MOOSE Leader

Need-to-know information for officers and chairman of Lodges/Chapters/Moose Legions

Moose Leader is created to give additional information to leaders of Moose Units, and is in addition to the weekly updates and other information sent throughout the year from Moose International. The next issue of Moose Leader will be sent next spring to coincide with the start of the 2027-28 Membership campaign.

Getting Our Lodge Elections Right

By Frank Vorhees/Director of Membership

As we prepare for Lodge elections, I want each of us to think about the responsibility we have to our members. The people we elect will make decisions that affect our finances, our volunteers, our membership, and the future of our lodges. We owe it to everyone who calls our lodge home to take this process seriously.

Getting it right starts long before election night. It begins with identifying members who are willing to serve, explaining what is expected, and following election procedures. We cannot wait until the last minute and hope everything falls into place. We also cannot assume that because we have conducted elections for years, we remember every requirement.

Take time now to review the Lodge Election Handbook and Chapter 33 of the General Laws. Share that information with everyone involved.

The President must appoint the Nominating Committee no later than the last regular membership meeting in February. That committee must hold at least three meetings. Those meetings give the committee time to interview prospective candidates, review qualifications, and have honest conversations about their ability and willingness to do the work.

We need to look beyond who has always held an office or who happens to be in the room. There may be a member with valuable experience and a willingness to help who has never been encouraged to serve. Sometimes, all it takes is someone saying, "I think you would be good at this. Have you considered it?"

Timeline:

Appoint Nominating Committee: By last meeting in February'

Nominating Committee: Must hold 3 meetings.

Nominating Committee: Submits names for ballot.

Non-nominated members: May submit petition.

Nominating Committee: Submits its report.

Election: First meeting in April.

At the same time, we need to be honest about the commitment. Give prospective officers the "So, You Want to Be a Lodge Officer?" brochure and discuss it with them. They need to understand the meetings, training, financial oversight and other responsibilities the position entails. Asking someone to accept an office without explaining the work does that member and the Lodge a disservice.

The election timeline matters. Members seeking elective office must submit their names at least one week before the Nominating Committee's report is due. The committee must present its report at a regular membership meeting at least two weeks before the election. The general election is held at the first regular membership meeting in April, subject to the handbook's provisions.

There are no nominations from the floor. Eligible members who submitted their names but were not nominated may use the petition process for the office they sought. Signatures cannot be collected before the committee reports, and completed petitions must be delivered to the Administrator at least one week before the election.

Use the provided forms, verify qualifications, and obtain any required dispensation before proceeding. If something is unclear, ask your Territory Manager, Regional Manager, or the Compliance Office. Asking beforehand can prevent a

problem that is much harder to correct afterward.

We also need to treat one another with respect. Follow the campaigning rules, including restrictions on printed materials and electronic communications. The Election Committee must include three members in good standing who are neither officers nor candidates. Voter eligibility, ballot security, and accurate reporting all deserve careful attention.

Once the votes are counted, our work continues. Help incoming officers understand unfinished business, share records, arrange training, and make yourself available. Whether we remain in office or step aside, we all share a responsibility to help the next team succeed.

We get to help prepare our lodges for the future. Let's give our elections the time and attention they deserve and give our officers the support they need to lead. Strong leadership helps us welcome members, keep them involved, and continue serving Mooseheart, Moosehaven, and our communities.

Note: Following a vote by the Moose International Board in November, the offer where the standard $20 application fee is waived if a new or re-enrolled member commits to two years of membership and fills out the application online either at beamoose.org or by using the Moose International online app has been extended through the end of the fiscal year, which is April 30, 2027. The offer had been scheduled to end Dec. 31, 2026. ■

Every invitation matters. Every act of service matters. Every member matters.

Finishing Strong, Looking Ahead

By Barb McPherson/Grand Chancellor, WOTM

The holidays are officially in full swing, and this is the time of year that marks the halfway point in your chapter year. The Women of the Moose Training Sessions are over for 2026, all honors have been graded and our office is preparing to celebrate the holiday season with our families, friends and residents of our twin cities.

As we prepare to celebrate, we cannot help but reflect on the past six months and the tremendous success of the Women of the Moose. We ended the 2025-2026 chapter year with more chapters qualifying for the Award of Achievement than in the previous year.

To help ensure the chapter is on track for the Award of Achievement, the officers should review the *Checklist For A Successful Year* found in the 2026-2027 Officers' Handbook, beginning on page 65. The completion of each task listed will ensure a successful chapter year and the Award of Achievement.

The Membership/Retention Chairman and her committee should contact the members of the chapter whose dues have expired and have not renewed. The Treasurer, or any authorized officer, can provide detailed lists via LCL Web. The chairman and her committee should then make personal contact with the members to find out why they have not renewed. It is quite possible they simply forgot or perhaps they are not happy with the chapter for one reason or another.

Once you have verified that the chapter is on track for the Award of Achievement, please make sure that all members attempting to qualify for their various degrees and honors are meeting their personal requirements – enrolling new members, having attended training sessions and conducting fundraising projects. Please review their requirements in the General Laws so there are no surprises.

