



Help Us Transition Smoothly

By **BARB McPHERSON**/Grand Chancellor

May 1, 2021 will be here before we know it and we want to ensure that our One Moose transition goes smoothly. To aid in this process, here are some helpful hints to help everyone get through it easily.

It is going to take some time to “move” memberships around and get everyone where they belong. Please know that access to LCL Web will be limited for several days following May 1, 2021. During this process all “active” members of the Women of the Moose will be given a lodge membership.

Members of the Women of the Moose must have their dues paid current or be in “active” status on May 1 in order to smoothly transition over to a lodge membership. Chapter members should please make sure that they are working their membership retention lists now to ensure everyone is counted.

If a member of the Women of the Moose is not current on May 1, she will have to pay her One Moose lodge and chapter dues online after May 1, 2021 and will lose the opportunity for free chapter dues.

All chapter membership applications **must** be enrolled on or before April 28, 2021 or they will not be able to join the Women of the Moose until after they have applied for and have been properly enrolled as a lodge member.

Schedule a special meeting at the end of April for the purpose of accepting applications. You should also notify the sponsors **now** of the deadlines. Recorders **must** be prepared to process applications in a timely fashion and have done so accurately before 10 p.m. – Central time – on April 28, 2021. Any applications that are “accepted” but not enrolled will be deleted after May 1.

Many chapter members have been purchasing a Life Membership. A Life Membership in the Women of the Moose that was earned or purchased prior to May 1, 2021 will become a Life Membership in the lodge. If you are thinking about purchasing a Life Membership but have not yet decided, please know that all Life Membership funds must be received at the Moose International Dues Processing Center prior to April 1, 2021 in the event there are any issues that need to be resolved.



Many chapter members have chosen to pay their Women of the Moose dues ahead. Please know that if this has been done, the member will be billed for lodge dues prior to her dues expiration month in 2021 or 2022 (depending on when her dues expire). Once her lodge dues are paid, an additional year of chapter dues will be added to her current dues expiration year – for a maximum of three years.

For example, if a chapter member’s dues were set to expire on Sept. 30, 2025, she will be billed for lodge dues prior to Sept. 30, 2021. Upon payment of her lodge dues, her chapter dues will be reset to expire on Sept. 30, 2026.

Beginning May 1, 2021, all chapter dues will be \$15 as established by the Grand Council of the Women of the Moose. Of this, \$10 will be retained by Moose International as the per capita amount with \$5 being returned to the chapter. After May 1, 2021, there will no longer be an application fee to join the Women of the Moose.

Finally, the revised Election of Chapter Officers Handbook will be available on the Moose International website (www.moosintl.org) prior to Jan. 1, 2021. Please refer to this handbook only for your 2021-2022 election of Chapter Officers.

Thank you for your help in making sure the transition to One Moose goes smoothly and is as exciting as it is expected to be! ■



Information on the 2021 International Moose Convention in Cincinnati will be available online starting in January. Check periodically at www.moose2021cincinnati.org for Convention updates and the most up-to-date information on planned events, including any changes to the schedule due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

Time For Some New Year's Resolutions!

By **PAM AMUNDSEV**/Executive Director, Moose Charities

Let's think well past 2020 for a moment. This year has taught us many lessons, and one of them is how important it is to stay healthy. I've been thinking about some 2021 New Year's resolutions. I've done some research and chosen a handful of resolutions to share.

1. Get Healthy

Mind, body, soul, and spirit – getting and staying healthy means everything. If you've made health goals that you've never hit. You are not alone.

Personally, this is the year I plan to add a new hiking trail to my routine.

2. Get involved in your community

Now's an excellent time to get more involved. Getting involved in the future of your Moose lodge or chapter helps you expand your network, make new friends and contribute to things that matter to you. If you're unsure where to start, **ask**.

I promise that your talents and skills will be put to good use. Simply decide how much time you have on a weekly or monthly basis, and then find a way to get involved. I have found that Thursday evenings are good for me and maybe Saturday mornings.

3. Get a hobby

Having fun is so much easier when you're a kid. As an adult, you have to be more intentional about doing activities that are fun. A hobby is a perfect way to add extra fun to the upcoming year.

This year is the ideal time to take a deep breath, step out of your comfort zone and pursue the things that will make your heart smile. I have thought that perhaps I should contact the Moose International Heart of the Community folks for suggestions on activities I might pursue.

4. Invest in your relationships

A new year is the perfect time to be grateful for your relationships with your family, friends and fellow Moose members. Your friendships and relationships with the people closest to you are a blessing. As for those of us at Moose Charities, we are beyond grateful for you, the members of this great Fraternity. "Moose Nation." you should be aware that your support is an incredible blessing to the children at Mooseheart and the seniors at Moosehaven!



5. Travel more

With so many places to see in this world, soon it will be time to start visiting some places on your bucket list. I've got Cincinnati and the 2021 International Moose Convention set as a place I want to visit this year!

The truth is that making the resolutions is easy. It's sticking with them that usually proves difficult. I have read that 80% of people who set New Year's Resolutions are in the "struggling to stick to resolutions" category – so you have plenty of company.

