

LEGISLATIVE GUIDE 2009 – 2010

As we begin **“Serving Veterans Everyday as a Holiday”** with Department President Judy Lynch, National President, Rita Navarrete’, ask us to **“Reconnect with Our Heritage to Strengthen Our Future”**. As we reconnect with our heritage, we need to emphasize the importance of the Legislative Program. Members need to be reminded and trained (if needed) that they are the grassroots advocates for veterans and their families at all levels of government.

The purpose of the Legislative Committee is to familiarize, and educate as needed, on the process of the law and to show how each and everyone of us can make a difference to insure our voice is heard. The American Legion Auxiliary does not set their own agenda, we adhere to the philosophy of the American Legion and the issues they support.

The Legislative Committee will try to meet the following goals during this year.

- 1) Get to know your Legislators
- 2) To support the American Legion Legislative efforts
- 3) Form a good relationship with local legislators
- 4) Remind everyone, in conjunction with the Americanism Committee, to “Get Out and Vote” even at the local level.
- 5) To become an Advocate for our Veterans

By working together, with the American Legion, these goals can be accomplished. All Members are strongly encouraged to contact their Representatives and Senators, through letters or email, on issues the American Legion supports. A resource section is provided to assist you in contacting your local officials. As issues become available, they will be forwarded to Districts and Units.

Please feel free to contact this committee at any time if we can be of any assistance.

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LEGISLATIVE RESOURCES

1. ALA Legislative Advocacy Guide, available for free download at www.legion-aux.org
2. *The Dispatch*; periodical publication of The American Legion, subscription price is \$15.00 annually.
3. TAL Legislative Action Center; sign up with your email to receive alerts directly at <http://scapwiz.com/legion/home>
4. Congressional Yellow Pages; comprehensive guide to all Federal agencies and government offices, www.leadershipdirectories.com, (212) 627-4140
5. **Websites:**
 - a) <http://thomas.loc.gov/> - Link to Library of Congress. Search for bills and resolutions by bill or sponsor. Can also view Congressional Record, committee reports.
 - b) www.c-span.org/resources/capitalnews.asp - Link to newspapers in your state to read about state issues and legislation.
 - c) www.va.gov/ - U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs. You can read documentation of testimony given before Congressional committees, legislation pertaining to veterans.
 - d) <http://veterans.house.gov/> - House committee on Veterans Affairs. Access legislation, schedule, hearings, contact information.
 - e) <http://veterans.senate.gov/> - Senate committee on Veteran Affairs
 - f) www.senate.gov/ - List committees in the Senate. Access Veterans Affairs committee.
 - g) www.whitehouse.gov – White House
 - h) www.defenselink.mil/ - Department of Defense
 - i) www.state.gov – State Department
 - j) www.sumpremecourtsus.gov – Supreme Court
 - k) www.democrats.org – Democratic National Committee. 202-863-8000
 - l) www.rnc.org – Republican National Committee. 202-479-7000
 - m) www.census.gov – U.S. Census Bureau
 - n) www.capitoladvantage.com – Site profiles all Congressional members, contact information, standing committees and state congressional district maps.
 - o) www.gpoaccess.gov/crecord/index.html - Congressional Record

6. MEDIA CONTACTS:

ABC News: <http://abcnews.go.com>

CBS News: www.cbsnews.com

NBC News: www.msnbc.com

CNN: www.CNN.com

The Hill: www.hillnews.com

C-Span: www.C.Span.org

DEPARTMENT AWARDS

1. The *Alice Thomas Citation* to the District with the most Legislative Bulletin subscriptions ordered.
2. The *Romaine Roethel Citation* for the best narrative year-round report of a Legislative Unit Chairman in 1,000 words or less. This award was named for Past Department President Roethel from Unit #190 in Detroit, who served as Department President in 1969-1970. Romaine went on to become National President, serving in 1981-1982.

NATIONAL AWARDS

1. Department Legislative Award
A plaque presented to the Department Chairman in each Division reporting the Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program. Entry must be typewritten in narrative form, not to exceed 1,000 words. Do not include pictures, clippings, scrapbooks, folders, etc. All entries must be postmarked by June 1, 2010 and sent by the Department Chairman to the Division Chairman.
2. Unit Legislative Awards
A plaque presented to the Unit Chairman in each Division reporting the Most Outstanding Overall Legislative Program. Entry must be typewritten in narrative form, not to exceed 1,000 words. Do not include pictures, clippings, scrapbooks, folders, etc. Units will submit entries to the Department Chairman by **May 1, 2010**.
3. Individual Recognition Certificates
A recognition certificate will be presented to individual Unit members that forward the National Legislative Chairman copies of responses received from congressional leaders as a result of their advocacy efforts: letters, emails, visits, etc. Packets of correspondence **must be postmarked by June 1, 2010**.

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