



American Legion Auxiliary

Department of Minnesota
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LEGISLATION

September/October 2018



Welcome to legislative year 2018-2019. It was nice to see that Minnesota had its largest voter turnout for the August Primary Elections in the last twenty years. Legislation is important to all of us. It determines everything from how much you will pay for a fishing license to will I have to pay inheritance tax on my parent's estate to will there be social security checks, Medicare and affordable health care around for all my life!

As American Legion Auxiliary members, our purpose is to be grassroots advocates for veterans and their families with local, state and national elected officials. **WE SUPPORT ONLY THE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA AND INITIATIVES OF THE AMERICAN LEGION.** The American Legion Family never endorses a candidate for political office.

How do we support the American Legion's legislative agenda? Communication is a key element. Our representatives need to hear from us via emails, phone calls, letters, and personal contact. They are powerful and effective influences on the way our elected officials will vote on military and military family bills. The American Legion issues "**ACTION ALERTS**" which let us know an important vote is about to take place. Sign up for these emails and get the latest American Legion legislative updates at:

www.capwiz.com/legion/mlm/signup
www.legion.org/legislative

Consider signing up for e-letters from your elected officials. I get 8th District Rep. Rick Nolan's e-letter on a regular basis. All I do is skim it and send off a quick email if I have special concerns about an issue. Your incoming email box won't be overwhelmed by correspondence from elected officials, but you'll have a quick grasp on what's happening legislatively.

The American Legion Auxiliary has a wonderful booklet called "Legislative Advocacy Guide" which can be downloaded for free on our national website: www.ALAforVeterans.org

IMPORTANT! IMPORTANT! IMPORTANT!

A resolution passed at our 2018 Department Convention requests mid-year and year-end reports/updates from **Unit Chairmen** can be sent to their **Department Chairman** as well as their **District Chairman**. **As Department Legislation Chairman I need to hear from all 438 Unit Legislation Chairmen by December 1! I am required to forward Minnesota's legislative information on to the NW Division Legislation Chairman in December.** Please don't panic! All I need is a paragraph or two OR a list of some legislative activities you are aware of concerning your unit members. I don't need a formal report unless you choose to do so. It can be emailed to me. Answer such questions as: Did you talk about legislative issues at your meetings? How many members talked to or contacted legislative officials? Did any members attend legislative receptions or town hall meetings? **Consider having your American Legion Family host a "Meet the Candidates Night"** before this November's critical general election. Information is enclosed in this unit mailing about how to host such an event. **Please take photographs to forward to me when interacting with legislators or political candidates!**

Mary Hendrickson, Department Legislation Chairman
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