

New York State Moose Association Mid-Year Conference  
April 18<sup>th</sup> - 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024  
Doubletree Hotel in Binghamton, NY

Thursday April 18<sup>th</sup>

This afternoon was a Women of the Moose Officers Training by Past Grand Council Member Carol Bowker. This training was from 12:00 to 4:30 pm. Many Women attended and was able to get a lot of questions answered. Now these women are ready to start their Chapter Year off on the right path.

Also, members were able to visit the registration table between 4:30 and 8:00 pm at their convenience.

This evening all the members had the opportunity to meet our Official Visitor Moose International Director Mark Penzkover. It was a great evening for all that participated.

Friday April 19<sup>th</sup>

Registration will be from 8:00 AM to 6:00 PM for the members to check in and enjoy their weekend.

This morning there was an Executive Board Meeting from 9:30 to 10:30 AM.

There was a workshop from 10:45 to 12:00pm on Financial Review Specialist – What do they do - given by Jean Gaverth.

The group broke from meetings for lunch and fellowship.

This afternoon the General Session was opened by New York State President Fran McManus III. The workshop that was scheduled for 3:30 today is being moved to tomorrow at 1:30 pm. We will be raffling off Frankie again and he cannot be stolen from here.

The New York State Officers were introduced by New York State Secretary Pete Harrigan.

The session was called to order by New York State President Fran McManus III.

The opening prayer was given by New York State Chaplain Frank Brodfuehrer.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by New York State President Fran McManus III.

The Credential Report was given by Chairman Christine Thomas.

- Pre-Registered 268
- In attendance 202
- On Site Registrations 14

The Roll of New York State Board Members and Chairman was called by New York State Secretary Pete Harrigan.

The Official Visitor Moose International Director, Mark Penzkover was welcomed by New York State Liaison Ron Murach as he read the record of his time at the Mooses Fraternity. Mark told us as children enter Mooseheart their lives have been rough, but the fraternity is here for all the children and adults to turn their lives around for the better. Their success is our success. Mark thanked us for having him here in New York. As well as thanked us for all the hard work we have put forth to be in the part of the Association.

All first-time attendees, First Responders and Veterans were recognized, and the First-time attendees were given a small welcome gift.

The Roll call of Lodges was done by New York State Vice President Paul LaMartina.

The introduction of the Past International Moose Legion President Ron Maley that New York State Legion Ambassador Stan Hewitt is not here due to an illness please keep him in your thoughts. Ron also told us as of a Moose Legion conference being held at fort forge starting October 31, 2024.

The New York State Moose Legion Ambassadors told the members –

Bart Kelkenberg - The 28<sup>th</sup> annual Celebration will be at East Aaroura look for information the awards were read: 52,371 memberships; 6019 expired; 5901 applications; 39 turned in this year.

Paul LaMartina – Asked those who are members of the Moose Legion to raise your hands. Do you know where your money goes – Endowment fund for Mooseheart and Moosehaven, Museum Renovation, Presidents Project, Youth Awareness Scholarships, Mooseheart Senior Trips – We find a need and fill that need.

The members were addressed by CEO Scott Hart through a video. Where he told us about the golden ticket for seeing Moose vision - to see the future of Moose Fraternity. Membership is huge and members are working the heart of the community projects to helping every community. People are using their moose points to pay for the convention registration. He thanked us for keeping the little things in our sights to build a bigger picture in the Moose Fraternity's future.

The members were addressed by Grand Chancellor Barb McPherson through a Video. Where she told us May 1 is right around the corner and WOTM are not going away. The three free years dues are now done this was to help the women to get use to paying two sets of dues (to the lodge and to the Chapters). Women must have the membership in the women of the moose to be part of either board. Barbara told the members what our dues go to pay, and it was a huge list and if the sisters do not pay their dues where is this money coming from. Our 15 dollars goes a long way - 4 cent per day to ensure the continued operations of Mooseheart and Moosehaven and 5 dollars for your local communities. Always have fun and upbeat meetings.

The members were addressed by Past Grand Council Member/Chapter Advocate Carol Bowker. She told the members that Barbara's video did tell the members where the need is for our dues so do not fall short. There are 33 active chapters and 7100 active wotm members; we lost 3 chapters. Remember to enroll the applications prior to the end of the chapter year. Carol thanked the Association for letting the WOTM Training happen Thursday. We must remember that the training sessions are open to all moose members. Chapter Rally Day in Oswego in September and Riverhead in October 2024. The Academy of Friendship matriculants were called to the front of the

room for the ribbons to wear for the weekend. The Convocation is open to anyone who has the degree. The staff who do well visits to help Chapters stay on the right paths were introduced. Social media is not to be used for questions and negative comments so thank you for using it appropriately.

Insurance information for the lodges was given by Joe the insurance guy. He told the members of some of the local lodges coverage and pricing so other lodges can see the savings. All the Lodges need to do is just give him a call and see what your quote would be. The rates of some lodges have not increased in the past 7 years.

