



New Year – Fresh Start

By **MIKE RIOS**/Director, Membership

Every year when January 1 is about to arrive, people make their New Year's resolutions. May 1 marks the beginning of the new Moose Year and perhaps this is a great time to make a resolution geared toward what you will do better or what goal you will achieve in 2022-23.

It's always better to concentrate on one or maybe two items that have been on your "bucket list" for a while.

The steps are easy:

- Identify the goal.
- Plan how you will accomplish the goal.
- Set target dates to mark your progress.
- Achieve your goal.

Suppose being in The 25 Club is your goal. First, immerse yourself in understanding the criteria for membership. Remember that this is the second year where men and women both join The Moose at lodge level.

Familiarize yourself with the various benefits of being a Moose. There are activities in the lodge and opportunities to participate in community service projects.

Membership in The Moose supports a great Child City, Mooseheart, established to help kids of all ages get a great start on life which they might not otherwise get. We also have a great place to call home in retirement – Moosehaven – available as a benefit of membership.

There is so much value in a Moose membership and one of the greatest personal benefits is the availability of extending your social circle and gaining a Moose family when you patronize the lodge.

Your next step should involve positioning yourself to ask qualified individuals to join you and thousands of other Moose. Here's a little-known secret: Volunteer to be the door greeter at your lodge. You will meet a number of qualified individuals wanting to join.

If you're a new lodge officer and your goal is to be the best at fulfilling your duties and making your lodge successful – this is a great goal. It starts with learning your duties and knowing your lodge's operations. Commit early to attend the Moose Training. Don't stop at Lodge Leadership training. Stretch your goal to attend 2-HOTT and Administrator Training.

Add Moose Legion Leadership or Chapter Leadership training to your list – learn it all. Knowledge is the key to your success. Don't just attend the classes – participate and listen to the information being presented. Ask questions if you don't understand. Your leadership may just make you the mentor and leader in your lodge. You may become the "go to" person that gets things done.

Perhaps you're already an officer in your lodge and your goal is to improve the financial well-being of the operation, This is truly a great goal. Many of our lodges suffer from insufficient revenues and lack of profit. Get started by understanding your lodge's detailed finances, both income and expenses. Look at the operation over an extended period of



time and compare the income with the lodge's historic calendar of activities and membership counts. I'm certain you will soon see a correlation between these factors – study the lodge's expenses in detail – you will soon see areas that can be trimmed. Our Financial Review Specialist (FRS) team and Territory Managers are willing to "coach" you in your success.

Perhaps you say, "I just want to do more for the Moose" That is wonderful! This is a great goal with many paths to success. You can get involved both in front of the curtain and behind it in so many ways.

Most opportunity exists at the lodge level. You could:

- Run for office.
- Volunteer your time as a worker.
- Volunteer to serve on a committee.
- Maybe volunteer to be a chairperson.
- Volunteer to perform activities and community service.
- Sponsor members.
- Make retention calls.
- Serve as the door greeter.
- Volunteer your talents for repairing, remodeling, cleaning, cutting grass or planting flowers.

Your lodge needs you! Don't forget you can always help by making donations to the Endowment Fund. No amount is too small.

You may not have thought about May 1 being a resolution time for a New Year – but in the Moose it is! Why not make a resolution for 2022-23 to make the Moose a better organization; make your lodge a better example of what The Moose is all about. Need some encouragement? Just remember our 2022-23 Membership Campaign "MAKE IT HAPPEN!" ■

It's Time to Hit the Reset Button

By **SHAWN BAILE**/Director, Ritual and Higher Degrees

The beginning of a new year brings a number of emotions to the forefront: hope, excitement, and anticipation just to name a few. Some Moose Legions are looking to start fresh, while others want to continue building on the momentum that their units have realized during previous years. Regardless of the situation, the start of a new year is the right time for Moose Legion leaders to hit the reset button as the journey toward annual accomplishments unfolds.

The calendar of celebrations for the entire year should already be in place, but planning should be underway for activities that will take place in conjunction with these events. Doing the same thing time after time will yield similar or sometimes lesser results, and could lead to reduced attendance because there is nothing new and fresh to engage the membership. Create an agenda that is informative, dignified, and well-presented during the meeting, followed by tastefully fun activities during social time.

The members of the Board of Directors also need to hit personal reset buttons, especially when communicating with others. Sometimes we fall into the trap of assuming because we know something, everyone else knows it, too. However, that is definitely not the case. Every new year is an opportunity to educate and to mentor those members who do not have as much experience as others. Good leaders will be instrumental in building a fraternal foundation within the membership, upon which they can build successful careers as both Moose members and Moose Legionnaires.

Directors also need to make sure that they understand the



responsibilities of the respective positions they hold, and that they are working to fulfill each and every one of those responsibilities. Picking and choosing which duties to perform may be the easy thing to do, but it is not the proper thing to do. There is a reason that specific responsibilities are assigned to each position, so it is imperative that the individual who holds the office performs to expectations, and that the other directors and general membership hold each member of the board accountable.

