

# Official Communication for Friday, April 3, 2020

## **Supreme Council Cancels In-Person 2020 International Moose Convention**

Due to concerns over the health and safety of our members related to the coronavirus, the Supreme Council today announced the cancellation of the in-person 2020 International Moose Convention, slated to take place May 21-26 in Milwaukee Wisconsin. Many Moose members who would be attending this meeting would fall within the COVID-19 high-risk category and with the ever-changing recommendations for shelter-in-place guidelines, the Council believes this action is appropriate for the Fraternity at this time.

Despite the cancellation of activities in Milwaukee, Moose leadership will be working to develop a “virtual convention” that can be accessed by delegates and other members via any computer, tablet or phone that possesses internet access. It is anticipated that this virtual meeting will be moved to June 25-26, 2020 to make sure the delivery of information is complete, simple and accessible.

Included in this virtual meeting will be all major reports traditionally delivered at the convention along with a number of prerecorded sessions that members can watch at their leisure. Instructions on how to participate, along with downloadable materials, will be provided via the Moose International website ([www.mooseintl.org](http://www.mooseintl.org)) prior to the meeting.

The General Governor has confirmed that the virtual meeting will fall within the parameters of the General Laws, and that the actions taken by the delegates through votes online will be binding. These online votes (registered LOOM delegates only) will include the General Law Amendments that seek to establish a new lodge format that gives members equal rights and opportunities regardless of gender.

**Registration Refunds:** Refund information for members who have already registered for the Convention in Milwaukee will be sent out via Official Communication and on the Moose International website next week.

**Hotel Reservations:** Credit cards have not been charged for any reservation made through the Moose International Convention Housing Link. All hotel rooms reservations have been automatically cancelled. No action is needed on your part.

Make sure to look for additional information to be sent via Official Communications and on the Moose International website in the coming days and weeks.

## **Supreme Council Approves Grant Program for COVID-19 Relief**

The Supreme Council today announced that it has approved \$1,000,000 in transition funding from the recent Supreme Council Grant Program, which helped maintain the infrastructure of qualifying lodges, to a grant program that will provide relief to lodges due to loss of business from the coronavirus.

The Supreme Council Pandemic Relief Fund program is being created to help lodges pay expenses incurred during lodge closures due to the coronavirus. Examples include mortgage payments, utility bills, insurance premiums, property taxes and other expenses in which the lodge does not have the financial means, through cash, savings or investments, to meet obligations.

Applications for relief will appear in the Moose Admin section for each lodge on Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup> and lodges will be awarded grants up to \$5,000 based on financial need and fraternal history. Application reviews by the Moose International Field staff may start as early as May 1<sup>st</sup> and grant funds may be approved by the middle of May.

There is no end date, as of now, to apply for the SCPRF grant. Applications and reviews will be ongoing and grants will be awarded until the funding limit is reached.

Make sure to look for additional information to be sent via Official Communications and on the Moose International website in the coming days and weeks.

## **Supreme Council Votes to Forego Planned Dues increase**

The Supreme Council today voted to forego the dues increase of \$2 that was expected to go into effect this August for all Loyal Order of Moose members. This increase was part of a three-part dues revision that saw \$2 increases in both 2016 and 2018. The ABCD portion of the dues remitted to Moose International will remain at \$38.