

# Honor Our Community Heroes Through Moose Membership



Each community has its share of local heroes, whether it's a member of the military or a local firefighter or police officer. They are often asked to handle high-risk situations, putting their personal safety in jeopardy. Beyond that, on a daily basis, they are viewed as role models that have the ability to make positive changes for their community and beyond.

## How can the Moose honor these local heroes?

- Through the gift of membership! It's a natural fit for those who look to make the best of difficult situations, just as Moose members try to improve the lives of those they touch as well.
- From January 1st through April 30th, 2017 Moose International will waive all first-year fees and dues for active military personnel and first responders and encourage our lodges and chapters to do the same. If you know someone who is serving our country or provides first responder services for your community, now is a great time to reach out and offer them a membership in the Moose.
- It is our hope that these individuals will learn about the great things we do for children, seniors and our communities, and want to stay involved, step up and even lead on behalf of these noble causes.



**Find more information about this program at [www.mooseintl.org](http://www.mooseintl.org).**

Lodges, Chapters and Moose Legions are encouraged to waive their portion of dues, thus making the membership free the first year for new and re-enrolled members of these special groups. This includes active duty members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, and Coast Guard, plus Active Reservists; along with individuals working in Law Enforcement and as Firefighters, Paramedics, or Emergency Medical Technicians, regardless of whether they are located in the U.S., Canada, the United Kingdom or Bermuda.

# Active Military/First Responders Membership Promotion FAQ



## Overview:

Members of the military and first responders have always been individuals who have gravitated towards the Moose, often providing effective leadership for our lodges and chapters. In almost every case, they are solid members of their communities and productive members of the fraternal unit in which they belong. This program focuses on these two groups and offers a significant cost savings for new individuals who may be interested and asked to join the Moose.

## Time frame:

January 1, 2017 – April 29, 2017, with the option of extending the program through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2017 if it proves to be successful in attracting this demographic.

## Program:

Moose International will waive all fees and dues for a new or re-enrolled member as a pilot program endorsed by the Supreme Council and Grand Council. Men and women of the military (active) and first responders could potentially join at no cost if your lodge or chapter waives its portion of the dues as well. However, these new members should be asked to attend orientations, functions, dinners, social quarter's activities and Heart of the Community efforts that will more than make up for the lost revenue. Additionally, members of both groups who join the Moose via this program should be urged to promote membership to their colleagues, thus increasing the impact of the program.

Further, this group would be excellent candidates for advancement to higher degrees, including the Moose Legion. As part of the program, the Moose Legion Council is also waiving all international dues and fees for any current active military or first responder, as well as all new members of these groups who qualify during the proposed time frame.

## Who Is Included?

Active Duty Military: Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, Active Reservist

First Responders: Law Enforcement, Firefighters (full-time and volunteer), Paramedics, Emergency Medical Technicians

Not included at this time: Veterans, doctors, nurses, National Guard, Moose multi-members

## How do I Fill Out and Submit the Application?

Complete and submit a membership application as you would any other. In the employer and/or occupation line, indicate the area (active military or first responder) where the individual qualifies and give the specific title as requested (i.e. First Responder, Anytown Fire Station, Firefighter). If the lodge or chapter has waived its portion of the dues, you simply need to turn in the application. If not, collect the lodge or chapter's portion of the dues with the application and submit both to the administrator or recorder. In either case, do not collect the \$20 application fee or the ABCD dues portion that is submitted to Moose International.

## **As an Administrator, Recorder, or ML Secretary, How do I Process the Application?**

Lodge, Chapter and Moose Legions should enter all eligible applications into their LCL.net program for the Active Military/First Responders Program. (You will need to check the fees paid/dues paid boxes for the application to be submitted). Once the application is accepted in LCL.net, the Administrator/Recorder/Secretary will need to provide additional information via the Admin Menu so they are not billed for the application fees and membership dues for the eligible applications.

- Under the Admin Menu, click on Tools and scroll to New Member Promo. This will display all accepted applications starting with a January 1, 2017 application date.
- Select the member's name that is eligible for the Active Military/First Responders Program.
- Once the name is selected, choose the appropriate occupation, Active Military, Active Reservist, EMT, Firefighter, Paramedic or Police.
- Then hit save. If they serve in multiple occupations, select the one that best fits the majority of time committed to this occupation.

