

## **Title: Cancellation of 2020 American Legion Convention in Appleton, Wisconsin**

WHEREAS, Article VII, Section 1 of the National Constitution of The American Legion provides that between National Conventions, the administrative power of The American Legion is vested in the National Executive Committee; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 3 voted by the National Executive Committee by unanimous vote, titled “Cancellation of 2020 American Legion Convention in Louisville, Kentucky and Awarding of 2026 National Convention” strongly urges all Departments to 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

WHEREAS, Article V of the Constitution of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin, calls for an annual Department Convention to conduct business of the Department. The Department Convention is to be held at a time and place to be selected by the Department Executive Committee upon recommendation of the Permanent Convention and Activities Commission; and

WHEREAS, In addition to Department Constitutions and Bylaws and amendments thereto and the mandates of Department Conventions and Department Executive Committees, all Departments of The American Legion are governed by the National Constitution and Bylaws and amendments thereto and the mandates of the National Executive Committee and Convention; 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, On March 12, 2020, Wisconsin Governor Tony Evers declared a state of emergency pursuant to Executive Order #72; and

WHEREAS, Under the authority of Section 252.02 of the Wisconsin Statutes, on March 24, 2020, Wisconsin Department of Health Services Secretary-designee Andrea Palm issued Emergency Order #12, “Safer at Home,” and on April 16, 2020, issued Emergency Order #28, which extends most provisions of Emergency Order #12 until May 26, 2020; and

WHEREAS, Under Emergency Order 12, as modified and extended by Emergency Order 28, in order to suppress the spread of COVID-19, that all persons within the State of Wisconsin are ordered to stay at home or in their place of residence, and all public and private gatherings of any number of people occurring among persons not part of a single household are prohibited, except for specified limited purposes; and

WHEREAS, Under Emergency Order 12, as modified and extended by Emergency Order 28, only “Essential Businesses and Operations” and “Minimum Basic Operations” are permitted, such that, for most businesses, employees are not permitted to leave their homes or places of residence except to the extent that those workers are necessary to sustain or protect life, to work in essential business or operations, or to conduct minimum basic operations; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Section 252.25 of the Wisconsin Statutes, violations of Emergency Order 12, as modified and extended by Emergency Order 28, are punishable by up to 30 days imprisonment, or up to a \$250 fine, or both; and

WHEREAS, The Preamble to the Constitution of The American Legion states that we will maintain law and order; and

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic is being continuously monitored, and the need for Emergency Orders is being continuously evaluated, but at the present time, changes in circumstances and the expiration of restrictions is unknown; and

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

WHEREAS, The Department Executive Committee finds that holding all of the meetings and general sessions of the convention, with potentially hundreds of members attending and voting for Department officers, would be extremely difficult to implement and control; and

WHEREAS, The Department Executive Committee has thoroughly discussed the situation, weighed all options, and determined that the course of action herein recommended is the correct and prudent course for The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin at this time; now therefore be it

**RESOLVED, By the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin 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 of Wisconsin Department Executive Committee 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, Department of Wisconsin events in Appleton, Wisconsin, are cancelled: (1) the Pre-Convention Department Executive Committee meeting; (2) The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin, 2020 Department Convention scheduled for July 15 - 19, 2020; (3) the Post-Convention Department Executive Committee meeting; and (4) all regular- scheduled department standing and convention committee meetings that would have been held in Appleton, Wisconsin; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That all department elected and appointed officers, to include but not exclusive to, Commander, Vice Commanders, Chaplain, Assistant Chaplain, Historian, Sergeants-at-Arms, and Judge Advocate, continue serving in their current positions until the close of the next Department Convention scheduled in Madison, WI from July 14 – 18, 2021; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That all department committee chairs and committee members continue serving in their current positions until they resign or are either reassigned or reappointed at the first Department Executive Committee meeting after the 2021 Department Convention; and, be it further**

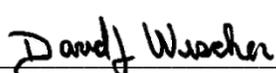
**RESOLVED, That all District Commanders continue serving in their current positions until such time as their duly qualified successors are installed by the Department Executive Committee; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, That all other elected or appointed District officers, and all District committee members continue serving in their current positions until such time as their duly qualified successors are installed; and be it further**

**RESOLVED, That the National Executive Committeeman and Alternate National Executive Committeeman shall continue serving in their current positions until the adjournment of the 2022 National Convention; and, be it further**

**RESOLVED, That Appleton, Wisconsin, and the Red Lion Hotel Paper Valley be given preferential consideration by The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin in the awarding of a bid for an upcoming department convention; and be it finally**

**RESOLVED, That due to numerous health and safety reasons and needs of our members, the American Legion National Executive Committee and The American Legion, Department of Wisconsin, Department Executive Committee strongly urge that the Detachment of Wisconsin, Sons of The American Legion, the Department of Wisconsin, American Legion Auxiliary and all American Legion, Department of Wisconsin Districts and Posts follow a similar course of action, to-wit: (1) cancel their 2020 conventions, conferences, and elections; and (2) maintain the status quo of their officers until next year, or if a vacancy occurs to fill the vacancy by a vote of the executive board by phone, electronic means or at the first in-person meeting.**

<p>This is to certify that the above resolution was duly acted upon by the Department Executive Committee meeting held via electronic meeting on April 29, 2020.</p> <p>Signature</p> <p> _____ Department Commander</p>	<p>Approved <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Rejected _____</p> <p>Approved as amended _____</p> <p>Consolidated _____</p> <p>Rewritten _____</p> <p>Refer to standing committee on _____</p> <p>Other action _____</p>
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