

# State Board Meeting

## January 25, 2025

This Meeting was held in Binghamton on January 25, 2025, at 9:00am at the Doubletree Hotel.

The meeting was called to order by State President Paul LaMartina (Lindenhurst #1421) at 9:04AM.

The Bible was opened, and the opening prayer was given by State Prelate Michael Stewart (Genessee Valley Henerietta # 1407).

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all.

Roll Call was taken by State Secretary Pete Harrigan (Lindenhurst #1421) all present except Brian Best, Dorie Re, and Butch Mashewske.

Opening Remarks was given by State President Paul LaMartina (Lindenhurst #1421) who introduced the new Regional Manager Brain Dowd. Brain Introduced the new Territory Four Manager Tom Woodings. Brian let us know Tom is almost done his training and will be up and running very soon.

The State President introduced Bruce Powell, and a Representative of Arrow did a presentation of the Electronic Bell Jar Machines. Bruce went over the New York Electronic Bell Jar Bill Draft which includes standards for electronic bell jar vending machines requiring electronically aggregate winning prizes for continued play, produce a voucher for prize redemption, and track and report sales electronically. Limits deals of electronic bell jar vending machine tickets to 7500 chances. It Also increases the maximum aggregate prize values for the blee jars, coin boards, and merchandise boards from \$6000 to \$6500. We were told the Electronic Bell Jar Machines are the same thing as the current pull tabs games and are not meant to replace them. The winning tickets will be printed and dispensed from the bottom of the machine while the “bells and whistles” go over attracting younger members to play more. All tickets should be paid through the bartenders, so everything is in the cloud to run credits and debits for the accounting reports quicker than current reports. There will be a table and presentation at the Mid-year conference so please bring your questions and concerns. There is also going to be a petition to sign for getting the local Legislatives involved with the Electronic Bell Jar Games.

The Reports of the District Presidents were given as follows:

District 2 – President Barry Meleen (West Field #118) stated they have 5 lodges (West Field, Fulton, Gowanda, Olean, and Lakewood) in their district, and he has made it to all lodges except Lakewood, but he will be going there in February. Activities are being had by all and are going very well. Barry gave the financial report for his district, it is currently \$5,208.98

District 4 – President James Alt (Prot Jefferson #1379) stated they have 7 lodges (Huntington, Kings County, Lindenhurst, Ossining, Port Jefferson, Ridgewood, Riverheads, and White Plains) and most are doing well with membership. James stated every lodge had a ton of activities during the holidays and he was able to visit and enjoy some of the events. James did not give the financial report for his district.

District 6 - President Thomas Myers (Poughkeepsie #904) stated they have 4 lodges (Canajoharie, Gloversville, Johnstown, and Poughkeepsie) and Tom stated that he asked each lodge for a self-evaluation, but it was not done. He stated one lodge is behind in members and the lodges do not have full boards. With that being said, all lodges are doing activities, and they had a district fundraising event in September. Tom was able to attend a Pilgrim Jacket Event, and it went very well. Thomas did not give the financial report for his district because he has not received the bank statement as of yet.

District 7 = President Scott Faith (Tonawanda #2163) stated they have 5 lodges (Buffalo 8, Grand Island, Lower Niagara, Lock City, and Tonawanda) and he visited all lodges during the holidays. A lot of activities are going on and membership seems to be doing well. Each lodge does things a little differently, but it is working for them (some are run as tight ships while others have an in-house sports committee). Scott gave the financial report for his district, it is currently \$9738.25

District 8 – President Edmund Combs (Plattsburgh #2390) stated they have 5 lodges (Messena, Ogdensburg, Plattsburgh, Potsdam, and Saranac Lake) and they have had 100% attendance for the last two district meetings. Every lodge has activities from events raising \$7000 for youth advocate to meeting the Grinch. Edmund gave the financial report for his district, it is currently \$1500.00

District 9 – President Shelley Collins (Dansville #1130) stated they have 5 lodges (Corning, Dansville, Hornell, Horseheads, and Wellsville) and every lodge is stepping up and have activities. Wellsville is even having an adult prom. Shelley gave the financial report for her district, it is currently \$5217.00

