



# American Legion Auxiliary

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

April 10, 2020

**TO: National Executive Committee Members, National Officers, National Chairmen, Past National Presidents**

**CC: Department Presidents; Department Secretaries**

From: Kelly Circle, Executive Director

Re: **Weekly Briefing 4-10-2020**

It's been a humdinger of a week! It was a big decision to cancel National Convention and I and everyone at NHQ appreciate the word of support people have sent. The final vote was tallied, and TAL Resolution #3 passed unanimously 60-0. We've had a day or two to start the mental processing of what that means and are working to answer questions and lay out next steps.

## **Programs and Events updates**

DLNC: Last week I mentioned that DLNC was going to a virtual format. With the continuation of President Nicole staying in office, DLNC will morph once again. I hope to have more information on this next week so please stay tuned.

In the meantime, our Events team is continuing to process the cancellations and registration refunds. DLNC flights and room blocks have been cancelled and about 1/4 of the 160 flights have been fully refunded. (a rarity for airlines!)

Girls Nation: The difficult decision has been made to cancel the on-site 2020 Girls Nation. With the level of uncertainty, we felt it best to protect our members' safety and protect our financial interests at this time. We were able to cancel without penalty and we'll roll over the contract to next year. National ALA Girls Nation Chairman Wendy Riggle and ALA Program Manager Elizabeth Sendelweck have been hard at work reaching out to all the Directors and we are discussing alternative plans. Nothing has been decided so please bear with us and I'll report on this again next week.

NHQ is receiving questions regarding Department Conventions. The national organization does not have authority to determine whether departments hold their conventions. As the American Legion NEC has stated, we too, "strongly urge all American Legion departments follow a similar course of action, to-wit: (1) cancel their 2020 conventions and elections; and (2) maintain the status quo of their officers until next year." This is a recommendation, not a mandate. Please consult your state statutes and Constitution & Bylaws when making the decision for your department. Whatever decision your department makes, we will respect and support your team.



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I'm sure there are many questions that are unanswered now. Please continue to send your questions and concerns to [ALAHQ@alaforveterans.org](mailto:ALAHQ@alaforveterans.org). We will do our best to answer questions in a timely manner but understand there may be a delay as we gather information and consult the necessary stakeholders.

As we go through all these changes, I think of the season and how perfectly timed this is. Spring is a time for renewal and growth; an emergence from our winter shells. For our Christian members, this weekend is especially meaningful. I found a couple of quotes I would like to share in hopes they speak to you and give you a reminder of the opportunities we have.

“We must be willing to get rid of the life we’ve planned, so as to have the life that is waiting for us. The old skin has to be shed before the new one can come.”

–Joseph Campbell

This quote made me giggle a bit thinking of the wonderful NHQ staff:

“Rest when you’re weary. Refresh and renew yourself, your body, your mind, your spirit. Then get back to work.”

–Ralph Marston

Take care and have a wonderful weekend!