



URGENT:
WISTA USA AGM & CONFERENCE
POSTPONED

Dear WISTA USA Members,

I hope you are all well and gearing up for a good weekend!

We've all been closely watching COVID-19-related developments, which seem to be accelerating. Conferences are being canceled and many employers are sharply curtailing all non-essential employee travel, both international and domestic. Some larger employers, including those with significant presences in the Seattle area, are asking employees to work from home if possible. The Centers for Disease Control is urging people to avoid large gatherings, like conferences and concerts. For the most up-to-date information from the CDC, please [click here](#).

The Board of WISTA met by phone this afternoon and agreed that it is in the best interest of our attendees, speakers, sponsors, and guests to **postpone the AGM and Conference** set for March 19-20 in Houston. This is not a decision we've made lightly, particularly after all the hard work that the Texas Chapter has put into the success of our events. We just don't feel that we have any choice, given the circumstances.

Our Texas Chapter planning committee acted quickly this afternoon to notify our speakers and sponsors, and the entire WISTA USA Leadership Team is firmly behind us on this difficult decision. Over the next week or so, the Board will be working with the Hotel ZaZa and

Houston Museum of Natural Science to identify alternate dates, likely in the summer to avoid conflicting with the myriad other maritime events throughout the year, including the WISTA International AGM & Conference in Hamburg in mid-September. Of course, there are many unknowns, and we ask that you bear with us as we work through them.

The good news, if there is any, is that WISTA USA's By-Laws do not require that the AGM be at any particular time of the year, so we have some flexibility there.

Thank you all very much in advance for your support, patience, and understanding as we work through this challenging and rapidly evolving situation. We will be in touch as soon as we know more.

In the meantime, please take all necessary precautions to keep yourselves and your families safe.

Best,
Parker

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