March 23, 2020

Dear Members,

As promised, the National Advisory Council has met and will continue to meet and monitor the recommendations and guidelines of national health care organizations for information and guidance as the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) has now spread into all 50 states.

We remain committed to the safety and well-being of all our members. We implore you to stay abreast of the local, state and national mandates for your area. As you know, the number of cases varies across the country, with epicenters in many areas where our members live, attend school and work.

We cannot stress enough how vital it is that you obey all restrictions for your area. In addition, it’s imperative that you make the best decisions for you and your own family.

Finally, please know that no one is immune from the spread of this virus. There are positive cases of the virus in every age group, from 0 to 100+, and within every ethnic group. Everyone can be affected by the virus and in most of our communities we are experiencing community spread. As testing becomes more available, the number of cases is expected to rise. It’s more important than ever that we practice social distancing to flatten the curve and minimize exposure.

Based on the current guidelines which prohibit groups of more than 10 to meet in person, all April meetings, age group activities and other Jack and Jill of America, Incorporated events are cancelled.

New Member/Legacy Member and New Officer Installations
We are aware that many of you have events related to potential New Member and Legacy Member Initiations and New Officer Installations slated for April and May. Please postpone these activities until May. If we are still practicing social distancing and limited to gatherings of 10 or less, options with instructions for virtual inductions/installations will be sent in April. These are unprecedented times. Thus, we will need to approach them with creative solutions which have never been used before. Please continue to use your technology platforms for virtual meetings and brainstorm about how we can virtually have other events, if the need to stay socially distant continues. If your chapter has technology platforms which you are willing to share with other chapters, please let your Regional Director know.

Chapter Fundraisers
If a Chapter Fundraiser is postponed, the chapter will have until June 30, 2020, to submit its Foundation Contribution. If a chapter funds its Foundation contribution with an assessment, the chapter should submit its Foundation contribution by May 15, 2020. Please contact your Regional Member at Large and Regional Treasurer for guidance.

The Oklahoma Trailblazers National Youth Trip
The Oklahoma Trailblazers National Youth Trip, currently scheduled for May 2-4, 2020, has been postponed until September 11-13, 2020. More information will be sent directly from the National Youth Trip Task Force within the next few weeks.
Regional Teen Conferences

Teen Conferences are scheduled to occur, platform to be determined. Updates will be provided by your Regional Director. Our Regional Leadership teams and Regional Teen Officers have been planning for these conferences for a long time and the decision to postpone or cancel is not one that will be taken lightly. Our senior teens across the country have eagerly anticipated this “rite of passage” for many years. As proms, graduations and other school events are cancelled across the country, teen conferences may be the only senior event our senior teens will experience. We will continue to monitor recommendations and guidelines. If there are any changes, we will communicate them expeditiously.

The 44th National Convention

The 44th National Convention is still scheduled to occur July 22-26, 2020, in Austin, Texas. We will continue to monitor recommendations and guidelines. If there are any changes, we will communicate them expeditiously.

Advice and Guidance

As previously communicated, please reach out to your Regional Directors for advice and guidance on an individual basis. We cannot cover every specific situation in one communication. Please know that we are all available to assist Chapter Presidents and members as we walk this journey together.

Local, State and National Guidelines

Finally, members, we strongly urge you to stay alert, adhere to all local, state and national guidelines, follow guidance on handwashing and sanitizing surfaces, practice social distancing when you are out in public and if you are able, please stay home.

We will get through this public health crisis. We will withstand the test and come out on the other side with a powerful testimony. The National Advisory Council will continue to meet on a regular basis. We will provide updates often. Thank you for your patience. Please join us as we practice Peace over Panic and Faith over Fear.

Sincerely,

National Advisory Council