

The Florida Moose Association



# Courier

No. 1 Jan / Feb 2026



**Chili Cookoff adds spice  
to Moosehaven and community**

pg 5

# From the Editor

Welcome to 2026. January 1 starts the new online version of *The Courier*. Moving to an online publication allows for more news, more photos, and more information about the Florida Moose Association. I hope you like the changes you will see over the next year.

Clickable links have been added throughout The Courier that will take you to websites where you can find additional content. They are indicated underlined in green. We hope you like this new edition to The Courier.

The Florida Moose Association continues to show just how focused, driven, and motivated our members are when they come together for a common goal.

New FMA President Scott Kern is developing a plan to make Florida the Top Association in this great Moose fraternity.

Florida's Women of the Moose are showing others how they support Mooseheart and Moosehaven in ways that no other part of this fraternity can.

Moose Legionnaires are continuing to find new ways to make what we do fun and show the way to doing some good thing everyday.

As we move forward in our support of Mooseheart and Moosehaven, and give back to our local community, always remember that you are a part of the Green Machine that is making its way to the top.

## Special thanks to the following Boosters:

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[Become a Booster here.](#)

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### On the cover...

Key West Moose Lodge 1760 brought their vibrant Caribbean pirate culture to Moosehaven's" Chili Cook-off in the hopes of creating a reputation for having the best Chili in the southernmost lodge in the country. Pictured is Fran Hagemann and JP Hocke.



**Deadline for submitting news articles and photos for the next issue of The Courier:**

**February 15, 2025**

Submit news stories and photos to

[TheCourierFMA@gmail.com](mailto:TheCourierFMA@gmail.com)

The Courier is published bi-monthly and is posted on the FMA website at [floridamoose.com](http://floridamoose.com)

**Publisher:** Florida Moose Association **Editor:** Kimberly Kelly



# ***Keeping the momentum on track***



**FMA PRESIDENT  
SCOTT KERN**

I hope everyone's holiday season was full of joyful memories. This is a time of the year that I like to reflect on all the accomplishments that our great association has achieved.

First, we celebrated one of our very own brother, John Reiter, as the new Moose International Chairman of the Board.

Then our Fraternal Educational Committee led by example, again, by putting on the first ever Educational Jamboree. There were members from all over the country in attendance. It made such an impact on the Moose International Educational Department that they are copying it and taking it to Mooseheart later this year.

Finally, let's talk about our [FMA eBay](#) store where you can pick your own colors and designs of shirts now. There will be more to come.

As we move into January, our first full board meeting is right around the corner. It makes me reflect on my first lodge meeting as Governor when the nerves were high, but as the years have gone by the nerves are still there.

But, because of the great mentors in my Moose career, they have instilled quite confidence in me. Someday I hope to be able to do the same for others.

**The camaraderie and fraternalism that was on display that night was amazing. It was so inspiring that we gained two Moose Legionnaires, one Women of the Moose member, and one new Lodge member. How great was that!**

In the moment we don't realize that someone is mentoring us. It may be something as simple as just giving us words of encouragement or helping us in achieving our goals. To all my mentors out there I just want to say THANK YOU.

Now, let's talk about what is coming up in the next couple of months.

First, we have our January Full Board meeting at Moosehaven.

We will back up there again in March for Florida Days. I hope everyone has their booths together. The first two carnivals were a huge hit.

April's Mid-Year will be special as we will have the entire Moose International Board of Directors in town to help celebrate brother John Reiter. So don't blink! It will be here before you know it.

Now, for something on the personal side.

As I sit here finishing this article, I must let my feelings out. On December 5, my brothers and sisters came to Sanford Lodge to help me celebrate my Pilgrim degree. As for those in attendance, they could tell I was overwhelmed with emotions from all the love and support from our family from across the state.

The camaraderie and fraternalism that was on display that night was amazing. It was so inspiring that we gained two Moose Legionnaires, one Women of the Moose member, and one new Lodge member.

How great was that!

Lastly, I will be traveling around the state making District meetings, so I look forward to meeting each and everyone. Sharing great stories and making a lot of new memories.

## FMA 2024–2025 Officers

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see FMA, page 6

## Perrine Moose Lodge 380 named Best Non-profit Organization in Cutler Bay for 2025

Perrine Moose Lodge 380 received notification that the lodge has been officially recognized as the BEST of 2025 Cutler Bay Award Winner in the Non-profit Organization category.



This honor is based on verified data from Google reviews, as analyzed and certified by [BusinessRate](#).

The recognition is part of the BusinessRate BEST of 2025 Awards, which identifies local leaders in customer satisfaction, brand reputation, and service excellence using publicly available Google review data. This comprehensive rating shows how businesses rank against local competitors.

It is an outstanding achievement - earned not by application or nomination, but by the authentic feedback of their customers.

### NEWS

## AROUND THE STATE

Chapter, District, and  
Special Committee news.



Lake Placid Moose Lodge highlighted their Moose Lodge in the Lake Placid Christmas Parade.

FMA Group Page post



Over 4,000 attendees enjoyed delectable chili, classic cars, live Bluegrass and Country music at the 15th Annual Chili Cook-Off and Car Show held November 8, 2026.

