

June 4, 2020

Fellow ALE Members –

The ALE Board of Directors and Conference Planning Committee continue to send good wishes for your health and safety in a time of illness and unrest. As someone who considers Minneapolis home, I know all too well the mixed emotions these last weeks have brought with them. We hope you are taking care of yourselves and finding moments of motivation and peace where you can as you need.

Last month, we let you know that we are working with an attorney and the hotel to resolve our contract for the 2020 Annual Conference in Nashville. While those discussions are not quite complete, we are getting closer to that goal. In the meantime, we have also been discussing contingency plans for the conference itself.

For many reasons, a full-scale virtual conference with all the trimmings is not feasible for us this summer. However, we do intend to offer some pieces of the conference virtually in order to help members connect, engage, and stay abreast of current happenings in the association. Specifically, we will use time during our original conference dates (July 12-15) to hold **FAN meetings** and our **annual association business meeting**. We also believe that we will be able to offer roundtables and some workshops in a synchronous virtual manner and other sessions (Research Papers, Innovative Practice Papers, and Posters) asynchronously. More information about how these virtual pieces will be accessible to ALE members will be shared later this month. We do intend to make use of our original conference dates for synchronous sessions, and some asynchronous pieces may be available sooner/later. We will also be working with Poverty and the Arts (POVA) in Nashville, our partner for service at the conference, to see if there are ways we can support them remotely.

The *Journal of Leadership Education* will be producing a special issue in July that will include the top Research Paper proposals and Innovative Practice Paper proposals. Other accepted proposals will be included in conference proceedings. (Authors of accepted proposals will have the ability to opt out of these publications if they wish.)

Here's what that means at the moment. . .

If you are a current active (dues-paid) member of ALE, you will be able to access conference content and sessions at no additional cost. If you are not yet a member of the association, or if your membership is up for renewal between now and the end of July, you can join/renew here. You can also log in to the member side of the website and check your membership records or update your account information on our website.

If you had a conference proposal accepted, I will be following up with you to share information about how to proceed with virtual presentations. This information will be shared no later than June 15.

If you are unable to present virtually this year (either synchronously or asynchronously), and wish to withdraw your proposal and resubmit it for a future ALE Annual Conference, you will be able to do so—even if you provided an affirmative RSVP last month.

If you wish to opt out of conference proceedings or JOLE publication, be watching for a separate message from me via Ex Ordo where you can declare your wishes. That message will arrive before the end of this week, and we will need to know if you wish to opt out of either publication by June 19.

If your conference proposal was not accepted, we will not be accepting any additional proposals for this year's proceedings. However, we encourage you to submit your work in the future.

If you have already registered for the conference, we would suggest not requesting a cancellation at this time. We will honor any cancellation requests according to our current cancellation statement, which means you can cancel for a refund (minus an administrative fee) until June 28. Once the conference contract is fully resolved, resulting in official cancellation, ALE anticipates being able to refund the entire registration amount paid by existing registrants. We should have an update for you very soon.

If you have not yet registered for the conference, registration remains paused. We do not anticipate re-opening conference registration for the 2020 ALE Annual Conference in Nashville.

If you have a hotel reservation at the Doubletree Nashville Downtown that you need to cancel, cancellations can be made between now and 72 hours ahead of your scheduled arrival. We would suggest making those cancellations sooner rather than later so that there are no penalties.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information, for your patience, and for your participation in ALE. Be safe and well, and reach out if you have any questions.

Very Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Marianne Lorensen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Marianne Lorensen
ALE VP & Conference Chair