

The Florida Moose Association

Courier

No. 3 May/Jun 2025



Carnival returns to
Moosehaven for day of fun pg6



From the Editor

For as long as I can remember, Joan Fedora has always been the editor of The Courier. She is an amazing woman who has dedicated herself to writing and publishing the news of this great fraternity.

Not only did she produce The Courier and FMA event booklets, she was also the former Chairman of the Communications Committee for Moose International.

In April, Joan announced she was stepping down as the Editor of The Courier. Fast forward a few months and my hopes are that I can follow her lead in providing the members of the Florida Moose Association with news, information, and photos, and add to this already great publication.

While I have spent most of my life in the newspaper and specialty publications industry, this is definitely one of the most exciting publications I have been tasked to produce.

It's a big responsibility and one that I can not do alone. So, I am asking you ... if you like to write and take photos - this is a great opportunity for you to serve your association!

Currently seeking volunteers for:

- Developing Content
- Taking Photos
- Highlighting Special Events in your area

If you would like to help, please email
TheCourierFMA@gmail.com.

For those who have already contributed with photos from your Lodge, Chapter, Moose Legion, Valued Veterans, or other events... Thank You! It takes contributions like yours to make The Courier such a great publication.

How can we make The Courier even better? Please let us know what you would like to see in future issues.

Thank you for your input. Together we will continue to tell the great FMA story through the pages of The Courier.

The Courier

CONTENTS

- 04** Carnival brings fun to the fraternity
- 07** Around the state
- 08** Sports
- 09** Lodge takes message to the fast lane
- 11** FMA Mid Year Recap
- 17** The Moose Get Away Weekend
- 19** Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches
- 23** FMA Calendar

On the cover...

Susan Moglia, District 8 President Kevin Moglia, Belinda Toth, and Carl Toth as the Duck, stand in front of the District 8 Duck Pond booth. The booth was part of the Second Annual Florida Day and Carnival at Moosehaven.

Photo courtesy of a Facebook post by Susan Caravella-Moglia.

The Courier is published bi-monthly and is posted on the FMA website at floridamoose.com

Publisher: Florida Moose Association Editor: Kimberly Kelly

Deadline for submitting news articles and photos for the next of The Courier is June 15, 2025

Submit news articles and photos to: TheCourierFMA@gmail.com

Special thanks to the following Boosters:

PLATINUM: Joan Clementz, Ft Walton Beach 2193, Roy Suarez, Marsha Stone, Joyce & William Ralph Page, Sandra Johnston, West Dade Chapter 1472, Jesse VanHoose, Byron Dalton Sr., Dan O'Neal, R & R Shockley, Walter Wommack, In Memory of Donna Kern, Nancy Gebhart, John Saltee, Bob & Jackie Robinson, Walter Wommack, Ronald Rodman, Davie WOTM 1686, David Lodge 1798, Dennis and Ellen Shindle, Willie & Karen Williams, Paula Stevens, Jayne Bennett, Doug Husted, Larry D'Angelo, Kenny & Fawn Rogers, John Lavelle, Jim & Barbara Blanchard, Jan Andrade, Chuck Kinnaman, Bully & Patti Wernersbach, Wayne Beyer, Christopher Pedone, Jeff & Dian Pitch, John Lavelle, Norm & Judi, The Bowman Family. **GOLD LEVEL:** Lynn Hall, Christine and Scott Duncan, Peggy Clifton, Tom Akers, Charles Kinnaman, Jason Thornbloom, Marvin Gardner, Duffy Friss, Margie Walter, Mike and Joan Purdy, In memory of Charlie Thitheridge. **SILVER:** JoEllen Thompson, Barbara Terrell, Ann Mell, Scott Thomas, Edward Mell, Jacqueline Poirer.

**"The elevator to success is out of order.
You'll have to use the stairs, one step at a time."**

~ JOE GIRARD

Hello FMA Moose Family!!

Wow! What a conference! To all that were there, please share the info retained back to your Lodges, Chapters, and Moose Legions and share with your members.

To all our chairpersons and guest speakers, thank you for your preparation and the confidence you have in your position. Every chairperson in the FMA makes our 'team' second to none and best of the best!

At Mid Year, our OV Mark Penzkover spoke about his experience at Mooseheart and how he ended up there when he was incredibly young. That story is just one of thousands of reasons why we do what we do in the Moose and hearing it firsthand makes us the greatest Fraternity in the world!!

The new fiscal year has started. Good luck to all the new officers and I hope that you have a successful year ahead of you!

Keep signing up new members and keep the ones that you have in your lodge. Every member is important to our mission, and we are only hurting ourselves if we let them go and not be part of our mission.

Remember if an officer in your lodge needs training, get him/her to the Lodge Leadership class offered close to you lodge when available.

There is a training jamboree at Moosehaven for all the training that you need from June 26-28. Look on the website, floridamoose.com for registration.

