



# California – Nevada GOLD MINER News & Highlights

April – May 2026

JOIN US IN OKLAHOMA CITY  
JUNE 30th – JULY 3rd, 2026  
for the 138th  
INTERNATIONAL MOOSE  
CONVENTION!



California Nevada  
Moose Association  
PO Box 207  
Port Hueneme, CA 93044-0207



## NEWS – HIGHLIGHTS

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CNMA website

[www.ca-nvmoose.org](http://www.ca-nvmoose.org)

Moose International website

[www.mooseintl.org](http://www.mooseintl.org)

Moose Member Benefits

[www.mooseintl.org/public/Benefits.asp](http://www.mooseintl.org/public/Benefits.asp)

Editor: Linda Huber – [linda.huber2405@gmail.com](mailto:linda.huber2405@gmail.com)

Enjoy reading your California Nevada Moose Association (CNMA) Newsletter  
Please view, print, or share with others. Available on the CNMA website at:

<https://www.ca-nvmoose.org/publications/>





## PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Greetings to all,

April brings within it the shrouded mysteries of April Fool's Day over the years promoted as a prankish beginning to Spring that traditionally brings renewed hope and prosperity. All of the latest ideas generated by the new Lodge, Chapter, and Moose Legion boards will give us an even stronger year.

With all the renewed energy captured in our latest Mid-Year Conference, there is nothing we can't do. We can even wear plaid and get away with it. Our member strength is stronger than ever and once again we will be Plus One for a fourth year.

Let us all get behind our new Lodge Officers and bring their new friends along with us on our journey of Fraternal Success.

I wish to take the time to thank all of our hard-working Committee Chairs and Members, our District Officers and our Members who consistently show why our California Nevada Moose Association is one of the top ones in our Fraternity.

Looking ahead our Chairman of the Board will be visiting Lodges, and we will once again see the Graduation at Mooseheart. You all need to come if you can, but do not forget to make your plans for Oklahoma City and let us show the Moose what we are.

**Bill Jackson**  
**CNMA President**  
**(760) 269-5573**  
[president@ca-nvmoose.org](mailto:president@ca-nvmoose.org)





MOOSEHEART

PRESIDENT'S PROJECT

# UNITING HEARTS: EXPANDING HORIZONS

THREE FULLY RENOVATED  
MOOSEHEART HOMES  
THREE BRAND NEW  
PURPOSE BUILT HOMES

STATE OF THE ART FRESH  
WATER TREATMENT PLANT  
CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE  
UPGRADES

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO  
MOOSE CHARITIES**

**EARMARKED  
CNMA MHT PROJECT 25-28**

RENOVATION OF 10 FAMILY  
TEACHER HOMES  
REVITALIZATION OF TRACK  
AND DISCUS CAGE

A NEW CNMA BUILDING A NEW CNMA BUILDING A NEW CNMA BUILDING A NEW CNMA BUILDING A NEW CNMA BUILDING



## CHAPLAIN MESSAGE

As we continue our work within the California Nevada Moose Association (CNMA), it is important to reflect on the strength of our organization and the commitment of the members who make our mission possible. The Moose Fraternity has always been built on the principles of community service, fellowship, and caring for children and seniors through Mooseheart and Moosehaven. The work that each Lodge performs at the local level directly supports these important causes and strengthens our CNMA as a whole.

Throughout the state and region, Lodges are actively working to improve their facilities, expand their programs, and increase engagement with their members and communities. Many Lodges have taken on renovation projects to enhance their buildings and provide a welcoming environment for members and guests. These improvements not only show pride in our Lodges but also demonstrate our commitment to keeping The Moose a vibrant and active organization for future generations.

Membership growth and retention remain a key focus. Lodges that are seeing success are those that actively involve their members, host engaging events, and open their doors to the community. Family-friendly events, charitable activities, and social gatherings continue to be some of the most effective ways to introduce new people to The Moose and show them the positive impact we make.

Equally important is leadership development and training. By investing time in training officers and committee members, we ensure that our Lodges operate effectively and remain compliant with Moose International policies and procedures. Strong leadership helps Lodges navigate challenges, maintain financial stability, and continue providing meaningful programs for their members.

The CNMA has a proud tradition of cooperation and support among its Lodges. When we share ideas, mentor new officers, and support each other's efforts, we strengthen the entire fraternity. Together we can continue to build thriving Lodges that support our charitable mission while providing a welcoming place for fellowship.

As we move forward, let us remain focused on the values that have defined The Moose for generations—service, integrity, and community. With continued dedication from our members and leadership, the CNMA will remain strong and continue making a difference in the lives of those we serve.

Moose International announces the Membership Campaign for 2026-2027

Moose "Growing to Serve"



Fraternally,

**Earl Munday**  
**CNMA Chaplain**  
**(510) 676-0428**  
[chaplain@ca-nvmoose.org](mailto:chaplain@ca-nvmoose.org)

United, the Moose Fraternity continues to grow. Our purpose is to care for children and seniors and celebrate life; thereby making our communities a better place in which to live. As we expand, we encourage others to join in our Mission by remaining determined in finding opportunities to provide support for our local communities. Rooted in purpose, we are growing to serve.



## TREASURER MESSAGE

As the crazy weather of winter has finally slowed down in California and Nevada, we started the spring season with a successful Mid-Year Conference in Costa Mesa, California. I hope that many of you attended our Conference for the first time and enjoyed it by meeting new friends, attending the sessions that strengthened your Moose fraternal information, and enjoying the Casino Night to see how lucky or good you are at gambling. Either way, we hope you had some FUN and will come back again next year and bring new members with you.

Please remember that we have our 2026 CNMA Annual Convention at the Nugget Casino Resort in Sparks, Nevada, September 10th – September 13<sup>th</sup>.

### How Committees Make a Difference

Committees are the heartbeat of a successful Lodge, Chapter, and the California Nevada Moose Association. While officers help guide the direction, it is committees that turn ideas into action and ensure our mission is carried out in meaningful, practical ways.

Through committees, members can share their talents, experience, and creativity. Whether it is planning events, supporting community outreach, mentoring new members, or managing charitable efforts, committees give everyone a voice and a way to contribute. This shared responsibility strengthens fellowship and builds pride in what we accomplish together.