# Moosehaven connects to community

*Events continue to bring awareness to campus*

**HELEN TAYLOR, Moosehaven Executive Director**

## Halloween at Moosehaven

Halloween night at Moosehaven was a vibrant celebration with 3,364 attendees enjoying the annual Trick or Treat event.

Children in costumes collected candy along the Trick or Treat Trail, while DJ Alan provided lively music. Local groups like Costumers with a Cause and the Ghostbusters added to the festive atmosphere.

Families savored food from local trucks and engaged in games, all under the evening lights.

The free event, part of Moosehaven's Heart of the Community program, reflected the organization's commitment to community spirit, fostering joy and connection for all ages.

## Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

On Friday, November 7, 2025, Moose members from across the fraternity united to celebrate the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the AAA Project.

The event was filled with excitement and pride as we welcomed distinguished guests, including Scott Hart, CEO,

John Reiter, Chairman of the Moose International Board, the Moosehaven Board, Moose International Board, honored dignitaries, Moosehaven residents and staff, and the talented Scherer Construction team who helped bring this vision to life.

Thank you to the fraternity for your generous support, which has led to the creation of a new Pavilion and a modern Sports & Recreation Center.

Considerable progress has been made in November and December, with landscaping completed and other finishes underway, moving us closer to construction completion.

Contributions from this project will enrich the lives of Senior Moose members for years to come!

## Moosehaven's Heart of the Community Chili Cook-Off & Car Show

On Saturday, November 8, 2025, Moosehaven proudly hosted the 15th Annual Heart of the Community Chili Cook-off. The turnout was incredible, with over 4,000 guests enjoying delectable chili, classic cars, live Bluegrass and Country music, all while embracing a wonderful fraternal and community spirit along the banks of the St. Johns River.

see **EVENTS**, page 6



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see FMA, page 8



Mooseheart Child City took top honors in the People's Choice category.



### EVENTS, from page 5

## CHILI COOK-OFF WINNERS

### PEOPLE'S CHOICE:

- 1st Place: Mooseheart Child City  
2nd Place: Celina, OH  
Moose Lodge 1473  
3rd Place: Hillbilly Chili  
Pearisburg, VA 1338  
Best in Blind Judging:  
Blue Ridge  
Moose Legion 82  
Best Decorated Booth:  
Georgia Moose  
Association

## INTERNATIONAL CHILI SOCIETY DIVISION WINNERS

### Red Chili:

- 1st Place: Tony Perry  
2nd Place: Michael Powers  
3rd Place: Scott Sprouse

### Chili Verde:

- 1st Place: Scott Sprouse  
2nd Place: Kim Sprouse  
3rd Place: Michael Powers

## Thank you to the Fraternal Flame Sponsors!

### SOUND THE ALARM

Ohio Moose Association  
Celina, OH Lodge 1473  
Florida Moose Association

### PURPLE FLAME SPONSORS

Virginia Moose Association

### ORANGE FLAME SPONSOR

Speedway, IN Lodge 500

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Lima, OH Moose Lodge

### GREEN FLAME SPONSORS

Crawfordville, IN Moose Lodge 6  
Bellefontaine, OH Lodge 2563

## Contributions made to community programs

A heartfelt thank you goes out to everyone who supported the event by purchasing tasting kits and 50/50 tickets!

With all the generous contributions, Moosehaven has donated \$5,000 each to the [Orange Park Athletic Association](#) and the [Oakleaf Youth Sports Association](#), helping to advance youth sports in our community.

# Doing the Moose Better

## *Gaining membership through better Orientations, Activities, and Community Service*

### DAN COMPANION, Moose International Membership Chairman

One of the greatest truths about membership growth is also one of the simplest: when lodges focus on the core principles of strong membership orientation, vibrant activities, and service to others, growth naturally follows.

Across the state, the Florida Moose Association (FMA) has demonstrated that great execution produces great results—and the success we are seeing today is no accident.

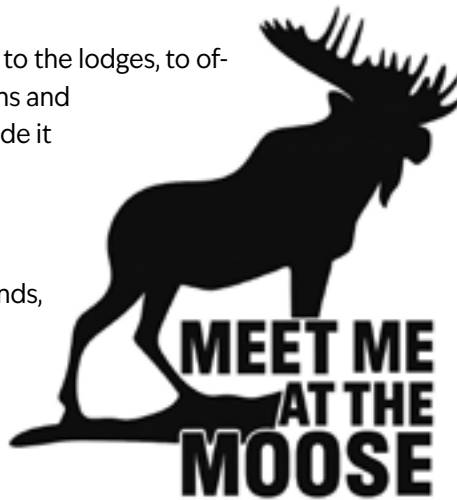
The FMA has done an incredible job prioritizing membership education and orientation.

From bringing orientation education to the lodges, to offering in-depth training at conventions and conferences, the Association has made it clear that orientation is not an afterthought—it is the foundation of a successful lodge.

These efforts continue to pay dividends, and much credit is due to Moose International Membership Committee member and FMA Membership Chairperson Sharon Davis, who has worked tirelessly to communicate with lodges, celebrate their successes, and provide guidance on how to continue improving membership growth.

