

**MONTANA CORONERS' ASSOCIATION**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

**MARCH 22, 2020**

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The Montana Coroners' Association Board of Directors meeting was called to order at 3:00 P.M. by President Bob Rosipal via a conference call. Members present were President Bob Rosipal, Past President Greg Kirkwood, Vice President Wynn Meehan, Jessie Billquist-Jette, Trenton Harbough, Steve Holton and Dan Whitted. Unable to attend were Secretary-Treasurer Terry Bullis and Sibley Jankoviak.

**Purpose:**

President Bob Rosipal stated the reason for the meeting was to decide whether we postpone the Annual Coroners' Association meeting scheduled for May 3, 4 and 5 or cancel it completely due to the COVID-19 epidemic. The governor has shut down all meetings at this time. Wynn suggested we wait and see if the governor lifts the ban on March 27, 2020. The CDC has put out instructions that limit any meetings for groups of over 10 people for 8 weeks. Jessie spoke to our speaker this week and if we cancel he would have to forfeit his ticket. If we reschedule the meeting for later in the summer or fall the airlines would probably reschedule for that date. He indicated he had canceled numerous engagements already. He is booked through July and August. There was concern that if we didn't cancel the convention center soon we might have to pay them for the block of rooms that we have reserved. There was also concern that some of the coroners would not be able to obtain their credits. It was felt that Perry should be contacted and give extensions to those coroners who needed the training in May to remain accredited. If we had to, we could set up some in-State training for those coroners that need the credits. It was brought up that July and August dates would not work because its fire season and everyone is too busy.

Steve made a motion to postpone the convention until fall (September, October or November). There is a Violent Crime School October 5-9, and another conflict for October 14-15, so the new convention date would have to work around these two weeks. Dan seconded the motion, which unanimously carried.

Jessie will contact the speaker and see if she can get a date in the fall for one and a half days. When we have this information, Steve will contact the convention center and see if they have the speaker dates available. During this call he will also cancel the May dates and block of rooms and reschedule them for the fall dates.

Steve will post this information on the web site so coroners will know that the convention will be postponed and rescheduled later in the fall. He will also post a followup when we get the new dates.

Perry will need to be contacted to have extensions for the coroners depending on credits from the May meeting to stay accredited.

Terry will need to refund the counties who paid their dues plus the cost of extra coroners to attend the meeting or hold the money if they send the extra coroners to the fall meeting.

Another telephone conference will be scheduled in a week or two, to confirm the dates of the fall meeting, etc.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:26 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Farmer, Recording Secretary