

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

KANSAS PLAN OF WORK

Auxiliary members are encouraged to get involved and stay informed on local and national issues of special interest to the organization. They keep in close contact with their legislative representatives about issues which concern veterans, young people, and entire communities. Auxiliary members know there is strength in numbers.

As advocates for our veterans, we encourage our members to contact their elected officials by phone, email or letter to implore them to keep the needs and sacrifices of our troops and their families front and center as they go about their legislative work on behalf of their constituents.

The American Legion Auxiliary supports the legislative priorities adopted by The American Legion. The American Legion's Legislative Division in Washington D.C. keeps abreast of current legislation relating to veterans' benefits, national security, and children and youth. Auxiliary members are encouraged to subscribe to The Dispatch, published by The American Legion to keep The Legion Family aware of legislative issues and the official positions of The American Legion on those issues. Also, watch for upcoming issues on the Kansas Auxiliary Web Site under Legislative issues and the Kansas Auxiliary Face book page for issues to bring to the attention of your local unit members.

Purpose Statement

To encourage and empower members to be more knowledgeable, and to take action on The American Legion's Legislative priorities.

Units are encouraged to develop dialogue with their elected representatives; to make their feelings on the issues relating to the service members and their families known to the legislators. This is how we can help effect positive change for those that we serve.

Subscribe to the Legion's Legislative Update to stay informed on veteran and military legislative issues. Keep checking for legislative postings on the Kansas Auxiliary Face Book Page—they will be posted as they occur for your immediate attention. Follow your elected officials social media sites for additional priorities and issues. Make sure that veteran/military and national security issues are among their priorities.

LEGISLATIVE

UNIT AND DISTRICT REPORT FORM

Units complete and return to District chairman; District chairmen compile information and return to me. This information is due to Division Chairmen mid-year and year end.

REPORT QUESTIONS:

(Please give details: if necessary use back or separate sheet of paper)

- 1.) Did your Unit hold any special Legislative meetings? _____
Held a Legislative Rally? _____
Held a Town Hall Meeting? _____
Held a Meet the Candidates Night? _____
- 2.) Did your Unit promote the American Legion's publication, "The Dispatch"? If so, how? _____
- 3.) How many letters did your Unit send to: The White House? _____ U.S. Senators?
_____ U.S. Representatives? _____ State Officials? _____ Local Officials? _____
- 4.) How many Personal Visits were made by Unit members to: U.S. Senators? _____
U.S. Representatives? _____ State Officials? _____ Local Officials? _____
- 5.) Please report the number of other contact by your Unit to (telephone calls, e-mails, Facebook, Twitter, other social media, etc.)? The White House _____ U.S. Senators
_____ U.S. Representatives _____ State Officials _____ Local Officials _____
- 6.) Number of replies received by Unit Members: The White House _____ U.S. Senators _____
U.S. Representatives _____ State Officials _____ Local Officials _____
- 7.) Number of Unit activities submitted to the Congressional Record?
- 8.) **NARRATIVE:** Describe any other outstanding Unit activity, making sure to reflect answers to these questions (use back or separate sheet of paper if necessary):

In addition, as part of your narrative report, please include answers to the following questions:

- How many times did Unit members contact (phone calls, emails, letters, faxes, visits, etc.) their national elected officials?
- What legislative activities (town hall meetings, legislative receptions) did Unit members attend in their communities and departments? Please describe.
- What methods were used by your Unit to develop relationships with elected officials? Please describe.
- How did members in your Unit communicate the legislative priorities of The American Legion in their communities?
- Did your Unit plan a legislative program for their members?

Unit and District Report Form

Unit name, number and contact information

Units, please complete and return to your District Chairman twice each year.

The mid-year report should contain information from March 1 – Nov 30th.
Year –end reports should contain information from Dec. 1 – Feb. 28th.

District chairmen will submit a mid-year report to Department and save the information to combine with the Unit year-end report to send Department a final year- end report that is all inclusive.

District reports are due to Department chairman **Edie Griffin**, 710 North Obee Rd, Hutchinson, KS 67501-9561 by Dec. 15 for mid-year and April 1 for year end.

As part of your narrative report, please include answers to the following questions. Please provide details, numbers, and specific topics/priorities as much as possible. The more you share the more others can use your good ideas!

- How many times did members contact, their elected officials about legislative priorities of The American Legion? How were discussions communicated?
- What legislative activities (town hall meetings, legislative receptions) did members attend in their communities and departments?
- How did members develop relationships with their elected officials?
- Following any meeting with U.S. Representatives or Senators, did you complete the Legion's Congressional *Meeting Report Form*? It can be found at www.legion.org/legislative/aar and is used to get discussions submitted to the Congressional Record.
- How many connected with other civic organizations to communicate The American Legion's legislative priorities?
- Describe other ways members promoted the Legion and ALA legislative priorities.
- Did members obtain Legion and ALA publications and updates available:
 - Subscribe to the Legion's *Legislative Action Alerts*?
www.capwiz.com/legion/mlm/signup
 - Subscribe to the Legion's *Legislative Update*?
 - Obtain a copy of the *ALA Legislative Advocacy Guide* www.ALAforveterans.org
 - Visit the legion's legislative website www.legion.org/legislative