25 March 2020

As we all are aware, the current Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic poses serious health risks creating unprecedented responses from government and public authorities and levels of uncertainty throughout the nation.

The American Legion Auxiliary Virginia Girls State Program has been following the spread of this pandemic and carefully considering what its impact may be for our 2020 program scheduled at Longwood University June 21 through June 27. On March 23, Virginia Governor Ralph Northam mandated that Virginia schools will remain closed at least through the remainder of the academic year. There is no way to know at this point what the duration or long term effects of this pandemic will be.

In view of the uncertainty about the pandemic's progression and with concern for the safety and health of participants in our Girls State Program, The American Legion Auxiliary Virginia Girls State Program for 2020 is cancelled.

We are disappointed that we must cancel this program which has taken place in Virginia since 1947, but the health and safety of our participants and our volunteers is our utmost concern.

The American Legion Auxiliary Virginia Girls State thanks everyone for their cooperation and understanding and appreciates all the planning that has gone into this program.

We plan to meet again next year and continue with this valuable program for our youth.

Margaret Dellinger, 2020 Director
American Legion Auxiliary Virginia Girls State
Greetings everyone,

I’m sure that most of you are aware by now that the 2020 session of ALA Virginia Girls State has been cancelled. Please know that this was a decision made neither lightly nor in haste, nor by one person alone. Rather, the decision was made collaboratively and with great deliberation, giving consideration to all available facts, current and anticipated conditions, Longwood University policies and statewide directives. The decision to cancel was based first and foremost upon concerns about potential health risks to participants and staff related to COVID-19. Further, it was based upon the likelihood of having a venue that would re-open for the event, and concerns for recruiting a sufficient number of participants given that schools are now closed and that is a primary recruitment avenue. These were among the many factors that contributed to the decision to cancel, and I would like to thank Margaret Dellinger, ALA VGS Director for her diligence in monitoring the changing situation, for gathering the necessary information and communicating the very fluid situation, and for all the work involved in doing so. I also want to thank the task force with whom she conferred, comprised of the ALA VGS Committee, its advisors, and the Department Finance Committee. We wholeheartedly support this decision as it was made for everyone’s well-being.

These are challenging times in many respects, but the program will be back in 2021 so stay tuned!

For God and Country,

Dr. Lisa Chaplin, DNP
ALA Department of Virginia President, 2019-2020