



DESERT MOOSE LEGION 205

Desert Moose Legion 205 Newsletter Edition 5

November/December 2017

Moose Legion Celebration

When: December 9, 2017

Where: China Lake 258

Time: Directors: 11:00 am

Lunch: 12:00pm

Celebration: 1:00 pm

Join us for our Celebration and installation

Bring your candidates

Congratulations to Jim Farrell for winning the dish raffle.

2017-18 Board of Directors

President Jimmy Willard

VP Kevin Farrell

Chap Tim Bradley

Financial Glen Rodgers

Fraternal Dan Schrader

Jr-Past John Garcia

Secretary Andre' Hill

The President's Corner

1. **Congratulations to Palmdale's Governor for winning raffle.**
2. **Be on the lookout (bolo) for our next raffle.**
3. **Member retention week November 5-11, 2017**
4. **Time to think about next years candidates for directors.**
5. **Happy Thanksgiving to everyone**
6. **Please read the President's report.**
7. **Also Merry Christmas.**

Hello fellow Moose Legionnaires, we are about half way through our year. We need to step up the pace if we want to get the Key Club award and meet our quota. I know that the competition is very stiff because of the number of Moose Legionnaires that are trying to recruit. We are all competing in the same small arena of our jurisdiction and our lodges. That is the reason that I implore the Lodge Governor to make sure he has appointed a Moose Legion Chairman and that the committee is active. The good we do must be carried on by others who come after us and we have to recruit them now so they can understand the good works accomplished by the Moose Legion. I also ask the Governors and Administrators to work with their committees and try to come up with ideas that make members want to join the Moose Legion. The small annual dues do so much good for children at Mooseheart and our seniors at Moosehaven. Make sure your members know that the Moose Legion is not just a name, but that we are the movers and shakers of the Loyal Order of Moose.



Lodge and Moose Legion Retention can be a Win-Win

W. Zurowski, Jr. Past President IMLC

Moose Legionnaires, we start each year with high hopes and the goal of growing and retaining membership. Unfortunately, over the last few years we have seen a decline in membership and retention in both the Lodge and Moose Legions.

The Moose Legion and Degree of Service Mission is to have fun while providing greater service to the Moose Fraternity. Our Vision is to persuade all qualified Lodge members to join the Moose Legion. As you know by now, membership in the Moose Fraternity and Moose Legion has suffered greatly during the past few years. You have heard Retention, Retention, over and over during Lodge and District meetings plus during our annual and mid-year conferences. But after receiving the information, we tend to forget that our obligation is to Strengthen and Maintain our defending circle. Strengthen and maintain equates to Retention. Successful Lodges have active, dedicated retention committees. All too often the committee is made up of one member, usually the membership chairman ... one individual facing a daunting situation with little help or encouragement.

I think anyone placed in the above situation would soon become discouraged and ineffective. We can remedy that problem. My suggestion gives us an opportunity to reverse that trend while providing service to our Lodges. What if, we as Moose Legionnaires took on the task and had the Moose Legion Committee of each Lodge take on retention as a yearly project? Instead of a committee of one which is normally the Chairman, you now have an entire Moose Legion committee dedicated to Lodge and Moose Legion Retention.

The Moose Legion Retention project could and probably would also enhance membership in the Moose Legion. The Lodge could offer incentives to Moose Legion members who were successful in retaining Lodge members. The ways this project could benefit our Lodges and Moose Legions is limitless.

The Lodge Administrator is the go to man for a list of active, expiring, expired, dropped and terminated members. This is the same information that your Secretary should be providing to the Lodge Moose Legion Committee on a monthly basis. In addition Moose International provides a Monthly Expired Members Kit as well as a Retention Kit consisting of those members who are soon coming due.

These kits and lists could be provided to the Moose Legion Chairman and become worksheets for the committee members. Once each member was contacted by letter, phone or personal contact (which is best), the Moose Legion Chairman could report to the Lodge during a general meeting the number of successful retention attempts and the percentage of success. What works for one Moose Legion may not work for all, therefore, flexibility and the desire and willingness to change and adapt for the improvement of the retention process is essential.

I am not saying this is the answer to our Retention and Reactivation problem. However, it is obvious to the most casual observer that Retention is a huge challenge and the way some Lodges have approached it in the past is not working very well. Therefore I feel that given the proper leadership and emphasis, this idea could very well work for the common good of both the Lodge and Moose Legion.

2018 International Moose Legion Ritual Competition and Conference

Hosted by: Sooner Moose Legion No. 147

Dates: November 9-11, 2018

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Just a few miles from the Downtown OKC/ Bricktown attractions

Plans and activities to include:

- Nov. 8 TH - Ritual Teams, and other members and guests begin to arrive
- Nov. 9 TH - Moose Legion Council Meeting
- MOOSE LEGION RITUAL COMPETITION on Friday & Saturday
- Hospitality rooms available
- Shuttle buses will run at various times
- Lots of local activities: OKC National Memorial Tour (Murrah Building Bombing

site), Horse racing, casino trips, river walk tours, OKC Thunder Game. Botanical Garden tours. Many different restaurants, piano bars, night clubs.