District 11 – President Jonh Walker (Palmyra #1420) stated they have 9 lodges (Canandaigua, Churchville, Finger Lakes, Fulton, GV Henrietta, Le Roy, Oswego, Palmyra, and Warsaw) as they just picked up three new lodges in their district. Lodges are coming to the meetings and doing activities, but volunteers are very low right now. John gave the financial report for his district, it is currently \$3300.00

District 12 – President Darlene Brodfuehrer (South Buffalo #1407) stated they have 6 lodges (Depew-Lancaster, East Aurora, Hamburg, South Buffalo, Springville, and West Seneca) and their district is revamping themselves right now. They have 3 new administrators, but they are getting more members to meetings. All lodges are doing fund raisers. Darlene gave the financial report for her district, it is currently \$2873.00

District 14 – Tom Griswold (Montour Falls #426) stated they have 6 lodges (Binghamton, Ithaca, Montour Falls, Owego, Penn Yan, and Sydney) and all lodges are holding activities, but some lodges have different hours of operation which works better for them. One lodge is holding more food events, and this is drawing a younger crowd. Tom gave the financial report for his district, it is currently \$1176.02.

The New York State President Paul LaMartina (Lindenhurst #1421) thanked the District Presidents for all they do for the Association and Fraternity. Paul reported as of January 2<sup>nd</sup> New York State was down 560 members but on January 23<sup>rd</sup> New York State was plus 356 members. The State is doing well but we all need to remember to be the friendly face and have conversations with new members to explain who and what about this Fraternity. Remember to get them answers to any questions they may have even if you have to research it and get back to them (you can go to Paul Lamartina, Pete Harrigan, and Ron Murach). So far to date Paul has Visited 26 Lodges out of 52, so he will be back on the road again.

#### Committee Reports:

Government Relations: Brian Best (Westfield #118) was excused from this meeting and no report was given.

Activities: Stephanie Bragg (Lock City #617) Told of the activities from last year such as the Chili cook off, Hawaiian Luau, and the Christmas Social a great time was had by the members that attended these events. Stephanie was told about the health department rules (temperature while traveling) about food being cooked off premises and brought in and served to the public versus the members. Stephanie will spend some time thinking about this event and how to follow the rules and still have the event. The Finger Lake Lodge is thinking about holding the Hawaiian Luau this year, but she still needs a Lodge to volunteer to hold the Christmas Social event. As always there is still the Darien Lake Camp Out. Stephanie would like to hold a game at the conference to raise money for this committee where the members would purchase a board at registration and get numbers at all the meetings and the banquet. More thought will be going into this and how it will work.

Council of Higher Degree: Mike Stewart (Genesee Valley Henrietta #2290) gave everyone the good news that it is confirmed that 10 children and 3 adults will be coming to New York State from Mooseheart in June of 2026. They will be using the GV Henrietta bus to transport the children and adults throughout New York during their stay. Mike also told everyone that the South-West Council of Higher Degree has picked up three new lodges which are Finger Lakes, Fulton, and Owego and there will be a breakfast meeting in April. Mike also stated that per Shawn Baille the South-West Council of Higher Degree's went silent during covid but is now able to start doing activities again.

Fundraising: Julie Fallon (Gowanda #1382) told everyone during the April conference last year the committee raised \$5216.00 and in August's Convention 3800.00 was turned in. This year she purchased Hats of many colors (8) which will be for sale for 20.00 that have the Moose and NY emblem embroidered on them. She had these to show everyone. (a vote was taken to set the price of the hats - motion by Christine Brooks and seconded by Darlene Brodfuehrer). A Discussion was had about the 50/50 tickets being changed to a display of lottery tickets instead that way the Association can keep the money from the sales. The basket raffle will be held in Binghamton during the April Conference. A new NYSMA 52 Week Club was brought up as a new raffle where only 250 tickets will be sold. The drawing will be held every week for 52 weeks starting April 12<sup>th</sup> at the conference and ending at the conference will be picked at the conference ticket 53 will be 250.00, ticket 54 will be 1000.00, and ticket 55 will be

