

Special Statement Regarding the Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)

The Spring 2020 Transformers Committee meeting is fast approaching and the Committee Officers know many of our attendees wonder whether issues related to the COVID-19 virus will affect meeting plans. **First and foremost, the Spring 2020 Transformers Committee meeting will take place as scheduled.** We encourage everyone to exercise common sense precautions regarding protective measures against the new coronavirus, just like they would for any other respiratory disease. These include the following:

- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue, then throw the tissue in the trash. If you do not have a tissue, use your sleeve or forearm rather than your hand.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, especially after going to the bathroom; before eating; and after blowing your nose, coughing, or sneezing.
- If soap and water are not readily available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer with at least 60% alcohol. **We plan on providing hand sanitizer in various locations throughout our meeting areas.**
- For additional prevention information, please refer to the following websites:
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/about/prevention-treatment.html>

As an added measure, we would like to suggest we make this a **“hands-free” meeting**. While we commonly shake hands to greet one another, under that circumstances, please do not be offended if you extend your hand to shake and the person you are greeting hesitates. Perhaps offer a polite nod of your head, a forearm bump, an elbow bump, or something along these lines. Some people are opting for a foot bump. In any event, let's break conventions and avoid the handshake for this meeting.

The Committee Officers I look forward to seeing you in Charlotte.

Sincerely,

Bruce Forsyth
Chair, Transformers Committee