Three things **"A Warrior"** can do:

1. Be an advocate
2. Be informed
3. Be engaged.

Auxiliaries must remember that in any involvement in the election process, we must remain neutral.

Malta Member Resources provides a means of assuring our organization is on the same page as the VFW in our support or opposition to pending legislative matters. Among those are:

- VFW Legislative Priorities
- VFW Priority Goals
- VFW Fact Sheet

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Program Awards

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

Auxiliary Awards

1. A citation to each Auxiliary that is reported in the Legislative Program before December 31, 2023.
2. A citation and award to the Auxiliary that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community on Legislative issuers.
3. A citation and 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 and no later than April 15, 2024.

District Awards

1. A citation to each District Chairman who has 100% of his/hers Auxiliaries in the District reported in the Legislative Program before December 31, 2023.
2. An Award to the District Chairman with the best promotion of the Legislative Program in the District meeting. Report must be received by the Department Chairman within 30 days of the meeting and no later than April 15, 2024.

National Awards

Auxiliary Awards

1. Most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community on Veterans Legislative issues.
 - Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that educates their community on Veteran Legislative issues. Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Legislative Chairman by March 31, 2024, for judging.

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

- Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences that host the most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community on Legislative issues.

The Department Legislative Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National Legislative Ambassador by April 30, 2024, for judging.

Citations will be mailed directly to winning Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary account after National Convention.