A reset doesn't mean forgetting everything that has been done previously. It is an opportunity to create an ideal starting point from which all directors and members can begin moving forward together. Last year, we came out of stringent restrictions from the COVID-19 pandemic and realized strong performances in both membership and charitable giving. We have a unique opportunity to carry forward and realize growth for two consecutive years. Moose Legionnaires, let's "Make It Happen!"

"Do Some Good Thing for Someone Each Day" ■

Understanding Private & Not-For-Profit Status

Note: This article was originally written by Past General Governor David A. Chambers, who served as General Governor from 1996-2007.

By **DAVID A. CHAMBERS**/Past General Governor

It is important to understand the distinction between the not-for-profit status granted by the IRS and the right of privacy guaranteed by the First Amendment to the U. S. Constitution. As a private fraternal operation, we enjoy both of these rights.

Activities permissible by the IRS may sometimes be prohibited to protect our constitutional right of privacy. These are separate and distinct rights. Income-producing activities legal within a state may be classified as unrelated income by the IRS. Activities permitted by the IRS and a state may not be allowed by Moose International because they threaten our constitutional right of privacy.

Bingo is specifically permitted by not-for-profit charitable and religious organizations and its proceeds are not classified as unrelated income. The use of bingo income must comply with all local, state and federal laws. Almost all other income from activities involving non-members is classified as unrelated income and the very participation by a non-member could cause a lodge to be declared a public accommodation.

Our General Laws allow lodges to use their halls for community service events or legitimate family activities. Community service events are allowed by the IRS because the net proceeds go to a charity or community fundraiser. Use of a not-for-profit facility for private or commercial financial gain is prohibited. Members may not benefit financially by renting out lodge facilities. Courts would not consider us "private" if we let non-members rent our lodges or if we rent to members for other than family-related functions.

Our Fraternity is often compared to organizations including the VFW, American Legion, Shriners, etc. Veterans' organizations are chartered by Congress and are not Fraternal organizations. Other organizations are classified by the IRS as charitable and not Fraternal. Most Fraternal and civic organizations lost their First Amendment right to exist as private organizations because they opened their meetings and facilities to non-members.

Allowing members to use facilities for reasons other than family functions (i.e. company Christmas parties, high school reunions, etc.) threatens our right of privacy. If we lose our right of privacy, we lose the right to choose our own members, the right to adopt our own laws for the regulation of our lodges and members and otherwise, operate relatively free from governmental influence.

As members of The Moose we are blessed in many ways. We can take pride in being members of an organization, which has cared for thousands of children at Mooseheart. In addition, what greater member benefit could be given than Moosehaven?

Failure to comply with our laws and policies threaten the two rights referred to above and jeopardize what we cherish most. Let us reassess our priorities and realize there are reasons why rules exist. Criticism in the absence of knowledge is dangerous. Compliance with the Private Policy not only protects our not-for-profit status and our right of privacy, but all that has been entrusted to our care.

The lodge Board of Officers are also required to comply with Moose International policies and General Laws or they could be subject to further actions by the Compliance Office.

Should you have any questions about either our not-for-profit status or interpretation of the General Laws, please call 630-966-2207 or email micompliance@mooseintl.org. ■

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MOOSE
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You Are Now Responsible

By **BARB McPHERSON**/Grand Chancellor

Since its founding as early as 1909, the Women of the Moose have been a strong force within our fraternity and continue to be today. Our chapters offer new opportunities for our members to become leaders, learn new skills and teach them the role they play in caring for others.

We were founded with the objective in mind to assist in the charitable activities of the Moose Fraternity with special attention to Mooseheart and Moosehaven. And assisting in those endeavors is something we have done since and is a task we intend to continue to fulfill for many future decades.

As a chapter officer, you have responsibilities in accordance with our General Laws and you have a job to do. Please review your duties in the General Laws and Officers' Handbook. These two sources will help you to better understand what is expected of you. The membership will look to you for leadership and guidance. They will expect you to plan a variety of activities for them and their family.

Women of the Moose training sessions are currently being held throughout the U.S. and Canada to teach our officers how to do their job effectively and help them understand how to properly operate their chapter and treat their members. Plan to attend a session early in the year in case a make-up session is necessary. Attendance at one of these sessions may be a requirement for your respective office to earn your degree.

2-HOTT Training is also available for our chapter treasurers to learn how to efficiently do their job and learn new computer skills. These sessions are held on a limited basis throughout the fraternity. Make sure the treasurer attends to satisfy one of the requirements for the Star degree.

Moose International provides all of the tools necessary for you to do



your job. Make sure you use these tools to their fullest. You will find it much easier to be successful. Further information regarding these tools can be found at www.mooseintl.org.

Good luck! ■