



FBI National Citizens Academy Alumni Association

A Message from the President



An Update on the 2020 FBINCAA National Leadership Conference

Dear Chapter Leaders,

I hope all of you and your loved ones are safe and healthy during this challenging time. As we all work together to limit the community spread of COVID-19 by fundamentally changing the way we live, work and travel, there is a corresponding impact upon the 2020 FBINCAA National Leadership Conference.

In light of the unprecedented health crisis facing our country and recognizing that the announced change in dates for the 2020 Democratic National Convention (DNC) will dramatically increase our pandemic exposure risk by bringing tens of thousands of persons into Milwaukee during our scheduled time there, we sadly must recognize the unhappy conclusion that we are unable to hold a 2020 conference.

Rest assured that the Milwaukee Chapter and National Conference team worked day and night for more than a week to find alternative solutions before making this decision. As the pandemic has no end in sight and affects our ability to travel and gather safely, it also impacts our FBI partners. It became impossible to proceed. Ultimately, our decision was made with the following key considerations:

- The safety of the conference attendees, guest speakers, and our host community is a top priority. Physical distancing would be nearly impossible at restaurants and other entertainment venues with the additional DNC attendees. And our networking time less fun and effective.
- The continuing stay at home orders and travel restrictions on both government

and many private entities due to the uncertainty of the coronavirus situation, make it impossible for many to plan to attend. And those that could travel might encounter delays and difficulties competing with the influx from the DNC.

- The presence of the DNC would mean the Milwaukee FBI Field Office would be precluded from attending. As our host city, this is not acceptable.
- Alternate dates competed with federal and/or religious holidays and meant foregoing the special entertainment planned.

Words cannot express our disappointment that there will be no conference this year. We also considered a virtual conference but decided against this for now. Read on to learn what we will be doing to provide some of the conference experience.

Join me in a round of applause for the FBI Milwaukee CAAA conference team - they have been impressive in their performance and attitude, helping National to build a conference that would have set a new standard on producing and implementing a successful event. From the dynamic evening entertainment to the rousing morning openings, the Milwaukee Chapter was set to show us the city's finest.

Many people are involved in a conference production, so I also tip my hat to the National Conference team. They have worked for months on a myriad of details and arrangements. Combined, National and Milwaukee were doing their best to bring a memorable and worthwhile event to your chapter attendees.

What's Next for Registered Attendees and all Chapter members?

The decision to not gather is fresh and so National has much to do to untangle all that has been done. Some of these items involve those of you who already committed to the conference. Here's what's next:

- If you registered to attend the conference, you will receive an email offering a choice - you may choose to get an immediate and full refund, or you may donate all or some of the registration fee to furthering our mission.
- If you booked a hotel room, you are responsible for canceling your room reservation with the Hyatt Regency Milwaukee. It's possible this will happen automatically in their system, but I ask that you verify and take action as soon as possible.
- If you booked a flight, call your airline and request a refund. Most airlines are offering refunds, credits and/or waiving change fees during this pandemic crisis.
- National is working feverishly to finalize the CAAA talks that would have been presented at conference in order to make the information and education available to all Chapter leadership.
- Awards and recognitions will still be presented. I'm so excited about the achievements we've seen and read about, and can't wait to share them with you. We are working out the details of how to best recognize all winners so stay tuned.

Looking Ahead

2021 will be here before we know it. I pray that with our collective efforts to

overcome the spread of COVID-19, and with new testing and vaccinations, that this currently uncharted time will soon be distant in our rearview mirrors. The FBI Las Vegas CAAA is already gearing up to host our 2021 FBI National CAAA Leadership Conference. We do not yet have dates to announce, and will certainly let you know as soon as we can. There is much work to do behind the scenes before the dates can be determined and secured.

Last, but not least, know how incredibly proud I am of each and every one of you. Your dedication and hard work to further the community outreach mission of the FBI is critical and appreciated. And I'm grateful to all of you for your support and feedback. National is here for you, and I encourage you to share your thoughts with your RCC who will either help immediately or connect you with the appropriate volunteers.

Please take care and we'll be in touch soon.

Alicia Wadas
President
FBI National Citizens Academy Alumni Association

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