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April 2020

And just like that, life as we knew it, was changed forever.

I read through my March letter and thought to myself, I am now in the Twilight Zone. What a difference 30 days have made! In my gavel acceptance speech in Kansas City, I said I wanted 2020 to be remembered for more than just ADDC having its first male president. I wasn't thinking anything nearly this extreme.

To catch up on what has happened in the past month, for the safety of our members, decisions were made to cancel all four of our physical region meetings. The regions will handle 2020 business such as Region Director election, by teleconference or other electronic means. These were tough decisions...none of us wanted to miss a region meeting. We had concerns about host clubs and the region funds losing money from deposits made for hotels and events, not to mention the many hours of planning and legwork done by members of the clubs. But fortunately, there was very little financial impact, and we'll all be able to stay healthier as a result.

For now, we still don't have any current plans to cancel the 2020 Convention in Pittsburgh, PA in September. But we will be monitoring the situation over the next few months to ensure we take whatever steps are necessary to make the best decision for the Association and its members.

The Board is very concerned about our members and wants to stress that under the current crisis, we encourage you to do everything you can to practice social distancing, as it is crucial to reducing the spread of COVID-19 and ensuring your safety. For 2020, our clubs WILL NOT be penalized for failing to meet the normal required number of programs. We encourage clubs to postpone physical meetings until this crisis is over. If your club can find a way to hold meetings by video chat or other electronic means, it will be a great way to keep members engaged, but since many of our members may be unable to use this technology, it certainly is just optional.

March was Desk and Derrick Awareness Month, the time we usually are working hard to bring in new members. Obviously, without having meetings to bring guests to, we haven't been able to do our usual membership drive activities. But let's not forget once things get back to normal and we begin having physical meetings again, it will be very important to try and get some new members in. I've already heard about some members being laid off, and our

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membership numbers are already fragile, so we need to do whatever we can to try and offset membership losses with some new members if possible. With all this social distancing, we should have plenty of spare time to brainstorm on ways to promote our organization and our clubs. <wink>

Until next month, please take care of yourself. Don't put yourself in any unnecessary risk. You are all very important to me. I want to see you all again...hopefully in Pittsburgh!

*"Well done is better than well said." Benjamin Franklin*

*Keith*