Committees also help lighten the workload for officers by spreading responsibilities across a team. When tasks are shared, projects are completed more efficiently and with greater attention to detail. Just as important, collaboration encourages new ideas and fresh perspectives that keep our organization growing and relevant.

Most importantly, committees develop future leaders. Members who serve on committees gain confidence, leadership skills, and a deeper understanding of how our organization functions. Many of today's leaders first became involved by simply saying 'YES' to serving on a committee.

When members step up and committees work together, the result is stronger Lodges, Chapters, more successful events, and a greater impact on our communities. Committees do not just support the organization – they make a difference!

Fraternally,  
**Bob Criss**  
CNMA Treasurer  
(530) 713-4545  
[treasurer@ca-nvmoose.org](mailto:treasurer@ca-nvmoose.org)





## JR PAST PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Working Together: The Strength of The Moose Family,

As I reflect on my time serving within the California Nevada Moose Association (CNMA), I am continually reminded that the true strength of our fraternity lies in the unity of its members. One of the most powerful examples of this unity is the partnership between the Women of the Moose, the Moose Legion, and our local Lodges. When these groups work together with a shared purpose, the results are nothing short of extraordinary.

The Women of the Moose have long been the heart of many of our activities. Their dedication to service, organization, and community outreach helps keep the spirit of Mooseheart and Moosehaven alive in everything we do. From organizing family events and fundraisers to supporting Lodge programs and charitable initiatives, their commitment is a shining example of what it means to live by The Moose values of caring and community.

Equally important are the members of the Moose Legion. Often working behind the scenes, the Moose Legionnaires provide essential support to our Lodges through fundraising, maintenance projects, and assistance wherever it is needed. Their willingness to step forward and help strengthen our Lodges ensures that our organization continues to grow and thrive.

However, the real magic happens when these groups come together as one Moose family. When the Women of the Moose, Moose Legion, and Lodge leadership collaborate, we see stronger events, increased membership engagement, and a deeper sense of fellowship. Whether it is hosting community events, supporting charitable causes, or improving our Lodge facilities, teamwork creates opportunities that no single group could accomplish alone.

Across the CNMA, I have witnessed many examples of this collaboration. Lodges where these groups communicate, support each other's projects, and celebrate successes together are the Lodges that flourish. They create welcoming environments where members feel proud to belong and excited to participate.

As Junior Past President, I encourage every Lodge to continue fostering this spirit of cooperation. Respect each other's roles, support each other's efforts, and remember that we are all working toward the same missions—supporting Moose Charities, strengthening our Lodges, and building lasting friendships.

When we work together, we honor the traditions of our fraternity and ensure a bright future for The Moose family for generations to come.

Fraternally,  
**Dina Munday**  
**CNMA Junior Past President**  
**(510) 701-9745**  
[jrpastpresident@ca-nvmoose.org](mailto:jrpastpresident@ca-nvmoose.org)

**TEAMWORK**  
*makes the dream work*

## SECRETARY MESSAGE

We would like to thank everyone for their patience at the 2026 Mid-Year Conference as we made the move to the downstairs B-2 Level at the Hilton Orange/County Costa Mesa. This was certainly a bigger change than we anticipated and having so many committees participating made for a lot of rearranging and updated plans for next year! We promise to be better organized if you all promise to commit to attending and providing us with the feedback (both positive and negative) that is necessary to make improvements to your conference and/or convention experience. The good news is that lots of great information was shared and appreciated by those in attendance.

We sure enjoyed an amazing evening at the 5 Star Party held at the Mid-Year Conference. It is important to **RSVP for this event** when you register in order to ensure that we order enough food for this event. Remember it is not a meal but a reception to honor those qualified lodges for their hard work. We also need to remember that only 5 Star Lodge members are eligible to attend this event and no guests will be allowed. You will **NOT** automatically have a 5 Star on your badge unless you have **RSVP'd** for the event as this is how we determine the anticipated number to order the food for. There is no other way for us to determine the right number of guests to plan for, so please help us to make it an event to remember! Check out the pictures on the website that prove it!

The California Nevada Moose Association (**CNMA**) is on track for another banner year of membership growth and actively participating in Moose International initiatives. Right now, we are a bit short on our goal toward the new Uniting Hearts; Expanding Horizons commitment of \$500,000 and our first year goal of \$170,000. We need to step up our efforts in fundraising to accomplish our goal of raising the funds necessary to have a home on the Mooseheart campus designated as the "**California Nevada Moose Association Home**". Please continue to assist us in donating to this worthwhile project. Your donations should be sent directly to Moose Charities earmarked **CNMA President's Project** or **MHT Project 25-28**, so that your Lodge, Chapter or District gets credit for the donation. Individuals can also contribute to this project which then applies the credit to their Lodge or Chapter and the Association they are affiliated with.

We need your updates for posting to the CNMA website such as pictures from events; community service efforts at the Lodge, Chapter, District, or Moose Legion celebrations; flyers of upcoming events; updated articles for the Committee pages; and other information to increase awareness across our states of California and Nevada. It is your website and we solicit your feedback.

Just a quick reminder that the Association billings occur on the same due dates as the Heart of the Community report's deadline. May 15<sup>th</sup>, August 15<sup>th</sup>, November 15<sup>th</sup>, and February 15<sup>th</sup>. So, the next billing will occur on May 15<sup>th</sup>. Another thing to remember is that those lodges who earn the prestigious 5 Star Award receive their credits on August 1<sup>st</sup> so that they can be applied to the August 15<sup>th</sup> dues billing. If your lodge receives the credit then they will either not owe anything for that billing, may have a credit balance, or may only owe a small amount after the billing is applied.

Cheryl D Volden  
CNMA Secretary  
(805) 205-3278



[secretary@ca-nvmoose.org](mailto:secretary@ca-nvmoose.org)



## LIAISON MESSAGE

### **My Fellow Brothers and Sisters,**

Welcome to April!

It is hard to believe we are already entering the final month of the 2025 – 2026 Moose Year. With that being said, all Lodges should be holding their Elections at their first General Membership Meeting of this month. To those Elected, thank you for stepping up and taking a leadership role in your Lodge and being a Fraternal Member. If you have not completed Lodge Leadership Training in the last 3 years, please remember to complete it within 60 days of taking Office.

