



MOOSE Leader

Need-to-know information for officers and chairmen of Lodges/Chapters/Moose Legions Vol. 85, No. 6

Why Do We Have So Many Rules?

By **MIKE RIOS**/Director, Membership

We often hear the question – “why are there so many rules?” – and understand the frustration.

It used to be different. We just did what we thought was best and learned from our mistakes. Rules are usually formulated when someone makes a mistake. If you look at many personnel manuals, most rules are as a result of an incident that caused issues so we put rules in place to protect others from suffering the same pitfalls.

For example, did you know that our fraternal units are “corporations” and as such are **required** to have meetings? Did you know that we are required to pay sales tax? Many of “our” rules come directly from the IRS in order to protect our tax-exempt status and are a direct result of our Mission Statement.

The question is often asked, why other fraternities don’t have the same rules. The answer to that is that all companies don’t have the same rule

and their structures are different.

Think about it: What other fraternal organization do you know of that takes care of over 200 children on an ongoing basis, and serves its members like we do at Moosehaven? We have an obligation to **protect** our interest and are required to abide by certain rules and regulations in order to maintain our status.

When I grew up, we would ride in the car, lay on the back dash, jump around and do whatever we liked. Our seat belt was our parents’ arm and it didn’t always work. Once our highways became more dangerous, safety regulations were put into place to protect us. Now, we have child seats and seat belts. Those are the rules.

So the next time you become frustrated about the rules, think about what they protect; our most precious assets – the children at Mooseheart and our seniors at Moosehaven who depend on us every day. ■

Hold Chapter Special Projects, Then Report Them Properly

By **BARB McPHERSON**/Grand Chancellor

Throughout our history, the Women of the Moose have been proud to fulfill our objective of assisting in the charitable activities of the Moose fraternity, with special attention to Mooseheart and Moosehaven. Each year, when preparing our budgets at Women of the Moose headquarters, careful consideration is given to the various projects on both the Mooseheart and Moosehaven campuses needing our financial assistance. Those projects are then assigned to our various committees as “Special Projects.”

With the assigned Special Project, each chapter’s Development and Higher Degrees Chairman is to conduct a fundraising project. A donation from that project is then remitted each month, with the appropriate Form 114, to Women of the Moose headquarters. When all of the donations for a specific project are combined, we are able to meet the immediate needs of our twin cities.

The Form 114 also tells us that the chapter is meeting its requirements in holding the proper meetings and that the respective chairman (or a pro-tem) is doing her job. It also tells us if new members are attending

meetings, if the Endowment Fund is being collected and if the committees are active.

In addition to the Form 114, each committee must submit a Form 166. The Form 166 is the report of the fundraising project held by the chairman and her committee in an effort to raise the money necessary to ensure the chapter has the funds for her to donate. The additional funds raised will help offset the expenses (refreshments, decorations, etc.) of the Committee Activity Night meeting.

It is the responsibility of the chapter Senior Regent to ensure these two forms are remitted throughout the chapter year as one of her requirements to qualify for the Green Cap honor; which also helps the chapter qualify for the coveted Award of Achievement. It is the continued dedication and commitment of our Women of the Moose chapters that provide the funds necessary for the needs of those dependent upon us.

Thank you co-workers for your continued generosity to our projects which in turn help those less fortunate. ■

Moose Charities' Mission Remains the Same

By **JAN FREGULIA**/Executive Director, Moose Charities

Our mission at Moose Charities stems from the origins of the Moose, which started in 1888 as a men's social group, and was given *its* true mission in 1913 and again in 1922. Those were the years when our Fraternity pledged to provide home and education to children who, through no fault of their own, lived in less-than-acceptable environments and pledged again to provide a safe and secure retirement home for senior members of our Fraternity.

Have the rules, programs and procedures changed over the years? Of course they have and they will no doubt continue to change as we move forward.

Change is inevitable, but if we truly believe that mission, we must continue to be the guardians and caretakers of children and seniors. If we truly and sincerely believe that we do make a difference in our communities, that the whole is greater than its parts, then we will adapt

to new programs and new procedures. We will continue to be proud of our accomplishments and we will truly and sincerely understand the value of being members of this great organization, our Moose Fraternity.

