

Report of On-Line Leadership Conference Call

24 March 2020

1. The COVID-19 Virus continues to drive all functions of the American Legion in Ohio and elsewhere around the country. The Governor of Ohio has issued a stay home request to all non-essential travel and assembly for all of Ohio. The Department of Ohio continues to follow this direction. The virus has affected 49 of the 88 counties across the state of Ohio. All American Legion meetings, assemblies, activities and functions have been postponed, suspended or cancelled through the end of March and into April 2020. Canteens are closed. The Department of Ohio has reduced staff to maintain limited operations for the state of Ohio American Legion Districts and Posts. Some staff employees are working at home with laptops. Some Posts are performing community-related relief functions with carry-out meals for children and assistance to elderly members and residents in their communities. Commander Friend has requested all American Legion members to continue to comply with the current stay home policy and limit travel for essential purposes only, perform telephonic and electronic Buddy Checks and to be patient and caring through the virus pandemic.
2. We must continue to renew, reinstate and recruit members for the American Legion.
3. District and Post Commanders and their Executive Teams need to refer to their organization Constitution and By Laws (CBL) and the American Legion Officer's Guide for direction on post activities and functions affected by the COVID-19 stay home requirements.
4. Elections of Post and District Officers need occur according to prescribed and customary procedures when possible. Districts and Posts in conformance with the stay home requirements are suggested to utilize alternative telephone or data communication means to accomplish officer candidate announcements and elections during the shutdown of operations. Per the Officer Handbook, Officers are to remain in their positions until new elections are completed. Officer Certifications are required 15-days prior to the summer convention. Any Post elections executed after the summer convention will require submission of a revised Officer Certification form to Department.
5. Consolidated Post Reports (CPR), Officer Certifications and other required forms need to be submitted to Department of Ohio as prescribed. Officer Certifications need to include e-mail contact information for all officers.
6. The American Legion Summer Convention in Toledo is cancelled. The Hotel has changed owner and the new owner will not honor the previous contract. An alternate date and location (city) is being pursued, most likely to occur in July. The goal is to include the entire Legion family at this event. Updates to follow.
7. The April DEC meeting will be via on-line / telephone on April 4 at 1000.
8. All resolutions need to be forwarded to Department (via Districts) prior to the April DEC meeting.
9. Buckeye Boys State decision will be made June 1, 2020. Scheduled Orientations may need to be rescheduled.
10. Boys Nation 2020 has been cancelled.
11. The Dept Oratorical contest is postponed.
12. Commander Friend closed the meeting asking all Legion members to be patient, stay home, practice social distancing and to continue to be caring for our comrades and communities.