

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.

One of the ways our organization can reach this goal is to endorse those candidates based on their support for Veterans and VFW legislative goals. Due to the strength of our organization, legislators need our endorsement, and we need their support in the Congress and in the State Legislature. The VFW is non-partisan and does not make endorsements based on party affiliation or any other issue except National Security and Veterans Benefits and Entitlements. The VFW-PAC endorses candidates who support Veterans' entitlements and VFW legislative goals.

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:

Websites 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://www.senate.gov/~veterans/public/> - 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.)

HOW TO REPORT

Report activities that are related to the VFW national and state legislative programs. All activities should be reported on-line via the Department website under **Citizenship Education** at <http://www.vfwca.org/membertools/programinforeporting.html>.

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.

Donations to the National VFW Political Action Committee should be sent to:

Washington D.C. Office

VFW Memorial Building NE # 1

200 Maryland Avenue N.E.

Washington, D.C. 20002

Phone (202) 544-5868

If a Post submits a donation to the National VFW Political Action Committee, you can report it by submitting a Form-12 under Citizenship Education to the Chairman of the Department Legislative/PAC Committee.

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

LEGISLATOR OF THE YEAR AWARDS

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, 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.

LEGISLATIVE DAY AT THE CAPITOL

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.

Individual, Post and Auxiliary Awards

Individuals, Posts and Auxiliaries making contributions to the **National VFW Political Action Committee** deserve special thanks and recognition. To express this appreciation, the following awards are made:

- ❖ A donation of \$500.00* VFW PAC Plaque
- ❖ A donation of \$1,000.00* Golden Eagle Award

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