


MOOSE INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS



Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

**SUMMER 2014
CONVENTION ISSUE**

BACK TO BASICS - GOVERNMENT RELATIONS STYLE

At our Convention in Las Vegas, some of the commentary I received at our booth pointed out a need to provide more explanation of what our Government Relations representatives around the country can do to get more involved with elected officials in order to secure the rights and privileges that fraternal orders all over the country currently enjoy and even promote new laws and regulations that would benefit the Loyal Order of Moose.

Although some of the information can be found on the Government Relations Chairman's Guide on our website, it is important to hear it in the words of one of our most active representatives – Bessie Staab-Hickman for Maryland, Delaware and DC. She works tirelessly to represent the interests of, not only the Moose, but the Veterans also. Her work has earned her an appointment as a member of the Advisory Council on Charitable Gaming Planning to serve at the pleasure of the Governor of Delaware. She has a lot of first-hand knowledge that we can all benefit from.

Her question to everyone is: "If I asked you to give me an hour of your time to assist with a project, would you say 'yes, I'd be happy to help' or would you say 'let someone else help' or 'I'll think about it' or 'maybe later'?" Well the time is now to step up and not wait until later when it pertains to Government Relations. You need one person in each chapter and lodge to chair this program. I keep hearing I don't know how, I don't know what to do, I don't know what to say, I don't know how to follow through. It does not matter what state or district you are located the same protocol applies. When you attend the training session, you are right when you say it isn't covered, many of you have asked questions at conferences state meetings, and training sessions.

Quick Refresher: Use the proper title of the person you are addressing, introduce yourself by title, i.e. 'my name is John or Jill Doe (give your title) a member of (name of) Lodge or Chapter, representing (number of members)'. Give brief background of our organization. (We are non-profit organization and we support many community service projects, scouts, Special Olympics, schools etc.). We are asking you to vote 'no' or 'yes' or whatever applies, to House Bill (number) or Senate Bill (number). State your reasons, for wanting it passed or not wanting it to pass. Thank them for their consideration. This can also be done with e-mails. They have a way of responding and you have the door open for further dialogue.

Do not believe just because a Bill pending to become law does not concern you as a non-profit; you better read the fine print because many issues that may affect us could be lurking

there. Don't think that a bill, that when passed and enacted, is the end of the issue. Not true – a law can be amended to include or create a carve-out for our lodges.”

I was fortunate to have the opportunity to meet and speak with other active members at our booth, and I think our program is in good hands. I truly appreciate those who helped set up, take down and spend time with me in the booth. I mentioned the idea of possibly requesting to have a Government Relations breakout session next year in Nashville. Some people were very receptive to the idea and if possible would like to participate as panelists. If anyone reading this would like to be considered or knows of someone who might be interested, please send me their contact information.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AROUND THE COUNTRY?

Not much is happening that affects the Fraternity at this time. Smoking and gaming seem to be the issues still. If you know of any local issues such as new fees or regulations that we can include in our newsletter, please let us know so we can let everyone know what may be coming in the future.

WE NEED YOUR HELP!

If you go to the Moose International website in Members Only and click on the link to Government Relations, you will see a link to State Government Relations Contacts and Websites. If you open that link and scroll through the pages, you will notice that there are states without Government Relations representatives. If you have an interest in becoming a representative or know of someone who would be good for the position, please contact members of the Moose International Government Relations Committee.

WELCOME TO THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE MOOSE INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE

Richard W. Harris, Chairman
richard19601@frontier.com

Nitro 565, WV

Harlan Stee
mixerman333@cox.net

North Little Rock 942 , AR

Shellie Schulz
SHELLIESCHULZ@GMAIL.COM

Enid 1587, OK

Brian Best
BEST4327@roadrunner.com

Westfield 118, NY

Danny Hugelen
danny.hugelen@harlowsbussales.com

Bismarck 302, ND

Information regarding their territories can be found under Government Relations on our website. If you have any government-related information you think they should be aware of, please do not hesitate to contact them.