

DEPARTMENT OF NORTH CAROLINA
2014 – 2015 AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY PLAN OF ACTION
LEGISLATIVE

- Chairman: Evelyn Lewis, Chairman - EHL1309@AOL.COM - (919) 824-3181
- Hilda Pope – popehilda@gmail.com - (910) 897-5593 - Unit 109
- Elaine Richard – (828) 428-4807 - Unit 048

Purpose:

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

Mission:

- a) Encourage members to be more knowledgeable about The American Legion's legislative priorities.
- b) Encourage and empower American Legion Auxiliary members to take action on the legislative priorities of The American Legion.

What can Units do?:

- Order the Legislative Advocacy Guide. You may contact the Auxiliary Department to get a copy or you can download a copy from www.ALAforVeterans.org. You can also visit the Legion's legislative website, www.legion.org/legislative. By doing this you can keep current on legislative priorities.
- Host a Town Hall meeting with local and state representatives. Make veterans issues a primary topic for discussion.
- Hold a unit meeting to go over the steps outlined by the Legislative Advocacy Guide. The Auxiliary Legislative Advocacy Guide can help build legislative awareness in your community.
- Identify local municipal leaders and build a relationship and rapport with these individuals.
- Connect with civic organizations to communicate The American Legion's legislative priorities for potential support and membership opportunities.
- Subscribe to the Legion's Weekly Legislative Update to remain informed about current legislation activities on Capitol Hill. Visit www.legion.org/enewsletters to subscribe.
- Subscribe to e-newsletters of elected officials to monitor what they consider to be their priorities and to make sure that veteran and national security are among them.
- Encourage members to attend department legislative functions hosted by The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary.
- Subscribe to the Legion's Legislative Action Alerts to receive notification when the Legion calls on all Legion Family members to take immediate action on a topic. Visit www.capwiz.com/legion/mlm/signup to subscribe.
- Meet with local, state and national level public officials to discuss issues facing veterans, service members and their families.
- Encourage Auxiliary members to attend the annual Washington, DC Conference.
- Invite a local senator or representative to a unit meeting so they can explain the proper and appropriate method for communicating through the legislative chain.

Legislative Awards:

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

- 1) National Citation – Unit Legislative Award presented to a Unit Chairman reporting the most outstanding overall legislative program in the division. A typewritten narrative form not to exceed 500 words is necessary. Include pictures and newspapers articles. Must be postmarked by May 1, 2015 or by email sent 5pm EST on May 1, 2015 to the department legislative chairman.
- 2) National Citation Plaque – Million Membership Award – present a Unit Chairman for the best demonstration on how working the mission of the legislative committee engaged, retained and

attracted members to grow membership in the unit. Entries must be typewritten in narrative form, not to exceed 500 words, 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 newspaper articles. Entries are due to the department chairman postmarked by May 1, 2015 or by email sent by 5pm EST on May 1, 2015.

Department Awards: 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places for units and chairmen reporting best overall legislative program. Deadline May 1, 2014.

Legislative Reporting:

Mid-Year Reports: Each Unit legislative Chairman is required to submit a narrative report no later than **December 10, 2014**, outlining the unit's accomplishments and/or activities to the Department Legislative Chairman, Evelyn Lewis.

Year-End Reports: Each Unit legislative Chairman is required to submit a narrative report by **May 1, 2015**, outlining the unit's accomplishments and/or activities to Department Legislative Chairman, Evelyn Lewis.

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

- How many times did members contact (phone calls, emails, letters, faxes, visits, etc.) their national elected officials?
- What legislative activities (town hall meetings, legislative receptions) did members attend in their communities and departments? Please describe.
- What methods were used to develop relationships with elected officials? Please describe.
- How did members communicate the legislative priorities of The American Legion in their communities?
- Did your unit have a planned legislative program for their members?
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Complete the department Legislative report form and mail to the department chairman no later than **May 1, 2015**.