

**NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
EMAIL 2020**

**Resolution No. 3: Cancellation of 2020 American Legion Convention in Louisville, Kentucky
and Awarding of 2026 National Convention**

Origin: Subcommittee on Resolutions

Submitted By: Subcommittee on Resolutions

WHEREAS, Article V, Section 2 of the National Constitution of The American Legion calls for a National Convention to conduct business at a location and time as determined by the National Executive Committee of The American Legion; and

WHEREAS, Article V, Section 2 of the National Constitution of The American Legion allows for the National Executive Committee of The American Legion 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 Kentucky declared in Executive Order #2020-257 on March 25, 2020 that the State of Kentucky 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 National Convention in Louisville, Kentucky 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 Advisory Committee to the National Commander 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 at this time; and

WHEREAS, The chairman of the national Convention Commission and the chairman of the national Finance Commission recommend approval of this resolution; and

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

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion, by electronic mail vote pursuant to Rule 12 of the Rules of the National Executive Committee, 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 National Executive Committee (NEC) agrees that present circumstances constitute sufficient reasons to cancel the 2020 American Legion National Convention; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That due to these serious and sufficient reasons, the following American Legion events in Louisville, Kentucky, are cancelled: (1) the Pre-Convention National Executive Committee meeting scheduled for August 31, 2020; (2) The American Legion's 2020 National Convention scheduled for August 28–September 3, 2020; (3) the Post-Convention National Executive Committee meeting scheduled for September 3, 2020; and (4) all regular-scheduled national commission and committee meetings that would have been held in Louisville; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all nationally elected and appointed officers continue serving in their current positions until the close of the next National Convention scheduled in Phoenix, Arizona, from August 27 through September 2, 2021; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all national 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 Meetings scheduled in Indianapolis, Indiana, October 12–15, 2021; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the National Executive Committee recommends that departments retain their current member 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 National 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 National Executive Committee and subsequently considered and voted on by video meetings, electronic mail or any other allowed means prior to the 2020 Fall Meetings in Indianapolis, Indiana; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the per capita dues for the American Legion National Organization remain at \$18.50 for 2021; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That due to numerous health and safety reasons and needs of our members, the American Legion National Executive Committee strongly urges that the national Sons of The American Legion, the national American Legion Auxiliary and all American Legion departments 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 finally

RESOLVED, That due to the community of Louisville, Kentucky, accommodating the American Legion 2020 National Convention's cancellation decision in such a prompt manner without penalty or other financial cost to The American Legion, the American Legion National Executive Committee is hereby awarding the 2026 National Convention to the community of Louisville, Kentucky, via the American Legion Department of Kentucky Convention Corporation.