

## **Memorandum from AMVETS National Headquarters**

**Re: Department Conventions for 2020**

**April 15, 2020**

Fellow AMVETS,

In these difficult, unprecedented times, our National Constitution and Bylaws (CBL) do not fully address what we as a nation and as an organization are now facing. The following is official guidance from National Commander Jan Brown, based on careful consideration with counsel.

Unfortunately, reality now is that some or maybe even all Departments will not be able to safely or legally hold a proper statewide convention in 2020. That decision must be made by majority vote by the department's executive committee. A DEC vote by phone or email is acceptable provided the department commander is able to verify who is voting and provides a by-name vote tally to the DEC immediately after voting is complete.

If the DEC votes to cancel or postpone, all members must be notified of the cancellation or the new date, time and location with enough advance notice to allow for reasonable planning.

Department elections may only be held at a proper convention. Other business, including adoption of amendments, resolutions, and budgets also may only be conducted at a proper convention with a quorum. Per the CBL, what constitutes a quorum is as defined in the department convention rules.

### **Elections**

The CBL states department elections and officer installations must be completed by July 15. Given the extraordinary circumstances, National Commander Brown extended that deadline to August 1. Elections may not be held by phone, email or any other electronic means. **If your Department is unable to hold a convention by August 1, the current officers and appointed AMVETS should remain in office until a proper convention and election is held in the normal timeframe in 2021.**

If a current officer's term is extended because a convention cannot be held but that officer is unable to continue serving for the additional year for personal reasons, the vacancy and resulting vacancies should be filled as prescribed in the CBL.

### **Budgets**

If a department convention is not held in 2020, the department's finance committee must still present a proposed budget to the DEC, which has the authority to approve and execute a budget for 2021 provided it is presented to the convention body in 2021. As always, expenditures may not exceed revenues.

### **CBL Amendments**

Amendments to department CBLs may not be adopted in 2020 if the department does not hold a proper convention. Likewise, new resolutions may not be adopted. Resolutions set to expire at the end of this membership year may be extended one year if the DEC votes to do so.

### **Expiration**

*The above provisions and exceptions to the normal rules are for the 2020-2021 year only.*

**National Convention Update**

National Commander Brown, along with representatives from the National Ladies Auxiliary, the National Sons of AMVETS and National Headquarters staff, are in close communications with the convention center and hotels in Springfield, Illinois, where the AMVETS National Convention is slated to take place in August of this year. The aim remains to hold the national convention as scheduled, but it is too early to know if that will be possible. A decision on that does not need to be made until July 1.