Thank you to our amazing training committee, led by Ken Bygler (not Ed!) for their dedication to training our members in the Fraternity so that we can continue doing what we do for Mooseheart and Moosehaven.

Finally, lets make a lot of noise at the Moose International Convention in Milwaukee at the end of May.

Plan to celebrate our very own John Reiter as he becomes Moose International Chairman of the Board. Wouldn't it be great that every lodge from Florida represented at the convention?

I challenge all lodges to represent at Convention.

To all presidents and administrators, it is your obligation to attend the conferences and conventions during your year elected. See you in Milwaukee!!

FMA PRESIDENT

TODD ANDERSON



FMA LIASON

**SCOTT
DUNCAN**



Keep moving forward

As we end our Moose year and reflect on our accomplishments, we must remember those who helped us get where we are. They include all the volunteers that gave of their time and effort, and the donors who made sure to give of their substance. Let's celebrate the brothers and sisters that brought us together as a Moose family. We truly did Embrace Our Community.

As we come closer to April 30, our membership continues to grow. Our plus goal one is again within reach.

With new and exciting incentives this year, we have seen renewed efforts to achieve this mission.

We are in fact taking small steps to reach the one million member goal, and I believe we will achieve this goal.

Here in Florida we have many resources available, training opportunities, Orientation video geared towards our programs, and our Committee Chairmen are there to answer and mentor any level of member wanting to get involved and improve on the foundation we already have in place.

Moving forward into the new fraternal year, it is time to set a budget, appoint new committee chairpersons, make a plan for the coming year, set goals and work to achieve them.

Be flexible, and adjust to changing environments. Diversify your activities to meet the needs of your current membership.

Moving Forward Giving Back is our membership campaign this year. Men and women working together for common goals, taking care of young and old, our com-

See **LIASON**, page 6

FMA 2024–2025 Officers

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see FMA, page 6



Carnival brings fun to the fraternity

JULIE ANDERSON, Special to The Currier

When I say if you missed out on the Florida Days Carnival at Moosehaven you missed an amazing event, I am not lying.

Having FUN while FUNDRAISING is something Florida Moose are very good at and we sure did have FUN and raise some money.

We kicked off the fun with a Pizza party and paint stick bingo Saturday night with the residents.

This is the first year we have done that and I hope you plan on attending next year.

Sunday, the weather was perfect and the atmosphere was carefree and fun.

As we wandered around it was wonderful to see the people at the booths having a great time interacting with participants. It was hard to tell who was having more fun.

We had some great games and really nice prizes. I cannot wait to see what you come up with next year.

Congratulations to District 21 and 22 for winning the Best Game and Best Decorated Booth, with their human slot machine.

Thank everyone that had a part in the day whether you were part of a booth or you came to enjoy the festivities. We had 20 of 23 Districts participate.

We would like to see if we can get a 100% next year. Candy and I are available to help you to make this happen. You have over eight months to plan someone in your district should be available to help out. We

also had Orange blossom Moose Legion, Englewood Lodge and the FMA Membership committee with booths.

FMA Chairman, Moose Legion, Council of Higher Degrees, Lodges and Chapters you are all invited to have a booth also. Please don't feel like this is only for the district presidents. Come one come all to join in the FUN!

Not only will you be able to join in the FUN of the carnival but what a wonderful time to check out the new AAA Project at Moosehaven.

Start working with the incoming officers to plan a bus trip and have that be one of their district fundraisers.

I know the groups that came in on buses had as much fun on the bus as they did at the carnival.

Start fundraising to help your chairman pay for their room and for prizes for your booth. We have plenty of time to make next year more successful than this year.

Thank you to the FMA Executive Board and Moosehaven staff for helping make this such a wonderful event.

The staff at Moosehaven is the best. They were so helpful we could not have done this without them.

Huge shout out to Susan Luke and Helen Taylor for making our life much easier and keeping me on track. know that is not always an easy task.



Photos posted by Julie Anderson, Shawn Esposito, and Susan Caravella-Mogliavia Facebook.

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see FMA, page 8

FMA offers "Moose Helping Moose" scholarships

This Moose Helping Moose scholarship is designed to give our "ACTIVE" Moose members the chance to return to school to further their education or finish a degree.

It's open to any Florida Moose Association member who is in good standing with their home lodge and will be attending a college or trade school.

Two \$1,000 scholarships will be announced at the FMA Annual Convention in September 2025.

Eligibility requirements include: Be an active member for one year prior to applying of a Florida Moose Association Lodge; Volunteer in your Moose Lodge, Chapter, Moose Legions, District, and/or Association; MUST have an accep-

2025 FMA Mid Year Conference Scholarship Winners

- **Hunter Fields** Lodge 397
- **Jessica Herne** Lodge 2112

tance letter to the college or trade program you are attending; Funds will be made out to the school you will be attending, and Must use funds within one year of being selected.

