

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| |  |  | | --- | --- | | Contact | Ed Hansen, AAZK CEO/CFO | | Telephone | 520-298-9688 | | Cell | 520-488-2535 | | Email | Ed.Hansen@aazk.org | | Website | [www.aazk.org](http://www.aazk.org) | | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASEMay 7, 2020 |

The American Association of Zoo Keepers announces postponment of the 46th Annual AAZK Conference

AAZK National Conference to be rescheduled in 2021

Tucson, AZ, May 7, 2020 - Due to the continually evolving uncertainty that surrounds the Covid-19 Pandemic and in compliance with the current restrictions and future recommendations imposed by the State of California and the cities of Los Angeles and Glendale, the Board of Directors of the American Association of Zoo Keepers (AAZK) in direct consultation with the Los Angeles AAZK Chapter will postpone and reschedule the National Conference of the Association scheduled for August 30 – September 3, 2020.

“The zoo and aquarium industry as a whole has suffered from closures since mid-March and is just now beginning a slow, planned recovery and reopening process as allowed by local restrictions. It’s optimistic to state that most facilities will be fully operational by mid-summer. Keepers in many facilities have been subject to reduced pay, reduced hours and furloughs. Combine the uncertainties of projecting virus cases through the summer across North America, the safety of the delegates, LA zoo and hotel staff, and the financial impact the virus is having on keepers in general, we feel the decision to postpone the conference is the right call to make” says Paul Brandenburger, President of AAZK.

**AAZK has rescheduled the National Conference to August 29 – September 2, 2021** at the Hilton Los Angeles North Glendale. Those who have registered for the 2020 AAZK Conference and those who have been scheduled as Instructors, Presenters, Exhibitors and Sponsors will be contacted in the very near future by AAZK and our Conference Host regarding cancellation or rescheduling options necessitated by the postponement.

The American Association of Zoo Keepers exists to advance excellence in the animal keeping profession, foster effective communication beneficial to animal care, support deserving conservation projects, and promote the preservation of our natural resources and animal life.

If you would like more information regarding this announcement, please contact Ed Hansen, AAZK CEO/CFO at 520-298-9688 or email at <Ed.Hansen@aazk.org>.