Her leadership and consistent communication help lodges understand not only how well they are doing, but how they can continue to get better.

**In a fast-paced world, people want connection, belonging, and affordability—and Moose Lodges provide all three.**



A critical part of this success has been the continued evolution of membership orientation to meet the needs of today's members.

Special recognition must be given to Erin and Jason Thornbloom, whose work has helped make Moose orientation more relevant, engaging, and truly 21st century.

Their efforts ensure that new members fully understand the passion, purpose, and mission of our organization.

This focus on education has had a powerful ripple effect—when members are well-informed, they naturally become ambassadors for the Moose, confidently sharing our story with family members, friends, and coworkers.

Educated members make a difference, and the results are clearly being seen across Florida.

At the heart of all this success is an understanding of what people are seeking today.

In a fast-paced world, people want connection, belonging, and affordability—and Moose Lodges provide all three.

Our lodges offer an amazing social connection and an affordable place where people can gather, relax, and enjoy each other's company within the communities we all share.

Florida also benefits from being a destination state, welcoming a large number of traveling Moose members from other lodges across the country. This cross-pollination of multi-lodge connections is incredibly important.

When visiting members are warmly greeted and welcomed, they return home saying, "We had a fantastic

see MEET, page 9

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see FMA, page 10

## AROUND THE STATE

NEWS

Chapter, District, and  
Special Committee news.



Brandon Moose Lodge 1880 was proud to present Tommy Moose dolls to two outstanding local organizations: [Hand in Hand Brandon](#) and [The Patrick Wesley Wheeler Foundation](#).

These amazing groups provide critical support to children in Hillsborough County who are grieving the loss of a loved one. Tommy Moose plush toys are specially designed to give kids something soft to hold onto and help first responders, counselors, and caregivers comfort children during traumatic times.

Thank you to Hand in Hand and the Patrick Wesley Wheeler Foundation for the heartfelt work you do in our community every single day. The Moose is honored to stand beside you and support the kids who need it most.

**Submitted by Scott Thomas**



Members of the North Port Moose Lodge 764 and the Women of the Moose Chapter 1892 were out in the North Port community for the Thanksgiving Holiday. Through our amazing members donations, we were able to feed 16 North Port Families consisting of a total of 92 people a Thanksgiving dinner. They also put additional grocery staples in their pantries.

We are looking forward to doing the Heart of the Community again for the Christmas Holiday and to help serve more families with additional food or monetary donations.

**Submitted by Susan Runge, Chaplain**



## MEET, from page 7

time in Florida with people who truly understand the Moose.” Those experiences strengthen the organization nationwide.

With more than 180,000 members statewide, and a goal of reaching 200,000 members by April 30, 2026, Florida continues to lead the way.

The energy, education, and devotion to doing the Moose better are evident everywhere.

As the Moose International Membership Chairman, I cannot thank Florida's lodge leaders, officers, and members enough for their dedication and hard work.

The “Meet Me at the Moose” theme has proven to be an outstanding branding tool. It sends a clear message to families, friends, and coworkers that the Moose is the community place where you receive the best value for your membership.

From cornhole, bingo, and poker, to football Sundays, wing nights, taco nights, and steak nights – combined with the outstanding work of the Women of the Moose and the Moose Legion, it is this type of collaboration that continues to make the Moose one of the strongest fraternal organizations in North America.

To highlight the power of orientation, I must highlight the Zephyrhills Moose

Lodge, Larry and Linda Robertson consistently demonstrate that a great lodge orientation is the work behind the scenes with personal calls to welcoming new members and inviting them to the orientation.

This technique is resulting in 60 to 80 members attending an orientation, bring guests and family members, and what is incredible is that new members are being signed that very night, the lesson is clear: this works.

Their personal follow-up calls to new members create genuine hospitality and make people feel like they are part of something truly special.

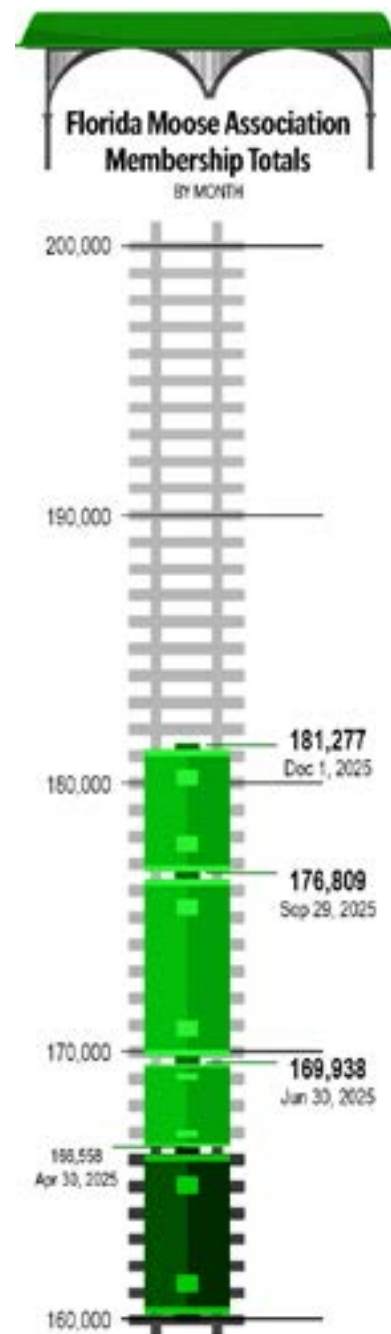
That level of execution is why their orientation program is so successful and serves as a model for all lodges.