### **Mid-Year Conference Recap**

To those of you that were present for our California Nevada Moose Association (CNMA) Mid-Year Conference just a few weeks ago, I hope you enjoyed yourself, had FUN, and learned some new information so that you can relay back to your Lodges and make them even more successful. I would like to thank those that shared what their Committees are doing within CNMA and The Moose Fraternity.

Thanks to the Field Staff that presented the following topics:

- **Orientations** – Territory Manager *John Damasio*
- **Lodge–Chapter–Moose Legion** – Territory Manager *Terry Gough*
- **Financial Review Committee** – Financial Review Specialist *John Crewdson*

If you would like any of those presentations presented, please reach out to your respective Territory Manager and they can provide that information to you.

### **International Moose Convention**

The **2026 International Moose Convention** will be held in **Oklahoma City, OK**, from **June 30 – July 3, 2026**.

- Registration & housing open: **December 8, 2025**
- Pre-registration closes: **May 29, 2026 (midnight)**
- After that, registration will be on-site only

The preliminary schedule is available at the link below. Please register and secure your housing early—rooms fill quickly. Attendance is required for the **Premier Lodge Award** for the next Moose Year, and I hope to see many of you there.

📍 Convention Info: <https://www.mooseintl.org/oklahoma-city-convention/>

### **Sponsor Incentive Program**

To support our goal of achieving a **fifth consecutive year of membership growth**, the Moose International Board of Directors has launched a new short-term Sponsor Incentive.

**From November 1, 2025, through April 30, 2026**, every time you sponsor your **fifth** new or re-enrolled member, you will receive a **one-time-use code** redeemable for:

- One year of your own Lodge dues
- One year of Lodge dues for another member
- Payment of a new or re-enrolled applicant's dues **plus** the \$20 application fee (when using the Online Lodge Membership Application)

There is **no limit** to the number of codes you can earn. Codes must be redeemed by **June 30, 2026**.

If you misplace your email with the code, contact the Helpdesk at **(630) 906-3658**.

This incentive also applies to the **Moose Legion** and **Women of the Moose**.

### Goals for the 2025–2026 Moose Year

*Status as of March 16, 2026:*

- **Membership Goal:** Net gain of +1 (Target: 56,985) *Current: 58,768 (+1,783 above goal)*
- **Retention Rate Goal:** 80%+ *Current: 79.75%*
- **Moose Charities Goal:** \$472,178.38 *Current: \$388,191.12*
- **New Applications Goal:** 10,989 *Current: 11,161*

With continued focus on sponsorship, retention, and charitable giving, I am confident we will not only meet these goals—but exceed them.

### In Closing

Let us continue to:

- **Move Forward and Give Back**
- **Embrace Our Community**
- **Make It Happen**

We are blessed with a **Proud Past** and a **Bright Future**.

If you have questions or need assistance, please reach out to your Territory Manager.

**God Bless Mooseheart**

**God Bless Moosehaven**

**And God Bless each and every one of you**

Fraternally,

**Kenneth Copp**

**Territory 47 Manager / CNMA Liaison**

**(224) 730-9927**

[kcopp@mooseintl.org](mailto:kcopp@mooseintl.org)



# MOOSE MOVING FORWARD, GIVING BACK

May 1, 2025 - April 30, 2026

Our Fraternity has made a commitment to being ever present in our communities. By continuing our positive momentum, we make our meaningful contributions a reality. To move forward, we must make a positive impact on our society, by giving back.

### Sponsor 1 Member

**MOVING FORWARD, GIVING BACK** lapel pins are presented by your Lodge, Chapter or Moose Legion to individuals that sponsor their first member during the campaign.



### Sponsor 5 Members

Funds will be used toward the purchase of a backup generator for Moosehaven’s computer server room. This is important for keeping their offices running in case of power failure, protecting the residents’ electronic records. Contributions are courtesy of your Association, the Women of the Moose, and the Moose Legion.



**Sponsor 25 Members** Members attaining Sponsors of Distinction status by sponsoring 25 members during the **MOVING FORWARD, GIVING BACK** membership drive will receive free basic registration for our 2026 International Moose Convention in Oklahoma City, OK. Additional information can be found on [www.mooseintl.org](http://www.mooseintl.org).



Earn Rewards simply for doing things that strengthen The Moose. Now is a great time to sponsor a member; serve in office; renew your dues or complete training. Each activity generates points automatically that you can use to pay dues, contribute to Mooseheart/Moosehaven, or redeem for Moose gift store purchases. Check your Moose Rewards points total today at [www.mooseintl.org](http://www.mooseintl.org) to see how many you have earned! Also, look for special promotions throughout the year for your chance to earn greater rewards.



# RISE

May 1, 2025 -  
April 30, 2026

# BY LIFTING OTHERS UP



## One person can make a difference, everyone should try

Sign up 3 members!  
Playing Cards



Sign up 5 members!  
Ear Buds



Sign up 10 members!  
Padfolio





## NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

We had a lot of FUN at the Mid-Year Conference. Congratulations to Caro McMichael Elsinore Lodge 1021 for winning the **NINTENDO SWITCH**. It should bring lots of FUN to your family at the Lodge level. I heard you might use it for an opportunity drawing. Good Luck.

At the Mid-Year Conference, we spoke about getting sponsors and new members to attend Orientations. Let's show support to our new members. We also spoke about having a couple of members attend the Orientation meeting and sharing their story as to why they became a member and why they are still a member. Why not share your heartfelt story?

We distributed a thumb drive to all District Presidents with the **New Member Orientation video** on it. Please use this tool during your District meetings and give each Lodge a drive. Remember you can access the video by clicking the link above or on the California Nevada Moose Association (CNMA) Website > Membership > [New Member Orientation](#) page. Remember, after hosting a New Member Orientation be sure to enter the attendees into the system, so the attendee and Lodge will get credit for their attendance.

