



## **Notice to All Members: The 156th Grand Lodge Convention Is Canceled**

Every year, we look forward to connecting with our fellow Members at the National Convention, but given the continued concerns about COVID-19, we have made the difficult decision to cancel the 156th Grand Lodge Session in Baltimore, Maryland, which was scheduled to be held from July 5 to July 8, 2020.

Following increased and overwhelming concerns about the coronavirus and COVID-19, we felt this was the best way to proceed during such an unprecedented global situation. We are very disappointed that we are unable to hold the National Convention for our Members, but we know it is the right decision based on the information we have today.

This was a tough call to make. The Grand Lodge Sessions are incredibly important to the Order because they are where we elect and install the Grand Lodge Officers and vote on legislation and budgets for the ensuing year, but we need to prioritize the health and safety of our Members, our employees, and everyone who helps at the Grand Lodge Sessions. The Convention Commission is exploring other ways and means of completing the tasks that need to be accomplished during a Session and is also investigating the possibility of live streaming the Session on the Elks.org website. Please check Elks.org for updates. We remain committed to the city of Baltimore, Maryland, where we are now planning to hold the 2028 convention. The dates and details will be worked out with the city and the hotels in the months to come.

In the meantime, thanks for your patience and understanding—and unless a new convention plan is developed for this year's Session, we look forward to seeing you all in Tampa, Florida, for next year's Grand Lodge Session which will be held from July 4 to July 7, 2021!

Stay Safe and Stay Healthy!

Fraternally,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James L. Nicholson".

James L. Nicholson, PGER  
Elks National Convention Commission Chairman

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tina M. Haran".

Tina M. Haran  
Convention & Meetings Director