A workshop was given by Territory Manager Brian Dowd about Building Membership. Where the members were told membership is up again this year (and for the past three years). We are a gain in membership for the third year in a roll 891, 000 (16,000 ahead for this year). Remember we have toolboxes, and we should be using them (pamphlets, videos, and posters). Go on the website and see what is going on through Moose International. Each lodge can do their own membership campaign. Communication is key with new members and remember to ask people to volunteer for some lodge activities. Follow-up with the new members to see if things can be done differently or just simply ask have you received your card. Make the fun happen at your lodge and celebrate the accomplishments of the lodges, chapters, and members personal accomplishments. Remember to tell the new members of Mooseheart and Moosehaven by showing the orientation videos on a TV loop.

New York State Secretary Pete Harrigan made the following announcements: Cornhole tournament tonight \$10; Academy of Friendship practice at 4:30 near the pool; 50/50 is down because we cannot sell the tickets row by row during the meeting but we are selling them at the door prior to start the meeting; no videoing the meeting it's a private meeting among Moose members; Past Grand Regent Jodi Harrigan passed away and the wake will be on Monday April 22.

Endowment Fund was collected as members exited the meeting room.

The meeting was Adjourned by New York State President Fran McManus III for the evening.

Tonight, we held an Academy of Friendship Rehearsal at 4:30 pm

The Community Service Booth was opened for questions at 5:00 pm.

Cornhole Tournament was held at 6:00 pm all participants had a great time.

The Executive Committee and the Official Visitors Dinner was at 7:00 pm.

The Hospitality Room was open from 7:00 to 12:00 for all members to enjoy the fellowship and to have a good evening.

Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup>

This morning the Women of the Moose New York State Conferral Team did a fantastic job at the Academy of Friendship Conferral for all to enjoy. Also, the Moose Legion had breakfast for all to enjoy. The registration table remains open all day today.

The second General Session was called to order by New York State President Fran McManus III.

The new Academy of Friendship members were introduced into the room.

The first-time attendees, Veterans, and first responders were all recognized. First-time attendees were given a small gift. As well as a safety briefing.

Moose Charities Chairmen Mindya Parks (as Jim Parks was excused) gave a report on the different programs that members can donate too throughout the year. The members were also told of the amounts of monies that were collected for different projects like AAA – at Moosehaven, Cradle Fundraiser, Rocker Fundraiser, and the Moose Charities Sweepstakes.

The members were shown a power point presentation about Higher Degree Membership Recognition by the official visitor Mark Penscover. Which told us how the new recognition of degrees will be. Reviewed the current degree for the Women of the Moose and for the Loyal Order of Moose. The members were shown the similarities and the differences of the degrees. There is another survey after the conference for all members to complete on their opinion about how the degree looks going forward. At this point nothing is written in stone, this is your opportunity to have Moose International listen to the members.

We all watched an informative video from Membership Director Mike Rios on a Membership International Pod Cast Demo. Which told us of the updates of the project going on. He thanked all members for keeping their boots on the ground and keeping it real with prospective members. He suggested that the new members could be provided with a thumb drive to explain what the Moose is all about. The members were told of all the ways that their membership will pay for itself several times over.

Then Membership Chairman Rick Clawson gave us his remarks. A common theme among all the lodges he visited was Our Pride in the Moose. We need to sign up new members. A lodge incentive program is the Lodge with the highest retention rate will receive 2000.00. Member incentive programs is through July 31, there will be a drawing with tickets per members signed up from February thru July. For each member signed the sponsor member will get one ticket in the drawing and after three members signed up you will receive a cookbook. Winners will receive cash prizes.

We watched a Video from Ross Chastian in which he told us that he visited Mooseheart and Moosehaven and lodges so he can confidently share our love of the moose with many fans.

Then we watched a video from Executive Director of Mooseheart Child City & School Gary Urwiler. He told us of the Wisconsin tree lighting at the house of God. He thanked all members for our dedication and loving attention we show the children at Mooseheart. 10 students will graduate on June 1, 2024, but we still have a shortage of house parents. What can we do personally to help Mooseheart – He challenged each member to talk about Mooseheart once a week to someone who knows nothing about Mooseheart.

Mooseheart Representative Jennifer Cilley told us 95 students at Mooseheart and 10 will graduate in June 2024. Still no children in the New York Home. The children are enjoying the outdoors to the fullest.

We watched another informative video from Moosehaven's Director Helen Taylor. It told us that the new center will be the first building seen upon entering the facility. Every member provides to this project and so far to date over 6 million dollars has been donated. Please continue to work towards this project for our seniors at Moosehaven. Members who are thinking about retirement should be thinking about Moosehaven first.

