

# Official Communication for February 25, 2026

## **Council of Higher Degrees By-laws Changes approved by Moose International Board of Directors**

During its February 2026 meeting, the Moose International Board of Directors approved proposed changes to the Council of Higher Degrees by-laws. These are the first changes since June 2022.

As a result of this approval, the operating year for a Council will change from calendar year (January – December) to Moose fiscal year (May – April) to be consistent with other units. Because these changes go into effect on May 1, 2026, those officers installed into office for the term that started on January 1, 2026 will serve until April 30, 2027.

A summary of the changes is attached to this email.

## **Top Five Finish for Chastain in ATL – COTA Up Next**

Rain canceled Saturday's qualifying session at EchoPark this past weekend, giving Moose Fraternity driver Ross Chastain the 21st-place starting spot based on NASCAR's metric system. In Sunday's race, he overcame a tight-handling Chevrolet to score a third-place result in a thrilling NASCAR Overtime finish. Now he heads to Austin, Texas this weekend where he will log double duty. He will compete in the NASCAR O'Reilly Auto Parts Series race on Saturday afternoon before driving in the Cup Series race on Sunday in the No. 1 Chevrolet.

Regarding Turn 1 on the COTA road track: *"I've made more than my fair share of mistakes. The track was designed to build a lot of speed, have a ton of braking potential with the uphill elevation climb to Turn 1, and then trying to make a turn back the other way is really difficult. But when you get it right, it's very rewarding."* – Ross Chastain

Members looking to cheer on Ross this weekend can see the DuraMax Texas Grand Prix Powered by RelaDyne on Sunday, March 1 at 3:30pm ET on FOX.

## **Moose Training Updated**

Moose International has launched new courses built to give leaders, Administrators, and Secretaries clearer instruction, better tools, and consistent expectations across every jurisdiction. As part of this rollout, we will no longer offer 2-HOTT as a standalone course. The material that made 2-HOTT valuable has been incorporated directly into the Administrator & Accounting Course, where it fits best, so it is covered in the full context of the Administrator's day to day responsibilities.

Here is our current core lineup:

**AAC – Administrator & Accounting Course**

Our primary course for Administrators. This is a required course for all Administrators as it covers the essential role expectations and the accounting fundamentals needed to support the organization, with practical instruction tied to what Administrators are responsible for managing. This course now includes the content previously covered in 2-HOTT.

**MMC – Money Management Course**

Designed for Secretaries and Administrators. This course covers both basic and advanced money management practices, with a focus on doing things the right way, protecting the organization, strengthening accountability, and building confidence in the daily handling and oversight of organizational funds.

**LLC – Lodge Leadership Course**

Required for lodge officers, recommended for everyone. This course focuses on leadership responsibilities, how to run the organization properly, how to support committees, and how to keep operations organized, compliant, and effective.

We will be delivering these new courses at the upcoming **Educational Rally**. This event is where the updated course content will be rolled out in a consistent format and taught in full. After the Rally, these courses will be available for scheduling soon, we will provide further updates.

Our goal is simple: clearer courses, better outcomes, and fewer gaps between what the General Laws require and what we do in real life.