

VFW Auxiliary Department of South Dakota
Legislative Guide Sheet 2025-2026
National Theme: From Sea to Shining Sea Honoring Veterans
Department Theme: Saluting Our Heroes

2025-2026 Dept. Chairman: Becky Hafner

Program Goals: Be An Advocate, Be Informed, Be Engaged

The VFW and Auxiliary has a goal to improve the lives of our veterans, service members and their families through advocacy. It has been proven that by working together, we can continue to get things done while supporting our Veterans and the Community to achieve our goals.

We can focus on meeting our goals by:

- Building relationships with political and civic organizations geared toward young adults.
- Ensuring that legislative activities are nonpartisan.
- Getting creative.

VFW Priority Goals reflect the resolutions passed by the VFW to strengthen and ensure an adequate VA system for millions of current and future veterans. They call the much-needed attention to crisis such as veteran homelessness and suicide. In addition, they request fully funding research on traumatic brain injuries, reducing the claims backlog, fighting veteran unemployment and improving timely transition assistance for veterans after leaving military service.

VFW *Action Corps Weekly* features pending VFW-supported legislation. Please join in supporting legislative efforts by joining at <https://votervoice.net/VFW/register>.

A key objective of the Legislative Program is proactive education and involvement regarding VW Priority Goals. Please check out all the resources available on the VFW Auxiliary's national website: <https://vfwauxiliary.org/resources>.

National Award for Auxiliaries:

1. Citation and \$25 to one VFW Auxiliary in each of the 10 Program Divisions with most outstanding activity &/or event that collaborated with the VFW Post connecting members with local lawmakers.

Entry form required and available in MALTA Member Resources. VFW Auxiliaries must send the required entry form to the Department Americanism Chairman by March 31, 2026. Citations will be mailed directly to the winning VFW Auxiliaries from National Headquarters and money will be deposited into the winning VFW Auxiliary account after the 2026 VFW Auxiliary National Convention.

Please use the following checklist throughout the 2025-2026 year to track your Auxiliary's Legislative progress.

Membership Categories:

#1: 10-50 members, #2: 51-110 members, #3: 111-225 members, and #4: 226 & above

Achievements	Completed	Reported
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Promote, participate and/or host/co-host with/without VFW Post activities regarding the VFW Priority Goals.		
Host/co-host with VFW Post activity/event connecting with local lawmakers.		
Promote and report how many members signed up for the <i>VFW Action Corps Weekly</i> .		
Report the number of members' contacts made regarding veterans' issues recorded (method used - face-to-face, email, social media, phone calls, letters/postcards).		
Report the number of Auxiliary members attending events where they could interact with their legislators (ex. Town halls, meet & greet, legislative conferences, etc.)		
Train members in the legislative process.		