



TO: ALL NJ AMERICAN LEGION POSTS

FROM: THE AMERICAN LEGION – DEPARTMENT OF NJ

SUBJECT: POST HEALTH

As your Department Commander, I hope this letter finds you Safe from this COVID-19 Pandemic that has devastated us here in New Jersey as well as the entire Country.

The purpose of this letter is to find out how our Posts and Post homes are fairing during the Executive Order Shutdown that Gov. Phil Murphy imposed. I know that it is difficult for us to meet as our Posts have been shuttered. If it's possible to meet, I suggest Conference Calls/Zoom Conference Calls as a way of keeping your membership informed as to what's happening at your Post, County and Department. If you can reach out to members who have not provided an email address to provide one so that you can send out briefs on what our Posts, Counties and Department are doing to assist our Veterans and their communities.

In a brief summary, mailed or emailed to the Department Adjutant I want to know how your Post is dealing with Membership. What is the Morale at your Post (Positive/Negative)? How is the Post coping with Finances, are you okay? If you have a Post home, are you financially stable? Please put in a short summary of your stability, including whether you are able to pay your bills, i.e., mortgages, PSE&G, water, insurance and so on. Please indicate if you were able to work with any of these entities to reduce you monthly output.

If your Post has paid employees and files paperwork with the state for these employees then your Post can apply with the Small Business Administration for the Coronavirus (Covid-19) stimulus. You will need to log onto the NJ Small Business Administration. Again, this is only for Posts that have paid employees.

- These are grants and do not have to be paid back if grant funds are given to employees as payroll reimbursement.
- Utilize smaller banks since they favor personal clients for your SBA grants or loans.
- The SBA grant stimulus programs to assist our Posts for paying expenses only for those Posts with payrolls may not help many of our smaller Posts with a limited number of employees.

I am asking that you provide us with this information so that we, as your Department, can better serve you. We have an issue in New Jersey where only Posts that have (employees) on payroll can apply even as a 501(c) 19 but most with only volunteers are not able to apply for SBA loans or grants because we are a 501(c) 19 without employees.

We are hoping we can use the information so that we can get a better picture on the health of our Department and how we can proceed to better assist our struggling Posts because of this pandemic.

Robert B. Newell
Department Commander 2019-2020
The American Legion Department of NJ
Telephone: 908-227-7459/ Trenton: 609-695-5418
email: rbnewell@optimum.net/ Trenton:
adjutant@njamericanlegion.org