



From: National President, Nicole Clapp

Sent: Thursday, March 26, 2020 5:52 PM

To: 2020 Dept NEC; 2020 National Officers; 2020 Natl Chairmen; ALA Past National Presidents; ALA Dept Secretaries/EDs; 2020 Dept Presidents

Cc: ALA NHQ IND Staff

Subject: ALA Meetings Elections and Emergencies

Good Evening everyone!

It's your National President, Nicole Clapp, writing to you from Connecticut! In all honesty, I'm working from home like the rest of you... but in my life before this Coronavirus craziness, I would have been headed to my department visit in beautiful Connecticut! I know this time has been filled with anxiety, stress and maybe even some disappointments (believe me... my calendar does NOT look like what it did a couple of weeks ago!), but what keeps me going with a positive attitude is knowing that we're all in this together!

I understand that many of you might be experiencing some uncertainty around your upcoming department conventions. In fact, I've been informed we've received questions from departments/districts/units regarding their upcoming elections and conventions as a result of coronavirus restrictions. So, I'm here to assure you that national leadership and national headquarters have been working together to research, provide information and ultimately help support you while we all try to do our best work in these confusing times.

Kelly Circle, our Executive Director at National Headquarters, has been working with a great team that is here to help you. This team is led by our National C&B Chairman, Trish Ward; Headquarters C&B Program Coordinator, Cathi Taylor; Headquarters Governance Specialist, Angie Graham and of course our Professional Parliamentarian, Chris Dickey. So at this point, I'll turn to our Executive Director, Kelly Circle, to share some important information.

Message for Kelly Circle, ALA NHQ Executive Director

Hi everyone! As National President Nicole explained, our headquarters staff and national leadership have been collaborating extensively in an attempt to assist you while you navigate your upcoming elections and conventions under coronavirus restrictions. Most of you are aware that because of how the ALA is structured in our National Constitution and Bylaws, headquarters is never allowed to *dictate* to departments/districts/units – basically, we cannot tell you what to do. However we always try to research and provide information/guidance that, hopefully, is applicable all levels of the organization. So, what kind of information has our team put together for you on this topic? Attached to this email you will find the following:

1. A flow chart to help you determine how you should operate in an emergency situation. This flow chart includes questions on e-voting, mail voting, governing documents and state laws.
2. A comparison chart of e-voting platforms your group might want to look into utilizing if e-voting is an avenue your group is capable of pursuing.
3. An outlet for all of your questions/comments: constitutionbylaws@alaforveterans.org

President Nicole is absolutely right, we are ALL in this together. I encourage everyone to reach out to your department Legion leadership to share information and develop a plan of action together as you feel is appropriate. We are doing this at the national level and it has been very helpful!

I understand things are a little confusing and uncomfortable right now, but we have a great team in place ready to listen and help guide you through your upcoming elections and conventions. I'd like to take this opportunity to give a public thanks to Trish, Tamara, Angie, Cathi, Chris, and President Nicole for their hard work researching and putting together this information for our use. I also want to



thank our newest assistant, Kimberly Letko, for her extensive behind-the-scenes work creating a very helpful spreadsheet of online meeting alternatives.

Finally, thanks to all of our members who are tirelessly working to adapt and overcome!

All the best,

Kelly

Message sent 3/26/2020 by Tamara Shumate on behalf of the National President and Executive Director to:

2020 Department NEC

2020 Officers

2020 Chairs

PNPs

Dept Presidents

Dept Secretaries/EDs

ALA NHQ Staff