

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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To continue the oath that our military has taken to serve; the Legislative Program is focused on a number of priorities.

One of the main priorities of the Legislative Program is to improve the lives of our Veterans, service members and their families through advocacy. Your efforts combined with nearly 1.5 million other VFW and Auxiliary members can influence lawmakers whose decisions affect Veterans and their families everyday. Join the chorus of voices that will ring out in legislators' offices this year!

The lives of Americans especially our active-duty military, our Veterans and their families are affected everyday by the laws passed by the Federal and State legislatures.

The objectives of the Legislative Program are to

EDUCATE, PARTICIPATE AND GET OTHERS INVOLVED.

EDUCATE: Understand what the impact will be for the men and women and their families that we support.



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The Priority Goals reflect the resolutions passed by the VFW to strengthen and ensure an adequate VA system for millions of current and future veterans.

VFW Priority Goals for 2023-2024

- Budget
- Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs
- Education, Employment and Transition Assistance
- Health Care
- Military Quality of Life
- National Security, Foreign Affairs, Prisoners of War/Missing in Action

Learn who your state legislators are. You can find New York State legislators at: https://nyassembly.gov, https://nysenate.gov. Find out your auxiliary's NYS District(s). Inform your members of their legislators at your first Auxiliary meeting.

Learn who your National Senator and Assembly members are at: www.senate.gov- Charles Schumer and Kristen Gillibrand. OR www.congress.gov-go to "Find Your Member" put in your address. Inform your members at your first meeting.

It is important to remember that we must remain neutral.

PARTICIPATE:

- Track legislation on U.S Congress and Senate websites.
- Follow the White House and our elected officials' websites to find information and options for contacting their office.
- Follow your state legislators' legislation that impacts our veterans and service members in New York State.
- Attend town hall meetings and legislative events.

GET OTHERS INVOLVED

- Discuss at your monthly meetings current legislation, often found in the Action Corps.
- Vote and take others to register and vote.

<u>National Awards for Auxiliaries</u> Most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community on veteran Legislative issues.

- Citation to each Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that educates the community
 on Veteran Legislative issues. Entry form required and available in MALTA-Member
 Resources-Legislative. Entry form must be received by Department Chairperson Ann
 Davis by March 31, 2024, for judging.
- Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four Conferences that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community on Veteran Legislative issues.

Department Award for Auxiliaries

1) \$50 Award for the most Outstanding Auxiliary excelling in Legislative Education:

How many different Auxiliary members were educated on legislation that affects our Veterans? What types of materials were used?

2) \$50 Award for the Most Outstanding Auxiliary excelling in Legislative Participation: How many times during the year did your Auxiliary organize, speak with, or contact Congressman and Senators regarding Veterans concerns? What were the issues advocated?

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Auxiliary Legislative Program starts and ends with you, the Auxiliary Members.

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"Banded Together for Our Veterans" as we "Light the Flame of Hope for Our Veterans."