

AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY

A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans, Military, and their Families

September 2026

Issue #1

FROM THE 2026-2027 NATIONAL LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

2026-2027 ALA National President Dr. Coral May Grout



American Legion Auxiliary member Dr. Coral May Grout of the Department of Massachusetts became National President of the American Legion Auxiliary at the 105th National Convention, held Aug 29th - Sep 3rd, 2026, in Louisville, Kentucky.

National President's Focus

The 2026-2027 ALA administrative year emphasizes education, expanding the Spirit of Youth Scholarships to two military spouses, and celebrating the 20th anniversary of Give 10 to Education. To mark that anniversary, we are also adding Give 20 to Education.

Read more here: <https://member.legion-aux.org/National-President-focus>

SAVE THE DATES

Legislative Quarterly Zooms

Q1 - October 14, 2026, at 7:00 PM ET

Department Legislative Chairs register here: <https://legion-aux.formstack.com/forms/legislative-quarterly>

Q2 - January 26, 2027, at 7:00 PM ET

Q3 - April 27, 2027, at 7:00 PM ET

Washington, DC Conference: February 27-March 3, 2027

2026-2027 Mission Training

November 14, 2026 –Omaha, NE*

January 30, 2027– Albany, NY*
& Springfield, IL

February 6, 2027 – Atlanta, GA
& Las Vegas, NV*

ALA Mission Training &
National Junior Meetings

*Events will be held with The American Legion National Information Conference and the SAL Regional Meeting.

Register at: <https://www.legion-aux.org/Meetings/Mission-Train>

2026 Legislative Agenda, Point Papers, and Priorities now available

As we start our year together, please ensure your members are familiar with The American Legion's legislative priorities by visiting this site:

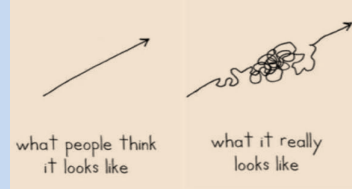
<https://www.legion.org/advocacy/legislative/legislative-agenda-point-papers>

Register for the Grassroots Action Center to contact lawmakers directly and receive updates on priorities. Stay tuned for upcoming newsletters with more information.

<https://www.votervoice.net/AmericanLegion/home>



Who remembers **School House Rock**? “I’m just a bill, and I’m sitting on Capitol Hill!” The good old days when the legislative process looked easy and with a catchy tune.



Unfortunately, the legislative process looks more like this.....

Our voters and we on the legislative team often get frustrated with the red tape and the long timeframes it takes for our bills to reach committees. I've been working on a bill in New Jersey for nearly four years to get it through the Transportation and Appropriations Committees. We need to remember and remind others that legislation is not a sprint; it is a marathon. While we can't force legislation to speed up single-handedly, we can exert our momentum onto other targets.

Track Active Bills: Follow the progress of current legislation at Congress.gov. Search to see where a bill is stalled and what committees are delaying its motion.

Contact Your Representatives: Call or email your lawmakers directly. Track down your state representative using the Congress.gov Member Directory to let them know which pieces of legislation you want them to prioritize.

Get Involved Locally: Policy often changes faster at the local level. You can reach out to your local city and county representatives to advocate for more localized policy updates.

Most importantly, keep up the good work! What you are doing matters! Rosa Parks said, “To bring about change, you must not be afraid to take the first step. We will fail when we fail to try.”

Submitted by ShannonLee Widmer, Eastern Division Chair



We want to hear from **YOU**! How is your department advocating for local, state, and national legislation that impacts veterans, military, and their families? Send your division chairs stories and pictures so we can all share new ideas. Remember our purpose: The purpose of the Legislative Committee is to provide information and assistance to American Legion Auxiliary members to advocate for the legislative agenda of The American Legion.

2026-2027 Legislative Committee Contacts:

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Want to learn more about the ALA Legislative program? Check out the **GET INVOLVED** tab on the National website using the link below:

[GET INVOLVED!](#)

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/ALALegislative>