

## SCREEN OF COVER PAGE

Good morning, Moose Legionnaires! I would like to begin this portion of the morning's informational session of "the code of rules and ritual" by saying thank you to our ritualists; members of the conferral staffs – coaches – mentors – and those hiding in the wings - those that work together to make each and every conferral staff the best that they can be at bringing the story of the moose to our new Moose Legionnaires.

A few years back when the decision to bring lodge ritual competition to a close [NOT the lodge ritual itself, which I as a ritualist believe in and hope to see continued if even in a revamped form!] the story of the moose as told in the Moose Legion conferral was rewritten to incorporate portions of the lodge ritual so that every new Moose Legionnaire would hear pertinent information pertaining to the lodge, itself.

If the vision of the Moose Legion, the degree of service, is to "persuade all qualified members to join the Moose Legion, and do some good thing for someone each day"; and our mission is "to have fun while providing greater service to the Moose fraternity" it is of vital importance that we impart pieces of the history of our great fraternal organization as a foundation for those new members to build upon.

At the same time, if we are to continue to gather as Moose Legionnaires for the Moose Legion ritual competitions and conferences; both at stand-alone events like this one at Valley Forge, and those that are held in conjunction with Moose International conventions, we MUST find ways to encourage, promote and mentor those coming behind us to become ritualists and continue telling our story – lest the story be forgotten!

## SCREEN OF THE CODE OF RULES

In the president's charge in the conferral he states "may you wear your regalia proudly", and loyalty's charge describes that regalia in part. Chapter 27.1 of the code of rules reads "the official wearing apparel of the Moose Legionnaire is the maroon Moose Legion blazer with appropriate insignia and buttons (or the appropriate apparel of their respective degrees for those who have advanced to the fellowship or pilgrim degrees), striped tie with insignia, white shirt, black trousers, black socks, and black shoes". Notice anywhere in that section that says Moose Legion blazer, shorts, flip-flops? Another opportunity to be a mentor – not the place to

call out someone in a meeting, but maybe getting them off to the side and acquainting them with the code of rules. As leaders we must lead, but keep others willing to follow.

Chapter 30 of the code of rules pertains to medals and pins that may be worn with regalia.

30.1 addresses the authorized medals a qualified Moose Legionnaire is entitled to wear – the past president/past north moose – international ritual champion – and the Moose Legion medal of honor. All medals shall be worn on the left breast of a jacket or suit coat. When medals are worn on the official Moose Legion blazer of any of the higher degrees a maximum of 3 are permitted with the center medal directly below the left breast pocket, with all medals on a horizontal line.

30.2 pertains to lapel pins – only 1, that's 1, lapel pin is permitted on official regalia. The pin shall be placed thru the buttonhole on the left lapel. The recommended pins are the 25 club pin, the current membership campaign pin, or, the corresponding degree lapel pin. That is saying “minimal decoration” – which leads us back to chapter 27.2 Moose Legion vest. Moose Legionnaires and their ladies may wear a Moose Legion vest; the perfect place for those extra pins and medals that we want to display. Can it get too heavy to wear and you'll need to start over??? ABSOLUTELY!!! Catalog sales will be more than happy to help you out!

As we all have noticed as we have used the book over the years, the code of rules, the principles and rules of the Moose Legion, the degree of service has undergone numerous changes and re-writings – some rather noticeable – some very minor wordings – some just a tweak. Thru it all it has continued to be a guide for the direction to be taken by Moose Legionnaires. It can be used as a refresher between Moose Legion education conferences (or MLECs) which you must successfully complete within 3 years prior to assuming office within a Moose Legion jurisdiction (or within 60 days after assuming said office).

Chapters 17 thru 19 explain the duties of the elected officers – president – vice-president – secretary – and chaplain; and the appointed offices of sergeant-at-arms – assistant sergeant-at-arms and assistant secretaries. It tells us who is responsible for appointing those non-elected officers: the president appoints the sergeant-at-arms and the assistant sergeant-at-arms, as well as the chairmen of all required committees. While the assistant secretaries are appointed by whom? The secretary.

#### SCREEN OF LIFE MEMBERSHIP COST

One noticeable change to the code of rules is Chapter 8.1 pertaining to the purchase of life membership – “any active status Moose Legionnaire may purchase a life membership in his Moose Legion by remitting the sum as indicated in the chart to Moose International. \*NOTE\*

For multiple members (those that hold memberships in more than one Moose Legion) years of service are indicated by enrollment date for EACH INDIVIDUAL MOOSE LEGION MEMBERSHIP. No, unfortunately, you can't buy just one lifetime blanket membership.

#### SCREEN OF THE NEXT STEP IN FRATERNALISM

Another publication at your disposal is "THE NEXT STEP IN FRATERNALISM - OFFICIAL MEETING CEREMONIES OF THE MOOSE LEGION, THE DEGREE OF SERVICE". This book covers the opening, closing and conferral ceremonies of the Moose Legion, and just like the code of rules, some things are open to interpretation and some things CAN NOT be deviated from. Example: in the general information section where it states "all meetings/conferrals can be performed in any sequence to achieve a harmonious flow, but each meeting/agenda/conferral shall be performed in its entirety. Pretty cut and dried, Yes?? You can change the order to make your meetings fit your particular jurisdictional needs – maybe to accommodate a speaker. Or maybe you need to change the date and/or time of your conferral ceremony. That is perfectly acceptable. But your business agenda MUST be completed.

In the case of a conferral ceremony, whether it's a change for scheduling purpose, or a mini, let's refer back to the code of rules. Chapter 6.5 reads "it is the responsibility of the secretary to notify all approved applicants in writing to appear for conferral – the notice will include the date, time, and location of the scheduled conferral ceremony".

#### SCREEN OF ALL THREE BOOKS

You will note that these valuable tools, the code of rules, the next step in fraternalism and the publication the lodge Moose Legion committee's handbook, are essential in making your Moose Legion everything that it should be.

Any questions for interpretation or clarification of any of these books, should be directed to the Director of Moose Legion Shawn Baile's office.

THANK YOU

