

Legislative Action Assistant (LAA)

Taken from: ARRL Legislative Action Program Management Manual

The number of LAAs in a state depends upon the number of US Senators and US Representatives for the state. LAAs work in teams of two or three members to visit local Federal legislators. Their activities are coordinated by the LAC. LAAs are the front line troops who will make the all-important contacts in congressional districts. In the case of key legislative districts, you may wish to identify five or six members to form two LAA teams. These teams will be able to share the task of making all important visits to their local legislators to put a face to the Amateur Radio issues with which the Legislative Action Program is concerned. While only two or three should be the number making the visit, potential scheduling problems may dictate the wisdom of recruiting a larger than necessary for a group. But avoid allowing more than one team to make visits to a legislator on the same legislative issue. Visits by multiple teams may create confusion during visits and may result in the Congressman receiving a confused message about ARRL legislative goals.

Important Considerations for LAAs:

1. Must be a current member of ARRL.
2. Must be a registered voter who has voted in recent elections.
3. Must be readily accessible by both phone and e-mail.
4. Must be familiar with the workings of the program. (Please have them read the material previously provided by the Legislative Action Committee so they will understand their place and function.)
5. Must have the skills necessary to work in a two or three person team.
6. Must be reasonably articulate and presentable.
7. Must be willing, when needed, to help recruit additional registered voters who are also ARRL members living and voting in the Congressional district.
8. Must be willing to coordinate receipt of material and training needs to fulfill the mission of the Program.
9. Must be willing to speak to local clubs about the ARRL Legislative Action Program
10. Must clearly understand their mission, as LAAs during meetings with legislators or their aides, is to discuss **only** Amateur Radio legislative issues selected to be supported or opposed through the Legislative Action Program. As private citizens, LAAs may wish to support or oppose other hot-button issues of their choosing, but they must avoid appearing to do this in the name of ARRL. These personal hot-button issues should be discussed in meetings separate from meetings held on behalf of the Legislative Action Program.

Primary Responsibilities of the LAA:

1. Schedule face-to-face meetings with local legislative staff and members of the US House of Representatives or US Senate.
2. Make follow up visits and stay in contact with the Congressional office over a long period of time to keep the Legislator current about Amateur Radio issues important to ARRL.
3. Request Congressmen support or oppose certain bills or resolutions.
4. Explain the legitimacy of the ARRL position on Federal legislation.
5. Work in a coordinated team of ARRL members in the local area who desire to make the ARRL Legislative Action Program a success.

Skills and Knowledge of use to the LAA:

1. Be a personal acquaintance with or be motivated to become acquainted with local Federal legislative staff and elected officials.
2. Have the ability to work with other local ARRL members to coordinate a team to participate effectively in the Program.

Does this interest you? If so, and your in Michigan contact Lou Gembolis, KG8Nk at kg8nk@arrl.net, in Ohio contact Brent Stover, WD8PNZ at wd8pnz@arrl.net and in Kentucky contact Patrick Thrush, N4PRT at n4prt@arrl.net or to me at nb4k@arrl.org.

I hope to see you'll consider this position and help us protect the future of our hobby.

John D. Meyers, NB4K
Division Legislative Action Coordinator