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“Working today for your future tomorrow”

Greetings from the North Carolina Septic Tank Association.

The year 2020 has certainly been a life altering process for society. It has drastically altered the way that we live our lives and the way that we conduct business. The last time the Association had a chance to gather was in January at our annual convention and expo. Who could have imagined the life altering events that have occurred since then.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NCSTA has responded in ways that have set an example for industry continuing education providers. Due to event restrictions caused by COVID, our original calendar of education events for 2020 was blown apart like a Backhoe in a glass house (or a septic tank hit by a freight train). Due to the dedication of our staff, your Association responded and adapted on a weekly basis since this past March until we could safely provide in-person education. Strict safety measures were put into place to protect our staff and the public health of all involved. These measures WILL continue as we move forward until conditions and health experts instruct us to do differently. We would like to thank all class participants who have followed these guidelines to protect themselves and fellow class members.

How will we move forward? The Board of Directors held a meeting on October 23, 2020 and discussed in great detail what measures to take to protect the public health of all individuals instructing, attending, and coordinating education events in the future. As you are aware, it takes months of planning to schedule speakers, reserve meeting centers, etc for a large convention. A unanimous decision was made to cancel the 2021 Annual Convention and Expo originally scheduled for January due to the risks involved and the restrictions in place for mass gatherings.

However, the Board and staff have recognized the need to serve those who work in the onsite industry. The NCSTA will be expanding the number of regional education events for 2021 to accommodate the absence of the Convention, while limiting the exposure of our staff to large gatherings. We ask that you plan your schedules accordingly. An event calendar will be provided as soon as dates and locations are confirmed.

Please be on the lookout for announcements regarding the events and we ask that you follow the attendance and safety guidelines that have been put into place. We will continue to provide any necessary and pertinent updates as they occur. Thank you again for your dedication to the industry and the citizens of North Carolina.

Jerry Pearce, President NCSTA



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The Officers, Board of Directors, and Staff of the North Carolina Septic Tank Association met on Oct. 23, 2020 and a key agenda item was the upcoming 2021 Annual Convention that is held in January in Hickory, NC.

The last Convention held just less than 10 months ago seems distant. With the COVID-19 pandemic occurring right after the January event, our Regional Classes were pushed back into the 2020 calendar and because of the need for smaller class sizes, many of our classes were full. Safety measures were put in place, such as masks, temperature checks, social distancing, and packaged snacks.

BECAUSE OF THE UNCERTAINTY OF THE COVID-19 STATUS AS WE APPROACH JANUARY 2021, THE OFFICERS, DIRECTORS, AND STAFF HAVE UNANIMOUSLY VOTED TO NOT HOLD AN ANNUAL CONFERENCE IN JANUARY, 2021.

This is a decision that was based on the primary importance of our members, the onsite wastewater industry, our exhibitors, and guests. We cannot risk bringing a crowd as large as those seen in the last few years into one site. The possibility of an outbreak following our folks back to their homes and communities is too great. The North Carolina Septic Tank Association has also committed to hold regional LIVE classes across the State of North Carolina.

We have determined that the so-called virtual classes are poor ways of providing education, and we will increase the number of Regional Classes to accommodate the numbers that we usually have in Hickory and the numbers we usually see in past years across the State

What that means for you as a small business is that you may not have to travel too great a distance to obtain your continuing education. With smaller classes, there will be less chance of contamination. We will have safety protocols in place at each location, such as masks when social distancing is not available, temperature checks, and packaged snacks.

AS SOON AS WE CAN ARRANGE OUR 2021 REGIONAL CLASS LOCATIONS AND DATES, WE WILL HAVE IT ON OUR WEBSITE AT www.ncsta.net. THE 2021 REGIONAL CLASS SCHEDULE WILL BEGIN SOMETIME IN APRIL, AND PRE-REGISTRATION IS NECESSARY. NO WALK-INS WILL BE ACCEPTED, SO CHECK THE CALENDAR AND REGISTER EARLY

We are hoping for a quick relief from this pandemic in 2021, and will be able to return to the Annual Convention for 2022.

Thank you for your support and understanding.

Doug Lassiter, NCSTA Lobbyist Executive Director