

Travelers Protective Association 2041 Exchange Drive St. Charles, MO 63303

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April 21, 2020

To Our Valued Members and Friends,

I hope this message finds you and your family healthy and safe during this unprecedented time. We are reaching out to keep you up-to-date as all of us navigate through this challenging time. Our priority at TPA is protecting the health and safety of our members and our families as we fight against the COVID-19 virus.

Guidance from the national board of directors is to follow "The President's Coronavirus Guidelines for America" and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

- Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10 people.
- Avoid eating and drinking at bars, restaurants and food courts.
- Avoid discretionary travel, shopping trips, and social visits.
- Practice social distancing by staying at least six feet away from people.

National headquarters has received numerous inquiries regarding upcoming 2020 events, including annual meetings at the post, division and national level.

## National Convention

For health and safety reasons, the 2020 national convention scheduled to be held in Grand Rapids, Michigan, has been cancelled. We continue our positive relationship with the Amway Grand Plaza Hotel and TPA will hold the 2022 annual convention at the Amway property in Grand Rapids from June 19-23. This will be a four day convention with a built in free day to allow everybody to enjoy the local attractions. Following the guidance provided in our governing documents, the terms of all officers and directors have been extended by one year. The 2021 annual convention will be held at the Ameristar Casino Resort Spa in Saint Charles, Missouri from June 27-30.

## Post and Division Annual Meeting

The national board of directors does not encourage posts and divisions to meet in person, due to the contagious COVID-19 virus. The board strongly recommends posts and divisions to hold their annual meeting electronically, either teleconference by phone or though video conference via WebEx. Staff at national headquarters can easily set up either of these for you. If you choose to cancel your annual meeting we recommend following the guidance provided in our governing documents and extending the terms of all officers and directors by one year. If you hold the annual meeting electronically, it will be at the discretion of the post and division to determine whether or not to hold the election of officers and directors. The board feels it is extremely important for post and division members to stay connected. For more information contact Albert Shoemaker by calling 636-724-2227 or by email at ashoemaker@tpahq.org.

As a result of the cancellation of the 2020 annual convention, TPA will not be naming award winners for the Past and Present State President's Award, Merit Award, and Fraternalist of the Year Award.

We know things are slow for everybody right now, but we will survive this pandemic. These are small steps in the right direction. Thank you for everything you are doing as we all work together to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Be safe.

## **TPA National Board of Directors**