1500.00. The tickets will be sold for \$52.00 each and the total going out in prizes will be \$6650.00. (a vote was taken to run this raffle – motion by Frank Brodfuehrer and seconded by Rick Clawson). Julie told us that the Visa Gift Card raffle will be held at the August Convention. The Cornholes Board Raffle will still be held as well as the youth Activity raffle. New York State Secretary Pete Harrigan (Lindenhurst # 1421) asked everyone that is running a raffle to please let him know so the timing can be a little bit smoother for the banquet. New York State President Paul LaMartina (Lindenhurst #1421) announced the theme for the banquet at April's Conference will be "Welcome to the Tropics" with prizes for the loudest shirts. There may even be a dunk tank for our wonderful New York State Secretary to sit in, come and see if you can dunk him.

Heart of the Community: Phyllis Kelkenberg (Lock City #617) told everyone at the Conference in April she would like to do something for children. She does not have a committee yet so if you have any ideas, please let her know. The idea of a children shelter was given to Phyllis and she will try and get in touch with someone from the shelter to see if they would come to the conference. This shelter houses children who have been taken from their homes, straight out of foster care, and children from the hospitals. Phyllis wants to remind lodges and chapters that are writing checks for these charities to please make your check out to NYSMA and write the name of the charity in the memo section so New York State Secretary Pete Harrigan can write one big check for the organization (instead of a check from each lodge). Phyllis also thought about holding a Blood Drive as there is always a shortage of donors. The New York State President Paul LaMartina (Lindenhurst #1421) encouraged the District Presidents to see about hosting a Blood Drive in each of their districts and getting the information back to Phyllis for her report so the membership can hear about the community service being done by all at the conventions. Past State President Rick Clawson (Westfield #118) stated maybe we could do an event where we use the Child ID machines and invite the public (this can also be for elderly people). It was suggested maybe this could be done at an event like a local ball field or something like that. The State has at least three of these machines.

The New York State President Paul LaMartina told everyone that in April there will be MLEC Training on Thursday and the information is on the website to get registered and a WOTM Training will be held on Thursday as well by Carol Bowker, Christine Brooks, or Phyllis Kelkenberg.

Financial Review: Chris Gates (Binghamton # 1013) told members that the financial review went very well as Pete Harrigan always has things in order. The books were all found true and accurate. She reviewed all the deposits and receipts and thanked Pete Harrigan for everything he does for the State and for making the review easy.

Membership: Rick Clawson (Westfield #118) stated he has two membership incentive programs for this year that he would like the Board to consider. First, earn a 65-inch TV and a trip to the State Convention for your lodge by keeping your retention rate at 80% or higher. For every month your lodge's retention rate is 80% or higher your lodge name will go in a drawing to win a 65-inch TV and a trip to the State Convention. There will be 8 months of drawings from January 2025 through August 2025. The winnings lodges will be notified, and televisions will be available for pickup at the State Convention. (a vote was taken to have this incentive program – Motion made by Rick Clawson and seconded by Chris Gardner).

The second membership incentive program will be New York State Moose Association 2025-2026 Association Lodge Improvement Grant. This program will run the same as the Moose Year (May 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>). The rules for this Grant Program will be posted on the website for everyone to read through and make sure your lodge qualifies for this \$2000.00 improvement grant. The most important rule will be the Lodge Administrator and/or Lodge President will need to attend all District meetings and all sessions of State Conferences and Conventions to be considered for a NYSMA Lodge Improvement Grant (a vote was taken to have this incentive program – Motion made by Tom Myers and seconded by Carol Bowker). The question was asked about the NYSMA By-Laws: Is there a policy that states if a lodge is not Represented by the Administrators and Presidents at the Conferences, Conventions, and the International Convention they can be served with a Certified Letter, a Second Letter and Third time closed for three days? New York State President Paul LaMartina and New York State Secretary Pete Harrigan will let into this and let the Board know. New York State President Paul LaMartina would much rather be more positive than negative, but the Administrators and Presidents did take an oath to attend these meetings when they took the positions. This will be discussed further. New York State Liaison Ton Murach told of a incentive program that New Jersey does. Get your Lodge Assessment reduced by 25% by having your lodge represented at every session at the Mid-year Conference and the same with the State Convention. This would require a By-Law change but all thought is would be a good idea.

