

Legislative & VFW Political Action Committee



DIRECTOR

**Kathy Jo
McMillion Reinsmith**
117 Pugh Drive
Shippensburg, PA
17257-9297

It's Time for America's Military Heroes to receive the entitlements and benefits promised to them for their service to our country. We live in the greatest nation in the world and have many things to be thankful for in our lives made possible by our heroes, our active-duty military, National Guard and Reserves troops and our veterans. It is now time for us to be vigilant that our elected officials at all levels of government continue to support the VFW's Legislative & Security Priority Goals for our veterans and their families. **It is extremely important for everyone to participate in this program in one way or another to ensure a strong military and national defense.** Do not put off this program to the last minute. Start immediately, day by day, to ensure our veterans do not lose current benefits and entitlements due to our economic situation and our elected officials, especially those who have not served in the military and do not understand the military life. Also, promote the VFW Political Action Committee (PAC). This is extremely important during election years because it includes activities that influence the outcome of elections. VFW-PAC can provide information on how elected officials voted on various bills and laws. Two good sources to review their records include:
thomas.loc.gov/home/rollcallvotes.html
www.senate.gov/reference/common/faq/how_to_votes.htm

LEGISLATIVE

How can we accomplish our goals? First, keep up with what is happening across our nation. Excellent sources for information include the VFW Legislative & Security Priority Goals pamphlet, *Checkpoint*

Newsletter, the VFW Washington Weekly online, the VFW Action Corps, the VFW Foundation, the National Legislative Service Office in Washington, D.C., the VFW and Ladies Auxiliary National Magazines and Web sites.

Each time one reads or hears of a veteran benefit/entitlement or legislation being discussed, take action. Especially, if the legislation harms our veterans by cutting their benefits and entitlements that they have earned by protecting our nation, our national defense, and our national security. Get your pens in gear and your telephone lines burning. Send e-mails, faxes, letters and/or make personal visits. Communicate with legislators and elected officials. Be polite and courteous as well as brief and to the point using the guidelines taken by the VFW. Thank them and inform them that you will be in contact with them in the future. We must keep in mind that all action taken on legislation concerning veterans **MUST** originate with the VFW. Remember: Numbers are what counts in getting our elected officials to vote or listen to our cause: our veterans. If you disagree with the VFW stance on a particular issue, **DO NOT** indicate you are writing on behalf of the Ladies Auxiliary or the VFW.

Secondly, hold Schools of Instruction at all levels of our organization and in our communities. Educate our sisters, families, friends, and communities on the legislative process. Unfortunately, some schools do not teach government anymore. Most people do not know there are three branches: executive, judicial and legislative. Each branch has special powers and duties according to our Constitution that our forefathers founded for our nation to be preserved and to flourish. As Legislative/VFW-PAC Chairman, be informed and get our Auxiliary Sisters actively involved in legislative issues and VFW-PAC as a unit in conjunction with the VFW. Work the Legislative/VFW-PAC program with your VFW counterpart as a team.

Thirdly, join the VFW Action Corps. By doing so, one will receive information of value that will also be valuable to our veterans once we have taken action. In order for us to be effective, we must help support this area also. We must promote legislation for our veterans' benefits/entitlements and national security. Be prepared to respond immediately to any national Legislative Action Alert posted on either www.vfw.org, www.ladiesauxvfw.org or listed in the Washington Weekly requested by our VFW Commander-in-Chief.

Lastly, keep abreast on the latest health issues and the legislation facing our veterans. Traumatic Brain Injury, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), mental health care, substance-use disorders, the Persian Gulf Syndrome, Hepatitis C, Agent Orange, to mention a few, are all real in the lives of our veterans. Our country promised our veterans health care as a benefit and entitlement. Nevertheless, this is an area most neglected and where our country decreases or eliminates funds first for other programs. Our veterans went to serve our country healthy. Some did not return and others face many trips to medical facilities. Get our active-duty military and veterans to register for the VA before they need medical care. Many of our younger soldiers do not realize the importance of registering now for future services if a need should arise.

