

Arthritis Chair Report March State Board Meeting 3-21-2024

Good day to all. I hope this report finds all well and ready to kick off a successful Mid-Year conference. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the Executive Director of Western PA Arthritis Foundation Lara Daly and member of the Irwin Lodge #236, she will give some brief remarks and answer any additional questions you may have after my report is shared. Let's start off by asking a question, How many of you have Arthritis or know someone who has Arthritis by raising your hand? It is a larger number than you might actually realize it is 1 and 4 of us. Some have questioned recently if the Arthritis Committee is actually necessary and should we eliminate it, or do we get a return on our support, or do we get a return on our investment and the answer is - YES WE DO! YES WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE! and YES ALL THE SUPPORT IS APPRECIATED! And how does Pennsylvania benefit. As previously stated many times before this committee is very important because of the following benefits and facts; In Pennsylvania alone there are 9,195 children that struggle with arthritis every day of their lives, 300,000 children across the nation. Arthritis is the nation's #1 cause of disability. Arthritis affects nearly 60 million adults and 300,000 children. That is 1 of 4 of us. Over 100 types of arthritis and related conditions damage the joints and often other organs." The Arthritis Foundation from the state of Pennsylvania sent 51 Children from across the state suffering and living with arthritis on a daily basis to Camp Victory last year and plan to send that many if not more this year. 1371 Power Packs for kids with juvenile arthritis were sent to kids, 36 directly to kids that reside in Pennsylvania. 29% of the population that live in Pennsylvania is affected by arthritis. That's 3,719,000 adults living with doctor-diagnosed arthritis in our state. 1 and 3 veterans have arthritis, which accounts for 254,000 veterans of the military in Pennsylvania living with arthritis. 1,599,000 adults in Pennsylvania have activity limitations caused by arthritis, 38% have work limitations. Arthritis across the United States cases a burden of \$304 Billion made up of medical expenses and lost wages. For the 300,000 kids with arthritis there are only 450 pediatric rheumatologists or one doctor for each 700 kids. To combat the lack or shortage of doctors for kids funding for four new fellowships (doctors) to the current funding of 22 institutions with 75 scientists working towards treatments and a cure. In 2023 the Foundation supported 3,317 families through JA Days, JA Power Packs, the JA Summit, JA Camps (11 camps attended by kids from 36 states, and Connect groups for JA parents. 45,000 people attended community events organized by the Arthritis Foundation, 18,500 people attended arthritis educational event in 2023. Funding goes towards the KIDS, Public Health Education, Research, Patient and Community Services. **So YES! This committee through the PMA support directly or indirectly affects Millions and Millions of Pennsylvanians and most importantly, Moose Members, and KIDS!**

The Arthritis committee had a very busy 2023 year and starting to kick off a 2024 year working on raising funds to support the 300,000 kids, families, millions of people suffering from arthritis in all that Arthritis Foundation does for the for mentioned It is reminder to all that the Arthritis committee runs the calendar year January to December with March Mid year reporting on the calendar years success to coincide with the Arthritis Foundation.

I would like to take this time to thank all Lodges, Chapters, Moose Legions, Districts, and any other Fraternal units from the Moose Fraternity who have contributed and made donations for the 2023 Arthritis Committee campaigns and fund drives for a success this year. In the

past 8 years Jonathon Schneider has teamed up with the PMA to put a face with the cause and together have raise funds for the Arthritis Foundation. Over the last 8 years in just money earmarked for the campaigns of Walk and Jingle Bell Run (not including general contributions from the Moose) with the help of Jonathon and his friends and family the combined efforts of all involved raised \$53,730, with the Moose Family Donating \$34,486 and friends and family of Jonathon donating \$19,244. I am also sharing the break down of the numbers from the last 2 years. In 2022 Walk generated \$4287 and General Arthritis Fund Contributions Generated of 16,017.95 to make a Grand Total of 20,304.95. For 2023 the breakdown is as follows 2023 Walk generated Moose Fraternal units \$1813.00, and Jonathon and his friends and family \$1625.00. This past December for the Jingle Bell Run the combined team raised \$5310 as the combined team, \$4310 directly came from the Moose Fraternal Units and \$1000 from Jonathon and his friends and family. General Fund Contributions Generated \$18,624.50, a total from Moose Fraternal Units. \$24,747.50, and combined with Jonathon and his friends, and family was a total of \$27,372.50. The Moose Donations towards the Arthritis Foundation show an increase of giving from 2022 to 2023 of \$4442.00. The check presented this weekend will be in the amount of \$18624.50 and the Big Dummy check will show the Grand Total for all of all campaigns combined for 2023 (Walk 2023, Jingle Bell Run 2023 and 2023 General Donations) (Walk and jingle Bell Run donations were summited during those event campaigns. The Grand total donation from the Moose Association in 2023 is in the Amount of \$24,747.50 (Will be on the BIG DUMMY Check to reflect all giving in 2023).