Applications are good for one calendar year when received by the committee, and are due by July 15, 2025 and can be downloaded from Florida Moose Association website floridamoose.com.

LIASON, from page 2

munities and each other.

The new General Laws Changes will be voted on in Milwaukee. Take the time to review what they are, make your decision, and ensure your delegates know your opinion and attend the Convention to vote.

Each lodge will need to have someone in attendance to qualify for the Premier Lodge Award, and the Administrator and President must be scanned in to at least one session to receive credit for the Leadership Awards.

Attendance will also make the lodge eligible for the Grant Programs if they are continued this year.

We spoke about the past, and are excited about the future. Let's celebrate a member who truly gives back, pretty much on a daily basis.

This member has assisted many lodges with their QuickBooks issues, although her area of expertise has been with the Chapters.

She travels all over the State of Florida conducting training classes for the Education and Training Committee. She attends communication sessions to improve our fraternal operations in Florida.

She is considered the person in charge for the Women of the Moose at the Mid-Year and Annual Conventions. She mentors so many of our members. Her efforts do not go unnoticed.

Thank you and a shout out to the Women of the Moose Chapter Advocate Babs Moffet.

I have never met someone with the amount of patience she exhibits.

AROUND THE STATE

NEWS

Chapter, District, and
Special Committee news.

In March,
Venice WOTM
Chapter 758
raised money
to benefit
Habitat for
Humanity through
a Spring Fling
Shopping
Spree event.

Pictured from left to right
Deanna Stewart Mooseheart/
Moosehaven Chairman, Coleen
Donahue Major Gift Officer, and
Mary Foster JPR.

Submitted by Mary Foster



Moose Riders donated \$2,500 to Helping Hand.

Samantha Badger - Facebook post

See page 10 for more Chapter, District, and Special Committee news.

FMA, from page 6

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see FMA, page 10

AROUND THE STATE

SPORTS

Submitted by Cindy Barnhart
FMA Sports Chairman



Panama City Region 1 Pool Tournament Division A include Jeremy Lyle, Ricky Alexander, Bill Grady and Ron Whitfield.



Panama City Region 1 Pool Tournament Division B include Dalton Mailman, Alex Kameenui, Rick Muhihauser & Randy Bozeman



FMA Regional Tournament winners!! First place Palmetto... David Dickens, William Brinkley, Tim Krone & Angel Martinez



LEFT: Winter Haven Moose Lodge members Shane Deal, Rick Fisher, Greg Gilmore, and Jane Freeman participate in an autograph session where they handed out Tommy Moose at Auburndale Speedway. ABOVE: Cody Stickler autographs Tommy Moose dolls during a recent autograph session. Sticker drives the Moose Lodge sponsored No. 26 Late Model at Auburndale Speedway and others around the state. **Submitted by Greg Gilmore**

Lodge takes to the fast lane

Provides sponsorships and community service

The relationships built between Moose Lodges and local businesses make tremendous impacts on their communities.

Winter Haven, located in central Florida, has a lot to offer. From lakes, waterside parks, theme parks like Legoland and PEPPA PIG, Cypress Gardens, forest trails, and wetlands, there is much tourists to do.

The local community also has a Lodge home, Winter Haven Moose Lodge 1023, who has found a unique relationship with a 1/4-mile asphalt racetrack four miles to the southwest.

What makes this relationship so special is the fact that Rex Guy, who owns Auburndale Speedway, is also a Moose member.

"It's a wonderful relationship," Greg Gilmore said. "We do a lot together for the kids and try to raise awareness of what the Moose Lodge does."

From handing out Tommy Moose during autograph sessions with the drivers, Eas-

ter baskets for the children, and race car sponsorships, the Winter Haven Moose Lodge has found a niche that puts the lodge and the Moose in the fast lane.



Wyatt and Gunner Osteen kneel in front of their Winter Haven Moose Lodge sponsored race cars.

Auburndale Speedway is one of Florida's most highly attended race tracks. Centrally located in the state, it has drawn a weekly average of 103 competitors throughout six divisions so far this race season.

And the Moose is a part of their success.

"It's about getting the community support for the up and coming racers, as well as having a fun environment that families can enjoy together," said Rex Guy in a statement

on the tracks website auburndalespeedway.net.

"We invite the Moose, give discounts for Moose members on select races, and they come out and do their Tommy (Moose)," Rex Guy said.

Winter Haven Moose Lodge also sponsors four race cars. Two of the cars include the No. 46 of Cody Stickler, and the No. 26 of Jonathan Guy. Both compete in the Super Late Model division.

They also support two young racers, Wyatt and

Gunner Osteen, who are just starting their race careers.

"They are awesome," Rex Guy said. "They're just phenomenal and do a lot of things at the track."

