



There is a lot of concern and confusion surrounding the COVID-19 outbreak and how it affects each of us. There are many questions about whether you should attend meetings were there are a number of people. One of the questions that has come up is, as expected; "Do we go ahead and hold our annual meeting of the Tennessee Elks Association scheduled for April 3-5, 2020 in Gatlinburg?"

After much discussion, the Executive Committee has decided, along with the President, to proceed with the annual meeting as scheduled. This decision was not taken lightly. Of consideration was the nomination, election and installation of officers for the coming year. Also influencing the decision was the annual raffle which supports our major project. You will remember that the approved application has to state the specific location and date of that raffle. We have also been in contact with the Grand Exalted Ruler, and he and his wife are both planning on being with us in Gatlinburg.

We will implement the following CDC guidelines on practical ways to prevent the spread of infection:

- No shaking hands, hugging, knuckle bumps or high fives.
- Keep a safe distance from others. Six feet when possible.
- Wash hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- No soap? Use hand sanitizer (60–95% alcohol based).
- Avoid touching your face, eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your cough or sneeze into the bend of your elbow or a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash.
- Stay home if you are sick and avoid close contact with people who are sick. Encourage others to do the same.

Going one step further we would recommend that if your immune system is compromised in any way, if you have COPD, if you have asthma or similar conditions or you are caring for someone who is at risk, we strongly suggest that you not attend the annual convention.

However, we are not uncaring about the concerns of our members. Therefore, if you are worried about possible exposure and feel that it is not in your best interest to attend the meetings, we understand. You may cancel your reservations and not be penalized for not attending. If you do cancel you will receive a full refund of your registration. Please email cancelations to Joe Evans [rogjoe61@gmail.com](mailto:rogjoe61@gmail.com) or Carol Henderson [ssblawoffice@bellsouth.net](mailto:ssblawoffice@bellsouth.net) by March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Finally, this situation is very fluid and there may be changes. If there is a change in the situation and the plans change, we will immediately notify you. Please check the web site, [TNElks.org](http://TNElks.org), regularly for further updates.