When you talk to members who have dropped their membership, invite them to a free spaghetti dinner or offer another incentive for them to attend an Orientation. At the same time invite the new members to the same event. Explain it as a welcoming event in their honor as a new member. We will tell them about The Moose, show a video from the Chief Executive Officer Scott Hart and answer any questions they may have. Provide a little gift for attending (i.e., Pen, Koozie cup holder, key chain). Moose Catalog Sales can help. Our Committee provided a sample pen at the Mid-Year Conference, hopefully you received one.

Make your event **FUN**, send everyone home with a positive impression of The Moose and your Lodge.

**Ed Stone**  
CNMA New Member Orientation Chair  
(951) 428-9590  
[orientation@ca-nvmoose.org](mailto:orientation@ca-nvmoose.org)

"A person's greatest treasure is their attitude."





## COUNCIL HIGHER DEGREES

We are so excited to tell you all that we have a new Council of Higher Degrees. The Officers were installed and the new Council instituted at the California Nevada Moose Association Council of Higher Degrees breakfast held during the Mid-Year Conference in Costa Mesa.

The new name is 'Palm to Pine' Council of Higher Degrees. We are so excited to have them in our Council. I know they will work hard on Retention. This is something the Councils can help you with. They are there to help any Chapter or Lodge with their membership. Let us get the Councils to help make the calls.

We are such a great Fraternity. We work to support Mooseheart and Moosehaven and a lot of other community things.

Thank you for coming by and visiting our Council - Higher Degrees table at the Mid-Year Conference. Let us all work together on membership Retention!

Hope to see you all soon!!

**Frankie Wysocki**  
**CNMA Council Higher Degrees Chair**  
**(661) 747-4345**  
[councilhd@ca-nvmoose.org](mailto:councilhd@ca-nvmoose.org)



## MEMBERSHIP

Hello Moose Brothers and Sisters,

Latest membership reports are looking good. Keep up the Great work. The Moose International Membership Campaign is **MOVING FORWARD, GIVING BACK**. The California Nevada Moose Association Campaign is **RISE BY LIFTING OTHERS UP**. The Moose International Board of Directors has a short-term Sponsor Incentive Program in order to assist the Fraternity that has its sights set on a fifth (5th) consecutive year of membership growth. It began on November 1, 2025, and will end on April 30, 2026. Each time you sponsor your fifth (5th) new or reenrolled member into The Moose, you will receive a one-time use code for one of the following: \*One free year of your own dues; \*the ability to gift to another member one year of their Lodge, Chapter, or Moose Legion dues; or \*When using the Online Lodge membership Application to sponsor a new or reenrolled member into The Moose, it can be used as the applicant's dues and the application fee. There is no limit on the number of one-time codes that a sponsor can earn. Codes must be used by June 30, 2026.

Lodges and Districts can also have other Campaigns. What is your Lodge or District doing? To see what short term campaigns Moose International has to offer [click here](#).

Fraternally,  
**Paul Blaisdell**  
**CNMA Membership Chair**  
**(310) 433-9349**  
[membership@ca-nvmoose.org](mailto:membership@ca-nvmoose.org)





## MOOSEHEART HAPPENINGS

As the second semester at Mooseheart enters its third month, the end of the school year, the 2026 commencement and graduation ceremonies are quickly approaching. Believe it or not, the Seniors have less than 50 days until they graduate.

February is traditionally one of the coldest and wettest months at Mooseheart, which is why they always designate it as “Fitness in February” month. However, this past February was one of the warmest and driest Februaries in history. Despite that, on February 1<sup>st</sup> the competition began. Both students and staff can participate in physical fitness activities offered each day to all those who wish to participate. The students keep a log, of their fitness minutes. At the end of the competition the top two students are awarded prizes for their efforts. The final event was held on March 8th, and the winners were announced on Monday, March 9th.

The Seniors held their final fundraiser for the year. They set up a Valentine’s gift shop for staff and students to buy presents for their sweeties. Then on Valentines Day they hosted a sock-hop in the gymnasium.

In late February and early March many students were eager to get their Real IDs from the Department of Motor Vehicles to make it easier to travel to and from school over the holidays and summer break. The challenge was that in the State of Illinois this can be accomplished by appointment only and snagging an available slot was not easy. Thanks to the efforts of the Family Teachers, every eligible student successfully got in to submit their application and required paperwork.

On Saturday, March 7th, the Canteen Corporation came to campus and set up an International Fair. They treated everyone to a FUN filled day. There were 16 booths representing 16 different countries offering great food and games from around the globe. This is an annual event, and the kids and adults look forward to it each year. Mooseheart has developed a great partnership with the Canteen Corporation, who have created an amazing tradition for the staff and students.

March is a remarkably busy time for the Navy Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (NJROTC). They competed in two events specifically designed for NJROTC Drill Teams. The students had to “fall in” for several 0500 hour check-ins. They did a wonderful job and are eagerly awaiting the results of the competition. The students took a lot of time preparing their ball gowns and uniforms for the Military Ball that was held on “lucky” Friday the 13th. They all looked amazing and had a wonderful time at the dance. The Annual Military Inspection was held on March 17th. In anticipation the cadets prepared their uniforms, shined their gear, and squared away all their equipment for the event.

The spring Track and Field teams and the Soccer season began just before spring break. Mooseheart offered both girls and boys track. This year Mooseheart formed a girls soccer team for the first time. “Oh my” were the exact words Director Urwiler used to describe taking 10 girls shoe shopping for soccer shoes in order to be ready for the upcoming practice.

Easter is right around the corner, and the students are getting excited about returning home for Spring Break. The younger students have been busy too. They celebrated Dr. Seuss week by dressing up in their favorite Seuss character costumes and enjoyed reading lots of Dr. Seuss books. Batavia Moose Lodge #682 invited the younger kids to an Easter egg hunt before they left for Spring Break and the WOTM will treat them to an egg hunt when they return from their break. As you can see there is a lot going on at Mooseheart. Thank you for doing all you do to support our kids.

Julie Nelson  
CNMA Mooseheart Chair  
(714) 267-5772  
[mooseheart@ca-nvmoose.org](mailto:mooseheart@ca-nvmoose.org)



UNITING HEARTS; EXPANDING HORIZONS !

