

A Letter from the CONsole Room Board



To our attendees and supporters,

01-18-2026

CONsole Room has been receiving messages from a number of people expressing their understandable concerns about attending CONsole Room in person this year, for reasons ranging from personal safety, safety for family members, the safety and security of the venue, and more. We get it; we'd all like reassurances that everything will be fine the weekend of the convention, and you'll have the same joyous experience this year that you have every year. We'd really like that reassurance, too. But we can't offer those reassurances. No one can. As we've seen this year, things change day to day and even hour to hour, and everyone has to consider their own personal safety and well-being whenever they leave the house at all, much less attend CONsole Room. As the convention chairs, we want everyone to know that, while we do hope you attend in person, we understand if anyone for any reason does not feel that they can attend. Your safety and security are of the utmost importance, and we as the convention chairs are not going to blame anyone if they decide not to attend CONsole Room 2026 for any reason. Your in person ticket also gives you access to our remote content and we hope you'll still join us on Discord and YouTube.

The CONsole Room executive board met with the hotel GM this week, and we can offer you our own feelings that our host hotel is committed to the safety and security of their staff and guests at all times. They are a public accommodation; they cannot and will not reveal any information about any registered guests staying at the hotel. If no judicial warrant is presented, then all private areas of the hotel are off-limits. Private areas include guest sleeping floors, all employees areas, and any area marked as a private event. This is true all years. Are there federal agents staying at the hotel as registered guests? We do not know; they don't know. Given the number of agents in the area, it is likely that every corporate franchise hotel has agents staying at it. We have been told that they have seen no agent activity on the hotel property. Our hotel is located 4.2 miles from the Whipple Building, 10 miles from downtown Saint Paul, and 12 miles from downtown Minneapolis, and on a road that only leads to the hotel and the Minnesota Valley Wildlife Refuge. In terms of visibility, we're very remote, and unlikely to attract attention from either agents or protesters. Again, we cannot provide any guarantees, but can relay that so far, Bloomington hotels in general haven't seen agent activity.

There is no current plan to cancel the convention. To attempt to do so or move to a different venue at this point would be logistically and financially impossible. Our only contract out is to invoke "force majeure," which would require local, state, or federal officials to declare a state of emergency, which has not happened, and which we don't want to happen. Canceling for any other reason means that the convention is still financially liable for the for the terms of the hotel contract, which included rental of the convention space, food and beverage, and a certain number of sleeping rooms. Keeping your hotel reservation us meet our contracted required number of rooms. Getting photos and/or autographs helps us pay our agreed upon fees for our invited guests of honour.

As stated above, there is no plan to cancel the convention at this time. If any of this changes in the next few days, we will let everyone know as soon as we possibly can.

Because of all of the uncertainty in the Minneapolis area today, as we said before, we understand that you have to make tough decisions for yourself and your family, and that your personal safety and security come before the convention. Particularly if you're coming from a distance, it is understandable if you no longer feel able to retain your hotel room and attend the convention in person. You don't have to explain or justify anything to us. We hope you'll join us virtually or in person this year, and that the world will be a better place next year, so that our 2027 convention will be better than ever.

Thank you,
Jason Tucker, Founder and Co-Chair
Anton Petersen, Co-Chair
Donald A. Kaiser, Treasurer
Natasha Krentz, Operations