

Valued Veterans Activity Groups – Objectives & Expectations



1. Program Objectives:

To ensure that the Valued Veterans of the lodge, and its affiliated chapter, have a voice and a sense of ownership in the implementation of the Valued Veterans program in their lodge; and to ensure that the program remains useful and relevant to their unique needs.

2. Group Objectives:

- a. To implement actions that will best serve the lodge/chapter's Valued Veterans;
- b. To provide frequent social opportunities and enriching camaraderie among the lodge/chapter's Valued Veterans;
- c. To identify specific activities that are most relevant and enriching to the lodge/chapter's Valued Veterans;
- d. To implement actions that will serve non-Moose veterans in the community, helping the lodge to better serve the Heart of the Community core initiative, "Veterans Programs."
- e. To facilitate the process of connecting any veteran to useful community resources that will help them in the unique challenges faced when reintegrating into society; and/or to provide them with therapeutic and/or recreational enrichment.

3. Steps to form a group:

- a. Secure approval from lodge officers;
- b. Ensure there is enough interest among Valued Veterans in the lodge/affiliated chapter;
- c. Read, and agree with, the Activity Group bylaws/guidelines;
- d. Complete & submit paperwork to Moose International (available at www.mooseintl.org / *Programs & Events / Valued Veterans / Lodge Program Components / Activity Groups*).

4. Group Members: All members must be active members in good standing.

a. Associate Members

Any lodge or chapter member in good standing may contribute to the group's goals and may participate in the group's activities. This includes members currently in active duty.

b. **Valued Veterans Charter Members**

- i. Charter members and officers of any Valued Veterans activity group **must be veterans**. This ensures that the primary group objective of giving the Valued Veterans a voice in the Valued Veterans fraternal program is fully realized.
 1. **Men and Women** - Charter members and officers will include **men and/or women** who have served their country.
 2. **Any country** – Given that Moose International is comprised of members from multiple countries, any member in good standing who has served their country is eligible to be a charter member and/or officer of the group.
 3. **Active Military** - Members actively serving in the military can be involved as Associate members, but not as Veteran members or officers of the group. The Valued Veteran program was specifically designed to meet the unique needs that veterans face when reintegrating into society, *after* being discharged.

5. **Group Expectations:**

- a. Identify and serve **internal veterans' causes**. Ensure that the veterans in the lodge/chapter have a voice in identifying activities that are most relevant and useful to them;
 - i. Assist veteran members in becoming 'self-identified' with Moose International.
 - ii. Provide input to the Heart of the Community Committee and the lodge officers about Valued Veterans annual ceremonies and monthly Valued Veterans days.
- b. **Communicate Valued Veterans' needs and the Activity group's goals** to the lodge officers and Heart of the Community Committee:
 - i. **Develop solutions** as a part of their activities schedule;
 - ii. **Propose solutions** to the Heart of the Community Committee and the Lodge officers.
- c. Identify and serve **external veterans' causes**, helping the lodge to achieve community presence in this core fraternal initiative.
 - i. Groups should **be present in the local community**, primarily serving veterans' causes'; though, efforts are not limited solely to veterans' causes.
 - ii. Groups should **communicate with lodge officers and the Heart of the Community** committee about their efforts. By doing so, they will ensure the lodge receives the credit they deserve in our fraternity's core initiative for external veterans' programs.
- d. **Group Notifications** - Groups must notify the Activities department at Moose International of any changes in the groups' President and/or their contact information; or if the group decides to dissolve. Moose International will not maintain lists of all group members.

Moose International sincerely hopes that your Valued Veterans activity group brings great enrichment to the lives of the veterans in your lodge, in your chapter, and in your local community.

Questions and/or comments about Valued Veterans activity groups can be directed to: **Cherie Mondrella at Moose International at: cmondrella@mooseintl.org.**