

New York State Moose Association Mid-Year Conference  
April 16-19, 2026  
Doubletree Hotel Corning, NY

Thursday April 16, 2026

This morning the NYSMA set up two trainings sessions. The Administrated Accounting (Admin Training) was presented by Heid Chase. The Lodge Leadership Training was presented by Phil Febus. These trainings were open to everyone and answered a lot of questions for our members.

Members were able to visit the registration table at their convenience.

9 Ball Tournament started in the South Ball Room. You must be registered to the Conference to participate.

The New York Moose Association will start the Community Service Project for Catherine's Cupboard.

This evening all the members had the opportunity to meet our Official Visitor Moose International Director/Chaplain Brian Toseki and his wife Pam. It was a great evening for all that participated.

Friday April 17, 2026

Registration will be open all day for the members to check in and enjoy their weekend.

This morning there was an Executive Board Meeting at 10 am.

The Women of the Moose had a session lead by Past Grand Council Board Member/Chapter Advocate Carol Ann Bowker. There were about 50 members that joined Carol Ann for this informative session.

The group broke from meetings for Member lunch and fellowship. This was an opportunity for members to socialize.

Session One:

This afternoon the General Session was called to order by New York State President Frank Brodfuehee. The Safety Briefing was given by New Yor State President Frank Brodfueher. The opening prayer was given by New York State Chaplain Chris Gardner. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by New York State President Frank Brodheher.

The Credential Report was given by Chairman Jennifer Ross.

295 – Pre-Registered  
15 – On Site Registrations

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

Members hear remarks from New York State President Frank Brodfueher. He apologized to Binghamton Lodge about the cash bash they are having this weekend. He did not see the letter that came with the tickets. The tickets will be available, and the drawing will be tonight all members that wanted to participate were encouraged to do so.

New York State Vice President Mike Stewart completed the Roll Call of the Lodges. Other Lodges outside of New York stood to be recognized, and we welcomed them for the weekend.

The First time Attendees were welcomed and giving a token of appreciation. This is the best show of first-time attendees we have had in years. It shows we are doing something right. The Valued Veterans were also recognized and thanked for their service.

New York State Secretary Pete Harrigan introduced the Moose Dignitaries in the room and thanked them for all they so for our Fraternity. He also introduced the Official Visitor Director/Chaplain for Moose International Brian Toseki.

A video for the CEO of Mooseheart International Scott Hart was shown to the attendees. We are trying to relieve the lodges, so no lodge disappears. It is important that we remain seen in our communities. We were also told that the Convention registration is now on the website for Oklahoma so remember to get your rooms soon.

Chairmen Pro-tem Stephanie Bragg shared with us the report of Heart of the Community. Tables are set up in the hallway for Catherine's Cupboard and for Josh (our bus driver) new baby, and the checks can go to Jennifer Ross at the registration table. The members were told about the health problems Phyllis Kelkenberg is going through current and were asked to keep her and the family in our thoughts and prayers.

New York State Training Coordinator Dorie Re spoke on Moose University Educational Program, and this is on the website. New Courses include Administrator & Accounting Course, Lodge Leadership Course, and Money Management Course. Remember to take these training courses as you always learn something new at each class. All classes are available online but in person classes are where we learn from each other. The 2-HOTT class will be included in the Administrator & Accounting Course.

The attendees received remarks from Past Grand Council Member/Chapter Advocate Carol Ann Bowker about Women of the Moose. She let us know that the Treasurers training will need to be scheduled through Carol Ann and not Dorie. During the Women of the Moose Session there were 52 attendances which was a great showing for the first session in the past few years. In New York we have 27 chapters and to date 24 chapters are above 65% of retention as they are working on their award of achievement. As each chapter works on their retention this will also help the lodge as each chapter member must be current on their lodge due before paying the chapter side. So, this is a win-win for our lodge and chapters. This weekend we have 14 Qualified Women to receive their Academy of Friendship, and the Conferral Ceremony will be this weekend. Debbie Kelsey is looking for a person to shadow her as the New York State Conferral coordinator. Carol Ann has a team of Past dignitaries to help the chapters around the State but be sure to reach out for help when issues first start. Chapter Rally days in New York are great, and the theme is going to be women's health and taking care of ourselves. Keep your eyes open for more details.

