

Dear ASCET Membership:

The last several weeks have had quite a bit of turmoil with the issues surrounding the coronavirus (COVID-19). I am sure there are high levels of anxiety among many. On the national front with ASCET, after consult with the Executive Committee, we have converted the annual spring meeting, originally to be held April 30th through May 2nd, from an on-site event to a web meeting to avoid travel issues. Originally, the spring meeting was to be held in Columbus, Ohio, with a combined ASCET Chapter start-up meeting. Unfortunately, that event will not happen. The Executive Committee apologizes to our ASCET membership in the Columbus region as we wanted to have a personal and valuable event for our members there. The Executive Committee will be meeting on Saturday, May 2nd, for several 2-hour sessions to conduct ASCET business. The Executive Committee and the Budget Committee will also have additional meetings before and after May 2nd for preparatory work and follow-up work.

At this time, we are hopeful there will be no issues with the ACE 2020, the annual conference planned for San Antonio, Texas, on November 12th. The event spans from Wednesday, November 11th, through Saturday, November 14th, with the 12th being the main event. The ACE planning committee, chaired by the President-Elect, Jimmy Lynch, continues to make great progress scheduling seminar sessions and planning the exhibition. We have almost reached our goal of 24 training sessions for the Thursday main event. The ACE planning committee sees no reason at this time to reconsider plans for ACE 2020 and is hopeful that everyone will make plans for what we expect we be one of our best events yet. The venue is right on the San Antonio Riverwalk in an area that will provide plenty of activity for everyone.

As has been reported on the news, and as I am sure you are aware, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) has published recommendations for the public that are designed to minimize exposure and the spread of the coronavirus. Some of them include simple steps such as washing your hands frequently, covering your face in your arm when sneezing or coughing, refraining from touching your face, changes in how you greet people (no shaking hands), and social distancing. All chapters should consider the implications of these recommendations and whether or not it would be advisable out of an abundance of caution to postpone or cancel chapter meetings in the future. Chapters normally suspend their meetings after May and start again in September. Based on the conditions in your area, please evaluate the risks of having your chapter meetings during the next couple months and make the best decision for your membership, families, workplace, and the public, as to whether you should cancel your future meeting events. I certainly do not express that concern lightly; however, exposure and safety and health issues are paramount.

With that, I wish the best for everyone. Please make your safety and health a priority for you, your family, friends, and your coworkers.

Most sincerely,

Paul.

Paul D. Flannigan

ASCET National President