



**GEORGIA ASSOCIATION
OF
SCHOOL FACILITY ADMINISTRATORS**

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07/08/2020

Dear GASFA members,

Never would I have thought that I would be writing this type letter to our GASFA members. We were holding out hope to see a positive change in the Covid pandemic that would have allowed us to continue with our 31st Annual Conference and Trade show in October in Savannah. Unfortunately, this is not the case with this second wave of COVID-19 proving to be even more difficult than what we experienced in the Spring. Who knows what the Fall will look like after we attempt to open schools and the normal flu season starts to flare up.

The Board of Directors of GASFA met Tuesday, July 7th, via a ZOOM meeting and decided to cancel the 2020 October GASFA Conference. We currently have lower than usual registration numbers due to school budget constraints on travel. Lately, we have had some cancellations due to the concern of potential exposure at the upcoming conference and then bringing the virus back to homes and workplaces. Additionally, the Board felt like come late October, the M/O staff will be very much involved in maintaining and sanitizing work/school space and not have the opportunity to leave their county for a conference. One of the purposes of GASFA organization is to equip its members with training and resources to provide safe spaces for students and staff. Therefore, we feel it is important to demonstrate this practice by setting the example of erroring on the side of caution for the safety of all of our members, vendors, guests, and the overall communities that we all represent around the State.

Our Conference brings over 500 people to Savannah for five days. Out of respect to our loyal Vendors, who set up evening dinners and events for the conference, we feel we need to give them as much notice as possible as well. There is also concern for what food service and other establishments might be like come October. Out of abundance caution and for the safety of all our members, vendors and communities they represent, we believe the responsible decision for GASFA is to cancel the 2020 October conference.

Please read the following:

REGISTRATION CANCELLATION AND REFUNDS:

-If you registered for the conference, you don't have to do anything. We will cancel your conference registration.

-The Hotel will cancel the Block reservations. If you registered for the hotel, YOU MAY WANT TO VERIFY your cancellation.

-If you paid by a school check, I will refund and send the refund to the address on your registration form, if it is different, let me know.

-If you paid with a personal check, I will send you the refund.
-I NEED HELP if you paid with a credit card. There is no way for me to know if it was a school card or your personal card. Please shoot me an email.

Should there be any questions on refunds or hotel cancellations, don't hesitate to contact me.

Again, please know that much deliberation went into this decision. This is the first time in 30 years we will not have a GASFA 'face to face' conference. We will miss you, but be sure to mark your calendars for Oct. 24-27, 2021. In many ways, the pandemic has helped us be stronger, more versatile, and more resilient. GASFA (as all of you) will be stronger when this is all done. We will make our 2021 Conference and Trade show an event YOU WILL NOT want to miss. Please remember our vendors that have supported us so much over the last 30 years. I will send out later this month a list of the vendors that have already supported us for 2020. Feel free to reach out to me if you are looking for a vendor so that I might help you make connections.

Take care, stay safe, Thank you for all you do for the students and staff of our schools.
And never forget, you are a frontline Hero.....

William Bland

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