



Dear Colleagues;

I hope this update finds you well, and that you have had an opportunity to enjoy the summer thus far. Our profession has never been more important and complex. The challenges of 2020 have been substantial in so many ways. As I noted in the last newsletter “business as usual” is not an option in 2020. I have been leaning on the National Board, and National Staff to creatively adapt. The National PELRA Board has continued to provide you, our members, relevant, effective and timely training and support. I couldn’t be prouder of the National Board and staff. Each and every one of the Board members, their committees, our Executive Director and his team are working to ensure that the National PELRA not just weathers the storm that is 2020, but that we emerge focused ready for the next challenge.

On Tuesday, August 4, we had a State PELRA Presidents call updating your state PELRA leadership on all that is happening at the National office.

- All of the new State websites are up and working and your State leadership is now in the process of updating the information on those sites. Going forward your individual state will have the ability to add and modify the state specific data as needed.
- The 2020 virtual ATC training is now available for purchase. Because it is in a recorded format you can utilize the training as your busy schedules allow. This an outstanding value.
- The planning for the National PELRA’s 50th Anniversary conference in New Orleans is coming along very well. Look for early registration to open in August for April 2021. I hope to you see you all in New Orleans next year.

During the National PELRA budget process for fiscal year 2020/2021 the Board and Executive Director examined and reviewed organizational costs in detail to ensure the National remains financially sound. One substantial cost is that of our leased office space. That associated lease is coming to an end this fall. The property owner communicated an intent to increase our rent and proposed a three (3) year lease term. At the same time, we have found, as many of you have as well, that working remotely can-- if effectively managed—work and well. As a result, the Board has decided not to renew our current lease. The Board and the Executive Director, in conjunction with legal counsel, are creating remote work agreements for the National team. The goal is that the only change you notice will be the change of our address. The expectation is that member service will not be negatively impacted by moving office operations to a virtual environment. For National PELRA written correspondence please use the following address: P.O. Box 232349, San Diego, CA 92193-2349.

Thank you for your continued commitment to our profession, and all you are doing in responding to the myriad of challenges we are facing collectively. I continue to ask for your support, and look forward to a time when we can be together in person.

Stay well, hang in there, we will get through this.

Brent A. Long
National PELRA President