New York State Sports Chairmen Kim Holden introduced Jim Toy New York Moose Association Pool Chairman, and she stated they need a couple more chairmen (lodges or even District) to help out. If you're interested, please reach out to her. Events need to be advertised better so attendance can be increased. Lodge putting on an event can get Sponsorship's from their communities to increase the prize money (reach out to the community stores, other lodges, and put together a book like this weekend).

New York State Past President Rick Clawson shared a workshop with the attendees. He told the lodges what needs to be done to pick up new members. Communication is the most important thing we can do. Everyone needs to be Moose minded so our members and guesses know we are a friendly and kid friendly Fraternity. Greet people, as new members come into the lodges, don't ignore them and do your best to get them involved. Remember to let people know what good we do for our Twin Cities and our Communities. Sign up younger people and get them involved. Retention is another great way to keep the lodges going and moving forward.

Members had the opportunity to hear about the Electronic Bell Jar Machine Bill from Bruce Powell. The bill was passed but it left out the Fraternities, so we have work to do to get the Fraternities back in the bill.

New York State Secretary Pete Harrigan made the following announcements: Hospitality room opens at 7pm must wear credentials and WOTM Academy of Friendship rehearsal is tonight at 4:30pm.

The Endowment fund was collected at the door and turned into the New York State Secretary Pete Harrigan.

The meeting was recessed by New York State President Frank Brodfueher. The meeting was Adjourned for the evening.

At 4:30 pm The New York State Academy of Friendship Conferral staff will hold a rehearsal.

The Pool Tournament will be held again tonight for all to enjoy.

Tonight, the News York State Moose Association Executive Board will host the Official Visitor Director/Chaplain Brian Toseki for dinner at the Binghamton Lodge.

All members were able to enjoy the hospitality room, and a great time was had by all.

Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup>

The Moose Legion had breakfast for all to enjoy. The registration remains open all day today.

Second Session:

The second General Session was called to order by New York President Frank Brodfueher. The Safety Briefing was given by New York State President Frank Brodfueher.

The First time Attendees were recognized this morning and given a token of appreciation. The Valued Veterans were thanked for their service.

All members in attendance heard remarks from New York State Activities Chairman Stephanie Bragg. This year remember there is an outgoing at Darien Lake camping weekend with breakfast ten and the children's fishing derby. The Hawaiian Party at Gowanda Lodge in August and Churchville for the Christmas Party but more details will be on the website.

We all watched an informative video by the Director of Membership Frank Vorhees. Then New York State Membership Chairmen Rick Clawson told us the membership is growing every day. Through

all our communities watching us and getting to know we are not just a private Club. We are a Fraternal that is willing to help those in need whenever we can.

New York State Membership Chairmen Rick Clawson told us about the Member Incentive Program tickets will be drawn at the August Convention. Rick spoke about lodge improvement grant the applications will be accepted until September first. The New State Moose Association will be accepting grants application for things your members will be able to see improvement at your lodge like chairs or stuff for the kitchen.

The NYSMA Liaison/Territory Manager Ron Murach conducted a workshop about Membership Production/Retention. New York State was given a quota of 5647 from Mooseheart and New York signed 5943 New members this year. New York has a retention rate of 85% currently.

Joseph Pauldene spoke to the attendees about insurance for the Lodge, context, and outbuildings. He will be out by the table, and he encouraged members to come and ask he questions.

The roll call of Lodges was completed by New York State Vice President Mike Stewart.