Family entertainment venues, performing arts theatre and so much more.

- Moose Legion (short) informational meetings and work shops
- Friday afternoon/ evening fun time at Bricktown
- Saturday theme night and ritual awards banquet (Remington Park?)
- Nov. 11 TH Ritual critique and mini school
- Sunday Conferral of new members by Championship team (?).
- Veteran's Recognition and Honor program
- Nov. 11th is Veteran's Day and many will have the 12th off work safe travels



(cont.)

The OKC Convention & Visitors Bureau has assured us that they can help us plan a program that will be memorable. They will make sure that local restaurants and pubs are aware of the convention dates and assure they are well prepared for our group of Moose Legionnaires and our great ladies.

Services are being planned to ensure that transportation will be available to and from the airport, and to Bricktown, Remington Park Horse Race Track, and Casinos (Several within 20 miles), Oklahoma City National Monument, National Cowboy Hall of Fame, etc.

"Bricktown" is an up and coming area of entertainment in the heart of OKC. There are over 50 restaurants and clubs in the area. It rivals venues such as the River Walk in San Antonio, Texas. It is also the home of the NBA franchise OKC Thunder, and the OKC Dodgers (LA Dodgers farm team) stadium.

The Oklahoma City National Monument Tour (in memory of those that lost their lives in the Murrah Building bombing) is an event you will not want to miss. We are working on securing special rates and tours for Moose Legionnaires.

The plans are being finalized and are coming together nicely. Much more information is due to follow about all the exciting plans. Mark the dates on your calendar and plan to join us for a great fun and fraternal Moose Legion weekend!

MOOSE LEGION, DEGREE of SERVICE~ FUN & FELLOWSHIP!

DEMONSTRATING LEADERSHIP IN HONORING OUR COMMUNITY HEROES



See you in OKC November 2018



Today we start the second half of the fiscal year (yes – already!). It is time to think about plans for next year which will be here sooner than we often think! Thus we send this early message for consideration....

As you know - it is that time of year when we are in or coming in to nomination mode. It is time to think about, look for and select nominees to run for our director positions for the upcoming year. This is a most important function. The effort by this committee is critical to set the stage for the jurisdiction's success level during the next year. The Nominating Committee should be diligent in its selection process to be sure the Code of Rules are followed and that the group of nominees for director positions will be dedicated to the cause, purpose and ideals of the Degree of Service. The committee should review the Code of Rules for eligibility requirements (including MLEC needs).

You can help this process to be a pro-active one by taking the time to check and verify training eligibility of all your Moose Legion jurisdiction director nominee considerations - those who will be considered for election / installation for the upcoming year (which includes the person who will assume the position of Jr. Past President). You should either know who most of them are by now, or will in the coming weeks. You can and should check the individual membership records of each potential board member to verify their last training date to verify if it was within three years of the new year (May 1st) when they would assume their director position. If not the Code does allow sixty days (until June 30) to attend MLEC or to vacate the office. Please do not put the planning off until it is too late.

Brother Secretary – you have the records – do not leave this to chance - please check - and be sure all your incoming Directors are prepared ahead of time. Some jurisdictions request directors go every year to be updated and to avoid any possible errors. Other members such as Lodge Committee Chairmen and Assistant Secretaries, or really any Moose Legionnaire, can also attend MLEC to build their knowledge of our program. That also keeps possible members in the wings who could potentially step in to fill an unexpected vacancy, should it occur, at least temporarily.

By the way – there is another item you should do to help assure there are not issues entering the new directors come May 1st: “Please check their dues status and if necessary, remind them to renew ahead of time.” You won’t be able to enter a member who is expired in either the Lodge or Moose Legion – both memberships need to be current.

This communication is to be shared with your Board of Directors and Nominations Committee!

Thank you in advance for being pro-active,

Robert Neff

THE MOOSE LEGION AWARD OF EXCELLENCE SCORESHEET EXPLAINED

The “Moose Legion Award of Excellence” is a new program whereby jurisdictions are scored for their performance in

Membership, M/L Charitable Contributions and Directors expected obligations. There are three levels of award; Moose

Legionnaire, Fellowship and Pilgrim. Jurisdictions achieving these levels will receive discounts on the following year's

Special Project assessments as follows: Moose Legionnaire 5%, Fellowship 10% and Pilgrim 15%.

Additional discounts for early payments made in full will still be available with a 10% discount if paid by October 31st

and 5% by January 31st.

First and foremost, to qualify for any level, Special Projects and Y/A must be paid in full by February 28th. Secondly, at

discretion of the International Director, a jurisdiction could also be disqualified for Code of Rules infractions by its

Directors.

Point thresholds for levels achieved are: greater than zero points for Moose Legionnaire, 25 for Fellowship, and 50

points for the Pilgrim level. Be aware, jurisdictions having a loss in membership, along with overall subpar

performance in other categories, will wind up with a negative score, meaning no award achieved. Conversely, it's also

important to note that Jurisdictions showing a gain in membership are guaranteed some level of award. Now, that is

not to say a gain in membership is all that is needed to achieve upper levels, as it will be very difficult to achieve the

Pilgrim level through an increase of membership alone.

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