To every lodge across Florida working hard to grow, innovate, and stay true to our core principles—thank you.

Together, through passion, purpose, education, and execution, we continue marching toward the one-million-member mark.

The future of the Moose is bright, and Florida is proudly helping lead the way into 2026.

**Meet Me at the Moose.** Let's keep doing the Moose better – together.



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Florida Moose Association thanks our printers,  
**Allegra**, for their  
generous  
support of  
**The Courier.**

## FMA, from page 8

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see FMA, page 12

# AROUND THE STATE

NEWS

## Chapter, District, and Special Committee news.



Dunnellon Moose Lodge 2308 Moose Legion Committee presented Zachary Buchanan a \$1,000 scholarship, the first scholarship named after his grandfather, Artie Klepp, a long standing member of Dunnellon Moose Lodge and the Moose Legion Committee prior to his death. The award was presented at the Moose Legion's October 31 dinner.

***Submitted by Dunnellon Moose Lodge 2308***



Interbay 912 was honored to host their first Valued Veterans Ceremony and Celebration. They were fortunate to have 19 Veterans in attendance! Valued Veterans Chairman Robert Summers (L) and President Sandra Abshear (R) presented the Valued Vet of the Year, Alex Kelly, with a \$1,000 check to be donated to Wounded Warriors. Alex is not only a great Moose member but a proud Marine and Purple Heart Recipient.

**Submitted by Sandra Abshear**



# Give Kids the World Village highlights Heart of the Community efforts in April

## *Volunteers embrace critically ill children*

Giving Back to our communities is at the heart of the Moose fraternity.

In April, the Florida Moose Association will be giving back to a special village that provides week-long, cost-free wish vacations to children with critical illnesses.

Give Kids the World Village is “a magical week of “YES” where wish kids can experience the simple joys of childhood, and where families can recapture some of the precious moments that may have been missed due to illness”, according to their website gktw.org.

Volunteer Day, Tommy Moose, and Wish Pillows are all part of the 2025 FMA Mid Year Conference’s Give Kids the World Heart of the Community Project at Rosen Plaza Hotel in Orlando.

Volunteer Day at Give Kids the World Village has become a permanent part of Heart of the Community efforts twice a year.

To date, there are close to 70 hours already scheduled.

Volunteers will serve breakfast in Clayton’s Cafe, working in the Castle of Miracles, and both the Cookie cart and Delivery carts.

There are additional volunteer opportunities throughout the Village during the day and night.

For those interested in volunteering during Volunteer Day, fill out the [Volunteer Application](#) and then contact Kimberly Kelly at [authenticmeus@gmail.com](mailto:authenticmeus@gmail.com).

There are over 8,000 children who visit Give Kids the World annually. Our goal is to be able to put a Tommy Moose in the hands of each child.

Tommy Moose doll donations will be collected on Friday, April 9, and Saturday, April 10 at the Heart of the Community booth, and then delivered to the Village Saturday afternoon. [Order Tommy Moose here.](#)

see KIDS, page 13

## Comfort, care, and lots of smiles

Give Kids the World helps makes wishes come true to over 8,000 critically ill children each year.

This April, the FMA is collecting Tommy Moose dolls at the 2026 Mid Year Convention to help add even more smiles to their dream vacation.

**Tommy Moose:**  
The Heart of the Community Project at the  
2026 FMA Mid Year Conference



# Sports and Recreation Center and Riverfront Pavilion **RIBBON CUTTING**

Friday, November 7, 2025



More photos can be found [here](#).



Heart of the Community

## Sew Along

Join us as we learn how to make  
special WISH Pillowcases that will be donated  
to Give Kids the World.

Friday, January 23, 2026 at 12:00 p.m.  
at Moosehaven's Brandon Place Clubhouse

WHAT TO BRING, IF YOU HAVE:

- Sewing Machine • Thread • Cutting Mat • Rotary Cutters • Scissors • Pins • Iron • Ironing Board • Ruler
  - FLANNEL fabric (1 yard for main part of pillow + 1 yard for the pocket).
- The two yards should complement each other with one of the fabrics being a cute children's design.*







While December's FMA Executive meeting was in session, those not part of the meeting went to Give Kids the World and helped clean up and organize the South Pole. The Executive Committee joined them later for a tour of the Village.

## KIDS, from page 11

In addition to Tommy Moose, WISH Pillowcases will be collected both days.

Each child who stays in the Village receives a special handmade WISH pillow from Buttons in his Pillow Tree located in the Castle of Miracles.

Buttons can be seen scurrying here and there, and his mission is always to delight the families here at Give Kids The World.

