

**NCEAFCS Called Board Meeting  
April 6, 2020  
RE: State Meeting**

Meeting called to order by NCEAFCS President, Tracy Davis.

**Purpose:** Make decisions about state meeting based on the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Hotel update (Vincent Webb):**

Latest update via phone this morning, followed up by email. Email from Embassy Suites contact, Jullie Campbell:

“As discussed, your July meeting does not warrant Force Majeure (act of god) this far out. It is also currently not illegal or impossible to perform a July meeting and none of the Governor’s and Presidents Executive Orders prevent the July meeting from happening. Understandably you are looking at your options to minimize your exposure financially and your obligations to your members. I understand a lot of preplanning has gone into this; please know the best situation I can recommend is to consider a postponement of the meeting. I can work with you all and not charge a cancellation fee if we can secure a future date that is mutually acceptable later in 2020 or into 2021.

Should you cancel now the terms of the agreement would be enforceable. You could delay your decision to cancel to see if COVID19 continues and the force majeure becomes enforceable. This could provide some relief for your organization but then again it may not. We are all in this together and I hope you all will consider the postponement the right thing to do for several reasons, one protecting our future.”

Further discussion of hotel information:

Cancellations through May and June are free. Suggestion from hotel staff: reschedule for later in the year. If we try to do it in 2020, meeting needs to be rescheduled ASAP (next two weeks) to reserve the block of rooms needed. For next year, need to reschedule in the next 4-6 weeks. Board discussed having almost the exact same week next year – Dr. Kirby in favor of this option.

Toi – what do our bylaws say about what to do if a district can’t host one year? Does national have something in the bylaws?

Hayley and Tracy – there probably isn’t anything in the bylaws (maybe we should add something) There is a precedent for hurricane rescheduling later in the year.

Could we hold dates as backup if the July dates have to be canceled? Vincent suggested getting hotel contact on a call to further explain the situation to us.

Discussion of option to postpone:

Does that mean we come back to Greensboro next year? Yes and have help from the 2021 hosting district (North East)

**Concerns of NC District (Carmen Long):**

- Would have to figure out awards/recognition for 2020
- Would have to figure out officer rotation for 2020/2021
- Business meeting and officer training could be virtual

**Other associations’ plans (Tracy Davis):**

- Other agents have moved their decision-making plans to mid-April
- Should we also wait a couple of weeks to make the call?

Suggestion from Olivia: call 2020 a wash and then focus on 2021

Question from Peggy: do we refund the association support money for this year or leave it?

Further group discussion:

- Find a time to meet as an association during annual conference in November?  
Suggestion to do awards recognition then
- Do we postpone officer rotation? No – continue current rotation because most positions will not change. Just a few positions will be impacted.

**Options for awards recognition (Emily Troutman):**

NCEAFCS had 26 award applications and 22 award winners for 2020

Suggestion: have awards recognition at the State Extension conference

- If we had a time to tack on to conference, wouldn't necessarily be during the regular awards banquet - Would have to be before conference begins or after it concludes
  - o Separate awards banquet at State Extension conference would require additional space, time, and money
- Timing challenge: awards wouldn't be given before national conference.  
Suggestion to have a virtual awards ceremony before national and then an in person celebration of award recipients at State Extension conference.

**Recap of the options:**

- Virtual meeting this year at the same time as planned with NE district helping NC next year with the in person meeting next year in Greensboro, awards celebration at State Extension conference meeting or another time.
- Reschedule conference for in the year
- Skip this year all together aside from mandatory activities

**Final decision**

Have a conversation with National to see if they have anything to say about this situation? Tracy will reach out to national for that. Hayley will write up a motion. Members will vote via email.

Meeting adjourned by NCEAFCS president, Tracy Davis.