VFW POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (PAC)

It's Time for America's Military Heroes to receive full compensation for their duty, courage and sacrifices. Our military men and women continually defend our freedom and national security we are so fortunate to have today. It is of utmost importance we ensure veterans are receiving their entitlements as promised for their service to our country. Supporting the VFW Political Action Committee (PAC) is an excellent way to get this done.

VFW National Convention delegates created VFW-PAC 30 years ago. It operates under bylaws approved by the VFW National Council of Administration. Every Ladies Auxiliary should participate in VFW-PAC, because the Board looks out for our national security, our veterans, our military personnel and their families. VFW-PAC supports pro-veteran and pro-defense candidates. VFW-PAC also tracks which elected officials support our VFW Legislative & Security Priority Goals.

The Federal Election Commission (FEC) regulates all VFW-PAC operations. This includes providing the FEC with scheduled reports of all VFW-PAC activities.

Who can donate to VFW-PAC? Donations and solicitations can only be accepted from VFW and Ladies Auxiliary members and employees. VFW Departments, Districts, County Councils, Posts and Auxiliaries may contribute to VFW-PAC through fundraising events. Fundraising events must have signs or flyers posted that this is a VFW-PAC fundraiser. All monies collected from fundraising events should be sent within 30 days of the event.

All VFW-PAC donations MUST be sent to:

VFW-PAC
VFW Washington Office
200 Maryland Avenue, N.E.
Washington, DC 20002

Communicate to all who will listen on the importance of the Legislative and VFW-PAC. This program is vital to our military personnel, our veterans and their families' futures. Get involved and promote, promote, promote for *It's Time for America's Military Heroes* to receive what they have been promised and have earned.

RESOURCES

Ladies Auxiliary and VFW Magazines
VFW's *Checkpoint Newsletter*
VFW Washington Weekly
VFW Washington, D.C., Office
VFW Action Corps
VFW Foundation
Library of Congress "Thomas" search engine

WEB SITES

www.ladiesauxvfw.org
www.vfw.org
www.vfwdc.org
www.house.gov
www.senate.gov
www.whitehouse.gov
www.thomas.gov
www.govtrack.us

AWARDS FOR DEPARTMENTS AND DEPARTMENT CHAIRMEN:

Departments will be judged on work done in the areas of both Legislative and VFW-PAC. For purposes of figuring participation, an Auxiliary may participate in either or both programs.

For each program award, unless otherwise noted, \$25 will go to the first-place Department with a keepsake to the Chairman; second-place Department will receive \$15 with a citation to the Chairman.

1. *Citation to each Department Chairman with at least 80% participation by Auxiliaries.
2. Award to the Department with the best overall promotion of the VFW Legislative & Security Goals in detail.
3. Award to the Department with the most involvement by Auxiliaries in response to any National Legislative Action Alert.

4. Award to the Department with the best overall promotion encouraging members to communicate with legislators on veterans' issues in detail.
5. Award to the Department with the best educational program on the legislative process in detail.
6. Award to the Department with the best overall promotion of VFW-PAC in detail.
7. Outstanding Performance Award in each Membership Group based on criteria on Page 1.

AWARD FOR NATIONAL CHAIRMAN:

"It's Time for America's Military Heroes" Plate to the National Chairman based on quality and timeliness of material.

***NOTE: Winners will be published in the *Year-End Officers' & Directors' Report* and awards will be mailed to the 2009-2010 Department President for distribution.**

CONFERENCE CHAIRMEN



BIG TEN STATES
Jean Barton
8100 Regent Drive
Lincoln, NE
68507-3366



EASTERN STATES
Sharon Cosco
133 Knob Hill Way
Camden Wyoming, DE
19934-1990



SOUTHERN STATES
Donna Wimsatt
6304 Sonnette Way
Louisville, KY
40258-2958



WESTERN STATES
Tami Elliott
1997 Zell Road
Ferndale, WA
98248-9763