

Difficult decisions in challenging times

MPO President Steve Petroff

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As announced on the front page, the 100th MPO Convention activities have been cancelled. The Delegate Assembly will still convene this September by Zoom as prescribed by the MPO bylaws.

The decision to cancel the convention was discussed by the entire Central Committee of Trustees (CCoT) and based on the information at hand it was decided to be the best course to take. The Palmer House Hotel was first reported to be reopening in December 2020, then it was January, lastly April and now pushed back to the third week of May. Even then, it isn't guaranteed to reopen.

The MPO Convention takes a lot of planning and with such a short window of time the decision was made to cancel. We know there are a lot of Macedonians who will be unhappy with this decision. We get it: We all wish we could be holding hands dancing oros and singing into the wee hours. The CCoT however, needed to consider the financial health of the organization. We heard from people that if social distancing measures were still in place, they would most likely not attend: a poorly attended convention doesn't help the MPO.

As you may recall in the June 2020 Tribune when it was announced that the 99th Annual Convention was cancelled,

President Makowski asked us to donate to the MPO to make up the lost revenue from the convention. Many of you donated, and it would be best if many more of you would donate for the MPO to meet their financial obligations.

If the MPO needed your financial assistance last year, the need will be greater this year. I am donating \$100 to kick off the drive and will donate more throughout it. All donations are truly appreciated. The more generous your tax-deductible gift, the bigger the hero you will be in ensuring the MPO continues its mission to keep your Macedonian history and culture alive.