

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE VIA E-MAIL
HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA
APRIL 10, 2020**

Title: Cancellation of 2020 Pennsylvania American Legion Convention in Lancaster, Pennsylvania and Awarding of 2024 and 2025 Department Convention to the Lancaster Marriott Hotel

Resolution No. 1119

Submitted by: Kit Watson
Department Adjutant

WHEREAS Article VII, Section 3 of the Constitution of Department of Pennsylvania, The American Legion calls for an election of Department Officers at our Department Convention; and

WHEREAS, Article XII, Section 1 d. of the Department Constitution of The Pennsylvania American Legion allows for the in the event of an emergency, the Department Executive Committee may change the place of any annual Convention, to change such location and time for sufficient reasons to it appearing; 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 are 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 an overall emphasis on personal hygiene and virus/germ abatement actions; and

WHEREAS, Numerous departments of The American Legion are contemplating the cancellation or postponement of their own Department Conventions, 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 Pennsylvania, Tom Wolf declared in Executive Order # 20200319 TWW COVID 19 Closure Order on March 19, 2020 that the State of Pennsylvania is in a public health emergency as a result of the COVID–19 requiring numerous actions to follow including that all people maintain safe social distancing, stay at home whenever possible and that hotels are used only for lodging as needed; and

WHEREAS, A gathering of the members of The American Legion at the Department Convention in Lancaster, Pennsylvania 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 Department Convention Liaison Committee and the Department Finance Committee recommend approval of this resolution; and

WHEREAS, The Lancaster Marriott, understands and agrees with this course of action; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Department Executive Committee of The Pennsylvania 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 Pennsylvania 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 Lancaster, Pennsylvania, are cancelled: (1) the Pre-Convention Department Executive Committee meeting scheduled for July 16, 2020; (2) The American Legion’s 2020 Department Convention scheduled for July 16 – July 19, 2020; (3) the Post-Convention Department Executive Committee meeting scheduled for July 19, 2020; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all department elected and appointed officers continue serving in their current positions until the close of the next Department Convention scheduled in the Hilton Hotel, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, from July 15 through July 18, 2021; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the District Commanders hence forth remain in their respective positions and the even numbered districts will leave office in the odd numbered years and the odd numbered districts leave their terms in the

even numbered years in essence for one time only adding a year to all current district commanders: and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department of Pennsylvania American Legion County and Post officers elected and appointed continue serving in their current positions until the close of the next Department Convention scheduled in the Hilton Hotel, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, from July 15 through July 18, 2021; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all department committee chairpersons and the current committee members continue serving in their current positions until they resign or are either reassigned or reappointed at the 2021 Department Executive Committee meeting scheduled in Grantville Holiday Inn, Grantville, Pennsylvania, September 17 – 19, 2021; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department Executive Committee recommends that department retain our current members of the NEC if they so desire until the post-Convention meeting of the NEC at the Phoenix, Arizona, National Convention on September 2, 2021; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That any resolutions needing to come before the American Legion Department Executive Committee, including the re-adoption of our legislative agenda, with the exception of those legislative initiatives that the national Legislative Commission deems to have been fulfilled or are no longer relevant, may be brought forth to the Department Executive Committee and subsequently considered and voted on by video meetings, electronic mail or any other allowed means prior to the 2020 September DEC meeting at the Grantville Holiday Inn; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That Department of Pennsylvania American Legion Son's of The American Legion Detachment and American Legion Riders Chapter will 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; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That due to numerous health and safety reasons and needs of our members, the Pennsylvania American Legion Department Executive Committee strongly urges that the, the Department of Pennsylvania American Legion Auxiliary 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; and be it further

RESOLVED, That due to the Marriott Hotel of Lancaster, accommodating the Department of Pennsylvania American Legion 2020 Department

Convention's cancellation decision in such a prompt manner without penalty or other financial cost to The Pennsylvania American Legion, the Pennsylvania American Legion Department Executive Committee is hereby awarding the 2024 and 2025 Department Convention's to the Lancaster Marriott Hotel; and be it finally

RESOLVED,

That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Pennsylvania American Auxiliary leadership for their action.

APPROVED X REJECTED _____ REFERRED _____ CONSOLIDATED _____ FILED _____