Members enjoyed an insightful video by the Executive Director of Mooseheart Child City & School, Gary Urwiler. Thank you to all members as they support the mission of the moose. Now we are looking forward to graduation in May. They are looking for new applications for employees that are willing to help our children. United heart and expanding horizons fundraising are help Mooseheart serve those children with special needs. Mooseheart is a sign of hope for our children,

Members heard remarks from the New York State Mooseheart Chairmen Jennifer Cilley. The campus has been very busy since the last report in August. Seniors have 8 weeks until they graduate. The campus currently has 95 children and 8 college students in the RISE program. The girls will be in New York soon hosted by GVH. Soccer practice will soon start, and Gary Urwiler took the girl to get shoes and he enjoyed the experience. Parent teachers in our homes are vital to the operation of Mooseheart.

Members watched an insightful video on Moosehaven narrated by Moosehaven's Director Helen Taylor. Chilli cook-off and Halloween trick or treat is some of the activities the campus enjoy with the children. Residents live the life we wish we could have. They have many activities for the Seniors to enjoy. The pavilion is a wonderful spot for our seniors to enjoy outdoors. Helen took us on a tour of the Sports and Activities building as it soon will be complete for our seniors to enjoy. Large workout room along with bowling and socializing places. The daily needs of our seniors are being met through the Women of the Moose and The Moose Legion.

Past Grand Council Member/ Member of Moosehaven Board of Directors/New York State Moose

Association Chairmen Christine Brooks, followed the video with remarks of Moosehaven. The triple A program is finally completed, and the members can soon start enjoying the building. Some events our seniors enjoy are Easter celebration, annual Golf tournament, and denim and diamond evening. Currently we have 110 men and 210 women on campus with the oldest senior is 103 years old. The campus has 49 married couples with the longest being 71 years. The longest resident at Moosehaven has lived a carefree life for 27 years.

James Parks and Mindya Parks gave the Report for Moose Charities along with the power point. They explained the importance of supporting Moose Charities. They explained the importance of the endowment fund and shared ways members can help their lodge all giving totals while helping the Moose Mission.

A workshop was conducted by the Official Visitor on Fraternal Requisition Program. He told us there are 4 levels - Moose Preferred Status, Moose-Power Status, Moose Prestige Status, and Moose Platinum Status. This program is a way to thank all our lodge members for things they do. We went through the requirements for each of the 4 levels. These levels build off the prior level, the information/qualifications are not erased, it just continues along the way. Members were able to ask question and get answers on this new workshop program.

State Secretary Pete Harrigan made the following announcements: Checks for ad books go to Bob Laux and Scholarship tickets go to Mark Hudson.

Basket Raffle tickets will be sold until 2 pm and then the drawing will be done at 3 pm.

Gavels are coming up missing but now we need to come up with money to get Frankie back during the second session

Carol Ann Bowker announced that the Academy of Friendship call cards are needed for the ceremony and to see her if they do not have your card with you this weekend. She has ribbons for Academy of Friendship matriculants to wear this weekend.

The Endowment fund was collected at the door and turned into New York State Secretary Pete Harrigan.

The meeting was adjourned for a recess.

During the recess there was a Higher Degree Lunch for all to enjoy.

### Third Session:

This afternoon the third General Session was called to order by New York State President Frank Brodfuehrer. The Safety Briefing was given by New York State President Frank Brodfuehrer.

The first-time attendees were welcomed and given a token of our appreciation for joining us this weekend. The valued Veterans were thanked for this service. Our Official Visitor Director/Chaplain Brian Toseki was very impressed with the number of first-time attendees, and he said it the most he has ever seen at a conference/convention.

The State Liaison Ron Murach gave his remarks on the 38 Lodges that are currently at a plus one in membership and the 12 lodges that are not. Retention is a big deal currently just work on the list, and this can be a plus one for all lodges. State Liaison Gary Sarnecki gave updates of his lodges in New York he stated they are all doing great with members and retention rates. State Liaison Brian Dowd thanked everyone in the room for doing what we are doing. New York State is having fun and growing with younger members. Different music and different activities. The moose is becoming part of their community because of all the help we give to those who need it.

