

GRASSROOTS VETERANS' ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD Instructions and Guidelines

Description:

The Grassroots Veterans' Advocate of The Year Award recognizes a member who has performed outstanding service and made significant contributions of time and effort in Grassroots Veterans' Advocacy work. In no instance will more than one award be given in a year. It is possible that this award may not be given every year. One award will be presented each year to a member who displays an aggressive leadership role by building relationships with elected officials that directly impact public policy; by actively taking the message of the National Sons of The American Legion to key media outlets; and by developing strong grassroots initiatives.

Criteria: (The winners are determined based on the following categories)

1. Anyone who has been an individual Sons of The American Legion member for one or more years and meets the criteria for this award is eligible.
2. Active involvement of a legislative committee, including reporting to state/regional legislative chairs
3. Initiating a Key Contact program to communicate with legislators
4. Sponsoring a state "Day on the Hill" or a special legislative day event
5. Strong liaison with Congressmen, Senators and/or state legislators
6. Involvement in the formation or continuation of a grassroots Veterans' Advocate program
7. Maintaining good relationships with local media by sending press releases to the newspapers, articles for business publications, letters to editor, etc.
8. Establishing and maintaining a means through which to communicate to the membership on legislative issues (e.g. legislative newsletter/insert, website, and telephone/fax tree or e-mail distribution)
9. Attendance at state and/or national legislative leadership workshops and/or American Legion National Informational Conference (NIC)
10. Bonus points for attendance at congressional in-district town hall meetings and other special legislative activity
11. Bonus points for attendance at American Legion Washington Conference
12. Attended Congressional/Legislative Hearings (in Capitol or in District)

Rules:

1. To nominate your candidate, submit a detailed narrative summary (2,000 word limit), outlining your nominee's accomplishments, using the criteria listed above as a guideline.

This award nomination may be submitted by an individual member, district or by the Detachment. All criteria noted in the summary should be documented to support the narrative. You may summarize any large amount of documentation.

2. The commission will review paper documentation only.
3. Where required, copies of letters, faxes, e-mails, citations, newspaper articles, and Squadron, District, and/or Detachment reports/minutes may serve as documentation.
4. The decision of the Awards Committee is final.

APPLICATION FORM:

GRASSROOTS VETERANS' ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD APPLICATION

Member's Name (Print):

Membership Number:

Nominator's Name (Print) Individual, Squadron, District/Area/Zone, Detachment:

Nominator's Signature:

Nominator's Address:

City: _____ **State:** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____ **Fax** _____

Email: _____

Please make a copy of everything you submit for your own records and mail the original application form, score sheet, and documentation, to **George B. Evans, Chairman SONS OF THE AMERICAN LEGION Legislative Awards Committee, 6011 South Kilbourn Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60629.**

Due date:

THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS, REGARDLESS OF DELIVERY METHOD, MUST BE RECEIVED NOT LESS THAN THIRTY (30) DAYS PRIOR TO NATIONAL CONVENTION OF EACH YEAR, SO THAT SUBMISSIONS MAY BE JUDGED IN A TIMELY FASHION.

GRASSROOTS VETERANS' ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR AWARD SCORE SHEET

To be eligible, the following events, except otherwise noted, must have occurred during the period of July 1st of the prior year through June 30th of the current year. (*Indicates submit documentation with this form. No points are awarded in a category without this documentation). Please arrange documentation by Application Section and Number.

[Example: Section I (2)]

I. Meetings & Events

1. District and/or Detachment -- Sponsoring a "Day on the Hill"* 1x 200 pts. = _____ (max 200)
Squadron and/or District — Sponsoring a Legislative Day Event*

(Note: Squadrons must provide a special legislative event that is either a separate or expanded format of their regular monthly membership meeting.)

2. Detachment – Conduct or assist a State Legislative Workshop* 1 x 50 pts. = _____ (max 50)
Squadron — Participate in State Legislative a Workshop*

3. Individual participated in Sons of The American Legion National Executive Committee Legislative Commission Meetings (including National Legislative Commission Chat Rooms), and/or National Legislative Commission E-Group * 2 x 25 pts. = _____ (max 50)

II. Legislative Committee Activity

1. Maintaining an active legislative committee* 1 x 50 pts. = _____

(Submit documentation from strategic plan, Squadron, District, and/or Detachment minutes, leg. reports showing an active leg. Committee that monitors legislation; has established communication methods, and solicits grass roots involvement on key issues)

Participation on separate Legislative Activities for federal issues 1 x 20 pts. = _____

Participation on separate Legislative Activities for state issues 1 x 20 pts. = _____

Maintaining Legislative Communications 1 x 10 pts. = _____

(List area of responsibility)

2. State -- Regular reporting of Legislative Committee/Chairman activity to
National Legislative Commission* 1x 50 pts. = _____ (max 50)

Squadron/District – Coordination with Detachment Legislative Committee*

3. Interaction with State Legislators on veteran issues 1 x 25 pts. = _____ (max 25)

(Visits, letters, emails)*

4. Interaction with State Legislators on American Legion Family issues 1 x 25 pts. = _____ (max 25)

(Visits, letters, emails)*

5. Interaction with Congressmen/Senators on veteran issues 1 x 25 pts. = _____ (max 25)

(Visits, letters, emails)*

6. Interaction with Congressmen/Senators on veteran issues 1 x 25 pts. = _____ (max 25)

(Visits, letters, emails)*

III. Grass Roots Activity

1. Initiating a Key Contact program* 1 x 50 pts. = _____ (max 50)

(Note: Show activity that involves key contact volunteers that make special effort to communicate with their designated legislators/Congressmen/Senators when E-Group Alerts are issued.)

2. Involvement in the formation and/or support 1 x 50 pts. = _____ (max 50) of Detachment
Grassroots Veterans' Advocacy program*

3. Member support of Grassroots Legislative promotion of National Legislative Commission E-Group*
(max 50)

(Based on the activity period 7/1 through 6/30)

Having 10 of members support 1x 15 pts. = _____

Having 11 to 20 of members support 1 x 25 pts. = _____

Having more than 21 members support 1 x 50 pts. = _____

(Note: Basis for above calculations will be based on signing up new members for the National Legislative Commission E-Group)