



Dear Exchangites,

I am incredibly disappointed to let you know that the Northwest District Board of Directors has made the decision to cancel this year's District Convention. As you know the NW District Convention had been scheduled for May 28 through 31, 2020 in Tukwila, Washington. The Highline, Washington Exchange Club has been working hard on the convention, and just recently sent out details and a registration form. It promised to be a great event!

Unfortunately the pandemic virus COVID 19 hit our region hard. The onset of the virus has resulted in radical, but necessary restrictions by Federal, state and local governments and public health authorities across the region, but most immediately in the Puget Sound area where the convention was scheduled.

The NW District Board began evaluating those restrictions, as well as the obvious health risks that could have a severe impact on the substantial number of older members represented in our clubs. The convention would have been a little over two months away, and an optimistic view might have led to forging ahead in hopes that the virus threat was much improved or resolved by the end of May. The realistic view, however, is that we couldn't count on that, and could not put our members at a health risk, and our clubs and the District at a financial risk. The decision was made to cancel the event, but to plan to have the 2021 convention in the same location next year. This would give the Highline club a chance to use its experiences, efforts and resources to put on the terrific convention next year that we know would have happened this May had the circumstances been different.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to follow up with me, with Brian Trautmann from the Highline club, or with any of the NW District board members. If you have already registered and made hotel reservations, the Highline club will be able to help with cancellations and refunds.

This is a big disappointment for all of us, but we fully expect that we will come through this and make the very best of it. The NW District Exchange Clubs will come together, to accomplish what we need to do and move ahead!

Yours in Exchange -

Mary Giannini
NW District President