

LOSS PREVENTION

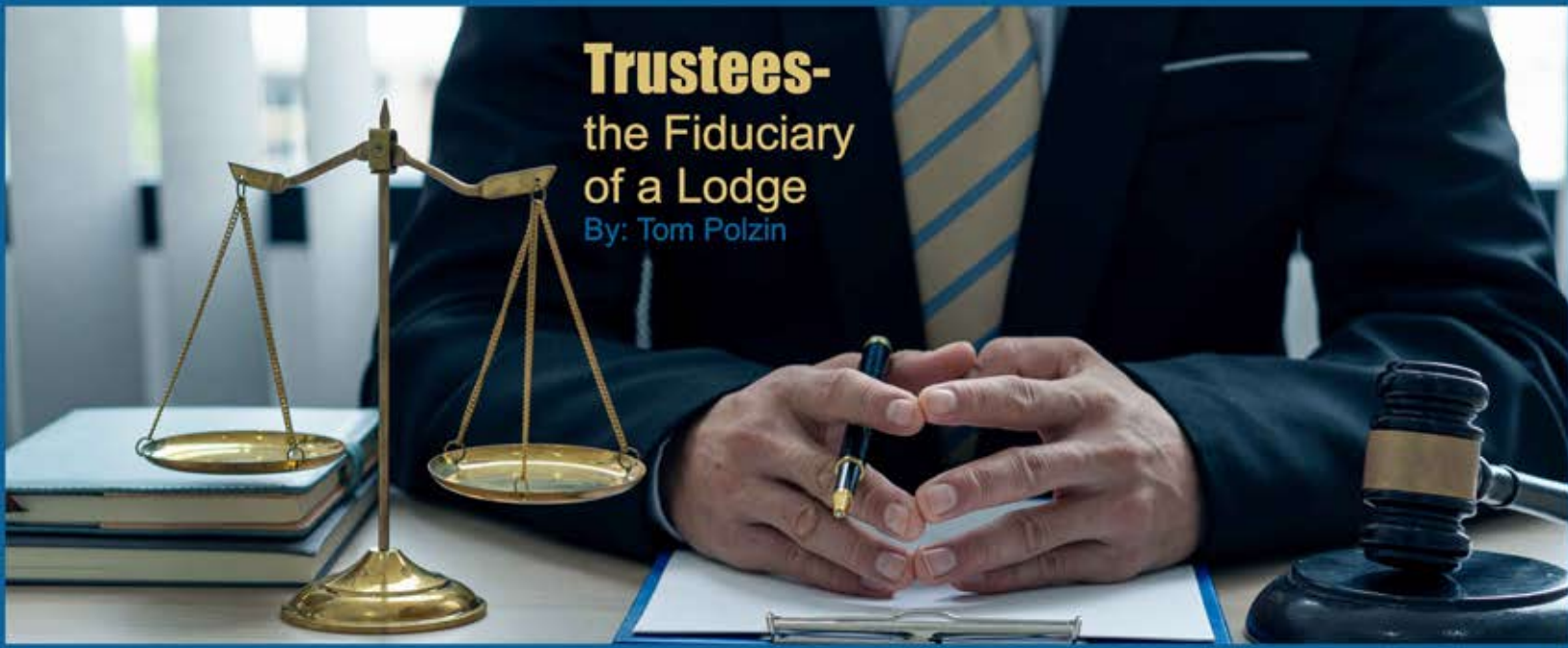
A QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

Courtesy of The Moose Loss Prevention Committee

NOVEMBER 2022

Trustees- the Fiduciary of a Lodge

By: Tom Polzin



What is a Trustee in our Lodges?



Is it a member that just sits and attends a meeting to fill the Board of Officers looking at his/her watch waiting for the time when the meeting will end?

Is it a member that joins the Board to reap benefits of possible free drinks or food?



Is it a member that seeks power in the Lodge to control lives of the lowly members that just come to drink cheap drinks?



Fiduciary duty

Those examples are the farthest from the truth. Fiduciary is defined as a position:

- Fiduciary Duty is the Highest Duty under the law. A fiduciary relationship exists when one person has the duty to look out for the best interests of a member or organization.
- A Fiduciary is a Position of Trust
- A Fiduciary has a duty to respond to members or the organization's needs.

Trustees can mean the difference between the success and failure, and it all depends on how they handle their roles and duties.

Trustees, according to Michelle Kaminsky, J.D is a group of individuals either appointed or elected to manage and govern the assets of an endowment, charitable foundation, trust, or non/not for profit organization. A Trustee's **UTMOST DUTY** is to protect the organization's best interests through decisions made on its behalf.

What is the difference between a Board of Officers and Trustees serving on a Board in a Lodge?

The differences are:

- A Board of Officers is regulated by Corporate State Law, Trustees are held to a higher standard under State Statute regarding Standards of Good Faith and Honest Dealings in all of their actions. This specifically relates to how they protect the interests of the organization and members.

- A Trustee may be held liable for **simple negligence** in decision-making, other Board Members are generally only personally liable for acts of **willful misconduct or gross negligence**. Clearly there is a Higher Standard of responsibility which falls on the shoulders of the Trustees.

One of the primary responsibilities of any board member is to maintain the financial integrity of the organization they serve. The Trustees of the Lodge ensure Board members act as good stewards of the organization's assets and must exercise due diligence and oversight to ensure that the lodge is well-managed and that its financial status remains sound.

