

Comrades,

We are hearing of many concerns recently regarding our recent Council of Administration in Sycamore restrictions as well the cancellation of conventions and other activities. I feel it is important to address this. Any and all concerns are very important to us.

In regard to the cancellation of the National Convention in Reno, this was the call of our National organization. However, they did do an outstanding job of a virtual National Convention. This year's class of Department Commander's were asked to "think outside of the box" with our challenges we are presented. Our National organization has been leading the charge showing us how we think outside us the box with new ideas on how we can continue to conduct our business.

Our recent August Council of Administration in Sycamore needed to be downsized. Please remember we must consider State and local laws and guidelines during this time. Our maximum capacity for this meeting was 50 people. We were unable to call in all our Program Chairs for reports. It was very disappointing to not have all of our Program Chairs in. It was our hope to zoom the Council of Administration meeting on Saturday, but unfortunately, we had issues. We understand by at least offering the opportunity to join us via zoom it at least allows you participation with us and be a part of the business we are conducting at the Department of Illinois. We will correct this issue so that you can be a part of our next Council of Administration.

Traditionally the August Council of Administration ends with the State Commander's Homecoming. No one was more disappointed than I was. I have heard about issues with us not having the Homecoming. It is not possible for us to have a gathering of this type presently. I will try to get around our great State to see as many of you as possible. We are still hoping for our 100th Anniversary of the VFW Department of Illinois Celebration in November with a mini Council of Administration planned in Sparta.

We have a great "100 Years of Veterans Service" team this year. We continue to communicate as we navigate through this interesting and different 2020-2021 year with its challenges.

Laurie Emmer

Commander

Department of Illinois

Veterans of Foreign Wars