

Legislative Director

The person serving as Legislative Director is both the first and last link in a chain forged to have an impact on the legislative and regulatory process. The Legislative Director can relay the concerns members have about how government is affecting their lives to those in office who make such decisions. Likewise, the Legislative Director can keep members informed about how government is responding to their concerns. Members can then, in response, exercise their right to protest or applaud the government's actions.

The Legislative Director's responsibilities should include:

- Keeping members informed about legislative activities carried on by the Farmers Union at the state and national level.
- Attending meeting planning sessions to make sure legislative issues are included on the meeting agenda.
- Encouraging division members to actively participate in the Farmers Union policymaking process at division and national conventions.
- Attending annual meetings of local cooperatives to make sure you stay informed of their legislative needs and to inform them about how Farmers Union is helping them with those issues. This responsibility is shared with the division Cooperative Director.
- Keeping a file of useful reference materials, such as national and division Farmers Union newsletters, legislative reports or action memos sent to you. Clip newspaper articles or save links to and other items of interest to family farmers.
- Arranging periodic meetings between your members and local, state, and national legislators and/or their staff to discuss issues of interest.
- Participating in the Washington, D.C. legislative fly-In. Help coordinate these events with the national office.
- Coordinating your activities with other Farmers Union members working on legislative issues.
- Maintain a contact list of members to be contacted when legislation demands action.

Helpful Hints for the Legislative Director

- Keep copies of voting records compiled by the Farmers Union on your state and national legislators so you are aware of how they voted on our issues, and relay that information to your fellow members.
- Keep on file a current copy of the platform of each political party so that it can be referred to later as needed.
- Keep a file of Farmers Union issues and how candidates and office holders stand on issues. Inform members on issues and keep office holders accountable for their promises.
- Encourage your fellow members to develop resolutions on issues that make it plain where the Farmers Union stands on hot issues.
- Develop contacts with other community groups to encourage support for Farmers Union

issues.

- Identify areas of cooperation between Farmers Union, commodity groups and other farm organizations, and encourage joint activities on those issues with the Farmers Union identified as being in the lead.
- Visit regularly with other division Legislative Directors to share information.
- Participate in the monthly Farmers Union Legislative Directors' Call hosted by NFU's government relations staff. This call is hosted on the 3rd Tuesday of each month, at 1:00 pm ET. Reach out to Mike Stranz for the Zoom link.
- Initiate letters, telephone calls and post cards to your state legislators and members of the U.S. Congress as needed, making sure that your fellow members write them while they are at a local meeting--if that is where the action is initiated.
- Participate in government farm-related boards at the local level and encourage Farmers Union members to do the same.