"People don't understand what the Moose does," Gilmore said of the Moose mission and their local community service efforts. "Once you get them in and they see what

See **SUPPORT**, page 21

FMA, from page 8

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see FMA, page 12



Members from the Orange Blossom Moose Legion 125 of Riverview 2158 donated three boxes of Tommy Moose plush toys to support the children residing in the shelter. **Submitted by Troy Broughman**

Orange Blossom Moose Legion 125 of Riverview 2158 supports Mary & Martha House

TROY BROUGHMAN, Special to The Courier

The Moose Legion of Riverview 2158 recently made a heartfelt donation to Mary & Martha House, providing three boxes of Tommy Moose plush toys to support the children residing in the shelter.

Mary & Martha House is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping homeless women, victims of domestic violence, and their dependent children for over 40 years.

Mary & Martha House offers emergency and transitional housing, individualized case management, and support services to help women gain employment and secure permanent housing.

The shelters provide a safe haven for victims to escape abuse and begin their recovery journey, with each family having their own space to feel at home.

The donation of Tommy Moose plush toys will bring comfort and joy to the children at Mary & Martha House, help-

ing them feel safe and cared for during a challenging time.

This act of kindness aligns with the Moose Legion's commitment to caring for the community and making a positive impact on the lives of those in need.

Mary & Martha House's mission is to heal hearts, nurture minds, and uplift spirits by providing personalized support and celebrating every success, no matter how small.

The Moose Legion of Riverview 2158's generous contribution is a testament to their dedication to supporting local initiatives and making a difference in the lives of vulnerable families.

For more information about Mary & Martha House and how you can support their mission, please visit their website or contact them directly.

Together, we can continue to make a meaningful impact in our community.

See page 16 for more Chapter, District, and Special Committee news.



MID YEAR CONFERENCE

APRIL 10-13, 2025
ROSEN PLAZA HOTEL, ORLANDO

TOP TO BOTTOM: WOTM Dignitary Meeting. Conference attendees packed the Rosen Plaza to learn more about the Moose and the Florida Moose Association. Mark Penzkofer, Director/Chaplain, Moose International Board of Officers, speaks during the Conference. Big Pine Chapter 1810 member with District 23 President Patrick Streep, and photo-bombed by FMA President Todd Anderson. FMA Assistant Secretary Dan O'Neal holds roll call of officers and District Presidents.





GRAND CHAMPION
Chris Pedone
Indian River



2025 MOOSE LEGION RITUAL COMPETITION RESULTS

FAITH



FIRST: TIE: Ralph Wyon/Francis Hobbs. SECOND: John Wallace. THIRD: Gary Grimm.

CHARITY



SECOND: TIE: Carl Toth/William J. Hartnett Jr.. THIRD: Tony Guzman.

LOYALTY



FIRST: Peter Luban. THIRD: Michael DeSanto.

HOPE



FIRST: Chris Pedone. SECOND: Alvin Camcho. THIRD: Joseph Erickson.

ORATOR



FIRST: William Brumfield. SECOND: Buddy Franklin. THIRD: James Bever.

PRESIDENT



FIRST: James Thornton. SECOND: Gerald Ricke. THIRD: Michael McGregor.

NOT PICTURED:
CHARITY:
FIRST:
Howard Klece.
LOYALTY:
SECOND:
Lawrence E. Wolf.



TEAM AWARDS
FIRST: Indian River
SECOND: Cypress 202
THIRD: Sailfish
FOURTH: Seminole



The Financial Review Committee Workshop had 77 attendees sharpening their Financial Review skills.



The Orientation Workshop included information on the importance of holding orientation sessions for new members.



Spearheaded by Brenda Brady, 2Hott Coordinator, five certified trainers and Jean Gaverth from Moose International's Field Staff (shown here with Marge Walter) assisted 20 Lodges and Chapters with QuickBooks questions.

Mark Penzkover Official Visitor

Mark J.K. Penzkover was this year's Official Visitor at the FMA Mid Year Conference.

Penzkover serves as Director/Chaplain on the Moose International, Inc. Board of Directors for The Moose, has served on the Board of Directors since 2015, the Mooseheart Board of Directors (2005-2014), the Audit Committee (2009-2014), and the International Publications Committee (2004-2005).

Mark was President and Valedictorian of the Mooseheart High School Class of 1984.

The youngest of ten children, Mark had been admitted to Mooseheart in 1969 at age 3 along with seven of his siblings after the death of both his parents in an automobile accident.

Following his Mooseheart graduation, Mark attended Purdue University, where he earned a bachelor's degree in civil engineering in 1989 on a Moose scholarship. Mark later earned a Master of Business Administration degree from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

In 2000 he was inducted into the Mooseheart Athletic Hall of Fame and in 2013 he received the Mooseheart Distinguished Alumni Award.

From 2008 to 2013, Mark served the fraternity as the chairman of the Mooseheart Centennial Committee, organizing the 100th anniversary celebration at the Child City in 2013.

He also served the Wisconsin Moose Association as chairman of the annual Mooseheart Tree Lighting Program for 15 years and is a Past President of the Association.

