



DISABLED AMERICAN VETERANS, DEPARTMENT OF MICHIGAN

Albert Hughes
State Commander

Paul Kaiser
State Adjutant

May 4, 2020

Dear Chapter Commanders & Adjutants,

As you may be aware, DAV National Headquarters has changed the officer report format, and the DAV Department of Michigan will be mirroring that revision. Some changes have also been made regarding the service officer position at the chapter level that will be addressed below.

Many members are wondering when they will be able to hold meetings considering the COVID 19 pandemic. Our department is following the State of Michigan guidelines and restrictions on gatherings, and we ask that your chapter does the same. Please continue to monitor these restrictions as they are rapidly evolving. Current officers are permitted to stay in place until our chapters can meet again, at which time new elections must be held. Our National organization will not take any derogatory action for lack of officer reports until chapters can meet and hold them in a safe environment.

To be clear, you should not send in a new Officer Report to National until your chapter has had an election. Once the COVID 19 situation gets under control and our state lifts the ban on gatherings, your chapter leadership will have to make the decision whether to meet and hold elections, and determine the safest way to conduct these meetings—keep in mind our #1 priority is to keep our members safe and healthy. When the time comes to hold meetings, we ask that you follow the guidelines of our State Constitution and Bylaws regarding nominations, elections and installations; As a reminder, a mailing will need to go out to all chapter members notifying them of the time and place of the first nominations, second nominations and election. Again, safety is our #1 priority, and your chapter will not be penalized for turning in the report late if meetings remain not permitted and/or unsafe.

If your chapter decides to follow the Department and keep the same officers in place for the 2020-21 year, we ask that you complete the enclosed Department and National officer reports and National service officer nomination form and follow the instructions. **It is extremely important that you include as many valid email addresses as you are able to provide for yourself, as well as all of your Chapter Officers.** Email will remain the primary means of communication with your Chapters, so providing them is of the utmost importance.

Chapter Service Officers:

ALL CHAPTER SERVICE OFFICER CERTIFICATIONS HAVE BEEN EXTENDED to December 2020. The Regional Service office is currently exploring options to conduct a training session prior to the expiration of certification, and there will be more to follow. Please make sure your chapter service officer(s) are aware that if they have any questions, or need assistance when assisting a Veteran they should email dav.vbadet@va.gov as a primary means of communication and quickest response. If email is not available, there is now a toll-free number that is answered by NSO's across the nation The number to call is (888) 604-0234. This is a pilot program at this time, but may become permanent if it is successful.

Should you have any additional questions, please email me at paul@davmichigan.com for the quickest response to your inquiry. You may also call the office and leave a voicemail if email is not available, however we are all currently working remotely, and response may be delayed. The Department of Michigan will keep in contact with all chapters by all means available as we ease back into normalcy. Please keep monitoring our website and Facebook for new information as well. Thank you all for everything you do!

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paul Kaiser', with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the left.

Paul Kaiser
State Adjutant