



NUTSEA

NATIONAL UTILITY TRAINING & SAFETY EDUCATION ASSOCIATION
SAFETY • SKILL • SERVICE

May 2020

Dear NUTSEA Member:

I hope this letter finds you healthy and safe.

After much thought and consideration, it is with deep regret and heavy hearts that the NUTSEA Board of Directors has made the difficult decision to cancel the 2020 NUTSEA Annual Conference that was scheduled for September 14-16, 2020 in Miramar Beach, FL.

As you know we surveyed the membership to get your opinion. We had 142 surveys returned. The results were 50 Yes, 38 NO and 54 UNSURE. Most of the comments received showed concerns over the uncertainty of the pandemic, financial burdens the pandemic has caused our members systems and travel restrictions placed on their employees.

The Board met by conference call on May 19th. We reviewed the survey and then each Board Member and Director were given the opportunity to give their opinion. The decision to cancel the conference was based on several factors that I would like to share with you.

- First and foremost is the safety and health of our membership. At this time there is still too much uncertainty of the virus, restrictions put on businesses, social distancing, PPE requirements and other functions pertinent to making the conference a success.
- Several of our members have had travel restrictions placed on them until 2021. This included some Board members.
- Most of our members systems have not been collecting on delinquent accounts putting a tremendous financial burden on them. A lot of the systems still have their offices closed and working split shifts with their crews.
- The fear of not having enough participation to pay the expenses of the conference.

Several members asked if our decision could be made later in the year. The reason it was made now was the Hilton SanDestin was able to reschedule the conference for the same time next year without us paying any penalties, but we had to let them know by May 23rd. All of our speakers agreed to reschedule also without penalty. With this being said, next year's NUTSEA Annual Conference will be held at the same place on September 12-15, 2021.

If you have already made a reservation at the Hilton SanDestin, you can cancel your reservation by either calling the hotel at 888-519-1395 or cancel on-line or via the Hilton Honors app. Advance deposits will then be refunded.

While the Board was trying to make the decision to cancel, we realized our bylaws did not include any language to deal with a cancellation due to a natural disaster, pandemic or other public health emergency. Because of this, the Board has sent some recommendations to the Operations and Rules Committee. Once the committee sends back their proposals, we will post them on the website and email a copy to all active members. The plan at this time will be to call a special meeting of the active membership to vote on the proposed changes using a teleconference for Q&A and Survey Monkey for the vote.

The Board of Directors hopes every one stays safe and healthy during these unprecedented times. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of the Board members.

Sincerely,

National Utility Training & Safety Education Association

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Micheal Weltzheimer". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M".

Micheal Weltzheimer
2020 NUTSEA Chairman

MW/dmc