

# Legislative

2009-2010 Celebrating the 90th Anniversary of the Auxiliary  
National President's Theme: Reconnect and Energize!

Plan of Action: Legislative Committee

Purpose: To train and inform our members to become grassroot advocates for veterans and their families with local, state, and nationally elected officials, supporting the Legislative agenda and initiatives of The American Legion.

## Committee Contact Information

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**National Chairman**  
Name: Vickie Koutz  
Department of Indiana

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**National Vice Chairman**  
Name: Eva Wallace  
Department of Washington

**Committee Member**  
Name: Linda Campbell  
Department of Tennessee

**Committee Member**  
Name: Priscilla Imburgia  
Department of New York

**Central Division Chairman**  
Name: Rose Wenger  
Department of Wisconsin

**Eastern Division Chairman**  
Name: Catherine Wheeler  
Department of Maryland

**Southern Division Chairman**  
Name: Kathee Coughlin  
Department of Florida

**Western Division Chairman**  
Name: Kim Cohen  
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# Legislative

## National-level Objectives

1. **Objective:** To increase the influence of the ALA on legislative offices on Capitol Hill and give members talking points and specific reasons to contact their legislators at least twice a year.

### Action Steps

- a. The American Legion Auxiliary is a nonpartisan group.
  - b. Write letters, send emails, faxes, and make phone calls to share your point of view with elected officials on legislative issues.
  - c. Build working relationships with reliable and dedicated staff people in those offices.
  - d. Provide frequent communication to elected officials for the purpose of legislative updates and status of specific legislation.
  - e. Ask legislators how they will vote on specific issues and ask for their response in writing.
  - f. Use technology to get the information out to the members.
  - g. Provide each Senate and House VA Committee members' office with a subscription of *HomeFront*.
  - h. Thank legislators immediately after votes are taken.
  - i. Sign up for the ALA Spirit of America eNewsletter.
2. **Objective:** To raise awareness of grassroots involvement by quarterly visits to local congressional offices when advocating for veterans issues/concerns.

### Action Steps

- a. Form good relationships with local legislators by inviting them to address TAL, ALA, and SAL.
  - b. Most Congressional offices include: Chief of Staff, Director of the District or State Office, Appointment Secretary, Legislative Assistants, Committee/Subcommittee Staff, and Case/Project Workers.
  - c. Contact your elected officials frequently and let them know your feelings/concerns on specific issues.
  - d. Ask for email addresses to stay in touch with the latest and greatest information.
  - e. Partner with other organizations that share similar interests and work together on issues related to veterans and/or military families.
  - f. In conjunction with the Americanism Committee, inform your members to "Get Out and Vote."
  - g. Provide transportation and babysitting services to get members and public to the polls.
  - h. Contact military family members to get absentee ballots early enough to be counted.
3. **Objective:** To continue publishing a quarterly legislative e-news, and to build subscriber numbers by 20% by July 1.

### Action Steps

- a. Advertise on Department websites.

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## **To be filled out by Department Chairman:**

Department Goals relating to above. Should have no more than three department-level goals supporting the National objectives outlined above. Department Chair - please share these with your Committee and forward a copy to your National Chairman. (This process does not need national approval.)

### 1. **Objective:**

#### **Action Steps**

a.

### 2. **Objective:**

#### **Action Steps**

a.

### 3. **Objective:**

#### **Action Steps**

a.

## **Committee Awards**

### 1. Department Legislative Awards

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 post-marked 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 her required date. All entries must be post-marked by June 1, 2010 and sent by the Department Chairman to the Division Chairman.

### 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 post-marked by June 1, 2010 to be considered.

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## Resources

1. ALA Legislative Advocacy Guide; available for free download at [www.legion-aux.org](http://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](http://www.leadershipdirectories.com), (212) 627-4140

See program page on [www.legion-aux.org](http://www.legion-aux.org) for additional resources