

2016-2017 Legislative Plan of Action

Committee: **Mary Wright**, Chairman, 108 Glendale Street, Morganton, NC 28655
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Purpose:

Provides information and assistance to American Legion Auxiliary members to become grassroots advocates for veterans and their families with local, state and nationally elected officials supporting the Legislative agenda and initiatives of the American Legion.

Mission:

Encourage and Empower members to be more knowledgeable to take action on the American Legion's legislative priorities.

What can unit members do?

- 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 www.capwiz.com/legion/m/m/ sign up to subscribe.
- Assure your unit has a copy of the ALA Legislative Advocacy Guide and follow the suggestions it contains to help build legislative awareness in your community.
- Identify your U.S representative and two senators to establish a relationship and rapport with these individuals or members of their staff.
- Include legislative priorities in unit communications (social media, news letters).
- Attend or cosponsor local informational town hall meetings and or "Meet the Candidate" meeting in your community. Assure veterans/military issues are included in or addressed.
- Choose a different legislative priority each month and allow time for discussion a unit meetings.
- Encourage members to write letter, email, fax, telephone calls to their U.S representative and U.S senators.

Legislative Awards:

Each award application must include the cover sheet found attached to this plan.

National Citation- Unit Legislative Award (One Unit in each division)

Presented to a Unit Chairman reporting the most outstanding overall legislative program in the division. A typewritten narrative form and must tell the story of legislative activism and how it made a difference in the lives of veterans and their families. Include pictures and newspapers articles. Most be post marked by April 30, 2017 or by email sent EST on April 30, 2017 to the department Legislative chairman.

Department Awards:

1st, 2nd, and 3rd places for units and reporting best overall legislative program. April 30, 2017

Legislative Reporting

Mid-Year Report:

Mid-year reports may be in any form, however narratives (short stories) are preferred. Please include details of what your unit has done. You are encouraged to include pictures of your activities and events. Mid-year reports must be received no later than **December 15, 2016**. Reports may be emailed to Mary Wright at mmwright@brcainc.org or mailed to 108 Glendale Street Morganton, NC 28655. Please use Microsoft Word format.

Year-End Report:

Mid-year reports may be in any form; however narratives (short stories) are preferred. Please include details of what your unit has done. You are encouraged to include pictures of your activities and events. Year End reports must be received no later than **April 30, 2016**. Reports may be emailed to Mary Wright at mmwright@brcainc.org or mailed to 108 Glendale Street Morganton, NC 28655. Please use Microsoft Word format

As part of your narrative report please include answers to the following questions. :

1. How did you train members in the legislative issues promoted by the American Legion and how did your members employ those methods?
2. What legislative activities (town hall meetings, legislative receptions) did members attend in their communities and departments? Please describe.
3. How did members develop relationships with elected officials? Please describe.
4. Please describe how members were able to connect with their local and state officials and what were their successes?

Resources:

1. How to Host a "Meet the Candidate" Night
2. www.alaforVeterans.org Legislative page:
ALA Legislative Advocacy Guide
How to fill out the Congressional Contact Form
How to contact Legislators to Advocate for Veterans, Service members and their families
3. www.legion.org/legislative (The American Legion's Legislative Center):
Legislative Testimony Information
Point Papers, Priority Sheets, Letters of Support
Congressional Contact Report Forms
4. Follow us on Facebook: ALA National Headquarters: www.facebook.com/ALA for veterans, ALA Legislative Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/2013alalegislativecommittee or search for "ALA National Legislative Group Page"