The WISH Pillowcases are handmade by FMA members both individually and through group sessions like Moosehaven's Sew-Alongs in conjunction with FMA Full Board meetings twice a year. [WISH Pillowcase instructions can be found here.](#)

The next Moosehaven Sew-Along is Friday, January 23 at noon and open to anyone interested in helping.

From volunteering in the Village, and holding special events, FMA members have also stepped up in a variety of ways to volunteer throughout the year.



Moose Riders groups have also put their focus on Give Kids the World with motorcycle runs to help raise money for the Village.



Moose volunteers Wanda Howell, Aphroditis Howell, and Scott Duncan spent a day answering the phones during the [Mix 105.1](#) Give Kids The World Radiothon live from Winter Park Village.

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see FMA, page 14

## **AROUND THE STATE**

NEWS

Chapter, District, and  
Special Committee news.



**Harry Moses**

On November 8, 2025 North Port Moose Lodge 764 held a dinner and dance for their Lodge Veterans. They had a special guest, Veteran Harry Moses, 92 years old, who had enlisted in the Navy in 1951 and served as a medic for a Marine Unit in Korea until 1953. He also is an actor who performed at the Venice Theatre Silver Fox, was a Visani Comedy Contest finalist, and a featured presenter at the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival.



Their Valued Veteran of the Year was President, Anna-Marie Mitchell who was presented with a certificate and a banner.

North Port Moose Lodge values all of their members who have served in

see **VETERANS** page 16





The Gulf Cove Women of the Moose held a fundraiser for Dollars for Mammograms and raised \$5005.00. This was accomplished thru a walk, bake sale, T-Shirt sales, Breast Awareness Memorial Ribbons which were placed on a wall of the Lodge, a basket containing a Breast Cancer Awareness Flag, 50/50's and more. This was all done as their way of giving back to their community.

*Submitted by Jayne Bennett*

# Women of the Moose

*Dedicated and committed women making the world a better place*

## BARB "BABS" MOFFITT, Chapter Advocate

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all the Florida Chapters for your dedication and commitment to the Women of the Moose. I see the pictures of the tremendous giving on Facebook.

Not only are we supporting Mooseheart and Moosehaven, but the money you have raised for Special Olympics, veterans, Give Kids the World, and the many local nonprofits in your area is amazing.

The giving of Thanksgiving meals to those in need and our first responders, kudos to each and every one of you.

I'm happy to see many chapters working together with the Moose Legion and their Lodge in these events. This is what makes a successful unit.

It's so important to get our faces out there for the public to see and let them know all the projects Women of the Moose do, and explain the support that only we give to

Mooseheart and Moosehaven.

November was our Higher Degree Chapter Night. Congratulations to those new Collegians, those that changed your tassel from green to red and those that got "fully dressed" with your red stole.

Be proud to wear your regalia and explain to female Lodge members how, if they join the chapter, they can also earn this honored degree.

Everyone asks how do we get women to join the chapter?

First you have to give them a personal orientation, explain what we are about.

If it's a new member to the lodge, give them two applications. One is checked for Lodge, one is checked for Chapter, collect money for both, drop both in Admin office. \Once the Administrator assigns a membership number, they will put the MID number on the chapter application and drop the application in the treasurer's office.

## Where does the \$15.00 that the Women of the Moose dues pay for?

Each month the Women of the Moose support programs at Mooseheart and Moosehaven. The WOTM are the only fraternal unit that does this. Below is a brief explanation as to what those programs entail.

**MAY: Daily Needs program at Moosehaven.** This program covers clothing, laundry, newspapers, pet needs and often necessary bicycle repairs for the residents at Moosehaven.

see **WOMEN**, page 17

FMA, from page 12

### Endowment Fund

#### **Troy Broughton**

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### Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranch

#### **Debi Girard**

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### Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches

### Fundraising

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### Fraternal Education

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### Government Relations

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### Heart of The Community

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### Historical

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see FMA, page 16

VETERANS, from page 14



any branches of the armed forces by putting together a slide show of appreciation and gratitude. It included their name, branch, years of service along with a service photo and current photo.

*Submitted by Susan Runge*

### NEWS

## AROUND THE

# STATE

Chapter, District, and  
Special Committee news.



Members of Dunnellon Moose Lodge's Valued Veterans Committee were invited to attend the Crystal River Women's Club annual luncheon where they were honored as lady veterans. The committee donated \$500 during the annual Lady Veterans celebration.

Pictured is Leslie Martineau, President of the Crystal River Women's Club, and Dunnellon Moose Lodge 2308's Valued Veterans Committee members Linda Cole, Alma Whitman, and Karen Williams, and Sandra Ferguson. Find out more about the Crystal River Women's Club [here](#).

*Submitted by Alma Whitman*



## WOTM, from page 15

**JUNE: Feed a Home in December.** Family Teachers and children head to local grocery stores, on a weekly basis, to purchase food items through this program.

**JULY: Mooseheart Girls' Athletic Program.** Mooseheart offers an outstanding sports program for girls that enables the students to take part in basketball, volleyball, track and bowling.

