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March 24, 2020

Memo To: District Commanders
Post Commanders
Post Adjutants
Post Boys State Chairmen

Subject: 2020 American Legion of Iowa Boys State Cancellation

The current COVID-19 pandemic has caused serious interruptions globally, forcing all of us examine and re-examine the matter in which we conduct our daily lives. The serious health risks and unknown variables have created unprecedented responses from various offices and authorities from the national level down to the local.

The American Legion of Iowa Boys State Board of Directors met on Tuesday, March 24, 2020 to discuss the direct impact COVID-19 has on the upcoming session. After careful consideration of the information available and the uncertain future as to the longevity of this pandemic, The American Legion of Iowa Boys State Board of Directors decided to cancel the 2020 Boys State Session and its correlative activities such as District Orientations. The decision to cancel was difficult, but the safety of all participants involved from delegates to counselors was of utmost priority.

In addition, the Department of Iowa has received official notice from The American Legion's National Office that the 2020 American Legion Boys Nation Session scheduled for July 17-25, 2020 has been cancelled. National's response was in direct response to the uncertainties and safety consideration of all involved.

The Department of Iowa and the Boys State Board of Directors will be issuing an official letter to all delegates and their primary contact who have registered with this news. It is important that these delegates understand despite our current situation, they were selected by you the post and that is something they can be proud to include in résumés and applications.

We do not know what impact these decisions may have upon awarding the 2020 Samsung American Legion Scholarship, however, after the National Office reviews and makes their assessment, information will be announced through national's websites: <https://www.legion.org/scholarships/samsung>.

The Department of Iowa under the direction of the Board of Directors will be issuing refunds for each post in accordance with the deposits made. There is no need for post leadership to formally request funds as they will all be returned. Please be patient with us as we prepare those funds over the course of the next month. If your post does not receive its refund by the end of April, please contact Department Headquarters at 1-800-365-8387.

At this time, the Board of Directors has not addressed next year's details and our response to potential questions. We ask that you table your questions currently as we first address the immediate needs. The Board of Directors will be meeting again in a few months to follow up and address secondary actions.

As the Board of Directors for The American Legion of Iowa Boys State, we appreciate your confidence in us to make informed decisions regarding the program. Thank you for your participation and resilience in *Iowa's Premiere Civic Education Program* and we look forward to continuing with your support and partnership in the future.

For God and Country,

The American Legion of Iowa Boys State Board of Directors