

LEGISLATIVE
2017/2018

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The purpose of this program is to provide information and assistance to the American Legion Auxiliary members and it is the unit chairman's responsibly to keep her unit informed on upcoming legislative events regarding our veterans.

Identify your U.S. Representatives, U.S. Senators and local state representatives and have their email addresses available for your members thus making contact with them so much easier. Order a copy of the ALA Legislative Advocacy Guide to help build legislative awareness. The guide is also available to be downloaded from www.ALAforVeterans.org. To keep up with current legislative priorities the Legion's website is a great source www.legion.org/legislative.

As a selectmen in a small town I am very aware of the importance of local governing bodies and how the average community member is unaware of the complexity of their municipality. Many communities offer a monetary discount on property taxes for veterans and the amounts vary. Many towns provide some financial support to posts. I challenge our members to attend town meetings, selectmen meetings, public hearings, etc. Getting involved at your local level is a great place to start. Invite a local, state or national representative to a meeting and learn more about what they are doing to help our veterans.

In New Hampshire we are facing a heroin epidemic that is now being addresses by our legislature. Addiction affects families and loved ones and the more informed we are the better equipped we are to help. Many of our veterans suffering physical and emotional disabilities self medicate and soon become the victim of addiction. Let's do whatever we can to get them the help they need.

Put a face on the legislative topics involving our veterans. Share the human reality on how issues affect our veterans, service members and their families. Get the word out in your local media sources about current legislative issues relating to those who have served our country in its time of need. Send emails, letters, make phone calls and get involved. It only takes one voice to begin a dialogue and make a difference. Use yours this year and be that voice.

National legislative goal is: while advocating for the legislative agenda of the American Legion Auxiliary please raise awareness for our mission and increase brand loyalty. (Goal 5)

Resources:

legislative@ALAforVeterans.org. You can download the ALA Legislative Advocacy Guide this site? Legislative Action Alerts on the National website www.legion.org/legislative