**AUGUST: Mooseheart Boys Athletic Program.** Mooseheart provides every boy an opportunity to take an active part in the soccer, basketball, wrestling and track.

**SEPTEMBER: Moosehaven Vision, Hearing and Dental.** This program helps with the cost of eye exams and glasses; hearing tests and devices, as well as regular dental exams.

**OCTOBER. "Christmas in October".** At Mooseheart, this program covers photo Christmas cards, Christmas parties, decorations and special treats. At Moosehaven, special events include the annual Christmas dinner and party, New Year's Eve party, Thanksgiving dinner, off campus trips as well as the many monthly social gatherings both on campus and at the Life Care Center.

**NOVEMBER: Mooseheart Music Department.** This fund provides an opportunity for students from the 4th grade to the high school seniors to participate in the Mooseheart music program.

**DECEMBER: Mooseheart Special Activities Fund.** This fund provides the financial assistance necessary for the special activities that take place on campus.

**JANUARY: Physical and Occupational Therapy.** This program funds for continuation of services, medical treatments for physical and occupational therapy.

**FEBRUARY: Moosehaven Pharmacy Budget.** This program covers the cost of prescription drugs and over the counter medications and supplies for Moosehaven residents.

**MARCH: Mooseheart Photos.** From school pictures in September, Homecoming photos in October, pictures with the Easter Bunny in March and athletic team and individual pictures are all covered under this program.

**APRIL: Mooseheart 'Starter Kit'.** The purchase of new clothing, coats, shoes, personal hygiene items, personal bedding and a few photo frames for each new child when they arrive at Mooseheart gives children a fresh start under this WOTM-funded program.

SATURDAY JANUARY 17-18 SUNDAY

FLORIDA MOOSE ASSOCIATION

9-BALL POOL

ORLANDO MOOSE LODGE

FMA SPORTS TOURNAMENT



### Legal Advisor

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### Moose Charities

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### Moose Riders

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### Orientation

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### Past Presidents Secretary (FMA)

#### **Jerry Monk**

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### Past Presidents Chair (FMA)

#### **Richard Jones**

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see FMA, page 18

## AROUND THE STATE

NEWS

Chapter, District, and  
Special Committee news.



On Thursday, November 13, 2025, the Marathon Moose presented a check for \$1,000 to Sarah Bartus of Presents in Paradise for the wonderful work they do in providing Christmas to our community.

Presents in Paradise is a Florida not-for-profit organization which serves Monroe County exclusively. They provide clothing, shoes, bicycles, educational and learning toys as well as other items to working families, single head-of-the-house families, and families that are just plain in need.

**Submitted by Marathon Moose 1058**



Vero Beach Chapter 1541 held a 60th birthday celebration party complete with a pasta bar dinner, Chinese auction, and a bar cart raffle.

Through the birthday celebration they were able to give back to their community with a \$2,800 donation to Little Birthday Angels.

Little Birthday Angels is an organization that provides birthday parties for kids in need.

**Submitted by Lisa Plourde**



Candidates take oath during the Manatee 58 Moose Legion Conferral September 13, 2025.

# The Moose Legion and Its Mission

*The Degree of Service, and fun!*

JIM KELLY, International Moose Legion Area Manager/South

## What is the Moose Legion?

The Moose Legion is a distinguished part of the organization, dedicated to upholding its values and principles. Membership in the Moose Legion signifies a commitment to the organization's mission and camaraderie among its members.

## Eligibility for Membership

When a gentleman joins this esteemed organization, he becomes eligible to become a member of the Moose Legion.

This opportunity allows members to further their involvement and contribute to the group's ongoing mission.

NOTE: It's extremely important that ALL Male members wishing to advance to this degree: MUST be a member in good standing in their lodge: MUST fill out a application by being sponsored by another Active Moose Legionnaire, pay an additional yearly dues and MOST IMPORTANTLY-

be CONFERRED into the MOOSE LEGION, by attending a Quarterly Celebration, or an Authorized Mini Conferral.

This is just the beginning.

Our Lodges depend on the Moose Legion Committee to be, ACTIVE, INVOLVED and ENGAGED with membership, WORKING with other Lodge Committees to help advance the great mission of the MOOSE, ie: membership growth, membership retention, Activities within the Lodge, working with the WOTM, sharing Ideas, and leading by example.

The Moose Legion is always looking for QUALITY members they can depend on.

Our motto is straight forward: DO SOME GOOD THING FOR SOMEONE EACH DAY .

When you think about that, it sounds easy and when WE work together, WE can accomplish great things!



see LEGION, page 20



**FMA, from page 20**

**Pilgrim Chairman**

**Chris Pedone**

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**Pilgrim Secretary**

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**Charles (Buddy) Franklin**

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**Special Project Fundraising**

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**Special Olympics**

**Terri Plourde**

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**Sports/Activities**

**Cindy Barnhart**

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see FMA, page 22



**A new candidate spends a moment with Fred Garcia, the Imperial Wizard, at the Cypress 202 Moose Legion Conferral September 6. The conferral was held at Golden Triangle Moose Lodge.**

**LEGION, from page 21**

As we work together within the confines of The MOOSE General Laws and The Moose Legion CODE of RULES, Moose Legionnaires have an opportunity to advance to other levels of the Degrees of service. They include **FELLOWSHIP**, the Degree of Honor, and the highest honor you can be bestowed the **PILGRIM** Degree of Merit.