We heard remarks from, Past Grand Council Member/ Member of Moosehaven Board of Directors Christine Brooks. She told us as members start their new lives at Moosehaven Helen and her staff are there to help the new members of Moosehaven relax in their new lives. There are 9 members of the Board of Directors, and they hold 2 meetings a year. They hold a Chili Cook Off and Car show annually and the only fundraiser for Moosehaven per year is the Golf Tournament each year. Some statistics were given: 295 Residents at Moosehaven (108 men and 187 women); 44 married couples; longest married couple is 69 years; and the average age of the residents is 82 years old (oldest member is 102 years old). The Project for Always Active At Moosehaven is a 10 million dollar project which includes a riverfront pavilion, a gym, poker room, activity center and more. Christine encourages the members to read the monthly newsletter to keep up to date on things happening at Moosehaven.

New York Activities Chairmen Stephanie Bragg gave her remarks. Stephanie told us about the Chili Cook off that was held at LeRoy Lodge and of the fun that was had by all that joined. The upcoming activities are an annual Darien Lake weekend on June 7 – 9<sup>th</sup>; Westfield will hold a Luau, and Hornell Lodge will hold a Christmas Social. Watch the website and emails for updates on these events. If you would like to co-chair the Activities program with Stephanie let her know.

Roll call was completed by New York State Vice President Paul LaMartina.

Endowment fund collection was gathered as members exited the room.

Announcements were given by New York State Secretary Pete Harrigan: So far 155 dinners were sold for the banquet; 100.00 tickets information will be done after conference; 20.00 ticket raffle for the convention in August at Binghamton with prizes totaling 10,000.00; themed dinner for convention in August will be 50's sock hop.

The meeting was put in Recess by New York State President Fran McManus III.

There was a workshop given by Joe Morris about Electronic Bell-Jar. It was very informative.

There was a Higher Degree Luncheon for all to enjoy and socialize.

Regional Territory Manager Bruce Powell gave a workshop about Lodge Budgets.

Saturday April 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024 -

Session 3 was called to Order By New York State President Fran McManus III.

The Liaison report was given by Territory Manger/New York State Liaison Ron Murch where he discussed Membership production and retention being 77.9% currently. He also reported on Moose Training Program updates. NY State is up in membership for the third year in a row (422). Heart of the community reports must be in before May 15, 2024. He thanked all members for all they do for the Moose. New York State Training Coordinator Dorie Re explained the training classes and the lodge leadership must be completed within 60 days of going on the board. Look for the emails from her about the II Hot training sections as it is required for Moose Legion Secretary, Administrator, Chapter Treasurers and if recommended for all members.

Official Visitor Moose International Board of Director, Mark Penzkover gave his remarks. He told us thank you for having him here, it has been a wonderful visit. Pronunciation of Wisconsin cities with Eric Curley from District 4. Mark took a moment to thank the people in the room that had great influence in his life. He congratulated us on turning around our association and he is very proud of each one of us. Mark encourages each of us to mentor the next leaders for this association and the Fraternity. The Women of the Moose do some much for the children at Mooseheart so he asked the Lodge to help the chapters when they can. Our next goal will be 900,000 members and the Executive Director of Mooseheart Child City & School Gary Urwiler believes we can meet that by the end of the month. He then spoke about his life at Mooseheart as a child.

Territory Manager Brian Dowd conducted a workshop on How to be the Center of Community Service. We could do things little adopt a highway, holiday dinners for the community, tutor school aged children, donate to school fundraisers, put on dinner for school program, first responders and police department event at the lodge, use tommy the moose more for distressing children, and recognition dinners for people in the community. He told us to be a good neighbor and help others but when people ask a question about what the Moose Fraternity is all about be prepared to share the story of the Moose.

The New York State Secretary Pete Harrigan gave his remarks on the conference and asked how everyone is enjoying the conference. This is a teaching conference, so we all run the lodges the Moose way. They gave out the Lifetime Achievement Award, after having the moose record of Rick Vanetten read by Rick Clawson. Rick Vanetten thanked everyone for this honor and told everyone that tomorrow will be 45 years since he joined the Moose. Pete thanked everyone for the love for his family through this long road this weekend.

The roll call of Lodges was completed by New York State Vice President Paul LaMartina.

March of Checks was completed and is as follows: Over 26000.00 was collected during the March of checks for the following programs: Camp Ross; Endowment Fund; Healing Waters; Mooseheart; Moosehaven Triple A Project; Music Department WOTM; Safe Surfing; Veteran's Walk; Wounded Warriors; Association Shortfall; Students to NY; Heart of the Community project; Youth Awareness; Building Fund; and Hospitality Room

The final Credentials Report was given by Chairman Christine Thomas.

- Pre-Registered 268
- In attendance 270
- Not yet here 16
- On Site Registrations 18

Closing Prayer was given by New York State Chaplain Frank Brodfuehrer

The Endowment Fund was collected as everyone left the meeting room.

New York State President Fran McManus III closed the Conference.

Starting at 6:30 all that were attending the Yellowstone Themed Banquet were encouraged to meet at 6:30 for a refreshing beverage prior to dinner being served. All that attended had a great evening.

All members were able to enjoy the Hospitality Room from 8:00 to 12:00pm. All had a great time-sharing old memories and making new ones.