

PETS 4 VETS DEPARTMENT

POSTER COMPETITION

Legislative Department Chairperson: Desiree DeVille

California Senate Bill 245 (2019-2020) “Pets for Vets Act” and Awards

I am very excited to bring this year a new program to promote Senate Bill 245 which passed in California in late 2019 and early 2020. Similar bills have passed in many other States. Because California was in a Covid-19 lockdown, this bill passed without much fanfare or awareness. SB 245 called **“Pets for Vets Act” gives all Veterans the ability to adopt cats and dogs without adoption fees from all State shelters.** Many Shelters are not aware of its passing. To promote awareness, I am asking Auxiliaries to make posters to hang in each of their local shelters, as well as in their VFW post to raise awareness of this great bill for our Veterans. We all know how pets help our Veterans that suffer from PTSD and other issues. Whether the animal is service dog trained or a companion pet, it makes a huge difference for our Veterans quality of life. Therefore, the Department **Legislative Program will Provide a Citation to the winning poster in each of the 8 Divisions as well as participation citations for each Auxiliary.**

More information about this Bill can be found at

https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billNavClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB245

OTHER LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM AWARDS

Awards for Auxiliaries:

1. Most Outstanding Activity and/or event educating their community on veteran legislative issues.
 - Citation to every Auxiliary that hosts an activity and/or event that educates their community on veteran Legislative issues. Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. Auxiliaries must send the entry form to their Department Legislative Chairman by March 31, 2024, for judging.
Citations will be mailed directly to participating Auxiliaries from National Headquarters.
 - Citation and \$25 to one Auxiliary in each of the four conferences that hosts the most outstanding activity and/or event educating their community on Legislative issues.
The Department Legislative Chairman must sign and send a copy of the completed Department-winning entry form to the National Legislative Ambassador by April 30, 2024 for judging.
Citations will be mailed directly to winning Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into Auxiliary account after National Convention.