

RESOLUTION

The American Legion Department of Illinois

Title: Cancellation of 2020 American Legion Convention in Springfield, Illinois

WHEREAS, Article V, Section of the Department of Illinois Constitution of The American Legion calls for Department Convention to conduct business at a location and time determined by the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, The United States of America and the world in general are currently experiencing a pandemic associated with the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19) therefore causing communities, cities, states and the federal government to enact unprecedented emergency actions in order to contain and combat the impact and risks of spreading the COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, Upon the recommendations of the United States President, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and World Health Organization (WHO) the emergency actions taken include, but not limited to, restriction of mass gathering sizes, restrictions on unnecessary travel, closure of restaurants and other public gathering spaces, implementation of "social distancing" guidelines and overall emphasis on personal hygiene and virus/germ abatement actions; and

WHEREAS, Numerous other Departments of The American Legion are contemplating the cancellation or postponement of their own Department Conventions per guidance by the National Organization, the primary purpose of which is to conduct the business of the department and elect officers and elect/appoint delegates to the national convention; and

WHEREAS, The governor of the State of Illinois declared an Executive Order that the State of Illinois is in public health emergency as a result of the COVID-19 requiring numerous actions to follow including that all people maintain safe distancing, stay at home whenever possible and that hotels used only for lodging as needed; and

WHEREAS, A gathering of the members of The American Legion at the State Convention in Springfield, Illinois would be in conflict with the imposed restrictions set by local and federal authorities and therefore place our members at an unnecessary health, safety and medical risk; and

WHEREAS, The community of Springfield, Illinois, understands and agrees with this course of action; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion, by electronic mail vote, that due to the uncertainty of the duration of the disease known as Coronavirus (COVID-19), the numerous government regulations being enforced to contain it and concern for the safety of all members of the American Legion Family, the American Legion Department Executive Committee (DEC) agrees that present circumstances constitute sufficient reasons to cancel the 2020 American Legion Department Convention; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That due to these serious and sufficient reasons, the following American Legion events in Springfield, Illinois, are cancelled; (1) the Pre-Convention Department Executive Committee meeting scheduled for July 8, 2020; (2) The American Legion's 2020 Department Convention scheduled for July 10-11; (3) the Post-Convention Department Executive Committee meeting scheduled for July 11, 2020; and (4) all regular-scheduled Department commission and committee meetings that would be held in Springfield; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Department and nationally elected and appointed officers continue serving in their current positions until the close of the next Department Convention scheduled in Springfield, Illinois, from July 13 through July 17, 2021; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all Department commission and/or committee chairpersons and the current commission and committee members continue serving in their current positions until they resign or are either reassigned or reappointed at the 2021 Fall DEC Meetings; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That due numerous health and safety reasons and needs of our members, the American Legion Department Executive Committee strongly urges that the Department of Illinois Sons of The American Legion, and the Department of Illinois American Legion Auxiliary and all American Legion Districts and Divisions follow a course of action, to-wit; (1) cancel their 2020 conventions elections; and (2) maintain the status quo of their officers until year.