Happy Spring Everyone! Looks like all those April Showers helped California’s water shortage. Speaking of shortages, we are a bit short on achieving the yearend goals of many of our lodges for the 2024 – 2025 fiscal year. For our Association our year is just about halfway through since it started on October 1, 2025.

Many of our goals revolve around membership, donations to Moose Charities, Heart of the Community reports, retention rates, earning the California Nevada Moose Association (CNMA) 5 Star Award, and the Premier Lodge Award. For our chapters the Award of Achievement and earning personal honors such as the College of Regents degree, Star degree, Academy of Friendship degree and the Golden Gavel. For the Moose Legion there is the Award of Excellence and Director’s Key Club.

For our Association meeting our membership goal of 56,216 is a major accomplishment that we strive to achieve. With the end of March, we always experience a loss in members far greater than some other months of the year. It also only allows us 30 days to regain those members in order to achieve our goal of **Plus One** in Membership. This critical goal can only be achieved if we work **together as a team** within our units and across our Association. We are all aware that membership is the key to us all achieving our goals. We need to all work together **all year long** to keep the members we already have in addition to sponsoring new members. What is your lodge doing to ensure you meet this important goal? The goal retention rate of every lodge is **80%** and our Association is currently showing an overall rate of **69%**, which is really close. Let’s go into overdrive and work our retention and recapture those members and remind them of our important reason for being Moose!

How close is your lodge to earning the 5 Star Award for 2024 – 2025? This award allows each lodge to have a reduction of $1 per member in Association dues which are currently $4 per member per year. Achieving this award allows your lodge to only pay $3 per member per year. Every lodge should continue to strive to achieve this prestigious award. I know you all enjoy being part of the 5 Star Reception as evidence by your participation!

We bill each lodge Association dues quarterly. The quarters follow the same quarters for The Moose fiscal year and the due dates for Heart of the Community Report, which we hope makes it easier for each lodge to remember when they occur and when they should be expecting the invoice to be in their Smarter Mail account. (otherwise known as mooseunits.org)

We should be proud of our accomplishments as we inch closer to each milestone. We should be encouraging each other to achieve our personal honors and goals. A few words of encouragement can often go a long way toward cheering someone on – in good times and bad. Encouraging them can be a powerful way to show them you care about them and support them.

**Encouragement offers motivation, boosts confidence, creates a sense of security, and reinforces a person’s worth and capabilities**