

## **January, 2021–Items of Interest-Communications-Lodges, Districts, Moose Legions**

**My Brothers**, I would like to wish everyone a healthy, blessed, and prosperous New Year! Now is time to move forward and focus on finishing our 2020-2021 Moose Year strong and with a positive attitude.

**Congratulations** to Troy King on his new role as Moose International Regional Manager (Mid-East Region) effective January 4<sup>th</sup>. Troy fills the vacated position previously held by Larry Meade who was elevated to the position of Lodge Development Manager. Congratulations to Larry Meade in his new position.

**POSTPONED** – Due to COVID19 Restrictions imposed by the Virginia Governor limiting scheduled gatherings to no more than 10 people, the **VMA Mid-Year Conference-January 15-17, 2021 has been postponed.** Plans are to have **limited attendance for the VMA Mid-Year Conference at Hopewell Lodge #1472 on April 16-17, 2021.** This was the original scheduled date for the Spring Conference. Please keep this date available. Our Mid-Year Heart of the Community Project for this year is again, the VetHouse-please vote to make a donation. Remember to vote in your lodge and district membership meetings for your donations to the **Money March** (Massey Cancer, Special Olympics, Safe Surfin', etc.) prior to the Mid-Year Conference.

**New VMA By-Laws** will be voted on at the Mid-Year Conference – they are on the Virginia Moose Website under What's New dated 12/9/2020. Please read and share with Moose members.

**VMA Short Term Membership Campaign – In Your Heart, You Know – We Can Do It! - January 1 – March 31, 2021** – Please make sure your lodge has the new flyer posted (if you need a copy, it is on the VMA website) – lots of opportunities for members (LOOM/WOTM) to earn cash – Drawing on April 17<sup>th</sup>.

All lodges should also be having **lodge in-house membership campaigns to generate new members.** Some lodges are being creative with absorbing the application fee and even reducing the membership fee for a limited time period to help current members sign new members. Of course, you want to do some type of incentive program so current members can be rewarded.

**VMA MEMBERSHIP** – With less than 4 months left to meet our PLUS ONE Membership Goal, we need to focus getting new members and retention. As of January 11, 2021 AED Report, VMA is down 2,228. Using the above campaigns and the dedication of our current members to our children at Mooseheart and the seniors at Moosehaven, I know we will be able to reach our VMA Goal of 34,047. Thank you for all you do to keep our fraternity great and MOOSE PROUD!

**ONE MOOSE** – Beginning with the start of a new Moose Year, we will become One Moose on May 1, 2021. The men and women will join together to be a One Moose Lodge. There still seems to be some confusion as to exactly what that means for both the men and women. Please go to mooseintl.org and search One Moose a Reality for more information and details. Click on the **FAQ Sheet** highlighted for 20 questions and answers that will explain some of your questions as well. Please share with all your members especially at membership meetings.

**MOOSE MAGAZINE-December/January, 2020-2021** – A Virginia member, Dawn Ozmore from Hopewell Moose Lodge #1472 was recognized on page 15 sharing her view on the One Moose and more. Also on page 20, the Exmore Moose Lodge #683 was recognized for their community service by “Making a Difference-It's What We Do”. Additionally, Caroline County Lodge #2610 was featured on page 38 when Bruce Berger, Supreme Governor was presented a donation by the lodge.

**LODGE NOMINATING COMMITTEE** – Now is the time for all Governors to start selecting the lodge nominating committee of 18 members by last regular membership meeting in February . The committee will select candidates to fulfill the Board of Officers’ positions for 2021-2022. The nominating committee consists of the 8 current board of officers, 5 past governors by juniority and 5 members who are current appointed officers or chairman. It is the duty of the nominating committee to select the best qualified candidate to hold the board of officers’ position for the election. Make sure the candidates are aware of all the duties of each position as they may be asked to fill additional positions that become vacant. Also, select qualified lodge alternates to Pro-Tem for the administrator or governor at required mandatory meetings such as district meetings, VMA annual convention or Mid-Year Conference, and Moose International Convention. Include their names on the election ballot so they will already be in place in case an emergency arises.

