

The AALAS Family keeps South Texas utmost in our thoughts and prayers during this tumultuous time. The National Headquarters staff have been in contact with several members in the affected area as well as the convention center, hotels, and Convention and Visitors Bureau in Austin. The Senior Convention Services Manager in Austin provided this update today:

"While Austin was not largely affected by Hurricane Harvey, we continue to pray for the victims, families and first responders. Austin remains committed to helping our friends and neighbors in Houston and the gulf coast cities as we stand ready to accommodate and welcome evacuees. Our thoughts are with our fellow Texans as we begin to deal with the aftermath of this storm and we know - in true Texas spirit - we will rebuild and overcome.

In Austin, it's business as usual. As Tropical Storm Harvey shifts away from Central Texas, floodwaters have receded from the Austin area and the Colorado River. There are no major disruptions to the city. Austin Bergstrom International Airport is operating at normal capacity as well as our hotels and main public assembly facilities (Austin Convention Center and Palmer Events Center).

The Austin Convention Center will also open on Wednesday August 30th as a temporary shelter for evacuees. For those interested in relocating to a hotel in Austin, Governor Abbott has suspended both the state and local Hotel and Motel Occupancy tax for relief-effort personnel and victims of the storm. For more sheltering options and booking information, go to <https://www.austintexas.org/visit/hurricane-resources/>."

At this point, the AALAS National Meeting is scheduled to go on as planned. AALAS will keep you informed should there be a change in the venue or arrangements. In the meantime, here are other resources and ways to help:

AVMA

<https://www.avma.org/KB/Resources/Reference/disaster/Pages/hurricane-harvey.aspx>

USDA

<https://www.usda.gov/topics/disaster/storms>

Other ways to donate to help with disaster relief and recovery <https://www.vox.com/science-and-health/2017/8/27/16211642/hurricane-harvey-donations-charities-disaster-relief>

Ann Turner PhD, FASAE, CAE
Executive Director AALAS and the AALAS Foundation
9190 Crestwyn Hills Drive
Memphis, TN 38125
901-754-8620 | 901-753-0046 (fax)

ann.turner@aalas.org<<mailto:ann.turner@aalas.org>>
<https://www.aalas.org>