And, don't forget – elections for new officers are right around the corner. Chapters should understand that the Election of Chapter Officers is one of the most important functions that takes place each year in every chapter. The members nominated by the Nominating Committee and ultimately by the membership of the chapter to serve for the ensuing year must be dedicated to continuing the mission of the Women of the Moose and committed to ensuring the chapter's success. They have an obligation to fulfill the requirements of the office to which they have been elected.

To aid our chapters in this process, the current Women of the Moose Election Handbook is available online (Forms & Documents). This is in addition to the information found in the Women of the Moose General Laws Sections 83 through 91. The use of this Handbook along with the General Laws will ensure a fair and impartial election.

Please remember that the Nominating Committee shall consist of the Board of Officers, three (3) Past Regents in order of juniority and five (5) members of the chapter to be appointed by the Senior Regent, **who are either appointed officers, committee chairmen, or Past Regents**. The only other person allowed to attend a Nominating Committee meeting is an Official Visitor, authorized by Moose International or its representative(s) to act only in the capacity of an advisory position, who shall have no voice in the selection of nominees.

Any Past Regent who is not one (1) of the three (3) in juniority or who may have transferred in, may be appointed

as one (1) of the five (5) appointed by the Senior Regent. Pre-2021, a Past Regent is a member who has completed a full term as Senior Regent and Junior Graduate Regent, regardless of whether or not she has qualified for the College of Regents Degree. Post 2021, a Past Regent is a member who has completed one full term as Senior Regent. The Junior Past Regent is counted as a member of the Board of Officers and not as a Past Regent in juniority.

The two required Nominating Committee meetings should be held following the chapter meeting in January and prior to the chapter meeting in February. The slate of nominees is read at the chapter meeting in February with the election held at the chapter meeting in March. The Installation of Officers is scheduled for April.

To be eligible for nomination, a female **must be a member of the chapter** for a minimum of six months. Any officer who resigned or was removed is not eligible for nomination. (Refer to Section 85.)

If the chapter officers and members are positive and working together for the purposes of this Fraternity, everyone will be successful.

On behalf of the entire staff at Women of the Moose Headquarters, we wish everyone a joyous holiday season and a successful and prosperous New Year. ■

Moose Legion Elections: Time To Prepare

By Shawn Baile/Director of Moose Legion & Higher Degrees

We've all heard it a million times – "Time flies when you're having fun." In reality, time doesn't discriminate. It is that one constant we can rely on regardless of situation or circumstance. True, time does seem to accelerate when we are doing something we enjoy. Likewise, when we are dealing with unpleasant matters, time feels like it has slowed to a crawl. Rest assured, its pace continues consistently forward.

Here we find ourselves already more than halfway through another Moose fiscal year. While it may seem like there is plenty of time to prepare for annual elections of Moose Legion directors, you should be preparing now. There are many aspects of these elections that we are well aware do not change from year to year. There will be five positions elected annually – President, Vice President, Chaplain, Financial Director and Fraternal Director. There can only be a maximum of two annually elected directors from one Lodge, provided the jurisdiction has at least three Lodges. All candidates for office must be nominated at least 45 days prior to the Annual Celebration. Since the Annual Celebration must be held between March 1 and April 30, Moose Legions should start the nomination process as early as January.

When considering nominees for office, please be sure to confirm their eligibility for the positions for which they wish to be considered. Per Section 11.7 of the Moose Legion Code of Rules, the following requirements apply to all existing Moose Legions:

- Must have been a member of the jurisdiction for at least six months
- Must have completed an authorized Moose Legion Educational Conference (MLEC) within three years prior to taking office
- To be eligible for the office of President, a Moose Legionnaire must have completed at least one year in another office in the Moose Legion in which he wishes to serve as President

Another important item to remember is that any member who wishes to run for office in a Moose Legion must be a member of a Lodge within the jurisdiction per Section 5.6 of the Code of Rules.

The Nominating Committee for a Moose Legion is made up of the Board of Directors (five annually elected directors plus the Secretary and Junior Past President), as well as the duly appointed Assistant Secretaries representing the Lodges within the jurisdiction. This committee considers all candidates who have submitted names for consideration in writing. Once the committee has met and determined which candidates will be placed on the election ballot, a written slate must be presented to the membership at least 30 days prior to the election.

The election of directors takes place during the business meeting at the Annual Celebration. While a Moose Legion may allow any good standing Moose Legionnaire to attend its meetings, only Moose Legionnaires belonging to a Lodge within the jurisdiction should be permitted to vote in the election. Eligibility to vote should be confirmed prior to the Moose Legionnaire being given a ballot. Once the election has been completed, the appointed Election Committee should count ballots, verify results, and provide a written report to the President, which has been signed by all members of the committee. ■

Any additional election questions can be directed to the Department of Moose Legion & Higher Degrees at (630) 966-2260.