However, regardless of what procedures change, caring for children-in-need and providing for senior members of our Fraternity, this mission will not and cannot change. We must always keep in mind that membership is critical to the future of Mooseheart and Moosehaven.

So, my friends, Moose Charities will continue to ask for your donations. WHY? Because our Fraternity must continue its mission – because we know that lives depend upon us. We must keep our promise to provide a place for at-risk children and senior members. That is who we are and what we do with what we have! This is our mission!

God bless Mooseheart, Moosehaven and God bless our Fraternity! ■

Spring Cleaning Time

By **BOB NEFF**/Director, Higher Degrees

Are you ready for spring? It really is just around the corner. I would like to suggest it is time for some spring cleaning. That sounds like a lot of fun, right? However, clearing out trash and scrubbing down this or that is not quite what I am proposing.

My proposal is that we might truly work together to clean up our respective fraternal unit's **expired** member list. We are winding down the final months and weeks of the 2017-2018 fiscal year. The time to build our positive numbers – or reach them to begin with – is right now.

Some fraternal units did very little, while many chapters, lodges and Moose Legions made really good strides during November's retention week program. They reached out and contacted members, many of whom only needed a friendly nudge to be retained. But what have we done since? Remember that retention week was promoted as a "one week focus" – but a "year-long commitment."

As we wind down the year, we have a chance to show a gain. Continued effort to recruit new members is part of the solution. Reaching out with friendly contacts to retain the members we already have is vital

and important. Let us each pick up the phone, or go visit a member who has not renewed and remind them of the many positive attributes of Moose membership.

Each of us can make a difference – each member saved makes an impact! Just like sponsoring new applicants, we have to extend a fraternal hand and invite members to retain those benefits of membership they originally bought into. Remind them of the value of membership to both themselves and to those in our care who depend on all of us.

If each chairman and officer acted as true leaders of the fraternal units they represent, a great spring cleaning could be accomplished. Won't you please at least give it a try? The person you save might be thankful and attend or even help with an upcoming function.

Eventually, with the right mentoring, they might even become a positive leader of our fraternal unit. But first, we have to reach out and retain them as members and encourage their renewal. Yep, time for a little spring cleaning it seems. I'm going to try – will you? ■

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**MOOSE
 Leader**

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Be a Positive Agent Of Fraternal Compassion

By **GIVI TURNER**/Moosehaven Director of Marketing

With all the self-affirmation memes and poetic scripts that seem to feature in so many posts on social media, evidence suggests we have certainly reached the age of proclamation. Throughout social media threads, scores of stories with moral attributes provide guided direction for becoming a great leader of influence. There are even on-line tests to determine one's social style or leadership skill, which incidentally, leads one to wonder how some remain functional.

All kidding aside, it's a noble feat to encourage others to contribute and lead by example. The notion serves as an attitude check and keeps the overall goal in focus. Just as a stone skipped across a still pond creates a ripple, actions in our daily lives have the same effect. The ripples created in the pond may span the width of water, moving reeds and debris both above and below the surface. You may not personally witness the change created by the effects of the stone, but trust that the movement occurred.

How many times have you been disgruntled, only to be challenged further by poor customer service or lack of consideration? The scenario can quickly become a snowball effect turning a volatile situation into insurmountable chaos – you know the old, “making a mountain out of a

molehill” adage. However, just the opposite can prove true with a positive attitude and charitable heart. A sour situation can be resolved with just the right approach.

The effect does not end there, however. People watch, emulate and remember examples set by others. Think about those who have made an impact in your life, and the reactions you attribute to their leadership. Consider those same mannerisms setting the stage for generations to come, and the impact to those in witness. Ask yourself if you are you spreading attitude, or gratitude?

The founding principle of our Fraternity is compassion; the charitable heart to support family and community. That same principle should hold witness in our approach in and out of our fraternal interactions setting the example of our mission and providing testament to the success found in Mooseheart and Moosehaven. The ripple effect easily leads others to follow in example, and becomes a movement to span generations to come. Much like the simple stone in the pond, positive leadership is more than a daily affirmation, it's a commitment to make a change, both one you may witness and one you may not – with the same result: change. ■