Mark, a member of the 200 Division of the Moose 25 Club, received the Fellowship Degree of Honor in 2001 and the Pilgrim Degree of Merit in 2011.

Mark and his wife Angie are the parents of four grown children and live in Mukwonago, where he has served his community as a Trustee on the Village Board and as a member of the Plan Commission and Library Board.

FMA, from page 12

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see FMA, page 16



Donations shown are ready to be distributed to Lodge representatives who agreed to deliver them to their area's Healthy Start Coalition offices.

Photos submitted by Kimberly Kelly

FMA showers state with baby products

KIMBERLY KELLY, Heart of the Community

Our Florida Moose Association is just...
AMAZING!

In less than two days, over \$88,516 in baby products were collected at the Mid Year Conference, \$3,513 in WISH Pillowcases, and volunteered over 20 hours of community service time.

The items were part of the FMA's Greatest Baby Shower, and the donations from our Moose family definitely took this project over the top.

Donations went to Healthy Start Coalitions across the state of Florida and will help expecting and new families with baby items so they can focus on the health of their baby.

The Florida Healthy Start program provides education, support and proven interventions to expecting and new families who are at-

risk of a poor birth outcome or delay in development.

It focuses on common issues or conditions that occur during pregnancy or in infancy and offer Home Visiting, Prenatal Education & Support, Free Screening & Services, Parenting Education & Support, Care Coordination, Health and Well-Being, and more.

Families can participate in Healthy Start beginning in pregnancy and until their baby reaches age one. Services can be extended if needed up to age three.

It is voluntary and available statewide to all eligible families.

Thanks to donations in the FMA's Greatest Baby Shower, the FMA was able to supply over 73,186 Diapers, 104,155 Baby Wipes, 493 Baby Bottles, 226 tubes of Diaper Cream, 3,686 pieces of Baby Clothes,

See **PROJECTS**, page 20



Katrina Summers helps sort through donations from the FMA's Greatest Baby Shower project.

AROUND THE STATE

Chapter, District, and
Special Committee news.



Members of Land O' Lakes, FL Moose Lodge 1903 attended the Tunnel To Tower Foundation Home Dedication for Sergeant Matthew Hannon, USMC into his New Forever Home in Let Us Do Good Village on Parkway Blvd in Land O' Lakes, FL. just South of the VA Nursing Home. While there, the Lodge Valued Veterans Committee presented a \$1,000 Valued Veterans Donation Check to Tunnel To Tower Foundation. Included in the presentation was Chairman Ralph Fisher, Randy Tenge, Mark Longhauser, John Heck, Dennis Rebox, and WOTM Chapter 2322 Jr. Past Regent Carie Shaffier. To date, the Valued Veterans committee has donated \$18,000, and has two \$500 donations pending.

Submitted by Ralph Fisher



Members of The Spring Hill Moose Lodge 521 paid a visit to Tampa General Hospital of Spring Hill and delivered two cases of Tommy Moose to the Emergency staff at the Hospital. The Hospital also has a pediatric, neonatal & NICU unit, as well as a Birthing Center.

Kevin Moglia- Facebook post

Lodge members give to annual Rocker Fund

Lodges covered their walls in response to this year's "Rock the Rocker" fundraiser. Here are some of the results.

- Fort Walton Beach 2193: \$3,249.00
- Gulf Cove 2554: \$2,377.00
- Ruskin 813: \$1,623.00
- Tallahassee 1075: \$1,357.00
- Cocoa 1717: \$1,168.00
- Nassau 2352: \$1,250.00
- North Port 764: \$1,100.00

Other participating lodges included Tice And The Shores 1297, Leisure City 2258, Lake Placid 2374, Silver Springs 1199, Ruskin 813, Bradenton 1223, Big Pine Key 1585, Lake Worth 994, Palmetto 2117, Arcadia 1327, Winter Haven 1023, Punta Gorda 1693, Cape Coral 2199, Englewood 1933, Interbay Tampa 912, Gulf Gate 608, Palm Harbor 433, Opportunity 3001, Caloosahatchee 2395, Venice 1308, Mandarin 42, North Bay 2373, Riverview 2158, Spring Hill 521, Fort Myers 1899, Brandon Lodge 1880, Jacksonville Beach 1558, Orlando 766, Sarasota 1319, Davie 1798, Haines City 2083, Zephyrhills 2276, Sarasota 1319, Tamarac 2267, South Lake County 1615, Port Charlotte 2121, West Boca Raton 204, Perrine 380, Panama City 1389, West Marion 2356, Deland 1126, Dunnellon 2308, Land O'Lakes 1903, Daytona Beach 1263, Fort Pierce 248, La Belle 2398, Miramar Lodge 1150, Kingsbay 2418, South Lakeland-Mulberry 2295, Marathon 1058, West Dade 1825, Fort Myers Beach 964, Jacksonville 455, Largo 2205, Bonita Springs 1454, West Palm Beach 1461, Sebring 2259, Sebastian River 1767, Inverness 2112, Port St Lucie 513, West Palm Beach 1461, Lake Wales 2391, Sebastian River 1767, and Kissimmee 2056.

