

Legislative Program 2011-2012

We all want to Be the Best That We Can Be. We all want to Step Up for our Veterans. There is no better, easier way-no way that has more impact, than thru the Legislative Program. Better, because we go right to the top-our legislators are elected by us and answer to us. We hold them accountable for the actions they take or do not take. Easier, because although some may find it complicated, all we need to do is contact our legislators and let them know what we want them to do on behalf of our Veterans. And it doesn't have to be with a letter any more. Now we can fax, phone, write or email them. And when Legislators listen to us, our Veterans reap the benefits.

Through the Legislative Program we make communities aware of the needs of Veterans, and promote public awareness of the importance of Veterans' entitlements. We make legislators responsive to the needs of our Veterans and make them keep the promise that they made to care for them. We can educate our members on the legislative process and pending legislation that benefits all Veterans.

How can we do this? First we must educate, educate, educate. Teach members and the community how the legislative process works and how it really does make a difference. After all, we elect *them* and they work for *us*. We all learned the process in school, but like most things, we probably learned it for a test and locked it away somewhere. A simple reminder of how the law making process works will help. Be sure to know the VFW's position on issues.

Second, we need to arm ourselves with the right tools. Know who your elected officials are, and keep track of their voting records. Get to know your legislators and make them aware of the VFW's position on important pending legislation that affects Veterans, and be ready to act on special Legislative Alerts requested by the VFW Commander-in-Chief. Hold open forums for the community and write letters to the Editor that explains the importance of veteran's legislation. Encourage eligible veterans to register with the VA.

You can find valuable information here:

VFW Priority Goals Pamphlet

VFW Action Corps

www.vfw.org/VFW-in-DC/Action-Corps

VFW Checkpoint Newsletter

www.vfw.org/News-and-Events/Checkpoint

White House

www.whitehouse.gov

U.S. Senate

www.senate.gov

U.S. House of Representatives

www.house.gov

U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs

www.veterans.senate.gov

House Committee on Veterans' Affairs

www.veterans.house.gov

Library of Congress Thomas

www.thomas.gov

Washington Weekly

By ACTIVELY participating in the Legislative Program we WILL Be the Best That We Can Be.

Awards:

Mid-Winter Conference:

Citations to every Auxiliary who have participation in the Legislative Program by December 31st.

June Convention:

Citations to every Auxiliary Participated in the Legislative Program

Award to the Auxiliary by Membership Group with the most Legislative Contacts.

Award to the District Chairman with the Best Educational Program

Award to the District Chairman with the best Communication of Special Legislative Alerts

Cheryl Eaton

Legislative Chairman

681 Villa Ave

Akron OH 44310

330-603-5477

Caeton0713@yahoo.com