

INTERNATIONAL MOOSE LEGION PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
SEPTEMBER 2011

Membership

As of the end of August 2011, our active Membership numbers stood at only 59,014 compared to 60,110 for this same time period last year. As you can plainly see, our total number of active Moose Legionnaires has fallen. We have reached the point in time where it is imperative that we break out the big guns and give a concentrated effort to bring these numbers up.

Every Moose Legion Secretary receives an "Eligibility List" of qualified potential Moose Legionnaires for their Moose Legion jurisdiction. These lists need to be placed in the hands of the Assistant Secretaries for every Lodge in their Moose Legion jurisdiction and then worked religiously by the members of the Lodge Moose Legion Committees within that jurisdiction. Only with this concentrated effort, along with Retention, can we hope to get above the 60,000 active Moose Legionnaire mark by the end of September and then continue to grow for the remainder of the year.

Retention

Retention goes hand-in-hand with signing new members into the Moose Legion. It doesn't do any good to bring in one through the front door and then lose two out the back door. With this in mind, it is imperative that all Moose Legion Area Managers work with their Moose Legion Ambassadors, who then in turn work with their Moose Legion Secretaries, who then in turn work with their "Assistant Secretaries", who then in turn work with their Lodge Moose Legion to set-up and implement an active, aggressive, phone committee to work the "Arrearage Lists" in each and every Lodge.

Oh yes – and the jurisdiction's Jr. Past President is the Retention Chairman. He should be promoting the retention effort throughout the year! If we only save two or three per Lodge, that is two or three that we didn't lose and when you add up all the Lodges, you will be surprised how the active Moose Legion membership numbers will rise.

Fellowship Degrees in Suspension

Director Neff has provided lists of a special group of members in arrears. The Council and Area Managers have been disseminating them through the associations.

I was quite surprised (actually startled), when I saw the number of "Fellowship Degree" holders whose dues in their Lodge were current, but their

Moose Legion dues were delinquent. This of course has resulted in their “Fellowship Degree” being placed in a state of ‘suspension’.

Why these members were not contacted in the past is beyond me, but that is beside the point. We now have an opportunity ahead of us to rectify this situation as well as bringing our active membership numbers up. We need to add their names to the Retention list and contact them by phone or in person explaining where they currently stand.

Quite a few of these individuals are “Life Members” in their Lodge and I am sure that they didn’t realize that they still needed to pay their Moose Legion dues to keep their degrees active. (Please see the Moose Leader article on page 64 in the August/September/October Moose Magazine)

Some need to pay their dues for just the current year, others will need to be reinstated, and still others will need to be re-enrolled, depending on how long their dues have been expired or if terminated. Again, here is an opportunity to get them back in the fold as well as increasing our total active membership numbers and your personal membership credits. Don’t let these involved members and this opportunity slip away.

Lodge Moose Legion Committees

Of course one of the best ways to increase the number of active Moose Legionnaires in each of our Lodges is to have an active Lodge Moose Legion Committee. Although there are many excellent fraternal reasons why a Lodge member should join the Moose Legion, you may still need to show him something where he will be rewarded for his advancement to the Moose Legion.

This can only be done with an active Lodge Moose Legion Committee that is totally self-sufficient through its own fundraisers, and offers a full slate of events at little or no cost to Moose Legionnaires. They in turn will continue to pay their Moose Legion dues and even those ‘social’ Lodge members will join the second degree to receive these cost-saving benefits.

All members of the “Board of Directors” should be assisting in working towards establishing an active Lodge Moose Legion Committee in each and every Lodge within their Moose Legion jurisdiction. If you need help, contact your Moose Legion Ambassador who along with your Moose Legion Area Manager will give you the assistance that you need.

Lodge Moose Legion Committee Survey

We will be wrapping up the Lodge Moose Legion Committee survey that I asked each Moose Legion jurisdiction Secretary for their input on by the end of September. The results will be posted in the “President’s Message” for October.

International Projects and President's Projects

Many thanks for your donations to the "Endowment Fund", the Moose Legion "Youth Awareness" Scholarship Obligation Fund, and our Capital Project of two vans and 21 computers. Let's all continue to support these programs and Danny Williams our Special Projects and Fundraising Chairman.

I am anxiously awaiting the results of the August donations for the International Moose Legion President's Project of a state-of-the-art "Grasshopper" lawn mower for our own Camp Ross. If you have already donated to this most worthwhile project and have not received a personal thank you, rest assured that one will be coming once I get the August report.

If you have not yet donated, please do so now so we can purchase the needed maintenance equipment. Remember that Camp Ross maintenance is totally funded by the Moose Legion. Please earmark your check to Moose Charities as: **ML Lawnmower.**

Moose Legion Honor Month

As you all know, January is Moose Legion Honor Month. Everyone should be planning something special for the month to honor all those Moose Legionnaires who have given so much and helped the Moose Legion grow and prosper in each and every Moose Legion jurisdiction. I hope your lodge program is truly special and brings honor to all Moose Legionnaires.

Until next time, working to Create Some Interest, I remain fraternally yours,

Paul Curtis
International Moose Legion President