See page 18 for more Chapter, District, and Special Committee news.

FMA, from page 14

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see FMA, page 18

AROUND THE STATE

NEWS

Chapter, District, and
Special Committee news.



Merritt Island Moose Lodge 2073 recently revealed a new mural created by Space Coast artist Kole Trent. The project was funded by a grant from Moose International and contributions from the Merritt Island 2073 Moose Legion, Indian River 178 jurisdiction. The grant was authored and coordinated by Marv Gardner, incoming President of Moose Legion Indian River 178. Framed copies are available in the Lodge office. Pictured are Marv Gardner, Artist Trent Kole and Administrator James Stratmann.

Submitted by Marv Gardner



Lodge officers from Englewood Moose 1933 presented \$1,500 to Paradise Athletes YMCA Cheerleading Team.

Englewood Moose 1933 - Facebook post

See page 17 for more Chapter, District, and Special Committee news.



Alan Herb and Linda Broughton shows off a check for \$11,111 for the Florida Moose Association.

**Photos submitted by
Troy Broughman**

The Moose Get Away Weekend continues its rich history, and FMA donations

TROY BROUGHMAN, Special to The Courier

The Moose Get Away Weekend is a tradition for many Districts throughout Florida. Troy Broughman shares this District's tradition below.

The District 11 Moose Get Away Weekend, now in its 32nd year, continues to be a beloved tradition for district members, offering a fun-filled weekend each September. This event provides a much-needed escape from the Tampa area to the beautiful East Coast of Florida.

The first District 11 (formerly Districts 18 and 19) Get Away Weekend was held in 1992, in collaboration with Districts 16 and 17.

These districts had previously organized similar events and invited District 11 to join them in Daytona Beach. District 11 participated again in 1993.

However, organizing such an event for three districts proved to be too demanding, and it was decided that District 11 with the help of Richard Jarvis would host its own event.

The gratitude extended to Districts 16 and

17, and especially to Debbie Cammilleri, who guided District 11 through the process.

Thus, the adventure began!

Finding a suitable venue took some time.

The organizers encountered places that were either too expensive or too small.

After several trips to the beach, they finally found the perfect match: Days Inn.

The first event was a sell-out, although the tower rooms were not available.

By the second year, the venue had moved to the Best Western.

It was never imagined that it would last this long. Initially, the outgoing district president managed the event for the first two years, but it became too much.

Fortunately, Bob Ostertag volunteered to take over.

Bob retired in 2020 and passed the responsibility to his Co-Chairman of many years Bruce Broughton.

Thank you, Bob, for your many years of dedicated service.

In honor of Bob's years of service to the Moose and the Get Away, it was renamed the Bob O's Get Away Weekend.

The Bob O's Get Away remained an active and affordable weekend retreat for members that still benefits Mooseheart/Moosehaven through the Florida Moose Association.

Today, Bruce, along with Alan Herb and Bruce's wife, Linda Broughton, meticulously reviews and optimizes the event's costs and savings, implementing enhancements to elevate the overall experience.

The Bob O's Get Away Weekend has since evolved into District 11's premier fundraiser, generating an average annual



Larry Windon enjoying the weekend.

See **GETAWAY**, page 21

FMA, from page 16

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see FMA, page 20

AROUND THE STATE

NEWS

Chapter, District, and
Special Committee news.



The Vero Beach WOTM ladies volunteered Thursday, April 10 by working in Cafe Clayton at Give Kids the World. At the end of their shift they presented GKTW a donation check for \$1000.

Submitted by Lisa Plourde



Positive outcomes from FSYR programs

SARAH JACKSON, Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches

At the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches, we are celebrating the graduating class of 2025. We're so proud of the youth who worked hard to get back on grade level, take extra classes, and build a learning plan that led to a high school diploma.

We'd like to introduce to one of those seniors. Christian has been at the Boys Ranch for almost three years. His primary reason for coming to the Ranch was to combat an intense case of apathy.

"I just didn't care about anything due to my past," Christian remembered. "I started failing in my academics. I was really disrespectful to my grandmother. I just wasn't doing anything."

The catalyst for this behavior, Christian shared, was his father being sentenced to prison.

His grandmother was now responsible for a sixteen-year-old whose outlook on life was becoming darker and darker. She looked for a solution for her grandson that would help push Christian through the apathy and show him a life worth living.

"When I first got to the Ranch, I thought ... nothing," Christian said. "I didn't care until I met Ms. Jacobs."

Ms. Jacobs is the Boys Ranch Program Director. She sat in on Christian's interview, listening to his story and gauging whether he would be a good fit for the program.

