

Brothers & Sisters,

August's 109<sup>th</sup> Convention is now "in the books" and all the participants have returned to their respective Lodges to disseminate the information learned, as well as the fun that was had. Go Rumble Ponies!

Well, with September here, we look forward to one last hurrah of heat before we start to have cooler weather. Vacationers are returning and the Schools are open again. A perfect time to scale up activities at your Lodge. Meals, Music, Shows, Games, etc. Let's all have a blast!

A Big THANK YOU goes out to all the Lodges who enrolled new members as well as improved their retention. At the convention we had announced that the Association was at minus 200 members. With all your hard work, we currently have plus 4 members before the end of August. Fantastic!

Unfortunately, we can't relax just yet. The beginning of each month brings a new list of members who forgot to renew their dues, and each Lodge activity brings the promise of more people wanting to become new Members. I hope that all of us enjoy a Bright Future.

One way to "get us out there" is to Embrace Our Community! What can we, as Lodges, do to become a part of our community – Parades, Food Drives, Street Fairs – you name it. Each one of our communities has a Government, Police, Fire Rescue and Businesses. Why can't the MOOSE become one of the cornerstones of the community! I won't lie and tell you it's easy, however it is possible and very rewarding along the way. Please trust me, it is worth it!

I am looking forward to all of us having a lot of fun being Moose. Like the song says, "the future's so bright, we're gonna need shades!"

Paul LaMartina  
NYSMA President

New York – MOOSE!!!