I would also like to give a huge shout out and thank you to Cindy Shilling and Melissa Schneider for all of the spreadsheets, phone calls, and emails to each other and tracking of all of this information.

Several Arthritis events have occurred in the 2023-year a huge shout out to District 9 Arthritis Auction at Bellefonte Lodge #206 on November 5th, a Beef Stick Sale Fundraisers at Huntingdon Moose Lodge #223 which started in November 2023 and ended in March of 2024, and a Moose Mini walk at Franklin Moose Lodge #83 on September 23, 2023.

We encourage all Lodges to do an arthritis fundraiser of some type such as a mini walk, get together, party, food (pot luck) basket raffle, fundraiser etc. it gives all lodges an opportunity to have an activity or event and gets members to come into your lodge as well and please share with me so I can share out the event as well. Make sure you take the time to stop by and visit the Arthritis Table this weekend.

Today we will start to advertise he New Campaign and fundraising event and it is The Walk To Cure Arthritis, a Flyer will be emailed to each lodge to share with all fraternal units with in each lodge and a paper copy is also being provided in the Friday afternoon session to each district president to give to each lodge and chapter in your district. The Upcoming Walks to Cure Arthritis are being held in Pittsburgh on May 18, 2024 and Philadelphia on June 8, 2024.

Up Coming Arthritis Events and Reminders:

1. The Walk to Cure Arthritis is scheduled to take place on May 18, 2024 in Pittsburgh and June 8, 2024 in Philadelphia. More Information from my self and Jonathon Schneider will be emailed out.

2. ***NOTE This is a Change once again this year (sorry for the confusion and change again if this is not explained correctly in this report I apologize in advance and will send correct information out once re-clarified) General Fund Donations at any point of the year towards the Arthritis Foundation are gladly accepted. Send checks Payable to The Arthritis Foundation in memo line put which Arthritis Event it is for Jingle Bell Run, Walk to Cure Arthritis, or General Fund Arthritis Donation etc. and Mail Checks to: Cindy Schilling PMA Secretary 408 W. Horner Street Apt. 17 Ebensburg, PA 15931.**
3. Fraternal units of the Moose contributing \$250-\$499 will be awarded a certificate of appreciation and recognition. Fraternal Units contributing \$500 or above will receive a special award and recognition. The top Fraternal Unit will be honored with an exclusive reward. The top contributors for the 2024 calendar year will be revealed at Mid-Year 2025.
4. All Lodges and Districts should have an Arthritis committee chair. I ask that my contact information be shared out to District and Lodge committee chair people and that I receive their information as well to send out communications to share at District and Lodge Meetings.
5. A hand knit Penn State Blanket (won First Place In a County Fair- ribbon included) is being graciously donated by to raffle off, with the funds to be donated to the Arthritis Foundation on behalf of the Moose and or Jonathon Schneider and friends and or a combined effort of both and funds generated to the 2024 donation totals. Those details are still being worked out.
6. A Flyer for The Walk to Cure Arthritis, A flyer for other upcoming Arthritis Events, and A Power Point Presentation will be shared.

Lastly the top Fraternal Unit and the Fraternal Units raising \$500 or above will be revealed at Friday afternoons session.

Jim Schneider
Phone- Cell 814-251-3485, Home 814-641-9527
Email- jimaschneider01@gmail.com
Address: 8-20th Street Huntingdon, PA 16652

Fraternally Yours,

James A. Schneider

James A. Schneider
PMA Arthritis Chair 2023-2024