# MOOSEHEART'S 2025 - 2028, \$12,000,000 FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

- ▶ **Three fully renovated Mooseheart homes**  
Redesigned to serve children and adults with intellectual or developmental disabilities.
- ▶ **Three brand-new, purpose-built homes**  
Community Integrated Living Arrangements that offer independence with dignity.
- ▶ **Critical infrastructure upgrades**  
Including new paving, curbs, sidewalks, and modernized water lines across key areas of our campus.
- ▶ **A revitalized track and discus cage**  
Because every child deserves a place to run, compete, and dream.
- ▶ **A state-of-the-art Fresh Water Treatment Plant**  
Ensuring safety and sustainability for the entire Mooseheart community.
- ▶ **Renovation of ten Family Teacher Quarters of homes**  
The heart of our caregiving model.

📞 **Contact Us:**  
(630) 966-2200

or

<https://www.moosecharities.org>

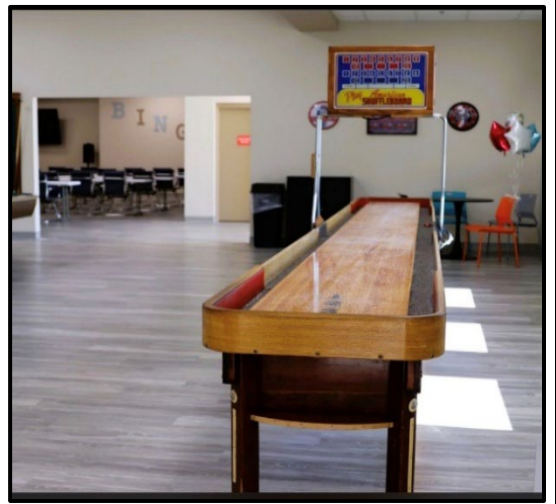




### MOOSEHAVEN

In the Moose Legion ritual, the Moose Legionnaire in the part of Orator says: *“Moosehaven is not just a retirement community it is home, a home of comfort, convenience and security with residents who are active and independent. The atmosphere that we have created is adding life to their years and years to their lives.”* Because of the generosity of Moose members throughout the fraternity the residents at Moosehaven do indeed wake up each morning to ‘Another Day in Paradise.’

The campaign to raise funds for the AAA project is complete and the new Sports and Activities building and pavilion are now open for use.



The Moosehaven campus hosts many activities and events throughout the year. On March 2, 2026, the 19th Annual Moosehaven Golf Invitational was held in the Orange Park, Florida area.

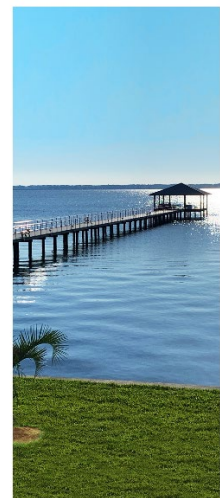




On January 14, 2026, Moosehaven proudly announced that they once again have been recognized by US News and World Report as a 2026 Best Nursing Home, earning high honors in both Short-Term Rehabilitation and Long-Term Care.

Fraternally,

**Charles Barber**  
**CNMA Moosehaven Chair**  
**(650) 279-5310**  
[moosehaven@ca-nvmoose.org](mailto:moosehaven@ca-nvmoose.org)





### YOUTH AWARENESS

Greetings,

We have six finalists representing California. They will be going to the International Youth Awareness Congress held in Phoenix, Arizona April 16th-20th.

The finalist and their sponsors are as follows:

- Alejandro Ledo - Downey Lodge #663
- Estrellitah Madrigal Hernandez - Monterey Lodge #876
- Idil Aktan - Monterey Lodge #876
- Jamal Haddad - Sunnyvale Lodge #2049
- Johnny Ho - Garden Grove Chapter #1117
- Preston Brown - Escondido Lodge #1874

We are currently working with the finalists to help them get ready for the International Youth Awareness Congress.

Thank you to all the Lodges who hosted a Youth Awareness Congress: Bellflower, Buena Park, Downey, Escondido, Garden Grove, La Habra, Monterey, Pomona, Roseville, Sacramento, Stockdale, and Sunnyvale!

Our biggest thank you goes out to the Moose Legion, for putting up the scholarship money each and every year!!!

**If you would like to donate to our committee, please make your check payable to CNMA and earmark it CNMA Youth Awareness. Also remember to put all donations on your Lodge HOC report!**

On behalf of our committee, we thank all of you who have sponsored students and who continue to support the Youth Awareness Program.

Serving from the heart,

**Bridget Robinson**  
**CNMA Youth Awareness Chair**  
**(714) 394-4910**  
[youthaware@ca-nvmoose.org](mailto:youthaware@ca-nvmoose.org)

2025 International Youth Awareness Congress

Howing fun together...

...while exchanging ideas

...and reaching solutions.

Activities & Heart of the Community Department  
 Moose International  
 Molineville, IL 60179-1183  
 Sherry LaRosa (630) 966-2213  
 Fax: (630) 829-6616

ARIZONA/NEW MEXICO MOOSE 2026 INTERNATIONAL YOUTH AWARENESS CONGRESS PHOENIX, AZ

2026 MOOSE YOUTH AWARENESS PROGRAM

Excellent Experiences For Your Resume!

THERE IS A FUTURE THEY ARE THE FUTURE THE FUTURE IS NOW

1st Place Yusef Torres California \$12,000.00	2nd Place David Dossing California \$8,000.00	3rd Place Devon Lynn Garcia California \$6,000.00
4th Place Austin Gagliardi Arkansas \$3,000.00	5th Place Brynn Henscher California \$4,000.00	



### HEART OF THE COMMUNITY (HOC)

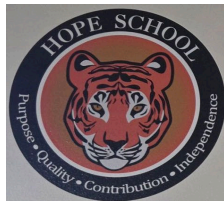
First, I would love to say **THANK YOU** to all the Chapters and Lodges who have donated Tommy Moose plush, Coloring Books, Blankets, etc. Your generosity is always amazing. The donations we made at the Mid-Year Conference would not have happened without you. Last time I checked, there is no letter 'I' in the word team. We do this as a team. All of us working together to support our communities.

Our Heart of the Community program remains strong. We continue to help in any way we can. Here are some pictures from our Community Service visits to Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC); Ronald McDonald House of Orange County; and Hope School.



Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC)

Denise Angeles  
CNMA HOC Chair  
(805) 312-4727  
[hoc@ca-nvmoose.org](mailto:hoc@ca-nvmoose.org)



Welcome to  
**HOPE SCHOOL**  
"The #1 Special Education School in America"





## MOOSE CHARITIES

Hello Moose Family,

As another Moose year ends, I would like to reflect on our slogan for the past year: *"MOVING FORWARD, GIVING BACK."* This theme emphasized maintaining positive momentum within our communities while making meaningful contributions.

I have witnessed firsthand many Lodges, Chapters, and Districts make the most of this slogan during the past year, and I commend your dedication and hard work.

We recently completed the Rocker fundraiser, and I hope all Lodges within the California Nevada Moose Association participated. I trust your campaigns were successful and that we continue our recent trend of increasing total contributions to this cause.

I also want to thank everyone who donated gift cards to the Moose Charities Booth for the Costa Mesa Mid-Year Conference. Your generosity and willingness to support Moose Charities are appreciated.

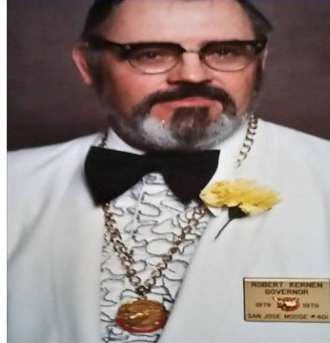
Fraternally yours,

Jason Evans  
 CNMA Moose Charities Chair  
 (209) 642-2079  
[moosecharities@ca-nvmoose.org](mailto:moosecharities@ca-nvmoose.org)



## Cal-Nevada Values our Veterans

## Robert “Bob” Kernan – San Jose #401



My dad is Robert "Bob" Kernan. He joined the **UNITED STATES NAVY RESERVE-READY** during his senior year of high school in Hollister, CA. His social studies teacher was a pilot in the ZP871 Blimp squadron at **NAS OAKLAND**. His enlistment date was October 23, 1954.

He went to boot camp and stickers school at NAS Sandpoint, Seattle and was there from March to September 1955. He graduated as an Aviation Electricians Mate 3rd class (AEM3). In 1956 he spent his 2 weeks active duty training at Gitmo Naval Air Station, Cuba. Shortly upon leaving there on the 15th of September 1956, they heard that Castro had started his Revolution on the morning of the 16th!

Continuing monthly training and flights out of Oakland, they were coming in for a landing when a fixed wing aircraft crashed at the end of the runway blocking it.

During their flight (waiting for clearance) they circled around the city of Oakland and happened to see a man pull a lady into the brush of a city park. They alerted the police who arrested the man. We found out later he was a serial rapist and she was thirteen.

Their training session in 1957 was at Lakehurst, New Jersey. They did a 100-hour check on the blimp they were flying while there. They earned the Admirals 'E' Award for doing this and for being able to get their ship out of the hanger, out to the runway and in there faster than the station personnel.

During one of their flights, they were sent fifteen miles out in the Atlantic and escorted the SS Queen Elizabeth into New York Harbor on her maiden voyage from England!

During a 24-hour R and R, he took a trip into New York City where he went up to the top of the Empire State Building, visited Battery Park, and took the ferry to the Statue of Liberty. At the statue he climbed up into the crown. It was quite a view from each building!

During their training late 1957 into 1958 he was able to fly over the Giants playing their first game in Seals Stadium and a Forty-niners game in Kezar Stadium.

They were flying toward the Farallon Islands and got a call of a submarine going through the Golden Gate. They flew towards it and escorted the USS NAUTILUS going into San Francisco Bay on its first trip.

In November 1958, his squadron was relieved from active duty. His ship (K140) was flown to Yucca Flats Nevada and blown up with an Atomic bomb.

Not wanting to continue in a blimp squadron by active duty in Lakehurst, he went into inactive duty.

This is when he started his career with the state of California Division of Forestry (CDF) as a firefighter and married my mom in 1959. He was one of the first Smokey the Bears that would go around to the schools and talk to children about fire prevention. He retired from the CDF in 1977 as a Captain.

His history with The Moose started in March 1971 at the San Jose Moose Lodge 401. He was Governor 1978-79, received his Fellowship Degree in 1985, and was District 10 President 1987-88. He is a member of the 25 Club. He was proud to be the Ritual Director for many years and was part of the Hilltop Hilton CB Club (for those Moose members that remember).

He has held many chairs, led many committees and positions in the Lodge and throughout District 10, including being the Administrator for the Milpitas and Santa Clara Lodges when they were active. Three of his favorite fundraisers that were successful at the lodge were the Red Cross Blood Drive, the Jane Flaherty Arthritis bike hike, and the Crippled Children's Foundation fundraiser. He loved doing the holiday BBQs at the Lodge because he made sure they were family events and there were activities for everyone. My dad did not have any biological brothers, so growing up all our uncles were our Uncles from The Moose and to this day my dad would not have had it any other way! SUBMITTED BY FAYE WILSON, SAN JOSE #401

### **We Want to Recognize Your Valued Veterans!**

- ▶ Write a story about your **Veteran** member that illustrates what makes them so special to your Lodge, how they stand out and specifics about what they have done.
- ▶ Send the story and a photo of your **Valued Veteran** to [veterans@ca-nvmoose.org](mailto:veterans@ca-nvmoose.org). Then watch future issues to learn more about the heroes within our California Nevada Moose Association.

Appreciation is good for the soul and for the whole organization. *Think about the look on your Veteran member's face and how moved they will feel to see themselves here.*  
Now go and write!

Your submissions will be published here, and they will be displayed at our yearly conferences and conventions.

Morale is an especially important part of our Lodges and participation in recognition programs like this one can do wonders. I cannot wait to meet your amazing members through your stories!

**Please send any questions or suggestions for this page to [veterans@ca-nvmoose.org](mailto:veterans@ca-nvmoose.org) .**

Fraternally,

**Bonnie M. Russell**  
**Valued Veterans Chair**  
**(510) 925-6776**  
[veterans@ca-nvmoose.org](mailto:veterans@ca-nvmoose.org)



## STREET SMARTS

Here it is another time to make your Lodge a little more **Street Smart** by planning not only more frequent activities but also big events to bring in Moose members from other Lodges within our California Nevada Moose Association (CNMA).

