



FBINAA

Mississippi Chapter



April 24, 2020

Dear Members,

After much consideration, the Mississippi Chapter Executive Board has decided to cancel the 2020 Summer Conference that was scheduled for August 9-13 in Gulfport.

In these uncertain times we considered the following factors in making our decision to cancel the conference.

- First and foremost we considered the health and wellbeing of our members. It is not clear to anyone when we can gather together in larger groups again in society. In the coming weeks, cities and states will loosen restrictions and begin slowly moving back to what we know as normal. What that will look like is anyone's guess, but we cannot be certain at this point that a larger gathering will be safe for our members and vendor-partners.
- Second, the budgets of state agencies, counties, and municipalities will most certainly be affected. At present we are unsure what impact this pandemic will have on budgets, but I expect it to be significant. Law enforcement agencies rely on taxes for funding and the economic shutdown will certainly affect us all. Many agencies will not have the ability to fund training and conferences in the short term and we expect that this will greatly impact our attendance.
- Third, we make every effort to bring in top level speakers from around the country to make our conferences successful. Their health and well-being is also a priority for us. As you know some areas of the country have been impacted more than others. It is unfair to ask these speakers to risk their health to travel through heavily impacted areas to speak at our conference.
- Lastly, in order to host a conference and keep the registration costs affordable for our members, we rely heavily on the support of our vendor-partners. Our primary concern is the health and safety of our partners. Our vendor-partners are not immune to the impact from the pandemic, and travel may not be in their best interest in August. Their budgets are also likely to be impacted just as ours will be. This uncertainty makes it very difficult to plan and budget the conference and our supporting events.

Your executive board is disappointed in this cancellation, but we feel it is the right thing to do for our members. We plan to seek opportunities (lunches and dinners, etc.) to gather in smaller groups around the state as things slowly return to normal.

Respectfully,

Craig Petersen

President, MS Chapter of the FBINAA

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