"She was the first person I really connected with, where I could joke around and just not have a single worry," Christian recalled.

Christian agreed to come to the Ranch, and began the structured schedule of school, chores, homework, and cottage life. Everyone at the Ranch knows each other, and it was a lot for him to adjust to. He came off as quiet and reserved, rarely cracking a smile. Over time, a few folks managed to break through the ve-



Christian (right) is shown with his favorite people at the Ranch: his best friend Charlie (left) and his cottage parent Pop Petty.

neer and meet the true Christian.

The easiest way to meet the real Christian was to earn his respect. His cottage parents accomplished this by meeting Christian where he was with a no-nonsense attitude.

"When I first met [Pop Petty], I had a smart remark, and he gave me one right back," Christian said with a smile. "I respected that."

Our Cottage Parents are unique people. They understand that our youth come from hard places, but that doesn't mean they can walk all over the adults. Mom and Pop set the expectations in the cottage and treat Ranchers with the respect they want to receive in turn.

The teachers at Donald Ralph Cooke School follow this same rulebook. Bad days and challenging behaviors are met with patience and calm, not screaming and belittling. This environment helped Christian change course in his academics.

"The teachers gave us respect as students," Christian said, "and then us students gave them respect back."

The structure at the Ranch and respect for his teachers helped Christian get back on track with his education. He enjoyed listening to lively debates on different topics: everything from legislation to history. He found he even enjoys the devotions his cottage does every evening.

"It's actually intriguing to see everyone's perspective," Christian said.

Quiet as he may be, Christian is always paying attention. He watched as Pop Hager spent time with youth, teaching them the value of a job well done, and setting an example for Christian.

"Just how he walked around and presented himself," Christian



CHRISTIAN

See **CHRISTIAN**, page 22

FMA, from page 18

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see FMA, page 22



PROJECTS, from page 14

196 Baby Books, and over 2,159 other baby items that was not specifically ask for that was delivered to 23 Healthy Start Coalition locations in all but one FMA District in Florida.

In addition to the FMA's Greatest Baby Shower project, FMA members volunteered 20 hours at Give Kids the World, and donated 1,171 WISH Pillowcases.

Projects like these continue to show how Florida's Moose families care and embrace their communities as they give back in remarkable ways.

TOP PHOTO: Volunteers helped pack 500 gift bags with donations from the FMA's Greatest Baby Shower community service project.

RIGHT: Donations of baby products exceeded expectations, and storage areas, as shown in this photo.





FRONT ROW : Jesse Vanhooose, Richard Jarvis, and Bob Ostertag. BACK ROW: Bruce Broughton, Linda Broughton Alan Herb.

Photos submitted by Troy Broughman

GETAWAY, from page 17

donation of \$11,000 for The Florida Moose Association.

The planning for this event is a comprehensive, year-long endeavor that commences in December, with preparations for the kickoff sale in January. Sales continue through September, leading up to the eagerly awaited getaway weekend.

Volunteers and members play a crucial role in the event's success, making it all possible through their dedication and teamwork.

From bartenders to Larry Windom selling 50/50 tickets around the pool, friends gathering to socialize, enjoying a day on the beach, and sometimes closing the day with a spectacular rocket launch from NASA, the Moose Get Away Weekend is a testament to the Moose spirit and dedication, promising an unforgettable experience for all who attend.

Now, 32 years later, the Get Away Weekend continues to thrive. What a remarkable history!

Countless individuals have contributed to this success over the years. While

we won't mention names to ensure no one is overlooked, you know who you are. A heartfelt thank you to each one of you!

We hope to see you at the next getaway!

2025 DISTRICT GET AWAYS BY DISTRICT

DISTRICT 4:

Hawaiian Inn
September 11-15, 2025

DISTRICT 11:

Bob O's District 11
Get Away Weekend
September 12-14, 2025
Best Western Oceanfront
5600 N. Atlantic Ave.
Cocoa Beach, FL
Info: Alan (813) 817-4853
or Bruce (813) 625-2286

DISTRICT 21:

Moose Legion Get Away
June 14 & 15, 2025
Gulf Coast Inn, Naples
Includes Moose Legion
Conferral, pool side



Easter baskets lined the wall at Auburndale Speedway on April 19. Winter Haven Moose Lodge members donated and gave away all 104 during the race night.

SUPPORT, from page 9

the Moose does, it's a whole different ballgame."

Lodge members have shown their support of their local community this year when they handed out 104 Easter Baskets to the children on April 19. On March 8, they handed out the Moose's iconic "Tommy Moose" plush stuffed doll and participated in autograph sessions with the Moose-sponsored drivers.

"They like it, we like it, its a team effort," Guy said.

Both agree it's a win-win for both.

"They get new members from us, and then they come up and watch the races," Guy said.

Guy has owned Auburndale Speedway for 19 years, has been a member of Winter Haven Moose Lodge for the last 1.5 years.

