



American Correctional Association

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First, I hope each of you and your families are remaining safe during this uncertain and unprecedented time in our lives. So many in our profession have been tragically touched by this pandemic.

It is with sadness that I report to you the cancellation of our 150th Anniversary Celebration Congress of Corrections. As you know, ACA was planning to return to where it all began for our association; Cincinnati Ohio in 1870.

The staff at ACA worked diligently to ensure we could meet on schedule. But survey after survey of employees of state departments of corrections, local detention facilities, juvenile justice systems, community corrections systems and other correctional professionals illustrated that few persons could even travel to Cincinnati. Additionally, requirements of social distancing, limited number of persons together, hotel reductions and other directives made it impractical for a Congress of Corrections to be held.

As your current President and a native of Ohio, it is bittersweet for me to make this announcement. It is such an honor to serve as your President, yet so disappointing not to be with you on such a special and historical event for ACA. You might recall, as I ran for the Office of President-Elect, my family, staff and friends wore scarlet and gray shirts with the phrase "Mohr for our Members" on its front. I had so hoped that our 150th Congress would be a celebration of the hardworking public servants that deserve recognition that is too often withheld. The Ohio Host Committee, along with ACA staff have worked very hard and creatively to ensure we would hold a Congress of Correction that attendees would have always remembered.

Individual safety of all Americans and our international members is paramount in this decision. Simply put, we have no other choice but to cancel as you are our most precious asset and must, above all else, be protected. We cannot change the past, we can only influence the present and future, if we are allowed a future. So, ACA looks forward to our Winter Conference in Long Beach California, in February 2021.

We pray for you and your family, friends and co-workers' safety. As I often say, "Today is truly a great day to be alive, because each of us have the opportunity to make tomorrow better for so many."

Your 106th President,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gary C. Mohr". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Gary C. Mohr