



LEGISLATIVE BULLETIN #2 2020~2021

Hello friends, this year's program is well underway and I'm here to give you even more information about what Legislative is focusing on this year. We are all aware of 2020 being an election year, how exciting, and with that comes a big opportunity to be a voice in helping to get your community registered to vote! As I mentioned before, having a voter registration booth any day of the week and with just a few volunteers for a few hours can make an impact. I have already seen one Auxiliary successfully host a registration booth and I would love to see more of that! You can also host a candidate forum with your Post, which is another great opportunity to meet the local candidates.

A strong message from the Legislative Ambassador this year is to vote to let our voices be heard and the VFW and the Auxiliary have the numbers to get our voices heard as well and to maintain the America we know and love and we are encouraged to register and vote early, stay informed by voting for the pro-veteran candidates with a history of supporting the military, including active duty and retired, and who believe in and support our causes. Know the issues by taking the time to study the candidates and see where they stand on veterans rights so that we can cast an informed vote at election time and lets choose candidates who support the VFW and our legislative efforts as well. As I mentioned in School of Instruction, know who your Legislators are, their record of voting, and what district you are in and when you find their names, follow their campaign and you'll be surprised what you learn. This is our opportunity to elect candidates that are as passionate about maintaining the rights and benefits of our Veterans AND active duty military men and women as we are.

So far this year, I have attended several Veteran-sponsored events and was able to meet several of the local Legislators in my district. They were pleasantly surprised to see our members out in the community and they we happy to participate in our functions and I will keep you all informed on what Legislation will look like in Olympia for our Vets throughout this next year.

As always, our focus is on the **2020-2021 PRIORITY GOALS** which are highly focused on *BUDGET, HEALTH CARE, DISABILITY ASSISTANCE & MEMORIAL AFFAIRS, EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND TRANSITION ASSISTANCE, MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE, NATIONAL SECURITY, AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS & POW/MIA*. For more in-depth information, find these under Legislation on the Auxiliary National Programs' website. Priority Goal fliers should also be posted at each Post.

There are many ways to be involved and here are some helpful resources and websites to stay informed:

- VFW Action Center – View Current Legislation Affecting Veterans:
<https://votervoice.net/VFW/bills>
- VFW Action Center – Take Action: <https://votervoice.net/VFW/Campaigns>
- VFW Action Center – See Where We Stand on Veterans Issues:
<https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/national-legislative-service>
- VFW Action Center – Find your Legislator:
<https://votervoice.net/VFW/Address>
- VFW Auxiliary Guide to Contacting Your Legislators:
<https://vfwauxiliary.org/wp-content/uploads/Legislative-Guide-to-Contacting-Your-Legislators.pdf>

I would love to see some Auxiliaries out in their communities promoting priority goals and also encouraging everyone to vote ~ let me see your work!

In closing, please remember that YOUR VOTE COUNTS! Let's make a huge effort to get to those polling booths and cast our vote because it really does matter! Blessings to all!!

Loyally,

Liz Herrera

Legislative

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Department of Washington “ Soaring to new Heights “