The path to these degrees can be explained to you by your Sponsor or jurisdictional Board of Directors.

I constantly get asked how someone achieves these degrees.

My response is always the same, stay plugged into our mission, keep your head down and keep working!

It's amazing how quick time goes by when we are working together, striving to - Do Some Good Thing for Someone Each Day - all while Having FUN!!

Let's face it. If it's not fun others won't plug in.

I would love to see each Lodge have a minimum goal of 10% of their men's members become Active Moose Legionnaires.

Remember, how we treat our newest members will determine your committee's success and Lodge/Moose Legion retention efforts.

We sometimes forget how we all felt when we joined this great organization.

Please take a moment and mentor your new candidate in the Moose Legion. Share your stories and experiences as we are always striving to sponsor a Future Leader to help us all with New HORIZON's.

**Do Some Good Thing for Someone Each Day.**





# THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS

SARAH JACKSON, Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches  
The True Meaning of Christmas

Jesus is truly the reason for the season at the [Florida Sheriff Youth Ranches!](#)

Kids like Will, Jeremiah, and Ashlynn have spent too many Christmases without the love and joy that we typically associate with the holiday.

At the Ranch, they receive all of that and more! Ranchers learn that Christmas is when we celebrate the birth of Jesus, who was born to bring us eternal life and a personal relationship with God.

In learning about Jesus and his purpose, Ranchers also learn the importance of caring for the less fortunate. Despite the trials in their own lives, when presented with an opportunity to give back, our youth jump in wholeheartedly.

One of the ways we do this is through Operation Christmas Child.

Every year, the students at Donald Ralph Cooke School line up in the hallways to create an assembly line for shoe boxes to send to kids in need. They pile in socks, notebooks, small toys, and other items we often take for granted.

This isn't just an activity to pass the time before school lets out for Christmas break.

Jed, Jacob, and Shalyn worked on the assembly line, and as they grabbed for the last box, they realized that they

had run out of many objects that went in each box.

Certain toys and toiletries used in the other boxes were all gone.

The boys worked together to create a "special" box for this recipient, a child they'll never know or meet.

It was important that the box had extra items so the recipient wouldn't feel like they missed out.

The last step, they decided, was to put a handwritten note on the inside lid of the box.

"We made this special for you!" Jed wrote.  
"God bless you! I hope you enjoy this gift!"  
Jed, Jacob, and Shay."

These three young boys have gone through challenges no child should ever have to face.

Yet in the hallway of their school, they put their heads together to create something special for a child in need.

They asked for God's blessing over this stranger, hoping that their efforts would make that child feel loved.

This is the true meaning of Christmas—reaching out to the less fortunate, just like Jesus called us to do. Remembering his life and love for people, and showing that to the rest of the world.

It is in moments like these that we know our time and effort at the Ranches is worth it.

Our students completed over fifty shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child, and they continue this tradition

see **YOUTH**, page 22



FMA, from page 20

### Valued Veterans

#### **Frank Venditti**

8694 Ashbury Dr, Hudson, FL 34667  
727-809-1259  
flvendis@yahoo.com

### Veterans Affairs

#### **Larry D'Angelo**

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### Webmaster

#### **Marvin Gardner**

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### Webmaster Asst/Calendar

#### **Jim Blanchard**

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### Youth Awareness (N)

#### **Todd and Julie Anderson**

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850-866-8679  
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### Youth Awareness (S)

#### **Candy and Dominique Saindon**

18910 Bay Woods Lake Dr, #101, Fort Myers, FL 33908  
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## INTERNATIONAL APPOINTMENTS

### Intl BOD Chairman

#### **John Reiter**

5250 SE 34th Court, Ocala, FL 34480  
352-804-4679  
mooseracer@cox.net

### Intl Board of Directors

#### **Sandy Johnston**

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970-593-2458  
country\_paths@yahoo.com

see FMA, page 24

## AROUND THE STATE

NEWS

Chapter, District, and  
Special Committee news.



Marathon Moose Lodge honored their Valued Veterans on Veterans Day. Pictured above is Gerry DuBois who presented Ken Hagemann with the Valued Veteran of the Year Award.



Left, Chairman of the Valued Veterans Committee, Ken Hagemann, presented Bob Browand with his Valued Veterans Certificate.



Chairman of the Valued Veterans Committee, Ken Hagemann, presented Jerry Mayette with his Valued Veterans Certificate.



*Submitted by Marathon Moose Lodge*





## Big Pine Key women hold children's Christmas event

Children were treated to a visit with Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus their traveling elves Dave and Tracy at the Big Pine Key Women of the Moose Chapter 1810 Christmas event.

From pictures with Santa and Mrs. Claus, stockings and presents for every child who attended, a magician to

entertain the children, to pizza from The Slice of Paradise, AND soda from Pepsi, and other community entities including the local fire department, and lodge and chapter members, and Moose Riders who helped, the children who attended had smiles on their faces the entire day.

