

Honorable Leonard J. Polk, Jr
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IMPROVED BENEVOLENT AND PROTECTIVE ORDER OF ELKS OF THE WORLD



GRAND LODGE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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March 11, 2020

Subject: Rescheduling of the 2020 Annual IBPO Elks Department of Education Conference and Workshop (**DECW**) due to the Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV)

Dear **DECW** Conference Attendees,

Due to the evolving 2019-Novel Coronavirus (NGoV) world health emergency, the Grand Lodge of Elks Department of Education Conference & Workshop (DECW) has decided to reschedule the Annual Conference, which was due to take place on March 26-29, 2020 at the **Hilton Sacramento Hotel Arden West** in Sacramento, California.

Please know that your health and safety is a top priority for DECW and with so many variables and uncertainty surrounding the situation we could no longer move forward.

We have rescheduled the 2020 DECW Annual Conference for March 26-28, 2021 in Region Seven (7) of the Elks Department of Education with the **Location to be determined**.

This decision wasn't taken lightly and there were numerous factors that went into the final decision to reschedule:

- Most critically, having a large group of people together from several cities and countries during the peak of a highly contagious outbreak would put people at risk.

- We have a number of attendees are from Caribbean, and Canada and they may be unable to attend due to Government-imposed travel restrictions.
- Several of our attendees are traveling from US Cities who have quarantine restrictions in place for anyone who comes in contact with anyone who's visited mainland China, Hong Kong, and Macau, thus impacting their lives upon their return.
- Attendees from locations who were having difficulty with their air travel due to flight restrictions beyond their control.

We recognize this decision has a financial component for attendees with payments for flights and other matters related to the Conference, but we had to consider the greater good and well-being of the group.

We will be offering this letter as proof of rescheduling due to this world health emergency and it can be shared with your airlines and others in an effort to receive a full refund.

Should you have any questions, please reach out to us VIA Email, JohnGoss.Elks@gmail.com or BettyWaters2006@gmail.com

We hope to see you in March 2021 at our future DECW Conference.

Respectfully,



John R. Goss
Grand Commissioner of Education

Cc:

Dr. William Wallace
Grand Deputy Commissioner of Education

Ms. Betty A. Waters
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