

BY-LAWS OF THE COUNCIL OF HIGHER DEGREES

(Effective May 1, 2026)

Article I Authority and Regulation

Pursuant to the authority granted by the Chief Compliance Officer of The Moose, the Council of Higher Degrees is hereby established. This Council shall be subject to the Constitution and By-laws of The Moose on matters not specifically covered in these by-laws.

The Council is a fraternal unit of The Moose, under the direction of the Moose Legion & Higher Degrees Department at Moose International.

Article II Composition

The Council of Higher Degrees consists of members of the Pilgrim Degree of Merit, the Fellowship Degree of Honor, the Moose Legion, the College of Regents, the Academy of Friendship and the Star Degree.

Article III Official Logo

The official logo of the Council of Higher Degrees is the standing Moose overlaid on six (6) interlocking rings representing the degrees of The Moose. The colors of the rings denote the degrees: Pilgrim Degree of Merit is gold; Fellowship Degree of Honor is French blue, Moose Legion is purple, College of Regents is black, Academy of Friendship is blue, and Star Degree is green.

Article IV Purpose

The purpose of the Council of Higher Degrees is:

- a) To be actively involved in the retention of Lodge, Chapter and Moose Legion members.
- b) To promote and support the programs of Moose Charities.
- c) To honor all newly elevated members of the Higher Degrees.
- d) To honor the memories of deceased members of the Council of Higher Degrees.
- e) To promote the programs of The Moose.
- f) To encourage fraternal and social unity, benevolence and charity among all members of The Moose.

Article V
Members and Dues

(1) All Higher Degree members shall qualify for membership in the Council of Higher Degrees. Any member who fails to maintain active membership status within their Lodge and Moose Legion (men), or Lodge and Chapter (women) shall immediately be disqualified from Council membership.

(2) Annual and/or life membership dues shall be in an amount determined by the Board of Officers and approved by a majority vote of the members present at a regular or special meeting, provided that each member has at least seven days written notice of the purpose of the meeting.

(3) Dues are paid directly to the individual Higher Degree Council (not through Moose International Centralized Dues), and the dues period should coincide with the Moose fiscal year (May – April).

Article VI
Meetings

(1) At least three meetings and one banquet shall be held each year, preferably one per quarter of the Moose fiscal year (May – July, August – October, November – January, and February – April). These meetings shall be held in a Lodge within the Council’s jurisdiction. Nomination and election of Council officers should take place at the third meeting, and the banquet should be held at the end of the fiscal year. All new members of the Higher Degrees shall be honored at the annual banquet.

(2) Council members must show an active Moose membership card with appropriate Higher Degree icons and current dues expiration dates to be admitted to any Council meeting.

(3) Only Higher Degree members with current Lodge and Chapter or Lodge and Moose Legion membership within this Council’s jurisdiction may vote at this Council’s meetings.

(4) A quorum is required to be present to conduct meetings. Three (3) Officers constitute a quorum for Officers’ meetings. Seven (7) members and a presiding officer constitute a quorum for a general membership meeting.

Article VII
Board of Officers

(1) The Board of Officers shall consist of a President, Vice President, Chaplain, Junior Past President and Secretary/Treasurer.

(2) The President, Vice President, and Chaplain shall hold office for a term of one (1) year or until their successors are elected, they resign, or they are disqualified. The Junior Past President shall hold office until replaced by the next Past President. The Secretary/Treasurer shall serve for a term of three (3) years. An election shall be held for the office of Secretary/Treasurer

whenever a vacancy occurs.

(3) The President shall preside over all meetings of the Council. He/she shall maintain order, sign all authorized checks, achieve an increase in membership and financial strength of the Council, and serve as an ex-officio member of all committees.

(4) The President shall appoint officers, Council Representatives, and committee chairpersons as provided in Article VIII.

(5) The Vice President shall preside in the absence of the President and assist the President and Secretary/Treasurer in their duties. The Vice President shall sign all authorized checks in the absence of the President or the Secretary/Treasurer.

(6) The Chaplain shall offer prayer at each meeting. The Chaplain shall preside in the absence of the President and Vice President. He/she shall make a report on the sick, disabled, and distressed members at each meeting and assist in other areas as needed. The Chaplain shall serve on the Audit Committee, but not as the chairperson.

(7) The Junior Past President shall be the installing officer of his/her Council. In the absence of the President, Vice President and Chaplain, he/she will preside over the deliberations of the Council and perform other duties as needed.

(8) The Secretary/Treasurer shall keep an accurate record of the Council membership, accurately record and maintain the minutes of all meetings, collect all monies, and keep a correct statement of all funds, pay all bills when properly presented and approved, read all communications and prepare ballots for election. The Secretary/Treasurer shall sign all authorized checks.

