



American Legion Auxiliary

*A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans,
Military, and their Families*

March 17, 2020

**To: National Executive Committee Members, National Committee Chairs,
Department Presidents, & Department Secretaries**

From: Kelly Circle, Executive Director

Subject: **National Headquarters Update**

Things are changing so quickly and so many questions are arising that I decided to send a mid-week update this week. I'm including Department Presidents and Department Secretaries on this briefing to facilitate rapid communication.

Questions are coming up regarding the possible cancelation of district and department conventions and what that means regarding elected officers. Please check your Constitution and Bylaws first for guidance. The National C&B states (highlighted for your convenience):

Section 2. The National Convention shall elect the following term- limited national officers: National President, National Vice President, National Division Vice Presidents, National Chaplain, and National Historian. Each National Division Vice President shall serve without seniority. Such officers shall serve for one (1) term or **until their successors are elected**; a term shall start upon adjournment of the convention at which they are elected and end at the adjournment of the following National Convention.

So, if the National Convention were to be postponed (and that is NOT being considered at this time), the current officers would remain in place until such time and election could be held. Please also look to your C&B to see if the convention can be held in an alternative format. If your C&B is silent on the topic, or even if it has a clause, check your state law for any limitations on convention format.

Update on NHQ staff: We are following the CDC, state and local advisories and policies, and the Legion's leniency on work schedules. Many staff are working from home, but the building is still open for business and we are conducting business as usual. We are asking members to refrain from visiting us in person for the next few weeks. Those who are out of the office have forwarded their phones and have access to email so I doubt many members will even realize the difference.

In these uncertain times, anxiety can rise just because we are planners and now we can't really plan as things are changing so quickly. This is a great opportunity for us! We can do a hard reset and question everything we've always thought of as absolutes. We can get creative and adapt to a changing environment. For us at NHQ, we are taking this opportunity to test different online meeting options.



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In addition to the change in our physical work environment, this pandemic has forced us to slow down. We all now have space to take a collective deep breath, reconsider our absolutes, and allow creative ideas to flow.

Please, allow those ideas to bubble up and write them down! Maybe you have ideas on how to make convention better, or a form easier to read, or a process to be more efficient. Write those ideas down and share them. This is truly the time to time “outside the box” and take the American Legion Auxiliary into the next century of service!

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to our mission. Stay positive, stay healthy, and stay safe!