

Michigan Department VFW Auxiliary Legislative Bulletin November 2023

www.vfwauxmi.org

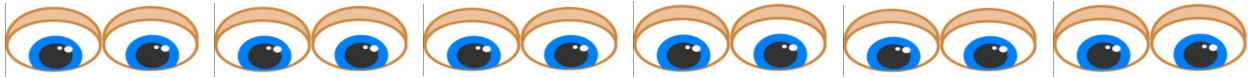
Facebook Page: Legislative Michigan

National Theme: Banding Together for Our Veterans
Department Theme: Our Veterans the Angels Among Us

Hello Michigan

1. Have you reported the number of members (total) who subscribe to Action Corps?
2. Have you signed up new members to Action Corps and reported the additional count?
3. Have you sent a letter or an email to your congressional representative in DC about supporting any of the bills for veterans? (see October's newsletter)
4. Have you written or met with your state representative?
5. Have you printed the priority goals from Malta and distributed copies at your post home?
6. Have you helped others find who their legislator is using any of the websites shared through Malta or Action Corps?
7. Do you know a bill in Lansing is H.B.xxxx or S.B.xxxx and those in DC are H.R.xxxx or S.xxxx?
8. Have you reported on each of these items?

Remember I am collecting the individual's name and the bill name. So, include this information when you report. The more information that you provide detailing who, what, when, that you put into your report, the easier it is for the chairmen to review and accept.



From the National Ambassador, Sherry Howland, Legislative work

Legislation to watch

There are several bills in the House and Senate that are imperative that we educate and have our members become active in achieving our elected representatives' support. All are listed on the vfw.org website in Legislative Priority Goals and in the subparagraphs of pending and current legislation.

While there are too many to list here, many are certainly necessary for our watchful eyes.

- Major Richard Star Act 2023 – Still a top priority issue. A proposed legislation that would allow combat-wounded veterans who are medically retired before serving 20 years to concurrently receive military retirement and disability pay, without offsets.
- Camp Lejeune Justice Act of 2022 – It is important that our veterans and their families know that if they are awarded compensation by the courts, their VA disability compensation is not affected. So, if they are in the Camp Lejeune category, they should apply for the benefit.
- Women Veterans Issues – It is imperative that we are alert for any legislation affecting the health care or any other benefits afforded women for their military service. Legislative Chairs, I encourage you to make sure our members are educated and up to date on all legislative issues regarding our veteran men and women and how to take necessary action to ensure Legislator support.

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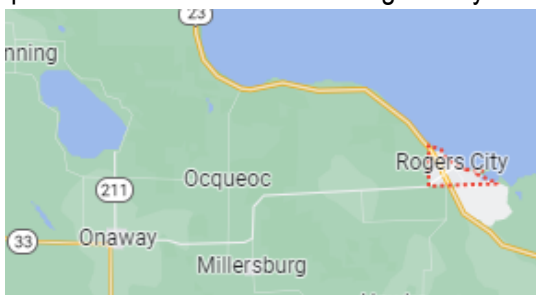
Hello Michigan

The calendar year is coming to a close and just a few months remain in this program year. Please review the list on the guide sheet for auxiliary achievements.

- Did you utilize resources from Malta? Check yes/no. If not, why not? You still have time to get this done.
- Did you ask your members how many receive Action Corps? I need a total number. I am asking for 10% participation. Just one for every ten members. I know this is possible.
- Did your auxiliary work to promote the VFW Priority Goals? Check yes/no. If not, why not? Many of the bills that are listed within Action Corps fall within the Priority Goals.
- Were you specific in reporting contacts with legislators? Names and bill number/name?
- Did you invite your state representative to your awards banquet for Voice of Democracy/Patriot's Pen? Some representatives might be willing to work with your auxiliary to write a resolution to honor your students. Ask; he who hesitates is lost. It never hurts to ask. You might get surprised.
- Did you look at the National awards listed on the guide sheet? The entry form is available in MALTA. The completed entry (and any supporting documents) need to be sent to me by March 31, 2024.

If you are computer savvy, have you checked out the department Facebook pages for each chairmanship? Many chairmen are posting hints and helps that you might be able to implement in your auxiliary.

Mid-winter conference is a couple of months away. It will be held at the Kalamazoo Radisson – Downtown. If you took petitions for a new veterans' cemetery following fall conference, or downloaded the petition I posted on the Legislative Facebook page, bring your completed pages to Mid-winter to give to me. I hear there is a possibility of a spot between Black Lake and Rogers City for a new veterans' cemetery. Let's push this through for our veterans.



Keep up the good work.

Loyally

Aileen Adragna, Department VFW Auxiliary Legislative Chair 2023-2024

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