I had the opportunity to attend one of these bigger events and I am happy to say that everything went perfectly. It was the “Legend of the Golden Ball” ceremony. This event was at the Apple Valley Moose Lodge and was put on by Yucca Moose Legion #167. I had the pleasure of not only meeting local members but also many members from visiting Lodges that drove hours to attend this event. I even saw members who came in on horseback. Is it whiskey for me and beer for my horse or is it the other way around?

I like how the Moose Legion worked with a local theater group. They got in some practice while I got to see the best production I have ever seen in 39 years of being a Moose. It really added to the event, and it did not cost them anything except for a free meal for the actors. Oh, and I cannot leave this part, they served every one Steak & Lobster!

I always offer to help at these events I attend but this Lodge had so many volunteers I was told relax; it is under control.

Our Mid-Year Conference in Costa Mesa will be over by the time you read this, so I hope you stopped by the Activities booth to get tickets for our fundraiser for the CNMA President’s Project. We are offering an opportunity to win three days at the 2026 Annual Convention scheduled for the Nugget Casino Resort September 10 to September 13, 2026. In addition will receive \$500 spending money. Try the million dollar slot machine, might be the best \$5 you ever spent. Lodges should buy a whole book of tickets for \$100 that way they do not have to spend the money to send their President or Administrator. What a great deal! All proceeds from this drawing will go to the Presidents Project. Remember that our commitment is to fund a new house on the Mooseheart campus!

We also would like to be included on your Lodges email list so we can start receiving your newsletter, email, or text blasts. Whatever system is used at your Lodge please get us on it and you and your Lodge may end up here as well.

Hope to see you at your Lodge,

**Gary L Spencer**  
**CNMA Activities Chair**  
**(805) 610-6911**

[activities@ca-nvmoose.org](mailto:activities@ca-nvmoose.org)





## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE MOOSE DEGREES

### How Moose Degrees Are Earned

Moose Degrees are not simply awarded, they are earned through dedication, compassion, and a deep commitment to service. These distinguished honors recognize members who consistently step forward, generously give of their time and talents, and live the values of The Moose in their everyday actions. Each degree represents a meaningful milestone in a member's journey and reflects the strength of character that defines our fraternity.

At the heart of every Moose Degree is service. Members earn recognition by actively supporting their Lodge, Chapter, and/or Moose Legion participating in charitable efforts, and contributing to the greater mission of The Moose. Whether organizing fundraisers, assisting with community service, or supporting Mooseheart and Moosehaven, degree candidates demonstrate a willingness to serve where help is needed most.

Leadership is another cornerstone of earning a Moose Degree. Those who advance through the degrees often take on responsibilities that guide and strengthen the organization. They mentor new members, serve on committees, hold officer positions, and help shape the future of the fraternity. Their leadership is rooted not in title, but in action, leading by example and inspiring others to become involved.

Moose Degrees also honor consistency and commitment. Earning these honors reflects ongoing participation rather than a single achievement. Members who receive degrees show up year after year, supporting events, attending meetings, and remaining engaged in the Lodge, Chapter, and/or Moose Legion. Their involvement helps build unity, continuity, and a powerful sense of fellowship among members.

Regardless of the specific degree, whether within the Moose Legion or the Women of the Moose, all degree recipients are united by shared core values. Compassion, integrity, and dedication form the foundation of every degree earned. These honors celebrate individuals who embody the true spirit of The Moose and serve as role models within their Lodges, Chapters, and/or Moose Legion.

By recognizing those who earn Moose Degrees, we celebrate the absolute best of our fraternity. These members strengthen our organization, inspire future leaders, and ensure that The Moose legacy of service and caring continues to thrive. Every degree earned is a testament to the impact one dedicated member can make, and a reminder that service is the highest honor of all.

**Ann Cooke**  
**CNMA Degrees Co-Chair**  
 (831) 296-2075  
[degrees@ca-nvmoose.org](mailto:degrees@ca-nvmoose.org)





## HISTORICAL COMMITTEE

By the time you get this newsletter, the Mid-Year conference will have already passed. I am confident as always; an enjoyable time was had by all. We laughed. We cried. We celebrated.

### ***We make history as we reflect on our history.***

My hopes are to continue gathering and disseminating our wonderful Moose history as it relates to California and Nevada. We now have 107 Lodges in the California Nevada Moose Association (CNMA). Welcome

Elk Grove #2731! The CNMA is strong.

### ***It is strong because of YOU.***

Moose folks are modest folks. This I know. There are **SO** many that do **SO** much for our communities, our Lodges, our Districts, the CNMA, and our Fraternity.

### ***Let us talk about THEM.***

I now have a database that has 416 Moose Lodge numbers in California and another thirty in Nevada. Each of these, many of which are still 100% functioning, others that have merged with a nearby Lodge, and **ALL** have incredible stories of accomplishments by the selfless acts of the members there. We want to capture these stories, even if anonymously, and share them with the CNMA members at the very least. Our committee's goal is to show the impressive strength of our Moose herd, for 138 years and counting. Nothing is impossible. Nothing is unattainable.

### ***The Moose: Doing good for the sake of doing good.***

**I KNOW** you have a story to share, or a question to ask. Please feel free to reach out. Drop a line, let us get together at your Lodge so we can laugh, cry, and celebrate together!

### ***Be MOOSE PROUD!***

We will soon be starting a **NEW 'Moose Year.'** This is the time to tip the hat to those that were the stewards of our Lodges, Chapters and Moose Legions for the past year at least and have passed the baton of service to their successors. The legacy of their work is ours to be carried forward. Their vision, combined with our energy, is what they will see us through.

### ***We do not do it for ourselves; we do this for our children.***

As a Membership Committee Chair in my local Lodge as well as Chaplain, I often find that the children of Moose Members do not understand what their parents see in the Lodge or the Fraternity.

### ***Then, one day, it all changes. They eventually understand the reason we are The Moose.***

It is up to us to guide them and hold our Fraternity for them as our parents and grandparents did for us. They were stewards for our Fraternal Organization, and we do the same for our kids, and the process repeats.