Sports: Kim Holden (Sidney #227) and Dennis Mehaffy (Ogdensburg #814) told everyone that the November Sports Meeting with the Board went well. Kim wants to let the Lodges know if you hold the event, you will be paying out the prizes right then and there. Then you get all your receipts to New York State Secretary Pete Harrigan, and he will reimburse the lodge. This will help the sports committee get more participants as things will be smoother for the participants and lodges. The Sports Schedule was completed again, and this is exciting. Some upcoming events are GV Heneretta will be holding Euchre, and Hornell will be holding a pool tournament. Kim is asking any lodge that puts in a bid for a sporting event to do so with a draft of the registration forms and a tentative menu of food for the events to be turned in together. Kim will be drafting a set of rules for each sport and will try to follow the Moose Internationals registrations with the rules for said sport on the back of the form. These rules can be listed on the website but will need to be reviewed at the November Sports Meeting prior to listing them. Kim is looking forward to the Cornhole Tournament at the Conference in April and the Golf Tournament at the Convention in August.

Youth Awareness: Butch Mashewske (Penn Yan #2030) was excused, and no report was given

Training and By Laws: Dorie Re (Genesee Valley Henrietta #2290) was excused, and no report was given

Communication: Jennifer Cilley (Horseheads #1476) states the face book page has been very busy lately. She gets requests to put information out to the members and she puts the links in the message, so it makes it easier for the members to find things, If anyone has any ideas to improve the website please let her know. Jennifer thanked New York State President Paul LaMartina (Lindenhurst #1421) for sending his

correspondence. Carol Bowker thanked Jennifer for always attaching the links for her correspondences and told how easy it is to navigate the site. Jennifer told us there is almost 9,000 more reviews this year than last year.

New York State Prelate Michael Stewart gave a blessing for our lunch.

Territory Manager:

Territory Manager: Tom Woodings (Universal # 298) was introduced, and he thanked everyone for making him feel welcome. He gave everyone his email address [-Twodings@mooseint.org](mailto:Twodings@mooseint.org) and his phone number – 412-860-6208. These are also on the NYSMA99 website. Tom told us he looks forward to working with all of us.

New York State Liaison Ron Murach (Tunkhannock #1276) told everyone as of today New York State is at a plus 356 and that currently makes New York number 2 in the Fraternity. This means everyone has their eyes on New York to see what we are doing that might help them. This April CEO Scott Hart will be the Official Visitor at our Mid-year Conference. It would be nice if we could meet our goal of having 400 members or more at this conference. This would be a fantastic turnout for CEO Scott Hart. Ron wanted to let us know that out of his 24 New York Lodges only 5 lodges are currently 80% retention rate this month. Ron reminded everyone that March 31<sup>st</sup> is a major drop in membership so ask your Lodge Retention Committee to work on this now, so the State does not have to worry later. March can easily drop over 1000-member and by doing the work now it will lessen this number. Ron also told us that all Premi Lodge Awards have been given to the appropriate Lodges and Moose International assured him this would not happen again. Ron also took the time to thank everyone for all they do daily for our Moose Fraternity.

Regional Director Brian Dowd (Beach Haven #1575) told everyone he started this new position in January, and he is training Territory Manager Tom Woodings, and he will soon be up and running on his own. Brian told everyone about New York Membership being great for a third year in a row and we should all be proud of this accomplishment. New York State is currently at a plus 356 members, but we need to realize this number is 921 members over where we were in January 2024. New York State has been in the black every month this year for membership, never in the red. The retention rate for New York is 77%. Brian wanted to say the membership incentive program where the State paid the \$20.00 application fee was one of the best programs we have ever run. New York State Members should be proud of all the hard work that has been done. Brian also wanted to remind everyone that the Lodges really need to do the Heart of the Community forms and turn them into Moose International. Lodges are doing the work, but they forget what they have done so maybe we can suggest a running document that can just be added to at the end of every community event. This will help ensure all community events are turned in and not forgotten.

