



Sherry Howland

Legislative Ambassador

2023 -2024



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CELEBRATE

AS MEMBERS OF THE VFW AUXILIARY, WE CAN CELEBRATE AND APPRECIATE THE LEGISLATIVE VICTORIES THAT WE, AS AN ORGANIZATION, HAVE HELPED BRING ABOUT. NEW LEGISLATION TO BETTER SERVE ALL VETERANS, SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES HAS BEEN PASSED, YET THERE IS SO MUCH MORE TO DO.

Major Richard Star Act

PACT Act

Forever GI Bill

VA Mission Act

Blue Water Navy
Veterans Act

Veterans' Benefits



CONFUSED?

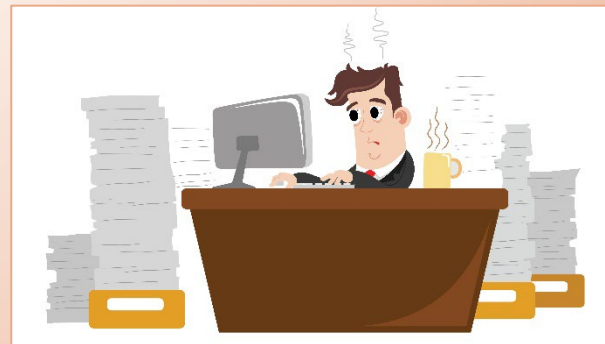
MANY OF OUR MEMBERS OFTEN SEEM CONFUSED, DON'T UNDERSTAND OR HAVE ENOUGH KNOWLEDGE REGARDING LEGISLATION TO BENEFIT OUR VETERANS, SERVICE MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES.

MANY AREN'T SURE WHAT THE ORGANIZATION'S LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES ARE.



COMMUNICATE

- Create good relationships with our elected officials.
- Communicate with the offices of our elected officials.
- Telephone their local or Washington D.C. Offices.
- Write to them. Remember they receive tons of snail mail every day so make it memorable.
- Email them.
- **BE BRIEF – MOST ELECTED OFFICIALS WILL APPRECIATE CONCISE COMMUNICATION.**



COACHING

Develop a Coaching plan within Departments and Auxiliaries

- The more our members know and understand about legislative matters affecting our veterans and their families, the better we can support them.
- Make sure our members understand that their home state legislation can also impact veterans and their families.
- Increase our own knowledge and understanding.
- Being visible in our legislative communities, both state and federal, is a responsibility each of us should share and undertake.
- It should be a part of the mission of our Legislative Chairmen to ensure our members fully understand legislation and the legislative process.

POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT

- If asked to endorse a political candidate, explain that the VFW Auxiliary prohibits such an endorsement. Do not allow your VFW Auxiliary to appear to support or endorse an individual candidate.
- Host or attend town hall meetings. Encourage your members to attend with you and to participate.
- Develop intelligent questions for candidates during election campaigns or during discussion of legislative issues, to address the issues our membership supports.



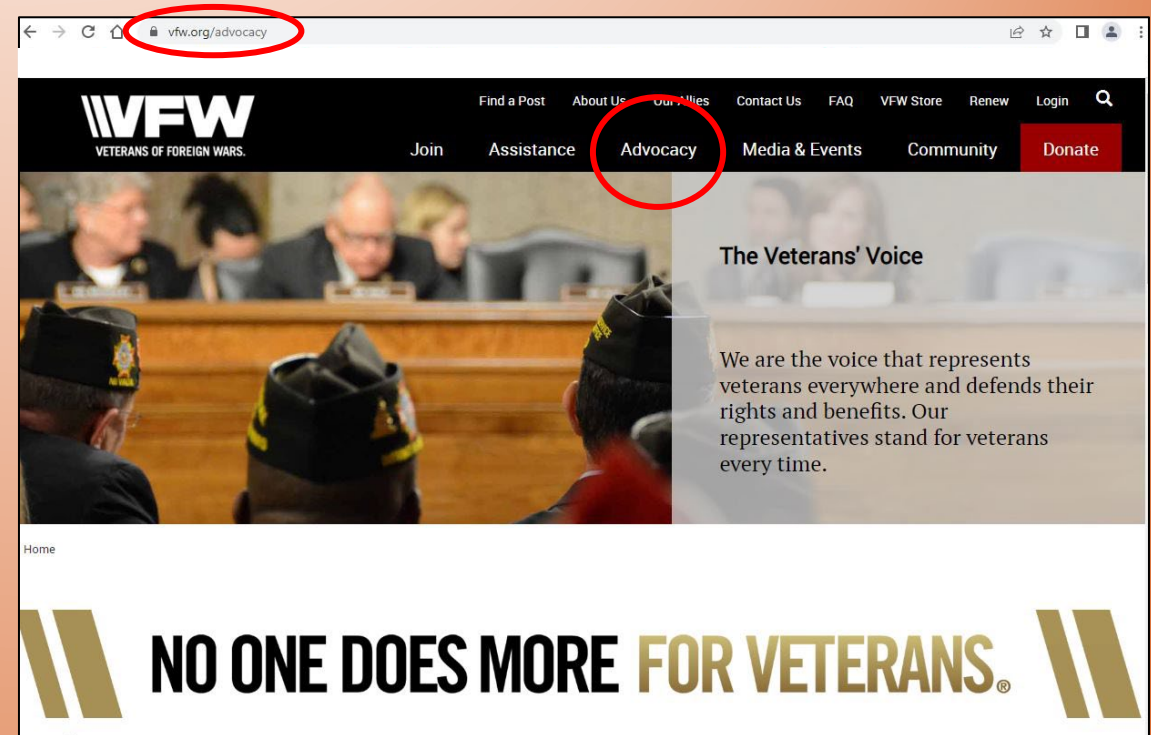
WHERE TO LOOK?



- Action Corps Weekly
 - Sign up to have it delivered weekly to your email in box.
 - [vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts](https://www.vfw.org/advocacy/grassroots-efforts)
- Research websites offering nonpartisan explanations to introduced and pending legislation:
 - [congress.gov/browse](https://www.congress.gov/browse)
 - [govtrack.us/congress/bills](https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills)
 - [Senate.gov/legislative/billsActs_laws.htm](https://www.senate.gov/legislative/billsActs_laws.htm)
- Websites of our elected officials. Nearly everyone has a website.
- Town hall meetings are good opportunities to learn about issues impacting veterans, service members and their families.
- VFW Auxiliary MALTA Member Resources

VFW WEBSITE

- www.vfw.org – A very good place to see and understand the organization's priority legislations.
- **Select the Advocacy button then select Legislative Priorities**
- VFW Legislative Priorities
- VFW Priority Goals
 - Released and published each January
- VFW Voter Voice
- VFW Fact Sheet



TAKE AN ACTIVE PART

GET EVERYONE INVOLVED

- Auxiliary Presidents should require that their Legislative Chairmen present a report at each meeting to update status on current priority legislation.
- Encourage registration for voting, then get out and vote.
- Be prepared and available to answer members' questions regarding legislation affecting men and women veterans, service members and their families.
- You can do this by enhancing your own knowledge and the knowledge of committee members regarding local, state and national legislation.
- **DEVELOP A CHAIN OF INFORMATION WITHIN YOUR AUXILIARY, DEPARTMENT AND NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM.**

UNWAVERING SUPPORT



FOR UNCOMMON HEROES®