



LEGISLATIVE “FREEDOM ADVOCATES” – AUGUST 2020 BULLETIN –

Welcome to the 2020-2021 Legislative year. For most of us this will be our second year in our Legislative Chairmanship at the unit, district or department level. For those that have volunteered to remain in place as I have due to COVID-19, I thank you, for your support and leadership for our unit members. I am asking all district legislative chairman from 2019-2020 that are remaining in place to send me an email providing any changes to your contact information address, phone # or email send information to my email address at joancannon@hotmail.com. If you are not remaining in place, please let me know.

As summer is approaching fall remember that the legislative handbook by The American Legion (TAL) is a tool available to all Legion Family members. Our most effective way to support TAL’s legislative agenda is communication by expressing our views on specific bills. With today’s technology, emails and phone calls we have a powerful influence on members of Congress. The American Legion National Commission requests that members of the American Legion Family make a personal or written contact with their senators and representatives. The request should be in the form of Action Alerts, which describe the issue to be addressed and personalizes your message. The American Legion maintains several webpages dedicated to their legislative activities. The home page is www.Legion.org or go directly to www.Legion.org/legislative, which is regularly updated with news and information on Legion legislative activities, current legislative priorities, recent testimony and more. It is also a great time to prepare for elections which are a few months away. The 2020 United States presidential election is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Be creative in holding a “Meet the Candidate” night. Make veterans/military issues the primary topic for discussions. Check out the how-to sheet at www.ALforVeterans.org.

The American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary speak with ONE voice, and we need to continue to keep communication open with our senators and representatives. Now is the time to make contact with them to again remind them our organizations need their help to encourage passage of legislation that will help veterans, servicemembers, and their families. A few important issues on TAL’s Legislative Agenda you can communicate to your legislators; toxic exposures and burn pits, support the VA’s suicide prevention efforts, protect the G.I. Bill and protect the American flag. Become better informed on these issues by checking out resources available at: www.Legion.org/legislative. Please remember in your communications the TAL’s Call to Action 5-21-2020, supporting 40,000 National Guard members in their Post-9/11 GI Bill benefits for their service. I have written on this Call to Action in past bulletins but still important to use your voice in support. As a member of the American Legion Auxiliary you can made a difference in changing old laws and making new ones.

A few websites to support your communication,

- National Legislative Division – grassroots@legion.org
- Find your senator – https://senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators
- Find your Representative – <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

I look forward to serving with our Departments auxiliary members for 2020-2021 as one of our 18,812 members who are American Legion Auxiliary Freedom Advocates. If we each make one call send one Action alert that is $18,812 \times 2 = 37,624$ contacts “POWERFUL.”

Joan Cannon,

Department Legislative Chairman