



American Legion Auxiliary

*A Community of Volunteers Serving Veterans,
Military, and their Families*

March 26, 2020

TO: National Executive Committee Members, National Officers, National Chairmen, Past National Presidents

CC: Department Presidents; Department Secretaries

From: Kelly Circle, Executive Director

Re: **Weekly Briefing 3-26-2020**

There is a lot of information coming in and NHQ is working diligently with our membership leaders to provide information and guidance. Please bear with the multiple and lengthy emails as we do our best to keep you updated. As you may have noticed, I've been including Department Presidents and Secretaries/Eds on the last few briefings. I know many units are asking department leadership the same questions so I'm attempting to "flatten" the hierarchy (along with the COVID 19 curve!) so everyone who needs it can get reliable information in the shortest time. When things get back to "normal" we can revisit the distribution and decide the best plan for those circumstances.

You all should have received the email from President Nicole and me providing information regarding meetings, elections, and emergencies. Please respond to the email included in that notification if you have any questions.

Additionally, National Program Chairmen have already shared the following information with their respective department program chairs (but want to ensure everyone has this information):

National Junior Activities: Your Juniors may find that a patch activity can't be completed because of social distancing or closures. As an adult ALA leader, use your best judgment and adjust the activities to fit the circumstances. If the activity requires making a presentation to your unit, let them do it online. Help them use social media, email, and telephones. Be creative and let your Juniors help come up with ideas. Take pictures of your Juniors in action and use the hashtag #ALAJuniors so we can see what great things they're doing! If you have any questions or need any help, email JuniorActivities@ALAforVeterans.org.

National Scholarships: National scholarship deadlines have been extended. The new deadlines are: Department selected applications to the Divisional Chairs: May 1; Division winners to the National Education Chairman: May 15; Letters to winners and announcements on website: End of May.

If you have any questions or need any help, email Education@ALAforVeterans.org



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National Americanism Essay contest: The deadlines for the national Americanism essay contest remain the same; though entries are only being accepted electronically. Department Americanism Chairmen have received the following specific details about how to pass info about winning entries on to the national committee members. Please make sure the student's information is LEGIBLE. If you can't read the handwriting on the cover sheet please clarify as soon as possible for clarification. Cover sheets must accompany the Essay and be signed off on by the Unit. IMPORTANT....IN LIGHT OF SCHOOL CLOSURES - In the event a teacher cannot sign the Essay Cover Sheet, a parent may sign in place of the teacher that the student completed this Essay but must indicate that they are the parent and not the teacher. Deadline to Division Chairs is April 15. All winning Essays, winning Award Narratives and End of Year Reports will now be accepted by email only. PLEASE DO NOT SEND HARD COPY BY REGULAR MAIL. Cover sheets must accompany all submissions for any award, or they will be disqualified. Winning Department Essays are due to Divisional Chairs by April 15, 2020. End of year reports due from Department Chairs to Divisional Chairs by May 15, 2020. Direct questions to Americanism@ALAforVeterans.org

National Poppy Poster contest & Little Miss Poppy contest: Your Department **Poppy Poster** winners are still due to your Division Chairman by June 1. However, this year we ask that you do NOT mail them until after the COVID 19 Crisis has passed. This means that you will need to take pictures with either your cell phone or with a digital camera. These pictures do not need to be high resolution when emailed to your Division Poppy Chairman. Please hold on to your winning posters and await further instructions. Division Chairmen will forward additional instructions regarding the handling of the winning posters to the departments who have had posters selected as divisional winners. **Little Miss Poppy entries** are now due to the National Poppy Chairman, Beth McGinn by July 1. If any changes are made to the criteria or submission requirement, the information will be released as soon as possible. Reports are still due from Department Chairs to Divisional Chairs by May 15, 2020. These need to be delivered via email to your division chairs. All award entries for Most Outstanding Unit and Best Department Awards must be received electronically by your Division Chairs by June 1, 2020. Cover sheets must be scanned and included with the entries. Direct questions to Poppy@ALAforVeterans.org

Youth Hero/Good Deed Award: If you have Good Deed or Youth Hero nominations to send in, you can email them to Children&Youth@ALAFforVeterans.org. Attached are some instructions on scanning from a smartphone, if you don't have a scanner.

If you have a question about a program that is not listed here, please contact that program team directly at one of the following addresses:



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Community Service: CommunityService@ALAforVeterans.org

Girls Nation: ALAGirlsNation@ALAforVeterans.org

Legislative: Legislative@ALAforVeterans.org

National Security: NationalSecurity@ALAforVeterans.org

Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation Committee: VA&R@ALAforVeterans.org

Auxiliary Emergency Fund: AEF@ALAforVeterans.org

Constitution & Bylaws: Constitution&Bylaws@ALAforVeterans.org

History: History@ALAforVeterans.org

Leadership: Leadership@ALAforVeterans.org

Membership: Membership@ALAforVeterans.org

Past Presidents Parley: PastPresidentsParley@ALAforVeterans.org

Public Relations: PR@ALAforVeterans.org

Department Impact Numbers are due to
ALAReports@ALAforVeterans.org **by June 1, 2020**

The **2020 National Chairmen's meeting**, previously scheduled for April 16 & 17 in Indianapolis, has been reinvented. Some segments will happen online, and some will take place later this year, face-to-face. Involved parties will be contacted directly by National Vice President Kathy Daudistel.

Department Leadership National Conference is going Virtual!!
The Department Leadership National Conference (DLNC) is moving a virtual format. The face to face meeting scheduled to take place in Indianapolis has been cancelled. However, during May 2-3, there will be several segments originally planned for the conference offered virtually – either live or a recorded presentation. More information will be sent to attendees on Friday and in the coming weeks. While we are disappointed that we are not seeing everyone



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physically face to face, we are excited to offer some of the most important content virtually. A big thanks to Vice President Kathy for showing amazing flexibility while maintaining her focus for the year—we're in good hands!

I promise, these briefings will become “briefer” when things stop changing every 5 seconds! Stay safe, stay physically distant, but emotionally close. Reach out to a fellow member and do a buddy check. Let's make sure we're all doing okay!