Moose Legion Ambassador James Parks (Gowanda #1382); Moose Legion Ambassador Stan Hewlett (Ogdensburg #814); and Moose Legion Ambassador Tomothy Gates (Binghamton #1013) – provided one report given by Moose Legion Ambassador James Parks (Gowanda #1385) James told everyone about the Presidents Project Goal of 70,000.00 for a Heavy-Duty Truck for Mooseheart and to date \$49,542.00 has been raised. In New York State there is 6 Moose Legion's, and they have an average years of operation of 99.9 years. James told everyone that the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Museum of the History of Moose will be during the International Moose Convention this May. So far, the on-going annual project (Museum of the History of the Moose) has sent in 3600.00 so for this year, the Endowment Fund has sent in 5099.00 so far this year, and the Scholarship fund has sent in 885.00 so far this year. Scott Faith told everyone about the Can am's 44<sup>th</sup> year Celebration happening in Hamilton in on February 28<sup>th</sup> through March 2<sup>nd</sup>. Scott passed around a booster sheet for all to sign and Scott wanted to know if the State would be interested in purchasing a full-page ad in the program book for 60.00. A vote was taken, and a motion was made by Ed Combs and seconded by Stanly Hewitt. New York State President Paul LaMartina (Lindenhurst #1421) wants to do a generic full-page ad for the Executive Board, and everyone approved this.

Report of Women of the Moose was given by New York State Chapter Advocate Carol Ann Bowker, PGCM (Sidney #277) Carol told everyone that New York has 30 active Chapters currently after two Chapters were closed last year. The total Lodges for New York is 52. A few of the Chapters are struggling to get the training they need but there will be a big push for training this May which will include a WOTM II Hot Session. A few Chapters have not been doing things in Quick books, so Carol has been sending in Quick books resources (women who are willing to lend a hand to other chapters) to help in this area. Two Chapters have an Official Visitor going in with them to see if they can help the Chapters be successful. On a positive note, all the Chapters are current on paying their bills. Chapter Rally days on the Island was a great success again this year. With only three Chapters attending there was 52 people present for Chapter Rally Days, and it was a great honor to let them know Riverheads Chapter was the top Chapter of the Year. The top 5 Chapters are – 5<sup>th</sup> place is Horseheads, 4<sup>th</sup> place is Grand Island, 3<sup>rd</sup> place is G V Henerietta, 2<sup>nd</sup> place is Lockport, and 1<sup>st</sup> place is Riverhead. Carol reminded everyone that our Chapter Rally Days is going to be March 29<sup>th</sup> in G V Henerietta and registration will be from 12 – 1 pm. We will have the WOTM meeting and a few fun things then later the spouses can join us for dinner at the Lodge with karaoke to follow. This should be a great time for all to enjoy the socialization in the evening. Carol reminded us that the two fundraisers this year will be Moosehaven Daily Needs and the Grand Regent's Project. Carol took the time to encourage the Executive Board members to join in the fun by attending this year's Chapter Rally Days. Carol also encouraged the Lodges to work on Retention as the WOTM will not count as a plus one if their dues are not current (remember three free years of dues is over with now). Something Carol is trying to work on is to see if the WOTM dues expiration dates can be the same as the Lodge expiration dates for the convenience of paying dues once a year.

Moosehaven Board of Directors Christine Brooks, PGCM (Horseheads #1476) Christine told everyone that she believes the decision of not grading Chapters on a plus one member this year should have been a secret so Chapters would continue to strive for this. Christine works daily of retention and helps the

members who want to pay their dues by doing it for them. They give her their credit card information and she makes the payments on the website on their behalf and sends them a receipt the next day. These little things can go a far way to help the Lodges keep members and let the members feel like they are remembered and thought of often. Another thing we can do is to teach the WOTM members the Who, What, and Why we exist. This will help to ensure they know the part they play in our Fraternal Organization. Moosehaven residents have an average age of 81 years old and an average stay of 4 years. The oldest resident at Moosehaven is 102 years old and the longest stay being 27 years. There are 50 married couples with a total of 303 residents (111 Men and 192 Women). Christine told everyone that if New York has residents down there to please let her know as she tries to make a point to visit them when she is down there. She told everyone about the fun that is being had at Moosehaven for their annual events like the Chili Cook Off and Car Show. The Annual Moosehaven Golf Tournament is coming up soon and Christine is sponsoring a hole again this year to represent New York. Christine asked the Executive Board if they would be able to donate to this fundraiser as she is 250.00 away from her goal. A vote was taken to donate 250.00, a motion was made by Paul LaMartina and seconded by Tom Meyers.

