

Action Committee Report

March 12, 2021

Alice Bartelt, Chair

This has been a challenging session of the Legislature. Not being able to attend meetings at the Capitol has meant that our committee members have not been able to develop relationships with the many new legislators that were sworn in prior to the 2021 session.

Because the legislative committees are meeting remotely, participation by people across the state has increased dramatically. This may be a sign of things to come. People being able to testify without having to spend time and expense to travel to Salem is a plus.

Our coordinators and portfolio chairs are working very hard. Much testimony has already been submitted to the legislature. Most bills must have had a work session scheduled by March 19, and considered by April 13. After that time, many bills will be dead.

The Committee hopes that most of our members are reading the parts of the Legislative report that interest them. The articles take time and energy to put together. Changes to the format were made in an effort to make the publication more user-friendly. Readers may now just read the items that are of interest to them.

It is a privilege to work with such an energetic group of people. The committee meets once a week, and there are often as many as twenty folks attending. There are still areas that we would like to have followed, so more folks monitoring and reporting on bills are most welcome. Because there is no reason to have to go to Salem, even after the Capitol is reopened, new volunteers are encouraged. Hearings can be viewed on line, and all testimony is submitted electronically. So, if there is an issue that a member is interested in, the Action Committee would welcome you.