



## Statement Regarding the Postponement of SWACNA XIV

The day before the SWACNA XIV Convention was due to start, the owner of The Chase Center informed us that they would not be allowing us to meet, as a response to the Governor of the State of Delaware's Declaration of a State of Emergency, which began at 8:00am this past Friday. This was to protect the public, our participants, and their workers. As a result, we were forced to postpone and reschedule the convention until **June 26-28, 2020** (a delay of approximately 15 weeks). Given the growing concern over the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19), we want to communicate our committee's response plan and perspective.

### Response Plan

The committee leaders took swift action to first alert the subcommittee teams Thursday afternoon, and then directly contacted the speakers, vendors, hotels, and attendees by calling and providing as much information as we had at that time. We have received very positive feedback from the many speakers, vendors, and participants that traveled to Wilmington and are staying at the Westin this weekend. The Hotel has shared its enhanced plans to address the issues and keep everyone as safe and as comfortable as possible. These visitors were given helpful information on where to find NA meetings in our area that were close, still able to meet.

The proceeds of our fundraising, donations, and registrations have been utilized to pay The Chase Center over \$20,000 to satisfy the hall rentals, food, labor, and audio/visual liabilities with the center. These funds are currently in possession of The Chase Center. The remainder was used to purchase the registration items to be handed out, as well as other merchandise for the event. There are many liabilities yet to be paid, with the pending proceeds expected to have been raised during the convention. These unpaid proceeds resulted in a gap the committee is continuing to address.

The State of Emergency that was declared last Friday, 3/13/2020 in Delaware advised the cancellation of non-essential public gatherings of 100 people or more. While we certainly believe that our convention and NA meetings are essential in the life of our continued recovery, we recognize there may be extraordinary occasions when it is in the best interest of the public not to gather as we initially planned to do, or to hold a SpeakerJam at another location for those that traveled in lieu of the convention. Our view is that this is one of those occasions.

While COVID-19 may not be a serious risk to most of the population, it is a deadly disease for the elderly and those with pre-existing health conditions. The virus is extremely infectious and has spread so quickly in some places that it has overwhelmed medical capacity. We want to take precautions as an area to help prevent the possible spread of coronavirus in our communities. Rescheduling our convention to the next date available with the facilities is the most significant way we can do that. The Chase Center has agreed to credit our payment and contract to the new date in June, and this date does not currently conflict with other events in the greater surrounding area. We want to quickly advertise and lock-in this date with all of these other bodies, as we expect that there will be a cascade of other events which will need to be rescheduled as well as the situation with COVID-19 unfolds.

All payments by attendees, our speakers and vendors and contracts already made will be credited toward this new date and weekend, and we will be providing more information as this develops. We expect and hope that this extra time will further enhance the success and attendance at our convention and we look forward to the support, caring, patience, love and respect that marks and distinguishes our NA Fellowship.

Respectfully in service,  
The SWACNA XIV Convention Committee