

BOOK OF REPORTS

LEGISLATIVE 2023 – 2024

The American Legion, through grassroots advocacy has an agenda for the 118th Congress. The most effective way to support the American Legion's Agenda is through grass roots efforts and individuals having their voice heard.

Units were encouraged to contact U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives, State Officials, Local Officials, and the White House through the grass roots effort. This included online letters, phone calls and direct contact.

At the end of the 2024 year, the Department of Arizona had 29 out of 86 reports for year-end were submitted. 18 Units actively worked on the Legislative Program. There were 11 Units that had nothing to report but submitted a report. Out of the 29 reports, four included a narrative that was eligible for a Department award. Those four were then judged by three people not affiliated with any of the participating Units. No reports received after the May 1st deadline.

Information was communicated to Unit members on a regular basis by posting information on the Department website, including call to action alerts. Links to the Dispatch and various other vital information is posted there as well and members are encouraged to reach out to their Senators and Representatives. Members were also encouraged to sign up online for the Dispatch about upcoming legislation and other vital information the American Legion and the American Legion Auxiliary supports. 40 members signed up for the Dispatch. Information on how to find all of Arizona local Senators and Representatives was shared in a monthly bulletin posted on the Department website.

There were 515 letters sent to U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives, State Officials, Local Officials, and the White House through the online grass roots effort. There were 573 letters mailed via US Postal Service.. There were 192 other contacts with U.S. Senators, U.S. Representatives, State Officials, Local Officials, and the White House. There were 295 replies received from U.S. Senators, U. S. Representatives, State Officials, Local Officials. There were no replies from the White House. Replies were received by email, letters, and phone calls.

One Unit hosted a "Meet the Candidate Night" for those seeking office. Another Unit and Post Legion Family hosted a community forum at the Post home on the PACT Act led by US Secretary of Veterans Affairs Denis McDonough, US Representatives Ruben Gallegos and Greg Stanton, and other US House of Representatives members. Another Unit hosted staff members from the office of Eli Crane, Representative 2nd Congressional District to answer questions.

Members connected and met personally with State and Local officials at rallies, and other events. Others made contact through phone calls, letters, and emails. Officials were invited to speak at Post special events and holiday functions. They were able to communicate with State and Local officials on a personal one on one level. Members discussed their concerns and issues they faced.

Six Units promoted voting, by telling members how important voting is and to get out and vote. Unit members provided transportation to those wanting to vote in local elections. Members also worked at polling places and helped members that needed assistance filling out mail in ballots.

There are Posts and Units that have members that are local and State officials and have been Keynote speakers or attended dedicated events.

In February members from the American Legion Department of Arizona attended the National Conference in Washington D.C. The Arizona delegation along with other delegations from the nation, stormed Capitol Hill to urge Congress to pass legislation that the American Legion supports.

Through the grassroot efforts, the Department of Arizona has been a vital part of this year's success in Legislation that has passed and will continue to make calls and write letters as needed to advocate for veterans, active-duty military, and their family's rights.

For God and Country,

Kathy Amery, Legislative Chairman 2023-2024