

Dear Brothers and Co-Workers,

All of us in Virginia can be proud of what we do to protect our children. Your donations over the years to the Youth Awareness Program has made it possible for us to reach thousands of four to nine year old children and deliver messages that will help them make wise and healthy choices in their lives.

I am very pleased to announce that recently the Youth Awareness Program has joined in partnership with Safe Surfin USA. Like the Youth Awareness Program, The Safe Surfin USA Foundation is dedicated to keeping our young people safe. Their goal is to make the Internet a safe place for our children. I am sure everyone has heard the many horror stories from the TV and newspapers about predators preying on our children through the Internet. The Internet is probably the most useful tool known to man today. It has made our very busy daily schedules much more manageable. Unfortunately, it has also made it easier for predators to invade the privacy of our homes and connect with our children without the parents even knowing they are there.

Like the many programs that the Moose supports, the Safe Surfin USA Foundation needs our help. Safe Surfin USA was incorporated in 2000. Since its inception through the efforts of Sheriff Brown of the Bedford County Sheriff's Department, Safe Surfin USA has been responsible for distributing educational materials to local law enforcement and schools throughout Virginia. In July 2007, Safe Surfin was key in urging VA Legislators to pass a law that makes it mandatory for all kindergarten through twelfth grade students receive Internet safety education courses.

Safe Surfin USA is planning an event on May 24th 2008. "Internet Safety Night at the Ball Park" with the Potomac Nationals in Prince William Co. VA. Safe Surfin USA has asked the Moose of Virginia to help them with this fund-raiser. The materials distributed that night will be on Internet safety and information about the Moose Organization.

Of course there will be only so many volunteers needed and I know it will not be feasible for a lot of people to travel that far to take part in this event. But I also know that all the Lodges and Chapters will want to contribute in some way. If your Lodge and or Chapter can help financially I ask that you send your donation payable to the VMA and earmark it "Safe Surfin Foundation". Your contribution will be greatly appreciated. All who donate to will have their names printed in the Potomac Nationals game program that evening (but donations must be received by May 1st to allow printing time), as well as on the VMA website. Personal donations will be greatly appreciated as well.

To the Lodges and Chapters in the northern Virginia area, I'll be back in touch about volunteers needed for the night of the event. For any questions I can be reached at 703 781 9291, 703 850 0479, or e mail me at PSTGOVHEAD@AOL.COM. Or you can call the VMA office and talk to Paula.

Sincerely,

Kenny Head
VMA Youth Awareness Coordinator