



Good afternoon all. In our continuing efforts to keep you informed of the latest developments regarding our organization, there are two more items that were approved by the Board of Directors last week concerning the Great Peppers' Meeting. In an effort to financially reduce our expenses beyond those that we are contractually obligated to, the Board made the following decisions:

Regarding attendees at the Great Peppers' Meeting; the following attendees will remain exempt from the registration fee: Great Peppers, voting delegates, Regional Referees, Directors and off-board support. The biggest change this year is that spouses will be required to pay the \$35 attendance fee. This will save the organization approximately fourteen-fifteen hundred dollars.

Regarding the hospitality suites; not knowing the situation regarding Tarrant county's stance on gatherings in the future and the rules that are being set forth by the hotel itself, the organization is not providing funding for the two suites. The organization will provide ice, water, soda, cups and mixers. We receive the rooms at no charge. This is a savings of approximately seven-eight hundred dollars.

While we are under contract with the hotel for many items, these are two items that we are not. When looking at the non-contracted items connected with our annual meeting, the Board considered all the financial obligations connected to the GPM and these were the two largest expenses that we had some leverage with. There are some additional items that are being eliminated as well, that are not large expenses, but every dollar counts at this time.

Just in case there are some that are not aware of where the funds come from to host the Great Peppers' Meeting, here is the answer; the four dollar cook fee assessed at every cookoff that is paid to CASI. One dollar per cook is moved into the Great Peppers' Meeting fund. Therefore, by losing all the cookoffs from the end of March to June, that fund is not where it should be at this time of year. If you would like to see the amount in that fund, look at the number of chilis judged in the table on the Tallymaster's page in the *Trails*.

Once again, while still trying to navigate these waters, being financially prudent and responsible is and has to be one of our main priorities. These decisions are never easy but during these difficult times, every effort is being made so that we CONTINUE to have an organization when we get through to the end of this crisis. Thank you for your time and support.