"If I had to known that the Moose Lodge was the way they are, I would have joined a long time ago," he said.

FMA, from page 20

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FMA Moose Quilt Raffle for the Florida Sheriffs Youth Ranches

This beautiful Quilt was made by an anonymous donor from the children's camping shirts that the Moose have provided for each year for many years.



Tickets are \$5.00 each and available through your District President

They will also be available at the FMA Annual Convention in September 2025.

Drawing will take place the afternoon of Saturday, September 9, 2025.

All tickets **MUST** be filled out with your Name - Lodge # and Phone number. All proceeds benefit the Children at the Youth Ranches.

CHRISTIAN, from page 19 said. "It was amazing to me."

Other cottage parents and staff helped Christian learn important life skills and decide how he wanted to present himself to the world.

Today, Christian is a young man with a somewhat stoic demeanor, belying the billions of crackling neurons constantly processing the world around him.

"Every day I see something new," Christian said. "Something little could happen, or something life changing."

When Christian graduates high school at the Ranch this spring, he'll be off on a totally new adventure.

He wants to be a technician in the Information Technology field, but the other details are wide open with possibilities.

We're so glad he has had an opportunity to see positive role models at the Ranch and decide what kind of man he wants to be.

"I would have been in a very deep, dark place if I hadn't come here," Christian said. "I'm not sure yet about my future, but I can't wait to see what it holds."

Your support makes stories like Christian's possible. Thank you for all you do to help our youth!

Florida Moose Association Calendar



SAT, MAY 3, 2025
9:00 AM

Leadership Training

West Volusia/Deltona Lodge 2538
Contact Scott Kern, 407-314-6287,
skern@moosetrainers.org



SAT, MAY 3, 2025
9:00 AM

Leadership Training

Arcadia Lodge 1327
Contact Jerry Lunde, 941-580-8903
jlunde2117@gmail.com



SAT, MAY 10
9:00 AM

Leadership Training

Punta Gorda 1693
Contact Jerry Lunde, 941-580-8903
jlunde2117@gmail.com



SAT, MAY 10, 2025
9:00 AM

Leadership Training

Ruskin Lodge 813
Contact Jerry Lunde, 941-580-8903
jlunde2117@gmail.com



SAT, MAY 17
9:00 AM

Leadership Training

Pine Island 1954
Contact Jim Kelly, 239-287-5976
jimreliv@comcast.net



SAT, MAY 17 2025
9:00 AM

Leadership Training

Interbay/Tampa Lodge 912
Contact Jerry Lunde, 941-580-8903
jlunde2117@gmail.com



SAT, MAY 17
9:00 AM

Leadership Training

Palm Beach Gardens 2010
Contact Joe Eriksen, 772-532-4810
joeriksen@bellsouth.net



SAT, MAY 17
9:00 AM

Leadership Training

Naples 1782
Contact Jim Kelly, 239-287-5976
jimkeliv@comcast.net



THU-TUE
MAY 22-27, 2025

Moose International Convention

Milwaukee, WI
mooseintl.org



SAT, MAY 31
9:00 AM

Leadership Training

Vero Beach 1822
Contact Joe Eriksen, 772-532-4810
joeriksen@bellsouth.net



SAT, JUN 7
9:00 AM

Leadership Training

West Dade 1825
Contact Scott Kern, 407-314-6287
skern@moosetrainers.org



SUN, JUN 8
9:00 AM

Leadership Training

LaBelle 2398
Contact Jim Kelly, 239-287-976
jimkeliv@comcast.net



SUN, JUN 8
9:00 AM

Leadership Training

Pompano Beach 2157
Contact Scott Kern, 407-314-6287
skern@moosetrainers.org



SUN, JUN 8
9:00 AM

Leadership Training

Marathon 1058
Contact Ken Bygler, 305-731-6978
kenb@pedrofalcon.com



SAT-SUN
JUN 14-15, 2025

FMA State Golf Tournament

Sun 'n Lake Golf Club, Sebring
Contact Richard Shockley, 954-541-0086
supershock67@aol.com



FRI-SAT-SUN
JUNE 20-22, 2025

FMA Regional Pool Tournament

Vero Beach 1822
Registration forms available at
floridamoose.com



SAT, JUN 21
9:00 AM

Leadership Training

Panama City 1389
Contact Jerry Monk, 850-510-6870
jamonk55@gmail.com



SAT, JUN 21
9:00 AM

Leadership Training

Melbourne 1406
Contact Joe Eriksen, 772-532-4810
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SAT
JUL 26

FMA Full Board Meeting

Moosehaven
Dan O'Neal
Floridamooseassociation@gmail.com



SAT
AUG 23

Nascar Coke 400 Race

Daytona Raceway
Cindy Barnhart, 321-720-7440
cbarnhart1031@gmail.com



THU-SUN
SEP 18-21

2025 FMA Annual Convention

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

For more events go to FloridaMoose.com



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