

March Legislative Program Newsletter

Madeline "Maddie" Cunningham-Colston, Chairman

Hello, Sisters and Brothers of California!

We are a week away from the State's primary election, and the political ads for the candidates for the US Senate seat are filling the airwaves. It is important to ensure that our members know that local and state legislative activities may impact veterans and service members, as well. We should all explore what might be available close to home and look for ways to engage in the legislative process there.

To start, type into your web browser "_____ (fill in the name of your county) County veterans" and see what pops up. Is there some sort of Veterans Commission in your city or county government? My county has an "Office of Military & Veterans Affairs" and the biggest city in my county has a "Military, Veterans & Family Resources" organization attached to the Mayor's Office. What's in your county?

Once you have located such an office or commission, see if they have a website. Go to your city hall meetings and see what duties the office performs or services the office provides on behalf of veterans. These organizations will understand your interest if you identify yourself as a member of the Auxiliary and provide them with a copy of the **2024 VFW Priority Goals**. This brochure lays out the legislative initiatives we are pursuing.

There is a citation from National that goes to every Auxiliary that hosts some sort of event to educate the community on veteran legislative issues. If your Auxiliary hosted a candidate's forum or town hall meeting where veteran concerns were addressed, you should complete the form and send it to me by March 31. The form is here: <https://malta.vfwauxiliary.org/MemberResources>, select the "Legislative" tab and go to "2023-2024 Legislative Award Form No. 1."

We are coming into the 'home stretch' of the reporting year: it's time to finish strong! If your Auxiliary has not yet completed at least one Legislative Report, you still have time to report how many members signed up for the **Action Corps Weekly**, or email the **VFW Priority Goals** to an elected official, or **host a town hall meeting with a local candidate**. Please help get out the vote, and then report how many of your Auxiliary's members voted! If you have 'writer's block' and can't think of anything, call me: I can help fix that! It is vitally important that every Auxiliary does at least one Legislative activity and reports on it – our veterans deserve it!

Loyally,

Maddie

Madeline Cunningham-Colston

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