

**REPORT OF THE MOOSE LEGION
TO A JOINT SESSION OF THE
2009 INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION – CHICAGO, IL
MAY 26, 2009**

Good morning, Brothers and Co-workers. It is an honor and privilege for me to present the report of the International Moose Legion to this joint session. 2008-2009 proved to be a roller coaster year for the Degree of Service; there were ups and downs, plenty of twists and turns and even some times when we felt like we were hanging upside down. Yet in the end, this yearlong train ride has returned to the station and we have all exited safely.

This past year was the first full year using eligibility requirements to identify Lodge members who qualified for membership in the Moose Legion. Membership production started very slowly and it became apparent that we were not going to achieve the same levels as in previous years. Through the first 10 months of the year, we had only received 2,958 new and former membership applications.

Then, along came the introduction of the Moose Economic Stimulus Plan for the months of March and April. And boy, did this plan ever stimulate. After averaging around 295 applications per month from May through February, we received 760 applications in March alone. Then came April – a month that saw us more than double the production of March! How about 1,655 applications for the final month of our membership year!

2,958 applications in the first 10 months, followed by 2,415 applications in March and April – what happened? Why the sudden turnaround? During the stimulus plan, the only thing eliminated from the equation was the \$10.00 application fee. All of our requirements were still in place; members still had to qualify for membership in the Degree of Service. I believe what we saw was increased understanding of the membership process and the use of resources, and a sense of urgency that prompted Moose Legionnaires to step up their efforts in recruiting new and former members. We offer our sincerest thanks to the 2,796 Moose Legionnaires who endorsed at least one membership application during the past year.

Despite the late surge in production, I must report that active membership in the Moose Legion was down by 3,790 members, from 67,389 to 63,599. As of April 30, there were 14,421 members whose Moose Legion dues were either expired or dropped. After doing some research with our Information Systems Department, we found that nearly 70% of those members who were in arrears in the Moose Legion had unfortunately also allowed their lodge dues to lapse. This is a disturbing trend that we must find a way to quickly and effectively find a way to reduce, and ultimately eliminate.

Speaking of trends, one of the most consistent trends in the last several years has been the ability of Moose Legionnaires to raise funds for a multitude of needs for our fraternity.

Whether we are talking about an annual project or a short-term request, the Moose Legions units continue to readily step forward and address the items placed before them. As an example, Moosehaven Executive Director John Capes approached the Moose Legion about funding a trip to Moosehaven for the students and Family Teachers in James J. Davis Home at Mooseheart. Within 36 hours, 45 Moose Legions had each pledged \$200, which covered the cost of the trip and the purchase of a pull-behind trailer to haul luggage. We thank each of those units for their assistance, and we also thank the units we had to turn away once the required number of responses was received.

Here is a summary of the performance of the International Moose Legion during the past year:

While the \$200,000 goal for the Mooseheart Powerhouse Project was met prior to last year's International Convention in Las Vegas, we don't consider a project complete until all of our units have met their commitments. I am happy to report that the 175th Moose Legion completed its commitment in December and we once again had 100% participation. I am also happy to report that our funding well exceeded the goal, meaning an excess of funds to be applied to future projects.

In addition to the Powerhouse, we also completed three additional capital projects that were announced during the International Moose Legion Conference in November: an emergency siren for Mooseheart, a picnic pavilion for Moosehaven and air conditioning for the Moosehaven Chapel. The total cost for these three projects was \$57,166.

The Moose Legion also held its second Mooseheart-Moosehaven Endowment Fund Competition during the past year. All of our units were again divided into three divisions based on their active memberships, and the competition was based on the highest per capita contributions in each division. The increased emphasis and competition among units enabled us to increase total contributions to the Endowment Fund from Moose Legions from \$128,103.26 in 2007-2008 to \$142,213.43 last year. This represents an increase of \$14,110.17 or 11% over the previous year. The top Moose Legions in each division were:

- Faith Division (200 members or fewer) – For the second year in a row, Triangle Moose Legion #113 (Montana) with contributions of \$12.07 per member
- Hope Division (201-400 members) – Also for the second year in a row, Nevada Moose Legion #168 with contributions of \$13.48 per member
- Charity Division (401 members or greater) – Blue Hen Moose Legion #186 (Delaware) with contributions of \$9.19 per member

We look forward to continuing the success of these competitions and continuing our commitment to strengthen the Endowment Fund. Our commitment will increase a bit this year, as we work with Moose Charities to promote the Mooseheart/Moosehaven Endowment Fund Club to our membership.

This past year was also the first year for Moose Legions to fund the scholarships that are awarded annually at the International Youth Awareness Congress. Our Moose Legions remitted a total of \$31,825.50 for this program. We are pleased to report that the goal for

each Moose Legion will stay at 50 cents per Moose Legionnaire, and we are also pleased to report a change with these contributions that will benefit all Moose Legions. As of May 1, 2009, all Youth Awareness contributions should be remitted through Moose Charities and credit for these scholarship contributions will be included in overall giving to Moose Charities for the year.

Another change for the Moose Legion this year was the presentation of a new Moose Legion conferral ceremony, which occurred at the Moose Legion breakfast meeting just prior to this joint session. The ceremony features a new floor layout, new entry and exit procedures for staff members, and was designed for the purpose of leaving an impression on the candidate and being enjoyable to perform for the ritualist. The new ceremony will be used in competition for the first time at the International Moose Legion Conference in November in Indianapolis, and will then become the competition ritual at the International Convention, beginning in 2010 in Nashville.

On behalf of the members of the Moose Legion Council, I would like to extend our sincerest appreciation and thanks to all Moose Legionnaires for maintaining their focus and continuing to provide their support to our fraternity, our children and our seniors. At this time, I would like to introduce the members of the Moose Legion Council to you:

- From Oswego, Illinois – our Assistant Director, Henry Houck
- From Camas, Washington – Paul Curtis
- From Oxnard, California – Mark Klein
- From Rock Hill, South Carolina – Michael Mock
- From West Bend, Wisconsin – Ed Lehmann
- From Woodward, Oklahoma – our new Council member, Bruce Snider
- From North Little Rock, Arkansas – the Secretary to the Moose Legion Council, Danny Smith
- From Tallahassee, Florida – our Junior Past President, Levis Hughes
- From Sellersville, Pennsylvania – our newly appointed Vice-President, Bruce Berger

And, last but certainly not least, from Grand Prairie, Texas, the newly appointed International Moose Legion President, Mike Roach.

Brother Supreme Governor, this concludes the report of the International Moose Legion and I submit it for acceptance.