

**THE AMERICAN LEGION
DEPARTMENT OF ARIZONA**

Resolution Number: A

Resolution: Cancellation Department of Arizona 2020 Department Convention and Disposition of Department Officers

ACTION: _____

Submitted by: Department of Arizona Executive Committee

WHEREAS, The Department of Arizona has been notified that The American Legion National Executive Committee of The American Legion, by electronic mail vote agrees that present circumstances constitute sufficient reasons to cancel the 2020 American Legion National Convention; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion National Commander James W. "Bill" Oxford said. "The safety of our members and compliance with state and federal public-health restrictions and guidelines made this decision not only prudent but necessary;" and

WHEREAS, The State Government of Arizona has taken emergency actions to prevent the spread of infections and to follow federal guidance that restrict public gatherings and urge social distancing. No one can say with any certainty when these measures will be lifted or in what manner; and

WHEREAS, *Article XVI – National Constitution*, of The Constitution of The American Legion Department of Arizona, Section 1: provides that the National Constitution, Rules and Regulations adopted by the National Organization of The American Legion shall be considered and become a part of this Constitution insofar as the same are applicable to the Department Organization; and

WHEREAS, Many American Legion state and foreign departments are canceling their conventions and elections to protect public health in the midst of this pandemic; and

WHEREAS, The current Department Officers have already received the National training for their positions, the next offering of which is unknown at this time for any new Officer who would begin a term before Department Convention 2021; and

WHEREAS, The current and only candidate for Department Commander, accommodating the Department Convention's cancellation discussions in a noble manner, is hereby endorsed as the Leading Candidate for Department Commander 2021, the election of which is not physically possible until the next Department Convention; and

WHEREAS, This emergency need for stated contingency plans for Department elections justifies a further plan, assigned to the Committee on Committee or its subordinate Councils; with its approved rules & practices, to include the annual nomination of a 2nd Leading Candidate who would be elevated to Leading Candidate upon the election or inability to serve by the existing Leading Candidate each year beginning with each Department Convention election; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, By the Department Executive Committee of The American Legion, Department of Arizona, by electronic vote similar to National, pursuant to The Constitution of The American Legion Department of Arizona, Article XVI – National Constitution, Section 1; 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 American Legion Department Executive Committee of Arizona agrees that present circumstances

constitute sufficient reasons to cancel the 2020 American Legion Department Convention; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department Convention and Conference Committee be authorized to meet with the contracted 2020 Convention Hotel/City as may be needed to cancel the 2020 contract with actions to mitigate as much as practicable the reduction of any loss to The American Legion Department of Arizona; and be it further

RESOLVED, That all Department elected and appointed officers continue serving in their current positions until the close of the next Department Convention scheduled in Phoenix, Arizona, from June 24, 2021 through June 27, 2021; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That all Department commission and/or committee chairpersons and the current commission and committee members continue serving in their current positions until they resign or are either reassigned or reappointed at the next Department Convention scheduled in Phoenix, Arizona, from June 24, 2021 through June 27, 2021; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That any resolutions needing to come before the Department Executive Committee, may be brought forth to the Department Executive Committee and subsequently considered and voted on by video meetings, electronic mail or any other allowed means prior to the next allowed physical meeting; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the Department Committee on Committee appoint a Nominations Council from among its members for the purpose of placing a Nomination of 2nd Leading Candidate for Department of Arizona Commander for each year at Department Convention effective June 26, 2020; and be it further

RESOLVED, That Legionnaire Benjamin Headen is recognized as the Leading Candidate for Department of Arizona Commander 2021-2022; and be it finally

RESOLVED, That due to numerous health and safety reasons and needs of our members, the American Legion Department Executive Committee strongly urges that the Sons of The American Legion Detachment of Arizona, the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Arizona and all American Legion Posts, Department of Arizona follow a similar course of action if they so desire.