



AMERICAN LEGION AUXILIARY
SOUTH DAKOTA



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Hello Everyone!

I do hope that this note finds you all well. I just wanted to pass along a quick update for the 2020 ALA South Dakota Girls State.

After consulting with the University of South Dakota, it has been decided it be best to cancel the 2020 ALA South Dakota Girls State session. With a very heavy heart, this is the decision that we have made and will be upholding. However, there are some very important key points that I am going to pass along to all of you:

- **Applications**

If you have not done so, or if you had students that were hesitant to apply due to the COVID-19 outbreak, please encourage them to. I am still asking that all applications are submitted (without payment) to me so that we can have a complete roster of 2020 ALA South Dakota Girls State Delegates. I am asking that all or any remaining applications be sent to me no later than April 24, 2020.

- **Reimbursements**

I will be mailing back all checks that I have received on May 4, 2020. Even if you have just recently mailed a check, I will be sending that directly back to you. Please be watching the mail for that following May 4, 2020.

- **Delegate Status**

This may be the most important part that I can stress in this letter. All applications that I have received will be considered to have completed and participated in the 2020 ALA South Dakota Girls State. We will be issuing each delegate a certificate, along with a letter of recommendation that they should be considered and given every bit of recognition that a delegate would receive each year. There will be two letters, one from the University of South Dakota and one from myself.

- **Opportunities for Delegates**

To honor our 2020 ALA South Dakota Girls State delegates, we plan to host a banquet for them in the fall where they can be brought together to acknowledge this very unique situation and receive recognition for being selected as a delegate. I am working with my counselors to plan and make this even something personal to the delegates. We have discussed at length that not hosting the annual event like we typically do cannot be duplicated, but we are working to find ways to make it as meaningful as possible. Also, working through USD we are still going to be able to offer the college credit that we do each year to each girl that is registered. This course was mainly conducted online, so this will be a very smooth transition for them to complete.

To say that 2020 has started with a 'bang' would be quite the understatement. I want to thank each of you for the work that you have done and have continued to do during this very crazy time in our history. I cannot tell you how many times I have asked myself "What would Cheryl do?" in this situation. Losing her has been beyond difficult, and I cannot stress how much I wish I had her guidance right now. I also thank you all for your patience concerning this issue. Being a teacher and having my world greatly turned upside down in the last month has also been a challenge, so my heart goes out to all of our delegates and past delegates that have not been able to complete their high school year. None the less, we are looking forward to the 2021 ALA South Dakota Girls State session and I look forward to working with you all in the future!

In ALA Girls State Spirit,

Tiffany L. Newman

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