Thankfully we can change that this year!

So here's what I'm thinking: What if we make our resolutions realistic, choose things that we really care about and ask someone to help us keep those goals top of mind? This coming year has some big possibilities!

Cheers to a Happy and Healthy New Year! ■

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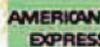
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Holidays and ‘What’s New in the Moose Legion?’

By **BOB NEFF**/Director, Ritual and Higher Degrees

Although Canadians celebrated Thanksgiving in October, we start this issue out with greetings and best wishes from the Moose Legion Council for a splendid U.S. Thanksgiving holiday – in spite of the pandemic restrictions we still find ourselves facing. Please be careful and diligent and take care to minimize any potential spread of COVID-19. Family is just too important to do otherwise!

Right around the corner are the celebrations of various holidays and occasions such as Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa and, for those who live in Canada, Boxing Day.

Then we have the New Year’s celebration and, for all of us, this coming year may be of great significance. We hear of folks planning to stay up until midnight who usually don’t. It is not so much to welcome the New Year, but to make sure 2020 actually leaves!

Whatever you do to celebrate, please do it safely. As Moose members, we have children and senior members in our care who are very much depending on each of us as members.

As a Fraternal organization, our philanthropic cause of serving children and the aged has never been more important. Those in our care need each of us to renew our own membership, encourage others to do likewise and invite yet others to join the Order. Doing this will help provide for the basic care and sustenance for those at Mooseheart and Moosehaven throughout the coming year.

The Moose Legion has taken on fundraising projects throughout our history and we are currently raising funds for a House of God renovation project, Youth Awareness scholarships, the Endowment Fund, Mooseheart summer trips and the Moose Legion President’s project for a new

transportation vehicle for Moosehaven residents to get to and from doctor appointments. This may seem like a lot, but this is all part of what we do. In addition, many of the lodge Moose Legion Committees assist their local lodges by funding needed projects or simply paying bills.

The Moose Legion Council is working on some new tools for our leaders. A new Moose Legion Director handbook is planned. We have plans for a Moose Legion Orientation program to be released in the coming months. We are also updating the Guide to Success.

These and other initiatives are aimed at helping our members, directors and jurisdictions be more effective in the future.

Another change approved by the Moose Legion Council and Supreme Council is a change to qualifications to advance to the Moose Legion. This is something that evolved over time. We have often said; “The one constant in life is change” and how true that is. We always seek changes that that make things better, more understandable and run smoother.

As part of the preparation for One Moose on May 1, we are getting an early start on one aspect of advancing to the Degree of Service that will put the Moose Legion and Women of the Moose chapter membership on a more even par. This change will be effective January 1, 2021.

The new qualification for Moose Legion membership will be easy for all to understand and will also eliminate some of the issues with rejected applications. To be eligible for Moose Legion membership, a member must be an active status (good standing) lodge member and be a man.

Thank you for being part of this great organization. Best wishes to all in 2021. We do believe the best is yet to come! ■

Dispensations: The Real Need For Them

By **MICHAEL LEUER**/General Governor

What does the word “dispensation” mean? The most relevant meaning is: Exemption from a rule or usual requirement. One of the most frequently-used documents that lodge board of officers should submit to the General Governor’s office is a dispensation. Many do not understand the importance of the dispensation and fail to file one for their event. Holding events without dispensation puts the lodge and lodge officers at risk.

When a dispensation is sent to the General Governor’s office, it is reviewed and granted or denied per the General Laws. It is very important that, in the description, that details are provided as to what, why and where the proceeds go. It is also important that it is signed by two current officers. When we say it must be signed, we do not mean “electronic signature.” It must have two actual signatures and it must be dated. A dispensation for the event is either a lodge, chapter or Moose Legion event and **not** a joint event.

All the dispensations and resolutions can be found on the Moose International website: www.moosintl.org. When you log on, go to the members area and then forms and documents and click on the General Governor section. Dispensation for any event is titled “Community Service, Charitable & Fundraising Events With Alcohol” or “Community Service Dispensation Without Alcohol.”

The Universal Dispensation is used for many other dispensations that are non-event related, such as a reduction in officers or electronic

notification. In the General Laws, on pages 141-142, there are 36 actions that require dispensations. The General Laws also specify which require a special meeting and which only require a general membership meeting. This is important when you use the Universal Dispensation because you need to attach special meeting minutes or general membership meeting minutes depending on what you are seeking dispensation for.

Many lodges send in old forms. They should download the newest versions and delete their old forms. The forms have been adjusted over time due to changes in the General Laws.

Our goal in the General Governor’s office is to protect and defend the rights of our membership and our Order and to ensure that all of units of the Order are educated and understand how to operate a successful lodge, chapter or Moose Legion.

If you are holding events without an approved dispensation from the General Governor’s office, you are opening the lodge and the board of officers to liability that will hold you and the lodge personally responsible for damages.

If you have specific questions about dispensations, you should speak with your Territory Manager, call our office at 630-966-2222, or email Rick King at rking@moosintl.org. You can email your completed dispensations to rking@moosintl.org and bbrowser@moosintl.org or fax them to us at 630-966-2208. ■