Official Visitor Director/Chaplain Brian Toseki gave Past President Rick Clawson a moment to speak about the quilt from Mark that he made a quilt out of campaign shirts and he has tickets for sale.

The Official Visitor Director/Chaplain Brian Toseki promised to return Frankie safely home from PA after showing us picture of Frankie at the PA conference. The ransom for Frankie will be going to United Hearts and Expanding Horizons, and this program is going to reimagine Mooseheart to accept children with disabilities The moose does not stop at the state lines we are all the moose. It does not matter where your membership is or where you are in the world we are all the same, just moose members. Board of directors have grants for promotional projects. A new membership program may start in May watch for this. First-time attendees really made an impression on him, and most of the first-time attendees have been members for less than three years. He encourages the members to ask any questions that he may be able to answer for us.

New York State Government Relation Chairmen Steve Marchetti told the attendees, if we have any issues at a local level with State Legislators, please share this with them so they can address it at the State Level.

Tuesday Lohmeyer Deputy Director, and Kim Scott shared a workshop on New York State Charitable Gaming at the conference. She told members what forms are needed and how to complete them to continue our gaming licenses. The queen of hearts drawings can be live streamed as the drawing needs to be open to the public and the social quarters need to be open to the public. The members

were able to ask questions and were encouraged to stop by their table and ask more questions.

We held the March of Checks for the United Hearts Expanding Horizons and other charitable donations and we collected over 35,000.00.

New York State Vice President Mike Stewart reported there are eight young ladies with three chaperones flying into Rochester on June 16. Mike Stewart read over the agenda for the students and encouraged the local lodge to travel to see the students. This should be fun for all that participate. Mike thanked everyone for their support with the candy bars over the past ten years and let everyone know that the New York State Moose Association donated the last 6000.00 to bring the girls to New York.

Roll Call of Lodges was completed by New York State Vice President Mike Stewart with the District Presidents.

The final Credentials Report was given by Credential Chairman Pro-tem Jennifer Ross.

295 – Pre-Registered

15 - On Site Registration

Total - for the weekend 310

The State Secretary Pete Harrigan gave his remarks on the conference he recognized the Past Presidents in the room, dinners are well attendant, the banquet has increased the amount of people that will be attending since we have been having fun. The banquet went from 30 people to 150 at tonight's dinner. He let the attendees know the Executive Board discussed moving the conference to the last weekend of March so we can help the members with a workshop on elections. The attendees voted to keep the conference and conventions at Binghamton for three more years 27, 28, 29 in April and August. President or administrator needs to attend the conference, conventions, and district meetings. If the ports activities are cancelled let someone know so things can be worked out and our members are notified. He has visited 10 lodges, and he was treated very well at each lodge. Pete did notice the women are bring a new look to the lodges (they are pretty and inviting not your father's basement. Lodges need to make sure the Administrators and Presidents are at the Conferences and convention so they can put in for the grants from the association. We hit over million dollars in the investment account, and this is where the money for the card readers or tents comes from. At August's convention the 5 club will not be going to the ball game as they are away that night, but we will find something else to do.

One resolution will be read tonight by New York State Secretary Pete Harrigan – at the banquet

The Endowment fund will be collected at the door upon leaving the meeting and given to the New York State Secretary Pete Harrigan.

The New York State President Frank Brodfuehrer adjourned the conference.

The Members Appreciation Mardi Gras - Themed Dinner was held tonight. The New York State President Frank Brodfuehrer gave his remarks, and the Official Visitor Director/Chaplain Brian Toseki gave his final remarks and thanked everyone for making him feel at home in New York. The Presentation of the New York State Moose Association Lifetime Achievement Award was given to Elliot Chaffee.

The Hospitality Room was open for all members and their guests to enjoy.

Sunday April 19, 2026

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. Fourteen ladies received their Academy of Friendship Degree.