

Dear fellow Sons of AMVETS,

I hope all you and your families are healthy & safe during these trying times with COVID-19.

As some of you may have already heard or seen on social media, the June 2020 AMVETS Convention is canceled. Below you will see the announcement and direction by our AMVETS Commander Andy McElrath. I have also provided direction by our National Sons JA. David Spencer

AMVETS Family,

I hope everyone is staying healthy during this trying time and that this letter finds you well. Our Department is adjusting to life in this unique time, and we are working hard to get through this intact and with our membership and posts as strong as ever.

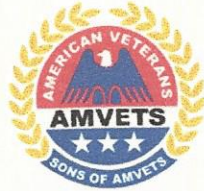
It is with much regret that I am writing to inform our members that our State Executive Committee (SEC) has come to the difficult decision to cancel our June convention. The SEC met via teleconference over the weekend to discuss the convention and after deliberation and discussion, we felt it was in the best interest of our membership to cancel the 2020 convention so as to avoid putting any members at risk as we did not see a way to hold the convention and follow social distancing guidelines and protocols. The SEC voted to have all department officers stay in place through our convention in June 2021, and to have all District and Post officers remain in place as well. With that said, if any officer cannot or will not stay on in their current role and resigns, then the CB&L will be followed to fill that vacant office.

We have scheduled a finance committee meeting for May 16th so that we can prepare the 2020-2021 budget. At this time, the only physical attendees to that meeting will be members of the finance committee, however I will work with our Department staff to see if there is a way to stream this meeting so that any member who wishes to see the meeting has the opportunity to do so. Once the finance committee meets and prepares the budget, an SEC meeting will be convened to review and approve the budget for the upcoming year. Until that time, the Department will operate under the SEC approved proposed budget until it can be presented to our membership for its approval at our next convened meeting.

Our focus going forward is to remain the strongest Department in the country; we are working with District and Post leaders to keep the Posts informed about resources during this difficult time. We want to get our Posts back in operation as quickly as possible, and we are staying in touch with the AG and Governor's office to try and get this tough task accomplished. Please do not hesitate to contact Department headquarters if you have any questions.

Please continue the work that you are doing for our Veterans; this is our mission, and they will continue to be our focus.

Humbly yours in Service,



How this impacts us is that Sons of AMVETS State Conventions must be held at the same time and place as AMVETS State Conventions (National Constitution, Article VI, Section 1). • IN THE EVENT that your State Department POSTPONES their State Convention, ours is also automatically postponed as well. If it happens this way, your convention will still happen, just a little later than normal. • If the AMVETS State Executive Committee CANCELS the State Convention, ours is also canceled. We cannot hold a legal convention if they are not holding one, so any action(s) you take, including elections, Standing Rules Amendments, etc. could be successfully challenged. • The National AMVETS have extended the window for the State Conventions through August 1 (from May 15 to June 30). PER AMVETS NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS, IF THE STATE CONVENTION CANNOT BE HELD BEFORE JULY 1, ALL CURRENT STATE OFFICERS REMAIN IN OFFICE UNTIL NEW ELECTIONS ARE COMPLETED. IF A CONVENTION CANNOT BE HELD UNTIL AFTER AUGUST 1: • Your current officers will remain in office until June 30, 2021. Obviously, no one signed up for that, so anyone that chooses to may resign at any time, and the normal appointment of replacements should follow. • FOR ANY STATE WHERE THE STATE CONVENTION IS CANCELED, you should file a Change of Officers form for 2020-2021 anyway. • For the purpose of approving the 2020-2021 State Budgets, this may be done by your State Executive Committee. As per the AMVETS Guidelines, if you MUST do this by phone or mail, the Commander must be able to verify who is voting and provide a by-name vote tally to the State Executive Committee immediately after voting is completed (as a reminder, the State Executive Committee consists of all elected officers, Squadron Commander (and State District Commanders in Ohio) and the Immediate Past State Commander. • If you do not hold a Convention, then you also cannot amend or alter any of your Standing.

We the Department of Ohio Sons of AMVETS officers have all agreed to fulfill another term in our current capacity. I have scheduled the Finance Committee meeting and we will do our best to continue to represent you & the AMVETS of Ohio proudly.

Your Truly

Vern Davenport

Commander

Department of Ohio

Sons of AMVETS

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