



Plant Food Association of North Carolina

June 30, 2020

Dear PFANC Membership:

We are writing to you today to report the difficult decision to cancel the PFANC summer conference slated for the first of August at Grove Park Inn, Asheville.

As we had indicated to you a couple of months ago, we were proceeding with plans of optimism to be in a position to hold the event. Several key benchmarks needed to occur, and we promised to reach a conclusion in June.

First the Omni Grove Park was closed until June 1st. Our executive team held a discussion with OMNI the first week of the month, they indicated they were re-opening and would exercise multiple social distance protocols such as spaced seating, sanitation efforts and requiring face masks. Next, and perhaps most significant, was to learn what action Governor Cooper would exercise regarding the Phase 2, COVID-19 response that limits groups indoors to less than 10 individuals.

On June 24th, the Governor announced that he was extending the Phase 2 restriction for at least three more weeks. In addition, it is now mandatory statewide to wear a face mask in places such as hotels.

It is our expectation that the Governor will extend the Phase 2 mandates and possibly increase further restrictions for an undisclosed period. Ultimately this means, groups such as PFANC are not allowed to convene large meetings. We are not sure what the consequences would be in terms of being issued a fine or other culpability.

Also consider this example. If the chef at Omni tests positive for COVID-19 the day we arrive, the kitchen would be forced to closed and the employees quarantined for 14 days. Imagine that disruption.

With all of these unpredictable complications , coupled with the fact that a considerable number of our usual attendees indicate they will not be able to attend due to corporate travel restrictions it leaves PFANC leadership with no other option but to postpone or cancel this event.

We regret this final decision and waited as late as possible to make a determination. If you are holding a room reservation, please do not forget to cancel. If you sent a meeting conference registration to PFANC we are happy to issue a refund.

President Ben Hawkinson is investigating the possibility of holding a larger event at our January meeting to encompass some of the activities being suspended during the August event.

Sincerely,

Graham Boyd
Executive Secretary

Ben Hawkinson
President