

LEGISLATIVE/PAC PROGRAM

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One of the main goals of the Veterans of Foreign Wars is to ensure Veterans receive the entitlements due them.

VFW's National Legislative Service office monitors all legislation affecting veterans. It alerts VFW membership to key veterans' legislation under consideration and actively lobbies Congress and the administration on veterans' issues. These advocacy efforts are effectively supported by the concerted actions of our individual members.

The Department Legislative Committee provides a similar function at the state level by monitoring activities of the State Legislature and conducting advocacy efforts on those issues that affect veterans.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR LEGISLATIVE OFFICERS

Each District and Post should have a functioning Legislative Committee to assist the National Legislative Service and the Department Legislative Committee to disseminate legislative information to their members. We must have an informed membership to generate effective advocacy efforts. The important tools are available on the Internet and, particularly on the following websites:

Web sites of Legislative Interest:

- www.vfw.org - Go to "VFW CAPITOL HILL" and the National Legislative Service and Action Corps pages.
- www.vfwca.org/legislative.html - A menu of subjects is available.
- <http://thomas.loc.gov> - Extensive search facilities are available for researching legislative issues in Congress. For complete information on any bill, enter "H.R." and the number for House bills or "S" with the number for Senate bills.
- <http://veterans.house.gov> - Extensive information provided by the Chairman of the House Committee on Veterans Affairs. (There will be some partisan viewpoints expressed.)
- <http://veterans.senate.gov> - The similar site for the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs.
- www.califveterans.com - Information concerning veterans legislation in the California Legislature. (This site is maintained by the Chairman of the VFW Department of California Legislative/PAC Committee.)

District and Post Legislative Committee members may also sign up to receive periodic reports on important issues by sending their email address, name, and Post or District number to the Chairman of the Department Legislative/PAC Committee.

HOW TO REPORT

Report activities that are related to the VFW national and state legislative programs. Examples of reportable activities include organized letter writing to legislators in support of veterans issues endorsed by the VFW, Department of California; organized telephone activities to legislators; and personal calls on legislators in their offices by members of the Post. Members who attend the Department Legislative Day at the Capitol will have a very good opportunity to visit their own representatives in the State Assembly and the State Senate during this event. All activities should be reported on-line via the Department website under **Citizenship Education** at <http://www.vfwca.org> (Member Tools)

Important! - To qualify for awards, a Post must send a copy of the program reporting Form 12 to the Department Chairman of the Department Legislative/PAC Committee with all applicable attachments.

In the Post All-State Point Contest, 10 points each will be awarded for donations, in accordance with the All-State Guidelines, to the State VFW Political Action Committee and to the State Legislative Program.

Donations to the State VFW Political Action Committee should be sent to Department Headquarters along with a completed PAC contribution Form 21. This form is required by law, and no credit will be provided until a completed Form 21 is received. Note: Make all checks payable to VFWCA PAC.

Any Post or District donating \$250.00 or more to the Department of California PAC fund will receive a plaque at the State Convention.

For donations to the Department Legislative Program, make checks payable to VFW Department of California and mail to Department headquarters.

Each year, the VFW Department of California recognizes one member of the California State Senate and one member of the State Assembly as Legislators of the Year. Post and Districts may nominate legislators for these awards by submitting recommendations to the Chairman, Department Legislative/PAC Committee. Recommendations should be received prior to January 1, and should reflect activities by the nominee performed in the State Legislature during the previous year.

Each year, the VFW Department of California offers a Legislative Day at the Capitol program in Sacramento. Attendance at this program is open to all VFW members. The program includes a seminar on current legislative issues, and the presentation of the Legislator of the Year awards. Attendees also attend hearings by the Legislature's Committees on Veterans Affairs. The scheduling of this program is based on the Calendar of the State Legislature and will vary from year to year. Check the *Meetings and Events* page of the Department website for information.