



# The American Legion



## DEPARTMENT OF NEW YORK

1304 Park Boulevard, Troy, New York 12180

Legionnaires,

I just wanted to update you as we navigate these difficult times and reassure you that we in the Department are doing everything in our power to safeguard our members, employees and the members of our Community. As I am sure you are aware, several of our signature programs have been modified or cancelled. The Dept Oratorical Contest was modified to only allow the contestants, their family members, the judges and a small group of Legionnaires needed to run the contest. I attended and the contest ran as smoothly as always thanks to Chairman Tony Paternostro and his committee. The National AL has cancelled the National Oratorical contest so I am happy we were able to have our contest. These kids wait all year for this and I am glad we did not disappoint them.

The National Commanders Spring visit to NY has been cancelled. All visitation chairman have been notified and I understand that all reservations have been cancelled without penalty. Over the past few years I have enjoyed showing the NC our great state and introducing him or her to the great Legionnaires of NY. Hopefully in the future he will have the time to come back and visit. The National Organization has cancelled the Spring meetings in Indianapolis. The Department Bowling tournament has been cancelled. All interested parties have been notified and the Malone Post has agreed to host the tournament next year. The AL Department of NY College has been cancelled and Morrisville College has agreed to a penalty free cancellation. All payments received will be returned along with your applications. The Department Commanders homecoming weekend has been cancelled and attendees are advised to cancel your hotel reservations and contact the dinner chairman for further information.

The DNY Boy's State program along with The National Boy's Nation have been cancelled and County Chairman have been advised to return checks and paperwork to the Post of origin. This was the hardest decision to make since these young men look forward to this week all year long and families plan their vacations around it. I was a City counselor there for many years and always enjoyed meeting the boys when they arrived and seeing the young men they had become as they leave.

The Department Convention is still a go at this time as is the National Convention. However, we are discussing alternative arrangements for the Dept. Convention if this emergency continues. I will notify all of you as soon as any decisions are made. There have been many inquiries regarding Election of Officers for the coming year and myself and Department Judge Advocate Patrick Falvey have been discussing options for the various scenarios and will be participating in a conference call tomorrow with the National leadership to discuss many issues. We hope to have a plan for elections by Friday and will get it to you ASAP.

The DSO offices in New York City and Buffalo have been closed and the employees are currently on paid sick leave due to the indecision of our elected officials in D.C. I authorized their sick leave payment by the Department for the last two weeks. When the politicians finally put aside their differences and come up with a bill, we will adjust our procedures with the emphasis on our employee safety and financial wellbeing.

The Troy office is also closed but several of our employees have the ability to work from home and have access to their office computers remotely. We have also worked it out with our mail and package delivery to avoid person to person contact during transactions. We do not have remote access to our phone system but many of us have access to our computers, so if you need to contact us, please email and we will get back to you ASAP.

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**"FOR GOD AND COUNTRY"**



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In closing, I would like to assure you that although things sometimes feel like they are spinning out of control and we are at wits end, please take a moment to speak to your God, and it doesn't matter who your God is. These are extraordinary times and a good conversation with your Supreme Being can really be a calming influence. I also want to remind you that closing your posts and avoiding crowds is the best way for us to defeat this virus. Please check on your fellow Legionnaires and find out if they are in distress.

We will get thru this and I look forward to the day when this is just a bad memory. I will keep in touch with you as things develop and keep you advised of any changes in Dept. policy.

*"Pro Deo et Patria"*

*James W. Casey*

*Adjutant*

*Department of New York*