



## ***A message to our members from***

***David P. Bleakley, Chairman***

### ***CANCELLATION OF THE MID-YEAR MEETING***

Ensuring safety for our members, tradeshow vendors, and the communities we live in is a top priority for KIOGA.

Therefore, considering the developing news [surrounding the COVID-19 Virus](#) Pandemic and the recommendations from President Trump, Governor Kelly, and the Centers for Disease Control, the KIOGA Executive Committee along with the meeting planners have decided to cancel the Mid-Year meeting scheduled for April 15, 16 & 17 2020 in Garden City, Kansas. We are all very disappointed that we have to make this decision and understand the implications for KIOGA and Garden City. In recognition of the loss of the Mid-Year meeting to Garden City, the Executive Committee has voted to schedule the 2021 Mid-Year meeting in Garden City which will then move the 2022 Mid-Year meeting to Russell, Kansas.

The Executive Committee carefully deliberated over their action before voting on this critical decision to cancel our Mid-Year meeting. The options for members that have registered, the Tradeshow participants, and meeting sponsors are listed below:

As all of you know, times are very difficult for our industry, our members and KIOGA. We had budgeted \$20,000 net profit in our 2020 budget for the Mid-Year meeting and have now been dealt a double blow – First, the loss of the Mid-Year meeting in Garden City and the anticipated revenue for our association; Second, the steep stock market decline resulting in a loss of unrealized value in our investment account that we depend on to generate additional revenue for operations. We are now asking all of our members, the Tradeshow participants, and the meeting sponsors to help KIOGA out in this time of great need.

Options for our members, Tradeshow participants and meeting sponsors already paid or committed to KIOGA for the Mid-Year meeting:

1. Donate all or a portion of what you have already paid or committed to KIOGA for the Mid-Year meeting to help our association and be recognized in a Special Issue Publication for your support.
2. Apply all of what you have already paid or committed to the KIOGA Mid-Year meeting to the KIOGA Annual meeting fees in August.
3. Request a full refund of what you have already paid or negate any commitment to KIOGA for the Mid-Year meeting.

We would certainly like for everyone to consider helping KIOGA out in this extraordinary time. A little help from everyone will go a long way to bolster our budget this year. We plan to thank and recognize all participants in a Special Issue Publication distributed to the entire membership for this helping hand effort to our association and for your generous support during this very difficult time.

***All contributions and commitments paid to KIOGA by April 30, 2020, will be recognized in a Special Issue Publication expressing thanks and appreciation for the support received from our members and industry associates.***

***The hotel will be contacted to cancel the event, but you must also call to cancel your room reservation.***

We hope you and your families continue to be safe and healthy. Please reach out if you have any questions. Together, we will get through this.

Thank you for your continued support!

Sincerely,

David P. Bleakley  
KIOGA Chairman  
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