



Southern Sleep Society

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March 14, 2020

Dear Friends & Colleagues,

It is with great regret that we have decided to cancel this year's Southern Sleep Society meeting. The board has worked extensively over the past two weeks to make a rational and safe decision for our members about the conference. Not only is our association comprised of health care professionals, but many of you are essential personnel whose communities will rely upon you in the coming weeks, even more so than your technical and medical counterparts, for your pulmonary skills. We simply cannot risk harm to you, who will essentially be the first responders in this pandemic.

As many of you know, Southern Sleep is a not-for-profit society. We are currently negotiating with the Marriott to avoid the severe financial burden we face with this cancellation, which they have been unable to waive despite the national emergency declaration. Registration fees and dues, as well as vendor fees are used to support our meeting each year. Though the Renaissance Wavery has offered to reschedule us, they have indicated intent to invoice the Society for 90% of the contracted amount (\$48,984) in ADDITION to the charges for rebooking, should we reschedule with them. Had we been able to reschedule with minimal penalty, this would have been a feasible solution, but it was not an option provided to us.

We do plan to reschedule our meeting, at some point, but until we can come to an agreement with the hotel, the financial burden is heavy. We ask you to be patient with us in regard to return of registration fees during this process, as we proceed with attempts to keep our society above water. If you wish to maintain your registration, we will apply your fees to the next conference, please let us know. Otherwise, we will begin issuing refunds in May.

Please note that dues, credit card processing fees and guest registrations are not refundable items. The social activities may be refunded at a later time since non-refundable deposits were paid to the golf course and the tour company. We will work to recover these deposits, and if successful, the golf and tour fees will be refunded to the participants who paid for these activities or you may opt to have the funds remain for a future conference.

Please be safe and healthy, I am so very proud to serve such a phenomenal group as President of the Southern Sleep Society. Please contact me or Marietta should you have any questions. We will keep our members updated as we go along.

Sincerely,

Mary Rose, PsyD, DBSM, CBSM
President, Southern Sleep Society
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