



Southern Sleep Society

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March 14, 2020

Dear Vendor 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 week to make a rational and safe decision for our members and vendors about the conference. We recognize that not only our members but our vendors and their skills will be relied upon in the coming weeks to help manage COVID-19. We simply cannot risk harm to you or to our members.

As all 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 the 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 Waverly 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 vendor and sponsorship fees during this process, as we proceed with attempts to keep our society above water and avoid a potentially devastating result to our society. 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 be safe and healthy. Southern Sleep Society is deeply appreciative of our relationship with you, without you we would be unlikely to keep our society thriving. 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
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