



FULFILLING OUR PROMISES
TO THE MEN AND WOMEN WHO SERVED

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Department has tried to provide guidance regarding meetings rather than orders. Our guidance on meetings has been that the Governor's / Department of Health Director's orders must be followed and that their recommendations should be considered. Our intent is to guide rather than police chapters and their activities.

For some time, the Stay at Home orders completely prohibited non-essential meetings. Such meetings are now permitted for gatherings of up to ten persons, with six-foot distancing requirements, as well as with recommendations, for us primarily those regarding high risk persons.

The latest applicable order is the Director's Updated & Revised Order for Business Guidance & Social Distancing dated May 29th. Paragraph 6 of that Order defines its application as covering almost every type of gathering, including "non-profit ... regardless of the nature of the service, the function it performs, or its corporate or entity structure."

Paragraph 3 of the Order states: "All public and private gatherings of greater than 10 people occurring outside a single household and connecting property, or living unit and connected property are prohibited...." There are exceptions, most notably religious gatherings, weddings and funerals, but none of the exceptions fit DAV chapter meetings.

Under paragraphs 2 & 11, distancing is also maintained: "All businesses and operations shall continue to comply with Social Distancing Requirements... maintaining six-foot social distancing for both employees and members of the public..." Also, businesses that are essential or are meeting to engage in minimum basic operations are required to take safety measures, such as providing hand sanitizer and providing remote access to meeting (video conferences or teleconferences).

Paragraph 5 of the Order recommends that: "People at high risk ... including elderly people .. people who are sixty-five years or older and people of all ages with underlying medical conditions" should take additional precautions.

The Order requires business staff to wear masks. As stated above, chapters meet the definition of a business. The Order could mandate that officers wear masks.

I wish I could answer your question of when chapters may resume monthly meetings. We hope that it is soon, in that the Orders will be lifted when State government sees that we are moving out of risk. Until Orders are lifted, our guidance remains: follow the Governor's / Director of Health's Orders and give appropriate consideration to their recommendations.

Wishing you all the best,

Mike

Michael Stith
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