



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
Department of North Carolina



LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

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2020-2021 Mid-Year Legislative Report

The following is what has been reported to this chairman for activities from August 2020 till December 15, 2020.

As with almost all departments activities have been curtailed due to the Covid 19 pandemic. Out of 161 unit in North Carolina, 10 units reported the following activities. Auxiliary members have subscribed to TAL Legislative Action Alerts, the Legislative Updates and have subscribed to many e-newsletters for their elected officials on the local and state level. The units used social media outlets to post the TAL Legislative priorities for not only their members, but for all you use these types of outlets for information. Units got creative and connected with other civic organizations in their communities to share Legislative priorities pertinent to them as a group. Many stated when they could attend local town hall meetings in person they did while others stated their towns had the meetings posted either on Facebook or on the towns webpage for citizens to view live. Letters were sent to local, state, and federal representatives via email and hard copy giving the Legion Family's view pertaining to the Legislative Agenda. Most received very detailed answers while other just thanked them for contacting them.

The units reported sharing the ALA Legislative Advocacy Guide with their members and with the entire Legion Family. Again, due to Covid 19 and NC Governor asking groups not to meet, many units did not feel comfortable due to age, health issues and the pandemic to even consider holding any type of forum for officials to attend. The units did state they sent their questions and concerns to those holding office at the current time and sent those questions to anyone that was running for any office to get their views on issues and these were shared with their members via social distancing at meeting, mail, and email.

No unit held any type of meet and greet meeting during 2020 for candidates running for office.

Other things units did report are as follows: members worked the local election stations in their areas, they are updating their C&B and Standing Rules to be in compliance with the national rules, before the pandemic was declared, many members attend the March 2020 DC Conference and some brave units held 100th Anniversary celebrations while most units are still following guidelines put out by the NC Health and Human Service Director and the Governor to not meet unless it was 100% safe to do so.

With the vaccines being made available for those who wish to get it, we hope the units will now feel more comfortable about meeting and being able to do more.

I continue to urge all members to sign up for the following information through the American Legion:

*Legion's Legislative Action Alerts @ www.capwiz.com/legion/mlm/signup

*Legion's Legislative Update @ www.legion.org/enewsletters

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Most importantly, think about all things that are pertinent to our veterans, see if you are contributing in anyway so that you can report. Things to consider are: Voting in local, state, and national elections; supporting the Flag Amendment, advocating for expanded benefits for Agent Orange, female veteran's healthcare, ending homelessness for our veterans, supporting the GI Bill and so many more. If you shared any of this information with your Legion Family members and or the community, you have been working the Legislative Program. We, as ALA members need to stop and ask each member what they have done either with the unit or as individuals. That can be accomplished in various ways, such as filling in a questionnaire by snail mail, email or by phone. This way, whether you can meet as a group, you will still be able to report the activities being done by members in your unit. This way of communication does not just apply to Legislative but to ALL programs of the ALA.

This concludes the Legislative Report. I wish for you a continued and successful conference and please accept this report that will appear in the virtual yearbook.

Martha Corriher, Dept of NC Legislative Chairman 2020-2021