

September 23, 2020

Dear COAT Member:

After much discussion and consideration, the COAT Board voted yesterday to recommend canceling this year's County Officials Association conference. The conference was scheduled to be held November 16-18 at the Westin in Chattanooga.

Although the COAT staff was in the process of finalizing plans for what would have been a great conference, I, along with the Board, felt it was in the best interest of our organization and its members to abandon those plans effective immediately with no negative economic impact to our organization. For those who have pre-registered, The COAT staff will be in touch with you soon regarding plans for a refund.

Though extremely disappointed about having to cancel the conference this year, I have urged all four affiliate presidents to plan a meeting for your affiliate groups during that time in November. (It was discussed at the Board meeting that all spring/summer affiliate meetings had been previously canceled this year). Hopefully, this can be a productive, educational, fun opportunity for everyone to get together in smaller groups and benefit from the time that you had set aside for our COAT conference. I also urge each of you, as COAT members, to support your affiliate president and do your best to attend that meeting with energy, enthusiasm, and gladness.

This has been a challenging year for all of us. I know we all long for days of "normalcy" and being together again. I suppose we shall all remember 2020 in one way or another.

Thank you for allowing me to be your president this year. I appreciate your dedication to this organization and the jobs you do in your counties. I will carry the friendships I have made far beyond 2020 and I will never forget your kindness and your words of encouragement.

Best regards,

Heather Hinds Duncan
COAT President