



American Legion
Ernest F. Oldenburg Post 216
510 W. Commerce
Milford, MI
Phone: 248.684.9919
www.milfordlegion216.org

Greetings Fellow Legionnaire,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and spirits during this uniquely challenging time.

Normally, during this time of year, the Legion would be distributing its annual notification of the annual Election of Post Officers. This year's the notification takes on a different purpose.

Due to the ongoing restrictions imposed by the Governor's "Stay Home, Stay Safe" Executive Order, the Post Executive Board has decided to enact Resolution 20-1. To clarify, this Resolution suspends this year's regularly scheduled Election and calls for each of acting Post Officers to retain their respective Offices for another term.

On April 8, 2020, the National Executive Committee passed Resolution No. 3. This Resolution effectively cancels the National Convention and requires that the acting National Executive members maintain their current Offices for another term. Likewise, on April 10, 2020, the Department of Michigan passed Resolution No. 9. Additionally, the Department of Michigan has recently passed emergency bylaws, which allow Posts to suspend Elections during times of emergency, as well as alternate methods for conducting in-person elections.

The Post Executive Board, along with the SAL Squadron, has thoroughly reviewed each of these developments and has decided that the most reasonable course of action is to follow the lead of our National and State organizations and cancel the Elections for this year.

Please know this decision was not made lightly. It was made in best interest of the safety and wellbeing of our Members.

The full text of the resolution is included.

For God and Country,

Matthew A Tibbs

Matthew A Tibbs, Commander
E.F. Oldenburg Post 216
The American Legion

Cancellation of 2020 American Legion Post Nominations and Elections

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, The American Legion Department of Michigan Executive Committee passed Resolution No. 9 on April 10, 2020, resolving that; 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 Michigan, Department Executive Committee strongly urges that the Detachment of Michigan, Sons of The American Legion, the Department of Michigan, American Legion Auxiliary and all American Legion, Department of Michigan Districts and Posts 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, 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. ; 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, Governor Whitmer has declared a state of emergency pursuant to Executive Order 2020-33; and

WHEREAS, under Executive Order 2020-33, the state of emergency is to continue until any effects of the emergency conditions no longer exist; and

WHEREAS, Governor Whitmer, has directed in Executive Order 2020-42, that in order to suppress the spread of COVID-19, that all individuals currently living within the State of Michigan are ordered to stay at home or at 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; and

WHEREAS, under Executive Order 2020-42, no person or entity shall operate a business or conduct operations that require workers to leave their homes or places of residence except to the extent that those workers are necessary to sustain or protect life or to conduct minimum basic operations; and

WHEREAS, Executive Order 2020-42 states that a willful violation of the order is a misdemeanor; and

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

WHEREAS, Michigan Legislature on April 7, 2020, passed Senate Concurrent Resolution 24 that extended Governor Whitmer's emergency authority until April 30, 2020, but states that they will evaluate the continuing need for this order prior to its expiration; and

WHEREAS, The Governor of Michigan issued Executive Order 2020-42 on April 9, 2020; and

WHEREAS, A gathering of the members of American Legion Post 216 to nominate officers and conduct proper elections would be in conflict with the imposed restrictions set by local, state and federal authorities and therefore place our members at unnecessary health, safety, and medical risk; and

WHEREAS, A nomination process and election process via other means could be cost-prohibitive; and

WHEREAS, The Post 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 American Legion Post 216, at this time; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Post Executive Committee of American Legion Post 216, 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 Post Executive Committee agrees that present circumstances constitute sufficient reasons to cancel the 2020-2021 American Legion Post Elections; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all Post elected and appointed officers, to include but not exclusive too, Commander, Secondary Commanders, Adjutant, Judge Advocate, Chaplain, Historian, Finance Officer, and Sergeant at Arms continue serving in their current positions until the 2021 post nomination and election process; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all post committee chairpersons, and the current committee members continue serving in their current positions until they resign or are either reassigned or reappointed at the first Post Executive Committee meeting after the 2021 Post Elections; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That due to numerous health and safety reasons and needs of our members, the American Legion Post Executive Committee strongly urges that the Squadron, Sons of The American Legion, American Legion Auxiliary Unit and Legion Rider Chapter follow a similar course of action, to-wit: (1) cancel their 2020 elections; and (2) maintain the status quo of their officers until next year, or if a vacancy occurs to fill the vacancy per the post constitution and bylaws by a vote of the executive board by phone, electronic means or at the first in person meeting.

Matthew A Tibbs

Post Commander

Anthony J Puente

Post Adjutant

Date: 4/14/2020