Each of these members will appear on your monthly billing statement, but will show a \$0 fee under the application and membership dues.

If this Admin Menu process does not occur prior to the end of month processes, Lodge, Chapter and Moose Legions will be billed for the application/dues. If this does happen, you will need to provide proof the member was eligible (copy of application) and a credit will be issued via Member Services at [memberservices@mooseintl.org](mailto:memberservices@mooseintl.org).

If a billing for the application occurs, you should still enter the necessary information so that the membership dues are not also billed.

If a member that was not eligible is selected, then the information is saved, in error, an e-mail to Member Services will be required to delete this information. If this application had already been submitted for \$0 billing, we will then submit a charge to that Lodge, Chapter or Moose Legion.

**Administrators and Recorders please note:** Do not enter a new member into this program on the last day of the month in January, February, March or April. Moose International bills on the last day of each month and with the added step for processing (listed above) you will likely be billed at the regular rate if entered on these days.

## **Can I Approach Groups Regarding This Program?**

Groups of first responders, like a police or fire station, may receive information about the program, but note the guidelines identified below by the General Governor's Office:

- This membership campaign does not mean you should allow "just anyone" to become a member. It is imperative that all applications for membership be properly distributed, completed, investigated, and voted on by the membership to ensure that the applicant meets the current membership qualifications contained in the General Laws of our Fraternity.
- It is absolutely necessary that a lodge/chapter member educate and invite a candidate on an individual basis (i.e. it is inappropriate to mass solicit an entire army base for membership). Each candidate must be sponsored by a current lodge/chapter member. The Application Review Committee must exercise due diligence in the investigation of applicants and the approval or rejection of an application. Finally, the Lodge membership must vote either favorably or unfavorably on all applications at a regular general membership meeting.
- For more information, go to [www.mooseintl.org](http://www.mooseintl.org) under Military/First Responders Program

## ***Privacy and Selectivity –***

### **Concerning the New Short-Term Membership Campaign (January 1st through April 29th, 2017) – Active Military and First Responders!**

Membership promotion and retention are important, indeed essential, to our organization, as well as all private membership organizations. Adding members enables your lodge/chapter to maintain and enhance its effort toward the great things we do for children and seniors, and the support that we give our communities. In that spirit, Moose International has announced the Active Military/First Responders Membership Promotion, which is a natural fit for those heroes who look to make the best of difficult situations, just as Moose members try to improve the lives of those they touch.

However, this membership campaign does not mean you should allow “just anyone” to become a member. It is imperative that all applications for membership be properly distributed, completed, investigated, and voted on by the lodge/chapter membership to ensure that the applicant meets the current membership qualifications contained in the General Laws of our Fraternity.

It is absolutely necessary that a lodge/chapter member educate and invite a candidate on an individual basis (i.e. it is inappropriate to mass solicit an entire army base for membership). Each candidate must be sponsored by a current lodge/chapter member. The Application Review Committee must exercise due diligence in the investigation of applicants and the approval or rejection of an application. Finally, the lodge/chapter membership must vote either favorably or unfavorably on all applications at a regular general membership meeting.

The Vermont Supreme Court issued an illustrative opinion on a case involving the Elks fraternal organization. The decision describes the impact of the Elks’ membership selection process on qualifying to maintain their “private” club/lodge status. The Vermont Supreme Court established several criteria to determine whether an organization such as the Elks, or the Moose, qualifies as a “private” club.

The Court stated that the **principle factor** in determining whether a club is “private” or “public” is the *selectivity of its membership selection process*--and that factor alone may be determinative. The Court stressed that a club’s “procedures” and a club’s “criteria” for membership may look as if they are “selective”, but that will not protect them if, as a matter of practice, they do not act with true limits on admission to the facility.

Many organizations have lost the freedom of association – the freedom to choose its members – that is inherent in the First Amendment. A Moose facility must be vigilant if it desires to maintain its status as a “private” entity and enjoy the constitutional protections afforded private membership organizations. Based on court decisions, the easiest way to lose that status is by not being sufficiently selective in choosing new members.