

The Importance of Moose Legion Jurisdiction Committees

Webster defines a committee as, “a group of people appointed for a specific function, typically consisting of members of a larger group.” Moose Legion jurisdictions have many committees described in the Code of Rules 6 standing and 3 special committees and provides for the President to appoint other committees as needed. During this report we will be discussing the 5 “Standing Committees” chaired by members of the Board of Directors in 21.2 a,b,c,d and e of the Code of Rules.

- a. Membership Building- chaired by Vice President
- b. Publicity and Member Relations- chaired by Chaplain
- c. Fundraising- chaired by Financial Director
- d. Fraternal Operations- chaired by Fraternal Directors
- e. Membership Retention- chaired by Junior Past President

These committees play a vital role in the success or failure of a Moose Legion Jurisdiction. These committees represent the living embodiment of a phrase we in the Moose Legion use constantly “A burden heavy to one is born lightly by many.” Frequently, during visits to Moose Legion meetings we hear a director state that he just did not have time to do all the duties that are a part of his job. Gentlemen we did not expect that when you were installed as a director that you would magically have more hours in the day to fulfill the duties of your position for that reason, provision was made for these committees.

Highly successful Moose Legion Jurisdictions ensure that that these committees Are properly formed and functioning properly starting on the 1st of May annually

and by years all the hard work is on display at the Moose Legion sessions during the annual Moose International Convention. Certainly, it is understood that some of our jurisdictions face challenges that others do not, however, even through challenges every effort should be made to put together these committees and make every effort to use them to improve your standing going forward. Now, let us look at these committees.

Membership Building, chaired by the Vice President, the goal of this committee is to increase members on the rolls. Remember when you were installed in office? Part of what you pledged to do read like this “You are the chairman of the Membership Building Committee and responsible for membership promotion and quarterly membership campaigns.” Those two items alone will require considerable time and effort on your part which should encourage you to recruit some members to your committee. Think of it this way, the efforts of this committee is helping to build a stronger jurisdiction that will make a stronger showing next year when, hopefully, you are president.

Publicity and Member Relations chaired by the Chaplain. This committee is responsible for planning and implementing celebration activities and entertainment. Encouraging active participation of all Moose Legionnaires and their families. Responsible for creating, publishing, and distributing a newsletter to all Moose Legion members. Now I ask you to remember back to these words when you were installed “You are the chairman of the Publicity and Member Relations Committee with responsibility for advertisement, publicity and

Communications with the membership. This committee also has the duty of planning and executing activities and entertainment to encourage greater participation at celebrations.” Yes, there is a lot on your plate and most assuredly committee members would lead to greater success for you.

Fundraising chaired by the Financial Director. This committee is responsible for raising funds for Mooseheart, Moosehaven, Camp Ross and other designated projects. The committee’s goal is to increase the assets of the Moose Legion. Those exact word were read to you at your installation “you are responsible for raising funds for Mooseheart, Moosehaven and Camp Ross projects, and increasing the assets of this Moose Legion. These are very lofty goals for which a well-functioning committee is needed.

Fraternal Operations chaired by the Fraternal Director. Responsible for the Golden Ball or Legacy of the Moose ceremony annually. When you were installed you promised this “you are the chairman of the Fraternal Operations Committee, which is responsible for collecting the Mooseheart/Moosehaven Endowment Fund at all meetings and performing the Legacy of the Moose or Golden Ball Ceremony on an annual basis. The Conferral of the Moose Legion is also under Your direction. You shall ensure the principles, goals, and ideals of the Degree of Service are exemplified in approved ceremonies performed at various events During the enrollment of new Moose Legionnaires.” Just the task of organizing, rehearsing and presenting a Golden Ball or Legacy of the Moose will require the help of several people and a well running committee can only help you in this

endeavour.

Membership Retention chaired by the Junior Past President. This committee is Responsible for increasing the active members on the Moose Legion rolls. Goal Of this committee is to increase the active members on the rolls, and you promise accomplish this task, which will be considerably easier with a committee assisting you, when you were installed.

Together these committees, chaired by the members of the Board of Directors, are tasked with the welfare of their Moose Legion jurisdiction in many ways, membership and financial strength and stability as well as fundraising and providing for the welfare of your current members and providing them with activities and functions which will keep them involved all year through. Also remember that one of the best ways to mentor the next crop of leaders is to get them involved and learning at the committee level and, as a director, it is your responsibility to always be encouraging and mentoring new leaders to help keep your jurisdiction strong.

In closing I want you to picture your Moose Legion Jurisdiction as a bicycle, on the Seat pedaling and holding the handlebars is the President encouraging movement and guidance through the chain to the rear wheel and guidance through the handlebars. Now picture the Board of Directors as the front wheel used to navigate and the rear wheel uses to motivate. When all these components are functioning properly great progress is made, last year-Old Dominion Moose

Legion's bicycle worked so well they could have won the Tour de France. Now What happens if the front wheel, the Board of Directors, goes flat? Unless you are in a professional cycling event you will have to get off, remove the tire, repair the tube, reassemble the tire, and clip it back on the bike, similarly if the rear wheel goes flat the process is the same except now you must disengage the chain. When your Moose Legion "cycle" has a flat and is no longer making progress towards its year end goals repairing the malfunction can be more difficult than simply fixing a flat. Especially if this "flat" is caused by the lack of properly formed and well operating Moose Legion Jurisdiction Committees.