

President Dave Donahue, Supreme Governor Bruce Berger, members of the Pennsylvania Moose Association Board of Officers, delegates to the 2020 Pennsylvania Moose Association Annual Convention, and Brothers all:

Good morning. It is my privilege to offer this report as Secretary of the Pennsylvania Moose Association.

First, it is my responsibility to remind all lodge representatives of Section 51.5 of the fraternity's General Laws, which pertains to participation in the State Association. The section reads as follows:

Sec. 51.5 - Participation - Unless authorized by the General Governor, all lodges (and chapters if so included) shall be a member of the association duly organized and existing in the state, territory or province in which each lodge (and chapter if included) are located. To be in good standing with the association, each lodge (and chapter if so included) shall remain current in all financial obligations due 141 Moose International and the association, or have entered into a satisfactory payment arrangement with Moose International or the association to satisfy the outstanding indebtedness. Each lodge (and chapter if so included) shall be represented at all association conventions, conferences, district meetings, workshops, training seminars and schools as required by the association, Moose International or the Supreme Lodge. Each association shall adopt a policy, approved by the General Governor, to enforce the intent of this section.

Article IV, Section 4 of the Pennsylvania Moose Association by-laws outlines the penalties for non-compliance with the attendance policy for district meetings, Association Conventions and Mid-Year Conferences. If a lodge has no representation for two district meetings during the Moose fiscal year from May 1 – April 30, it will be considered as “not in good standing” with the Association until the end of the fiscal year.

If a lodge does not answer roll call at either the Annual Association Convention or Association Mid-Year Conference, it is immediately placed in “not in Good standing” status with the Association.

Once a lodge has missed any combination of two meetings, the social quarters permit can be suspended for a period of three days. A third missed meeting could result in a lodge's social quarters permit being suspended for a period of seven days. In either instance, if deemed appropriate, the lodge's Board of Officers could also be reorganized.

When we left our convention in Pittsburgh one year ago, we looked forward to a new year with the same anticipation and hope as we did any other year. Little did we know that our Association, our Fraternity, and our country would be confronted with a situation that we never anticipated seeing in our lifetime. The thoughts of quarantines, full-time cyber-schooling and business closures seemed more suited to a science fiction movie than to life in 2020.

Understanding that many of our lodges continue to struggle with business in the social quarters as a result of the restrictions currently in place, the Association Board made the decision to delay the early payment deadline for Association dues until December 1. While Association dues are the primary source of revenue for the Association and are collected near the close of the fiscal year, we fully understand the importance of giving lodges additional time under current conditions to regain their financial footing. I am happy to report that even with this extension in place, 50 of our 116 lodges have already paid their 2020-2021 Association dues in full.

While this extension is in place for the dues that would have normally been due on July 1, 2020, lodges should plan that the normal deadlines will return next year. Obviously, there could be adjustments made based on the situation at that time, but it would be prudent for lodges to start saving or making advance payments before next July.

Despite only having 6 ½ “normal” months of operating since our 2019 convention, there were many significant occurrences that took place within the Association. In October 2019, we hosted our first statewide Pilgrim conferral ceremony at the Red Lion Hotel in Harrisburg. The event offered attendees the opportunity to recognize and congratulate all the Class of 2019 Pilgrims from Pennsylvania at one time, as well as shining the spotlight on the accomplishments of each of the individuals being honored. Unfortunately, we will have to wait until October 2021 to host our next statewide ceremony, as the Pilgrim conferral scheduled for May 2020 at Mooseheart was cancelled.

Technology came to the forefront of the Association because of restrictions on the number of individuals permitted to gather in one location. First, the Association established a Zoom account, which is being used to stream this virtual convention. Zoom has given us the ability to hold Executive Committee meetings more frequently, to link Association Board members with meetings when they are unable to attend in person, and to conduct activities with committee chairmen like the scholarship drawing that would have taken place at the Mid-Year Conference in March.

Next, we established an account with Cognito Forms, which is the platform that was used to create the document that was used by qualified delegates to register for this convention. It was also implemented into the registration process for the International Moose Legion Conference that is scheduled for October in Pittsburgh. With Cognito Forms, we can create registration materials, order forms for purchasing merchandise, surveys on topics affecting the Association or the Fraternity, and many other useful documents. We look forward to finding additional opportunities to use this platform moving forward.

The final venture in technology is eballot, which is the platform that qualified delegates are using to vote on the business of this virtual convention. eballot allows real-time voting and results, while protecting the identities of users and providing immediate results, which is intended to enable business to be conducted quickly and efficiently. In addition to conventions and conferences, we hope to utilize eballot for matters requiring the approval of the Association Board between its scheduled meetings.

One area that has been adversely affected by COVID-19 is the Association’s use of its Small Games of Chance license. While raffles by the Pilgrims of the Association and the Association Moose Riders were still held, the cancellation of the Mid-Year Conference and the inability to meet in person for the Association Convention cost us the normal revenue from two cash bashes and gaming hospitality rooms at both events. Our ability to provide charitable support to Moose Charities and statewide organizations through Heart of the Community effort was greatly hampered as a result.

Plans are still in place to host our second “Countdown to Christmas” reverse draw event on Saturday, December 12 at Middletown Lodge 410. This is the same weekend the Association Board is scheduled to meet at the Red Lion Hotel in Harrisburg. Tickets are \$50.00 each. One change we have made this year is that those interested in purchasing a ticket can “claim” a ticket and make partial payments toward the \$50.00 price. The ticket must be paid in full prior to the start of the drawing. Any tickets not paid in full will be auctioned for the remaining balance. If you are interested in claiming or purchasing a ticket for

the drawing, please contact me via email. If you do not have it, my email address can be found on the State Board page on the Association website, pamoose.org.

Finally, I would like to inform everyone about upcoming Mid-Year Conferences and Association Conventions. Beginning in 2022, both of our annual meetings will be held at the Red Lion Hotel in Harrisburg. The Association Board approved contracts that are being signed to keep both meetings at the Red Lion through 2025. We have been very pleased with the service, the attention to our requests, and the appreciation of our business that has been shown by the leadership and staff at the hotel, and we look forward to building on that relationship. Our members will be pleased to know that the base room rates for both meetings will be less than \$100 per night, which is a significant savings compared to our current convention location.

As I close my report, I would like to extend my sincerest thanks and appreciation to everyone for their patience and understanding since the day that this pandemic rocked our organization. Many of the events we have come to anticipate on an annual basis were taken from us. We missed the opportunity to see our friends from across the commonwealth and to enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie that come with being a member of the Moose. We have all been frustrated, angry, beaten down and just plain worn out from trying to adjust to life that seems to change every day, sometimes every minute.

Trying to figure out how to conduct this convention properly and legally under the current restrictions has been very trying. I thank the Executive Committee and Association Board of Officer for their input and for their assistance in communicating with the lodges. I thank the field staff for their tireless commitment to work with and educate the lodges of this Association. And I thank the officers and members of the Pennsylvania Moose Association for your flexibility and willingness to allow us to figure out the best possible manner to make a virtual convention work. It will not be perfect, but never doubt for a minute that we are not doing our best to make chicken salad out of chicken shit.

This concludes the report of the Association Secretary. I wish you and your families continued good health and safety, and I look forward to us all getting to greet one another face-to-face at the Mid-Year Conference in March.

Respectfully submitted,
Shawn M. Baile
Secretary
Pennsylvania Moose Association