**MOOSE CHARITIES** – **Endowment Fund** still needs to be sent in by the 10<sup>th</sup> of each month – even if it is only a few dollars so your lodge qualifies for the Premier Lodge Award. **MAC-Mooseheart Activities Center 3 Year Project** started in August, 2019 – VMA committed to \$400,000 contribution by all our lodges. Several lodges have given their whole 3 year amounts and about 10 lodges have made 0 (zero) contributions-if you are one of the 10, please send in a contribution. **Moosehaven Rocker Fund** – Starts February 1<sup>st</sup> – Get members involved by having them sign a Rocker when they make a donation – sign their name, do in memory of a loved one, post words of inspiration (faith, hope, charity, love, etc.) – use colorful markers and make sure they are posted in the lodge as a thank you to the members who donated. **LODGE ALL GIVING REPORT** – Congratulations to 16 lodges that have met their per capita or \$1 more requirements for the Premier Lodge Award in these difficult times. There is still plenty of time for the rest of our lodges to meet these goals. On the last report of 11/30/20 sent on 12/22/20 by Don Ridenhour, Moose Charities Chairman, he has broken down what each lodge needs to be sent for each month (including December). Please contact him, or your District President to get your lodge’s contribution amount.

**HEART OF THE COMMUNITY SCHOLARSHIP** – It was recently announced the winners of the VMA HOC Scholarship Winners – VMA Website on 1/6/2021 shows all the winners including 5 from VIRGINIA. Any High School Junior who will graduate in 2022 and affiliated with a moose member is eligible to enter to win at least \$1,000 and if in extra activities could potentially win \$5,000. Please see the VMA website under programs, heart of the community scholarship for more details. Deadline for entries is 6/30/2021.

**Heart of the Community Report** – due February 15<sup>th</sup> – many lodges are doing community service projects – add these as they are being done so all your great community involvement is recognized. Don’t wait until the last minute to add them or you might forget something and leave out some of your great works. This report reflects your qualifications for earning the Premier Lodge Award.

**VMA Heart of the Community Chili Cook-off** - Date will be announced soon – your lodge should now start their competition during these cold months in anticipation of the District Competition and finally the VMA State Competition. More information forthcoming.

**YOUTH AWARENESS** – Every student sponsored by Virginia lodges and chapters compete in this program to win free scholarship money. Please make sure you are following up with the students you sponsored so they are encouraged to complete their projects by February 28<sup>th</sup> and have submitted them. This year Virginia has 37 students participating for a chance to win \$12,000, \$8,000, \$5,000, \$3,000, or \$2,000 in scholarships plus additional money from the Virginia Moose Association. Thanks to Manny Propst, VMA Youth Awareness Chairman and his “Team Virginia” committee for everything they do for this program. Additional information is on the VMA website under community service or vmayouthawareness.org.

**SAFE SURFIN?** – With students spending more time on their computers with virtual learning during this pandemic, parents, grandparents, and all relatives need to be monitoring their usage. Equip your children with the tools and resources to protect themselves against on line predators. VMA website has information on child safety under community service tab. Also, go to SafeSurfin.org for additional tips.

**JOURNALISAM AWARDS** – Now is the time once again this year for your lodge, chapter, district, moose legion, association, higher degree, or anyone who wants to participate in the journalism awards. Newsletters, websites, and individual editorial articles are eligible to enter. Deadlines for the different categories are listed on the VMA Website What's New section on 1/07/2021 under the heading of Official Communication. Winners will be announced at Moose International Convention in Cincinnati, OH-June 6-July 4, 2021.

**MOOSE LEGION ELIGIBILITY CHANGES** – Effective 1/1/2021 any lodge member who wants to make the additional commitment of fraternal service and support to and for our kids and seniors can immediately upon becoming a moose member be eligible to join the Moose Legion. They will complete the Moose Legion application, pay their dues, and with approval and attendance at a conferral advance to the status of a Moose Legionnaire. The Moose Legion is the 1<sup>st</sup> degree in the Moose and is known as the degree of fun and fellowship.

**SPORTS** – Due to COVID19 restrictions, Moose International has made the decision for the safety of our members to cancel the TEXAS HOLD'EM Tournament, the DART Tournament, and BOWLING to be held in 2021.

**GOV'T RELATIONS** – Be aware that Virginia Gaming Commission is voting on changes to Charitable Gaming as it pertains to Texas Hold'em Regulations. Discussions and Voting are still being addressed.

To Make a Difference, We Have to Be the Difference!

Fraternally,

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