

## **An Update from the Non Commissioned Officers Association Board of Directors:**

March 19, 2020

Dear NCOA Members:

We know that the news surrounding the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic has caused some concern and anxiety with regards to our activities going forward both on a national and chapter level. Your International Board of Directors met via conference call on Tuesday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, to address the issue and its impact to our NCOA operations over the next few months. This update will provide some information and guidance.

**Regular Chapter Meetings:** As far as regular chapter meetings, our Chapter and International Auxiliary By-Laws allow the flexibility to hold membership meetings on a quarterly versus monthly basis, so if your chapter needs to postpone or cancel meeting as a result of health concerns and restrictions placed by federal, state or local governments, do what is best for the safety of your members. You are also encouraged to take advantage of teleconferences or social media (i.e. Facebook, Google, etc.) to conduct your meetings virtually. If, for whatever reasons, your chapter is unable to hold their membership meeting, submit a statement to NCOA Chapter Services indicating that due to COVID-19 restraints, you were unable to conduct a General Membership meeting in the required timeframe. As far as chapter executive meetings, if unable to comply with meeting standards in your area as to number of attendees, follow the same reporting criteria as stated above. You are encouraged to check on your members to see if any, especially elderly members, require any assistance.

**National Conference:** As far as our National conference currently scheduled for 14-17 July in San Antonio, we are closely monitoring this situation, and keeping in touch with our colleagues from other military service organizations. As of this date, DoD has limited travel for all military, civilian personnel, and dependents until at least May 11<sup>th</sup>. We will be in contact with DoD as well as the National Headquarters of other military service organizations that have their conferences scheduled during this coming summer. Your Board will gather all the information available from these sources as well as from the Center for Disease Control (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), and federal, state and local regulators in order to make a final informed decision as to whether we should stay with the current schedule or postpone the conference until later in the year.

The International Board of Directors will have a follow-on conference call on May 12<sup>th</sup> and will release a final go/no-go decision no later than May 15<sup>th</sup>. The health and well-being as well as the morale of our membership is of utmost importance to us all. The principal point of contact for any questions is our the Executive Director, Sir Joseph Terry, at [jterry@ncoausa.org](mailto:jterry@ncoausa.org), or by phone, 210-653-6161 Ext 407.