



C.O.P.S. Statement Regarding National Police Week 2020

C.O.P.S. Law Enforcement Survivors,

As more restrictions have unfolded this week, C.O.P.S. has held several discussions with our partner organizations who also plan the events of National Police Week (NPW). The growing impact of the Coronavirus (COVID 19) is everyone's concern. Because of the government and health restrictions in place in the D.C. and Virginia area, as well as travel advisories throughout the country, a mutual decision has been made to cancel the public events of NPW 2020.

C.O.P.S. understands the devastation and disappointment this will cause to survivors. The 2019 fallen officers deserve every bit of honor they were going to receive during NPW. Be assured, their families and co-workers will have an opportunity to visit our nation's capital where they can participate in events honoring their officer. The leaders of NPW, including C.O.P.S., are in discussion as to what that will look like going forward. While no decisions have been made at this time, please know your C.O.P.S. National Board and staff are actively involved in those discussions and will work diligently to support you and advocate for you as decisions are made. You will continue to be updated during this process. In the meantime, a few ideas for survivors to consider are:

- Attend your retreat. As of today, the following C.O.P.S. Hands-On Programs are still being held: Adult Children, Kids Camp, Outward Bound® and Young Adults Camp, Fiances & Significant Others, Siblings, Spouses, Co-Workers, Extended Family, and Parents. Visit concernsofpolicesurvivors.org for dates and locations.
- Call the C.O.P.S. National Office if you are having a difficult time and you will be put in touch with someone who can talk to you about your situation.
- Reach out to your C.O.P.S. Chapter for local support. Attend a chapter meeting or event to receive support from others who have experienced something similar
- Follow C.O.P.S. on social media. Continuous updates, uplifting stories, and messages of hope will be posted. If you are a survivor, consider joining the private group page titled "C.O.P.S. One Day At A Time" to connect with survivors from the present and past.

This decision was extremely difficult, yet necessary to protect the health and wellness of our members. Your support is appreciated during these trying times, but please know the C.O.P.S. National Board and Staff are here to answer any questions you may have.

We will get through this. Together

Dianne Bernhard

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C.O.P.S. Executive Director

