



**The American Legion
Department of South Carolina
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My Fellow Legionnaires,

The World Health Organization has called the Coronavirus a global pandemic. This kind of virus is unprecedented in our lifetime. The safety and health of all members of The American Legion Family in South Carolina is our first priority. Because of the nature of the virus, we are in a learning process. It is vitally important that all Legionnaires be understanding, strong and flexible during this crisis.

After extensive consultation with the senior leadership of the department, the following guidelines will be put in place immediately and will remain in place until March 31, 2020.

- All travel by Department Officers and staff is suspended unless absolutely necessary.
- Travel by District Commanders will be restricted to district meetings to hold elections. Post's should limit their representatives at district elections to one person.
- Post meetings and/or operations shall be conducted based the decisions of the post leadership. The Federal Centers for Disease Control guidelines recommend no meetings or events of more than 10 people. Keep in mind that our membership is mostly made up of the at-risk age demographic for the Coronavirus. The Department also strongly recommend that you adhere to the local guidelines set by our Governor, local elected officials and the Department of Health and Environmental Control.
- Any department level committee meetings will be closed to committee members only and meetings will be held only if absolutely necessary. Chairmen should utilize conference calls or other means to conduct business when possible.
- The Department Headquarters will continue to operate and monitor the ongoing situation. However, the doors to the Department will be closed to walk-ins and will be accessible by appointment only. Please continue to submit membership and other documents to the Department as normal and conduct your business by email or telephone when possible.

Our programs are being monitored at the National, Department and local level. At this time, all programs are still continuing as scheduled. If any changes to our programs or meetings become necessary, you will be notified.

As our National Commander says, "The Buddy Check programs is perhaps more important now than ever before. Rely on telephone, email or social media to communicate since person-to-person contact is not the safest option. Please be particularly attentive to seniors, a population that is especially vulnerable to the harmful effects of this virus."

The American Legion has made it through some hard times, and we have proven our resilience and fortitude for over 100 years. This virus will not break The American Legion Family. With the help of all you we will come through this crisis stronger than we ever were!

For God and Country, I remain in service to all veterans and Legionnaires of South Carolina,



Walt Richardson
Department Commander