Report of the Judiciary Committee Pete Harrigan (Lindenhurst #1421) Pete told us there will be changes to the By-Laws this year of mainly wording. Pete told us the merger and the degrees are not completed yet but is still being worked on. Pete also told the time to explain to all what the Judiciary Committee does for the Fraternity.

#### Report of the Executive Board

Treasurer Chris Gardner (East Aurora #370) told us that the Chairmen of the Board Bob Funkey and his wife Cathy will be in the area. Chris encouraged all to come out and meet them. Chris also reminded us that a member can sponsor a new member in any Lodge or Chapter of the Fraternity. For example, Chris can sponsor someone in a Lodge in Florida if that new member wants him to be their sponsor.

Chaplain Mike Stewart (G V Heneretta #1407) reminded us about the Scholarship tickets and the 100.00 tickets that will end June 28<sup>th</sup> at Hamburg Lodge.

Vice President Frank Brodfuehrer (South Buffalo #1407) reminded us that CEO Scott Hart will be here in April, and we need all to help keep things in order. If we see someone drinking a little too much the bartenders in the hospitality room will need to cut them off. Also, if we see things that should not be happening, we need to step in and maybe relocate the person and make sure things go smoothly. Remember we need to be on our best behavior, it can make or break us.

Junior Past President Fran McMannus III (Binghamton #1013) said he was good, and he did not have anything to add.

New York State Secretary Pete Harrigan (Lindenhurst #1421) Pete told us that in the November Executive meeting they are trying to match the Associates Committees. That ensures each Chairmen has a committee of nine people and the State knows who is coming up behind them. For example, the Chairmen of Activities steps away the state knows who the other people are so this will make for a



smoother transition if needed. The Sports Committee needs help, and it was suggested that the districts hold the same events where the district winners will go to the State events. This will hopefully get more participants involved. Another suggestion for the Sports Committee is that whatever lodge wants to put in a bid for an event must be present at the November Sports Meeting to do this, no more over the phone bids. Pete reminded us that the Cornhole Tournament at the April Conference is for members only as there is cash prizes being paid out (no guess). Pete told us that the State is finally working together again, and it shows since we are plus 356 members. Pete also told us to make sure we all know our information for the reports that will be given at the April Conference since CEO Scott Hart will be here. That also means other people of importance will be here as well. We are averaging around 300 people per conference or convention right now and we want to hit the goal of having 400 or more at a conference or convention and this would be the perfect time to hit this goal. The April Conference is for training purposes, and it would be nice to get the new incoming Lodge Officers here so they will be able to learn things from the many workshops being held. Pete stated he will be doing a workshop at the conference in April on Who we are, what we do, and what is the structure of the Fraternity. Pete purposed that is the current administrator, current President, and two newly elected lodge board members are in attendance the lodge would receive 20% reduction in their assessment amount. A vote was taken, and a motion was made by Fran McMannus III and seconded by Mike Stewart. This is to encourage more members to come and learn the ways of the Moose Fraternity. Pete reminded us that a committee of one is not a committee and everything is run by committees. A vote was taken to accept Pete Harrigan's report – a motion was made by Stan Hewitt and seconded by John Walker.

New York State President Paul LaMartina (Lindenhurst #1421) thanked everyone for being here and knowing/sharing the details. Paul let everyone know he is here to help so if you need him, please reach out. He will make sure he finds the correct answers to your questions. Paul did tell us he gave Jennifer Cilley a list of Lodge and Chapter's anniversary dates and they are posted on the website. Paul encouraged the District Presidents to use this information when reaching out to the Lodges in their districts, this will let them know we care and support them.

State Prelate Michael Stewart (Genesee Valley Henreitta # 1407): gave the closing prayer and closed the Bible.

The meeting was adjourned by the State President Paul LaMartina (Lindenhurst #1421).