(9) The Board of Officers shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Council between its business meetings, fix the hour and place of meetings, make recommendations to the Council membership, and perform other necessary duties. All expenditures shall require the signature of the President and the Secretary/Treasurer and be approved by the Council membership. The Board of Officers shall be subject to the lawful orders of the Council, and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by the Council.

(10) A fidelity bond should be purchased to cover all officers of the Council. In lieu of a bond, Moose International may authorize Council funds be delivered to the State/Provincial Association Secretary for deposit into an approved custodial account to be held for the sole use and benefit of the Council.

(11) In the absence of the President, Vice President, Chaplain and Jr. Past President, any Past President of the Council may preside over the deliberations of the Council at a regularly scheduled general membership meeting.

Article VIII

Appointed Officers, Council Representatives and Committee Chairpersons

(1) The President shall appoint a Sergeant-at-Arms, a Council Representative from each Lodge, and a chairperson for the following standing committees: Membership, Financial Review, Finance, Program, and Retention Committees for Lodges, Chapters and Moose Legions. The appointments shall be made and announced at the first meeting after the election.

(2) The Sergeant-at-Arms shall help maintain decorum and perform all other duties required of him/her by the President.

(3) The Council Representatives shall report the following to the Secretary/Treasurer: all new degree holders from their Lodges; all deceased members as soon as possible; and any changes of address. Representatives shall make a report to their respective Lodges on the Council's activities and programs.

(4) All committee chairpersons shall provide a written report of each committee meeting to the Board of Officers and will make a report during each meeting of the Council membership.

Article IX

Nominations and Elections

(1) The Nominating Committee consists of the elected Board of Officers, five (5) Past Presidents of the Council (including the Junior Past President), and five (5) other members who are either Council Representatives or Past Presidents. The President is the presiding officer of the Nominating Committee.

(2) Every year, the Council shall conduct an election for the offices of President, Vice President, and Chaplain at its third business meeting. The Secretary/Treasurer shall be elected at three-year intervals or whenever a vacancy occurs. Newly elected officers should be installed at the annual banquet (or at another specific time) and take office May 1 following the election.

(3) The Nominating Committee meetings shall be held prior to the last business meeting of the year.

(4) Members who wish to be considered for election must submit a written and signed request to the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee shall nominate a minimum of one (1) qualified member for each office, selecting candidates from those names submitted or others as may be in the best interest of the Council. The slate of officers shall be presented at the last business meeting of the year. Petitions for office are not allowed.

(5) The Board of Officers may declare any office vacant if the officeholder is not satisfactorily performing his/her duties. Vacancies shall be filled by appointment of the Board of Officers and approved by the membership at the next general meeting.

(6) Elections shall be conducted during the last business meeting of the year. The Secretary/Treasurer shall prepare the ballots for all elections. An installation of officers is to be

conducted at the annual banquet (or at another designated time), but prior to May 1.

Article X **Committees**

(1) Standing Committees:

- a) A Membership Committee shall be composed of Council members as appointed by the Chairperson. It shall be the duty of this committee to build the membership of the Council of Higher Degrees.
- b) A Lodge Retention Committee shall be composed of Council members as appointed by the Chairperson. It shall be the duty of this Committee to assist the Lodge Membership Committee in coordinating the Lodge retention program within the Council's jurisdiction. In addition, this committee shall assist the Secretary/Treasurer in retaining the Council's membership.
- c) A Chapter Retention Committee shall be composed of qualified Council members as appointed by the Chairperson. It shall be the duty of this Committee to assist the Chapter Membership/Retention Committee in coordinating the chapter retention program in the Chapters within the Council's jurisdiction. In addition, this committee shall assist the Secretary/Treasurer in retaining the Council's membership.
- d) A Moose Legion Retention Committee shall be composed of qualified Council members as appointed by the Chairperson. It shall be the duty of this committee to assist the Moose Legion Membership Retention Committee in coordinating the Moose Legion retention program. In addition, this committee shall assist the Secretary/Treasurer in retaining the Council's membership.
- e) A Finance Committee shall be composed of the Secretary/Treasurer and four (4) members. This committee shall prepare a budget for the fiscal year and recommend and oversee fundraising projects.
- f) A Program Committee shall be composed of four (4) members. The Program Committee shall plan the programs of the Council.
- g) A Financial Review Committee shall be composed of three (3) members. The Chaplain shall be one of the three, but not the Chairperson. This committee shall review the Secretary/Treasurer's records at the close of the fiscal year (or at other times as may be requested) and submit a written report to the Board of Officers and the next regular meeting of the Council.