Recruiting Trustees with related experiences such as business, hospitality, or other related expertise should be the mission of each lodge. A Trustee should have the passion to ensure the long-term success of their favorite social, charitable, and recreational venue. Selling the vital role of a Trustee as a "seat warmer" should never be used as a tactic to fill the Board. While many view the Trustee position as a "starting point" for a newcomer on the Board of officers, it is important that a "newbie" be surrounded with experienced Trustees to show the way and assist him/her in becoming a valuable asset to the Lodge.





The Trustees are more than a person that warms a chair in a meeting. This very important overseer has the responsibility to ensure that:

- Insurance Policies are current and have the appropriate coverages.
- All Taxes are being filed on time with Local, State, and Federal Agencies.
- Appropriate licensing, regulatory, and employee laws are being followed working closely with the Administrator.
- Being a safety advocate for threats in the Lodge that could injure or affect the operation of the business property
- The accurate recording of inventory of the Lodge including but not limited to furniture, alcohol, food, and property.
- The Lodge is following the General Laws of Moose International.
- All Board Officers are working as a team.

Each Lodge can require additional monitoring by their Trustees as needed in support of their local or state business requirements.

The Trustees are very important members of a Lodge Board. The Trustee is the overseer or the watch dog that ensures and protects the success of all users of the lodge.

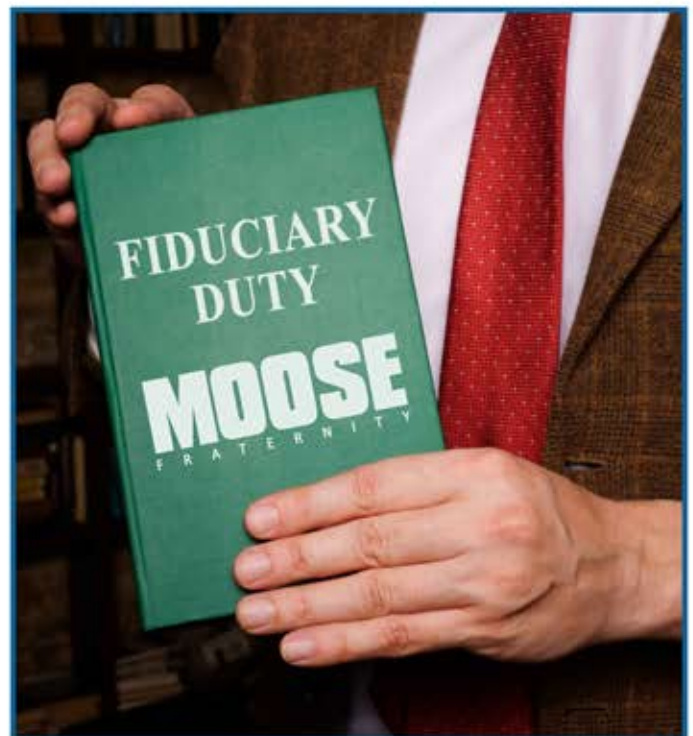
Day-to-day management of the organization is

usually more the responsibility of staff, volunteers, and the Administrator. The Board of Officers, and especially the Trustees, focus on larger and broader decisions that affect the lodge.

It is important to understand that Trustees should minimize or eliminate personal conflicts that could affect decision making of the Lodge and the trust of its members.

As the Financial Review Committee is a vital component of the Administrator function, the Trustees are an equally vital component of the Board of Officers.

The role of the Trustees in the Lodge is critical and should be given the respect it is due. Recruit good members for this position, the future of your Lodge is in their hands.



LOSS PREVENTION COMMITTEE



Fred Scott
Committee Chairman
West Boca Raton, FL
Lodge #204



Karen Bowman
Committee Member
Hilliard, OH
Lodge #2236



Sharon Davis
Committee Member
Anniston, AL
Lodge #1669



Kelly Parker
Committee Member
Lindsay, ON
Lodge #659



Thomas Polzin
Committee Member
South St. Paul, MN
Lodge #1088

From the Desk of Fred Scott

To ALL who attended our LP Workshop in Convention in Orlando

Thanks for joining us for our discussion of the hazards associated with over pouring. Your insightful questions following the presentation allowed further education for everyone in attendance, including those of us who were part of the presentation team. This is truly the benefit of participating in the workshop scenario.

To Kevin Duck our new Risk Manager at Moose International, Thank You for the data analysis which highlighted our Moose loss history from 2008 until 2022. We are reusing this data in our Association presentations as we try to increase awareness of how costly over pouring is to our Fraternity.

To Rick King and Bethany Bowser, our special guests from the Compliance Office, a Huge Thank You for participating in our skit and even more gratitude for answering all of the General Laws related questions that came up during the Q&A period. You guys Rock.

Last but not least, Thank You to each of the Loss Prevention Committee Members who played the parts of Lodge Board members. You helped "sell" the story as you played the part, you brought your personal spin from your own Lodges and it showed. I also want to thank you for another successful year in assisting your assigned associations in their efforts to be 100% ON TIME in submitting the Lodge Safety Report. While we didn't have 100% success we did improve over last year's numbers and there is always next year.

Again, My Thanks to All

Fred

