



# Association of Independent Welding Distributors

June 19, 2020

Dear AIWD Members and Vendors,

**On June 18<sup>th</sup>, the Executive Committee made the decision to replace the in-person AIWD Annual Convention in Miami that was scheduled for August 16-19, 2020 with a Virtual Convention.**

This was a very difficult decision for the Board and Executive Staff to make. The safety and health of our AIWD family is paramount. With the ever changing impact of COVID-19, requiring strict social distancing mandates, the sheer quality of our show was severely at risk. We are also mindful that a reduced number of member participants could impact our ability to hold our business meeting and would affect the positive experience of our vendor relations. With all factors considered, this decision to cancel our in-person Convention is one we felt we had to make.

We intend this to be an opportunity for all of our members and vendors to participate at a different level from the safety and comfort of their home or office. We expect our rebranded Convention to provide the opportunity for nearly all of us to participate.

We have necessary AIWD business that cannot reasonably be delayed. To facilitate this, we are working with a consultant firm to determine the best approach for a remote convention. This may utilize one or more platforms, including the possibility of a virtual meeting or submission of prepared presentation media for distribution to members. As this is a work in progress, we trust you will be patient with us while we iron out these details.

We expect the dates of our Virtual Convention to align with our scheduled dates, but these are subject to modification as we complete our planning.

We are working on the process to refund paid registration fees and will provide an option to have those credited toward your 2021 Convention attendance. This is a fairly complex task as we receive funds in multiple ways, so expect to receive notification of the available options in coming days.

We trust you embrace this decision as the best option we have available for our AIWD family and yours. Thank you for your patience and your loyalty, stay safe, and we will see everyone in Colorado Springs next year!

**AIWD Board of Directors and Executive Management**