(2) Special Committees:

- a) The President shall appoint other committees as the Board of Officers or Council shall deem necessary. A committee's term is to coincide with the President's term of office, but may end sooner if the assigned task or objective is completed prior to that.

Article XI **Association Representation**

- (1) A State/Provincial Association shall have a Council of Higher Degrees Coordinator.

The Association Coordinator is appointed from among the Council of Higher Degree President(s), Past President(s), or others showing the necessary skills and located within the boundaries of the Association. The Coordinator will be the spokesperson at State/Provincial Association meetings.

- a) The Coordinator's primary responsibility is to gather, organize, and share ideas and information between Councils and to/from the Association.
- b) He/she would facilitate CHD informational meetings at Mid-Year Conferences and Association Conventions to share ideas, report progress, and promote the purpose of the Councils.

Article XII **Legal and Financial Responsibilities**

(1) Each Council of Higher Degrees shall operate as an unincorporated unit of The Moose. As a unit of The Moose, the laws of The Moose shall be the basis of the by-laws for the governance of the Councils.

Councils of Higher Degrees in the United States of America shall apply for a Federal EIN using Form SS-4 (if they do not already have one). U.S. Councils may also choose to file a Form 1024 if they wish to demonstrate tax-free status to donors, grant makers, banks, or other entities. Canadian Councils shall complete equivalent and appropriate documentation as required.

(2) Each Council of Higher Degrees shall maintain a checking account that has been opened under the Council's unincorporated designation (ex. – U.S. Councils using a Federal EIN issued by the IRS). Unless other arrangements have been approved in writing by the Chief Compliance Officer, the Council shall comply with the following requirements:

- a) The Secretary/Treasurer shall draw and sign all checks that have been approved, together with cards, certificates, and notices requiring his/her signature.
- b) Two (2) original signatures shall be required on each check. One (1) signature shall be the Secretary/Treasurer and the other signature shall be the President or Vice President. Signature stamps are prohibited.
- c) Checks shall not be signed unless the payee's name is on the check.
- d) The Secretary/Treasurer shall assure that all Council funds are deposited in the bank in the name of the Council, and a certified deposit slip is shown to the Board of Officers for every deposit.
- e) The Secretary/Treasurer shall assure that any year-end reports or legal documents are properly filed by deadlines provided by the appropriate governing authority.

The Secretary/Treasurer shall correctly keep accurate records of all authorized Council funds and accounts. Hard copies of all official reports, records, minutes, documents, etc. shall contain original signatures as required by the General Laws of The Moose and be maintained as part of the official records. Except as otherwise required by law, the Secretary/Treasurer shall issue a receipt for all money received from all sources, including all committees of the Council.

The Secretary/Treasurer shall exercise due diligence and take reasonable precautions to safeguard all funds received on behalf of the Council until the funds are properly

deposited in the bank designated and approved by the Council. At each business meeting, the Secretary/Treasurer shall make all books and records available to the Council's Financial Review Committee.

Article XIII **Amendment of By-laws**

Proposed amendments to these by-laws must be presented to the Director of Moose Legion & Higher Degrees prior to presenting to the membership for approval. If the Director of Moose Legion & Higher Degrees, along with the Chief Compliance Officer, approves the proposed amendments, the new by-laws must then be presented to the Council membership in writing, at least one meeting prior to voting on the proposed amendment(s).

The Secretary/Treasurer shall provide written notification to each Lodge within the Council's jurisdiction of any proposed amendment and that a vote will be conducted on the proposed amendment(s) at the next meeting. A majority vote is required to amend any by-law.

The Secretary/Treasurer shall provide written notification to each Lodge of the outcome of the vote and a copy of any amended by-law. Before becoming effective, a complete copy of the amended by-laws shall be forwarded to the Director of Moose Legion & Higher Degrees, who will review and forward to the Chief Compliance Officer of The Moose for signature and final approval.

CERTIFICATE OF ADOPTION

We certify that we have carefully examined the edition of the Council of Higher Degrees by-laws in effect as of May 1, 2026 and that they constitute a true and correct copy of the by-laws as adopted by the _____ Council of Higher Degrees by a majority vote of the membership at its meeting held at:

_____ Lodge No. _____ and held on

_____, _____. We further certify that this Certificate of

Adoption of the Council by-laws has been forwarded to the Director of Moose Legion & Higher Degrees.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, we have hereunto subscribed our names on this _____ day of _____, _____.

President

Secretary/Treasurer

CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

I certify that I accept this Certificate of Adoption for the Council of Higher Degrees by-laws in effect as of May 1, 2026 as submitted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereby subscribe my name and affix the seal of Moose International on this the _____ day of _____,
_____.

Chief Compliance Officer

Moose International Seal:

Revised December 2025