Show Your Community Who We Are

By Will Harrison/Coordinator, Activities and Heart of the Community

While lodges work to achieve their various goals at this time of the year, they should remember the importance of community service efforts in their local communities.

This is, of course, a key part of the Fraternity's mission, alongside Mooseheart and Moosehaven as one of the three pillars of The Moose.

Beyond any discussion of lodge honors or awards, all of which require a strong community service presence, consider for a moment the impact your efforts have on the community. Sometimes, that impact is felt through your support of a local organization.

The hours you spend at a homeless shelter or food pantry, holding a clothing drive or raising funds to help a community member's fight against illness all add up. And I don't mean just the hours you put into these efforts or the dollars you raise, but what these efforts represent. We show who we are by the actions we take. It's important that people know what we stand for as a Fraternity – and the best way to do that is to literally show them.

Don't forget some of the cornerstone efforts of The Moose, either. We have handed out so many Tommy Moose plush dolls over the years that we may forget the impact a single Tommy Moose can have. One of our newest lodges – **Elk Grove, CA Lodge 2731** – recently established a connection with its local police department and delivered Tommy Moose plush dolls to them. This is one more community that now has a connection to our mission because of the efforts of our lodge members.

I also recently heard a moving story from **Princeton, IL Lodge 1339**, where members hosted a dinner for area first responders and presented Tommy Moose plush dolls to police officers, firefighters, EMTs and even the local medical examiner – who isn't always the first person you might think would need to have a Tommy Moose on hand.

Just days later, that medical examiner was called to the scene of a tragedy where a 7-year-old girl was the only person in the house who spoke English, and she was distraught. After the medical examiner gave her a Tommy Moose to hold, the girl hugged Tommy from the moment she first saw it. With that comforting presence, she was able to describe the tragedy in terms that everyone could understand.

In a situation like this, you have to wonder who needed Tommy Moose more – the girl, who needed a calming presence, or the medical examiner, who needed a way to communicate with a distraught child. I like to think that the need was mutual, and the impact of Tommy Moose – and our program – was immense.

We have some very large lodges that give away dozens of Tommy Moose plush dolls every year, just as we have lodges that hold numerous Heart of the Community events. Never forget that the impact of just one event or just one Tommy Moose plush doll can make all the difference.

Take a look at the organizations in your area and start asking questions about how The Moose might be able to help. I guarantee you won't have to ask too many before you find an abundance of opportunities. Then bring those ideas to your next lodge meeting and present them to the board. You don't have to organize a major event or commit to a large project to make a difference. Sometimes, the simplest gesture of support can have the greatest impact. Before you know it, you'll find that your lodge is literally the **Heart of your community**. ■



New Year's Eve



Party Favors

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45	Foil Party Hats
5	Plastic Toppers with Printed Bands
5	Plastic Derbies with Printed Bands
45	Glittered Fringed Tiaras
20	Deluxe Noisemakers
25	Party Blowouts
55	9" Foil Horns
50	Poly Leis
50	Assorted Balloons
180	Serpentine Throws
1	Metallic Happy New Year Banner - 5' in Length

#180 Showtime Party Kit For 50 People

Qty _____ @ $69.95 ea

Includes:

25	Assortd Plastic Toppers & Derbies
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35	9" Foil Horns
5	16" Happy New Year Blowouts
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5	7 1/2" Hand Clappers
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Moose International Introduces Partnership with PepsiCo Foodservice and Frito Lay

Your lodge now has access to a national purchasing program through the partnership between Moose International and PepsiCo Foodservice.

This program is designed to help lodges enhance member experiences, drive concession and bar sales, and simplify purchasing through your existing foodservice distributor.

HOW IT WORKS

Step 1: Contact your PepsiCo Foodservice representative or participating distributor.

Step 2: Enroll your lodge in the Moose International PepsiCo Program.

Step 3: Begin ordering qualifying products through your normal purchasing process.

Step 4: Start serving member-favorite brands while supporting program growth across the Moose network.

WHY PARTICIPATE?

- No Cost to Join
- No Contract Required at the Lodge Level
- Order Through Your Existing Distributor
- Flexible, Opt-In Participation
- Discounted PepsiCo Foodservice Products
- Potential Promotional & Merchandising Support

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- XVL Frito Lay Chips 24-32ct (All Flavors)
- Walking Taco 18ct (All 18ct Flavors)
- Oh Snap! ® 6ct Bites (All Flavors)
- Tostitos® Nacho Cheese Flavored Dip 140oz
- Tostitos® Nacho Cheese Cup
- Grandma's® Big Cookie (Chocolate Chip, Peanut Butter, Oatmeal Raisin, and Brownie)
- Lay's® Kettle Potato Chips Original Bulk
- Frito-Lay® Variety Pack 30ct LSS Mix (Miss Vickie's®, Classic, Premier)
- Minis Canisters Single Serve (All Flavors)
- Nut Harvest® Mixed Nuts and Almonds

Look for more information in the Official Communications and on www.mooseintl.org in November.