



National Legislative Department

Duties and Responsibilities of the Benefits Protection Leader

The Benefits Protection Team Leader (BPTL) coordinates DAV's local grassroots efforts, legislative agenda, and resolution process. At the department commander's direction, the BPTL may also advocate for local issues consistent with national resolutions and department policies.

The BPTL should:

- Join [DAV CAN](#); share legislative alerts at DAV meetings; and recruit members to take action and join.
- Build and maintain a local Benefits Protection Team network of DAV and Auxiliary members, family, and friends; collect commitments and contact information; and use broader networks to reach injured and ill veterans, their families, and survivors. See the [network-building guide](#).
- Support DAV and department legislative priorities; discuss alerts at meetings; and share national, state, and local legislative information with department and chapter members.
- Engage federal, state, and local officials and staff; coordinate DAV participation at town halls; monitor issues affecting injured and ill veterans and their families; and advocate for state veterans' benefits.
- Stay current on DAV's federal legislative positions and promptly notify DAV legislative staff of relevant federal issues, local trends, and congressional field hearings; seek staff assistance if asked to testify.
- Ensure chapter and department resolutions align with DAV's mission and Resolution No. 001, and encourage mission-supporting resolutions.
- Support DAV's mid-winter conference by coordinating congressional meetings and encouraging nonattendees to share DAV's Critical Policy Goals with legislators' local offices during conference week.

DAV National Policies

The following national policies should guide all BPTL legislative advocacy efforts:

- DAV National Constitution, Article II – Purpose: “...to advance the interests and work for the betterment of all wounded, gassed, injured and disabled veterans...”
- DAV National Bylaws, Article 2-- Policy, Section 2.1 – Nonpartisanship: “This Organization shall be non-political and non-sectarian and the name of this Organization or name of any subdivision thereof shall not be used in representing the desires or wishes of its membership in any political, sectarian or labor dispute, except as provided hereinafter...the forgoing shall not prevent this Organization or any subdivision thereof from participating in political issues which have a direct bearing upon the welfare of America’s disabled veterans.”
- DAV National Bylaws, Article 2-- Policy, Section 2.2 – Legislative Activities, Para. 1: “No member shall appear before any legislative body or speak in the name of the DAV taking a position contrary to a standing resolution.”

Related Statutes

- “The corporation [DAV] shall be nonpolitical and nonsectarian, and may not promote the candidacy of an individual seeking public office.” Title 36, United States Code, § 50306.
- Under the law and regulations governing the Internal Revenue Service (Title 26, United States Code), the federal tax-exempt status of certain charitable, nonprofit organizations, including DAV, shall be withheld or removed if they: “Participate or intervene, directly or indirectly in any political campaign on behalf or in opposition to any candidate for public office...Activities which constitute participation in a political campaign in behalf of or in opposition to a candidate include, but are not limited to, the making of oral or written statements on behalf of or in opposition to such a candidate.”