



2019 - 2020 Annual Supplement to the Programs Action Plan Legislative

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**For the most up-to-date contact information,
please visit the Legislative Committee page at
www.ALAforVeterans.org.



What is this program, and why do we have it?

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

Legislative Awards Deadlines and Submission Requirements:

Taking the time to share a favorite story about the positive impact you or someone you know has had on our mission is worth doing! It helps us tell the world who we are, what we do, and why we matter. Just two simple steps to add your part to our national success story:

- 1) Please follow instructions as you fill out the National Report and Awards Cover Sheet found in the awards section of the Annual Supplement to the Programs Action Plan.
- 2) Provide details/examples about the activity as outlined in the 2017-2022 Programs Action Plan.

National Report and Awards Cover Sheet, deadlines, and Legislative committee contact information may be found on the Legislative committee page on the national website, www.ALAforVeterans.org.

- A. **Unit Award:** Most Outstanding Unit Legislative Program (per division)
 - Deadline: June 1, 2020
 - Send to national division chairman postmarked or emailed by 5 p.m. EST on the deadline listed above

- B. **Department Award:** Best Department Legislative Program (per division)
 - Deadline: June 1, 2020
 - Send to national division chairman postmarked or emailed by 5 p.m. EST on the deadline listed above

Legislative Reporting:

Mid-Year Reports

Mid-Year reports reflect the program work of units in the department and are intended as an opportunity for mid-year correction. Each department Legislative chairman is required to submit a narrative report by **January 5, 2020** to the division Legislative chairman, plus copy the national Legislative chairman.

Year-End Reports

Annual reports reflect the program work of units in the department and may result in a national award for participants if award requirements are met. Each department Legislative chairman is required to submit a narrative report by **May 15, 2020** to the division Legislative chairman, plus copy the national Legislative chairman. Members and units should follow their department's protocol and deadlines for report submissions at the department level.

***Special 100th Anniversary History Program Facts:***

It is as true today as it was when the American Legion Auxiliary was formed. The ALA Legislative program follows the direction of The American Legion Legislative priorities. In 1943, The American Legion presented an Omnibus Bill, which soon became known to history as the “G.I. Bill of Rights.” It was signed into law on June 22, 1944 by Franklin D. Roosevelt. Former national commander of The American Legion, Harry W. Colmery, was credited with drawing up the first draft of the GI Bill. You can be certain that the ALA had a part in advocating for this most important document to become law. In addition, we recently had the signing of the Forever GI Bill, also called the Harry W. Colmery Veterans Education Assistant Act of 2017.

Mrs. O. L. Koger was National President in 1962 when National Commander of TAL James E. Powers invited the ALA representatives to attend The American Legion Legislative Conference. The Awareness Assembly was held concurrent with the Legion’s annual Washington meetings and in 1984, ALA members conducted their first joint Legislative rally with Legionnaires. American Legion Auxiliary members join annually with The American Legion as they meet with members of Congress and advocate for veteran issues.

In 1980, with the permission of the National Legislative Commission of The American Legion, a national Legislative Council was established. Members from each department were appointed to serve on this council for a term of two years. The council made it possible to reach all the members of Congress within a 24-hour period. This Council was reestablished in 2010 and again revitalized in the 2018-2019 ALA administrative year.