Santa had a special present for each child. Much to their surprise each child received a bicycle of their very own.

Monies are raised throughout the year to support this annual event. Continued support to events for the community makes a huge difference in the lives of our children! The smiles and appreciation for a great time said it all!



*FMA Group post*

FMA, from page 22

### Intl Outer Guard

#### **Chris Pedone**

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### Intl Activities Committee

#### **Todd Anderson**

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### Intl Moose Charities Board

#### **Julie Anderson**

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### Intl Membership Comm

#### **Sharon Davis**

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### Moosehaven Executive Director

#### **Helen Taylor**

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### Moosehaven BOD

#### **Dan O'Neal**

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### Moosehaven BOD

#### **Scott Kern**

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### Moose Foundation

#### **F. Ross Fleet**

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### Intl Pilgrim Council

#### **Rodney Hammond**

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see FMA, page 25

NEWS

## AROUND THE STATE

Chapter, District, and  
Special Committee news.



Florida Panhandle Technical College Students receive Josh Davis Memorial Scholarship Award.

On June 10, 2024 18-year-old Joshua Alan Davis of Marianna, Florida unexpectedly passed away. He loved his truck, good jokes, and his family. His plan was to enter career and technical education to develop his skills, but sadly he was unable to do so.

His parents Tonya and Jamie Davis, his family, and the Marianna Moose Lodge set up a scholarship in his name, after his passing, for other deserving students entering a technical education program.

The scholarship is funded by the Josh Davis Memorial Scholarship Fund Car/Motorcycle Show held each March in Marianna, FL. This year, the success of the show provided five [Florida Panhandle Technical](#) Students each a \$1,000.00 scholarship toward their own technical education.

If you would like to participate in funding the scholarship, the next car show is set March 7, 2026. Scholarship awardees (and their program), FPTC's Director, and the family are pictured here.

**Submitted by Tonya Davis**

### YOUTH, from page 19

every year. They learn that Christmas is more than gifts; it's showing love and celebrating Jesus.

Because of you, it's not only Jed, Jacob, and Shalyn, along with every other child we serve, having a Christmas filled with love and joy.

It's also children we'll never meet, like the child who will open their Christmas shoe box and see a small, handwritten note from three young boys who made a special effort in hopes they would have a Merry Christmas.



# Florida Moose Association Calendar



## Open 9 Ball Tournament

Orlando Moose Lodge  
*Danny Morris, danny\_m@bellsouth.net*  
*Cindy Barnhart, 321-720-7440*



## Pilgrim Celebration:

### John Holbach

Palm Harbor 433  
*Regalia*  
*727-410-5744, holby1967@outlook.com*



## Gulfstream Moose Legion 189

### Winter Celebration

West Dade Lodge  
*Conferral Sunday January 25, 2026 at Noon*



## Jack and Jill Pool Tournament

Ruskin 813



## Moose Legion 46 Conferral

Davie



## Gulfstream Moose Legion 189

### Spring Celebration

Big Pine Key Lodge  
*Conferral Sunday March 29, 2026 at Noon*



## Volunteer Day

Heart of the Community Project  
 Give Kids the World  
*Kimberly Kelly*  
*authenticmeus@gmail.com*



## 2026 FMA Mid-Year Conference

Rosen Plaza Hotel Orlando  
*Dan O'Neal*  
*Floridamooseassociation@gmail.com*



## Moose Legion #46

Naples Get-A-Way



## 2026 FMA Annual Convention

Rosen Plaza Hotel Orlando  
*Dan O'Neal*  
*Floridamooseassociation@gmail.com*



## 2027 FMA Mid-Year Conference

Rosen Plaza Hotel Orlando  
*Dan O'Neal*  
*Floridamooseassociation@gmail.com*



## 2027 FMA Annual Convention

Rosen Plaza Hotel Orlando  
*Dan O'Neal*  
*Floridamooseassociation@gmail.com*



## 2028 FMA Mid-Year Conference

Rosen Plaza Hotel Orlando  
*Dan O'Neal*  
*Floridamooseassociation@gmail.com*



## 2028 FMA Annual Convention

Rosen Plaza Hotel Orlando  
*Dan O'Neal*  
*Floridamooseassociation@gmail.com*

**For more events**  
[click here](#)

FMA, from page 24

## Intl Pilgrim President

### Harry Johnston

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## WOTM Chapter Advocate

### Barb 'Babs' Moffitt

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## WOTM Higher Degree Board

### Kimberly Kelly

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## WOTM Grand Chancellor

### Barb McPherson

*bmcpherson@mooseintl.org*  
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## WOTM Past Grand Regent

### Gloria Petra

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## WOTM Conferral Coordinator

### Sharon Krutulis

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15th  
Annual

# CHILI COOK-OFF & CAR SHOW

Moosehaven

Saturday, November 8, 2025



[For more photos, click here](#)



SPECIAL OLYMPICS  
FLORIDA

**POLAR  
PLUNGE**  
at  
AQUATICA



**Come Join the Fun!**  
**Saturday, Feb 14 • 8am**

