



Hello SCAEOP Members,

Hoping this message finds you safe and well. This has certainly been a different year with us facing many new challenges. We apologize for the delayed turnaround regarding our upcoming SCAEOP conference; however, we all know it is beyond our control. Due to our standing contract with Embassy Suites, we are in the process of moving forward with the conference scheduled for February 4-7, 2021, and will need your continued support. Our theme for the 2021 conference is *“The Joy is in the Journey”*. In September, you should have received a survey inquiring about your intentions on attending the conference. Despite the uncertainties, we were pleased to have received so many positive responses of persons interested in attending. As you know, most districts, if not all, have suspended travel; therefore we will be responsible for providing our own travel expenses. Information regarding meals, presenters and workshops will be forthcoming. **It is important that you complete and return registration form by requested deadline so that we may effectively communicate in a timely manner with the hotel staff on accommodations, meals, & conference space. We will continue to keep you abreast of any changes. We understand the short turnaround deadline; however, membership registration and payment must be postmarked by December 28, 2020.** In accordance to our feedback survey the hotel has agreed in allowing us to reduce our numbers and retain the group rate as outlined in the contract. Embassy Suites is committed and working diligently to ensure that our accommodations and conference space are in compliance with following the social distancing guidelines and making sure we are in a clean, safe atmosphere. Due to the social distancing guidelines, there are a few changes at the hotel as far as buffet breakfast and evening reception. This conference and the theme is well deserving, so that we all may find the *Joy* in the *Journey* because this has certainly been a journey.

At this time, we are seeking support for persons interested in chairing various committees and affiliates to host our SCAEOP **Member** and **Awards Luncheons**. Due to the pandemic and in keeping safe with the CDC guidelines, we have decided not to host the hospitality room. That doesn't mean we will not be there for support, networking, and just seeing our friends from around the state – it simply means that we have to socialize in a different manner. I am reaching out to all of you for continued prayers and support in making this another successful conference. Please feel free to contact me via email at bridget.bookert@richlandone.org or you are welcome to give me a call (803) 730-7041. I would love to hear your voices.

Chairpersons are needed for the following committees:

AV

Briefings (introduce guest presenters /credit certificates)

SCAEOP **Member Luncheon** _____

SCAEOP **Awards Luncheon** _____

Thanking you in advance for your commitment, understanding, and support. We look forward to hearing from you. Your thoughts and comments are welcomed.

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