Continued reverence of our history is what we need to keep The Moose's clock ticking without **'losing time.'** The sooner we can inspire our children, our neighbors, our colleagues, our friends, and extended family to experience what life is like inside the Defending Circle, the easier it is to keep our Lodges, Chapters and Moose Legions growing in membership, fraternalism, and strength.

I have a **LOT** of awesome stories to share for inspiration if you need them, and you do, too. You show me yours, and I will show you mine!

Fraternally,

**Damon Russell**  
**CNMA Historical Chair**  
**(510) 506-4314**  
[historical@ca-nvmoose.org](mailto:historical@ca-nvmoose.org)

**APR-MAY 2026**

**GOLD MINER**

**PAGE 27**

**Disaster Relief Committee Chair – Rick Balthazar**



## **DISASTER RELIEF**

Recently I traveled to over a dozen Lodges with President Bill Jackson. We encounter Lodges that could use some financial support. We the members of the Disaster Relief Fund Committee voted to give two Lodges a check for \$1,000 each to assist them.

This past year we have given \$14,000 to Lodges in serious need. This was all made possible with donations from Lodges, Districts, Moose Legions, and some personal donations. You keep our Fund strong by your donations.

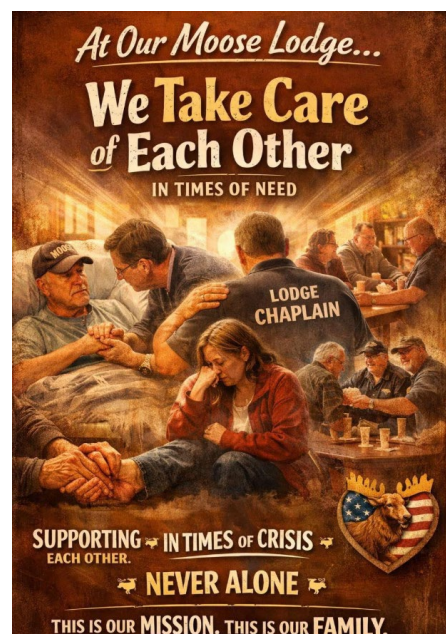
Please call me or any member if you are in need of some financial support. We will review your request and send it on to the Executive Committee for approval. So far we have been able to answer all requests!

It was great seeing all of you during the Mid-Year Conference in Costa Mesa.

Fraternally,

**Rick Balthazar**  
**CNMA Disaster Relief Chair**  
**(562) 457-7223**  
[disaster@ca-nvmoose.org](mailto:disaster@ca-nvmoose.org)

**Disaster Relief:** The CNMA Disaster Relief Committee was formed to encourage all CNMA units and Districts to contribute to a fund that would be available for the immediate funding of disasters that affect the financial stability of a Lodge. Each unit is requested to fund \$120 per year to keep funds available for these emergent needs.





## GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

Hoping the new year is off and running well for all and that your Lodges are thriving. I am continuing my quest to support, all California Nevada Moose Association (CNMA) staff, members, and their families in whatever way I can. Likewise serving the Districts and Lodges within CNMA.

I hope you all enjoyed the Mid-Year Conference in Costa Mesa and met lots of wonderful folks at the Conference. As I stated in my newsletter in January, I am determined to work at getting an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) into all Lodges desiring to have one located on their premises. We are now into the second phase of having Lodges notify me as to which option their Lodge wants to move forward with, or not, in the acquisition of an AED.

As of this newsletter, I have only heard from approximately twelve of the 80 Lodges that currently do not have an AED on their premises. It is not a mandatory requirement to have an AED on site, but my goals remains strong to equip each Lodge desiring to have an AED available to them, as soon as possible, which is contingent upon how long it takes, to get all the Lodges to respond to me. As previously stated, **"A life saved, could be your own!"** You will only need to have to use the AED once, for it to pay for itself.

Additionally, I am still reviewing all new laws that went into effect for California and Nevada on January 1, for any impact to our Lodges and the way you go about business, on a day-to-day basis. Again, almost **eight hundred** new laws went into effect in California alone, and more than in Nevada. After a review of the new laws affecting our states, I will promulgate that information to all Lodge officials in the coming weeks.

Let us all continue to strive to make Moose the premier charitable organization, not only in the US, but in this big world where we all live.

Fraternally yours,

James Upshaw Sr.  
CNMA Government Relations Chair  
(619) 980-3534  
[govrelations@ca-nvmoose.org](mailto:govrelations@ca-nvmoose.org)





## LOSS PREVENTION

My Sisters and Brothers of the California Nevada Moose Association,  
Greetings!

Over the past few years, I have had the pleasure of visiting many of our Lodges across our Moose Nation. One thing always stood out. The number of our senior members, or as I like to say, our Silver Moose (ok, I just made that part up, but it sounds cool), that were in them. And why not? The Moose is a wonderful place to be. Safe, friendly, and FUN. But as I know from my background in medicine, as we get older our immune systems lose some of their ability to fight infection. This is partly because of preexisting health conditions we have developed over the years and because, well, we are getting older. Some of us are slowing down. With that said today's article will be about minimizing the chances of developing illnesses that could easily be prevented or at least minimizing the symptoms you might experience if you contract said infections. Keep in mind we have only been out of a pandemic that contributed to the death of millions of lives. Vaccinations and personal hygiene play crucial roles in maintaining public health and preventing the spread of infectious diseases. Vaccines help build immunity against dangerous illnesses, protecting not only those who receive them but also the broader community by reducing outbreaks. By staying up to date with recommended vaccinations, individuals contribute to herd immunity, making it harder for diseases to take hold and spread. Personal hygiene practices, such as regular handwashing, covering coughs and sneezes, and proper sanitation, are equally important in minimizing the transmission of germs. These simple habits can drastically reduce the risk of common infections like colds, flu, and gastrointestinal illnesses. Together, vaccinations and good personal hygiene form the foundation of effective disease prevention and promote healthier communities.

We regularly meet members at our Lodges. We alternate cooking, serving, and sharing the space. If we can follow the simple rules listed above, we might spare our Brothers and Sisters sick days in bed at home, time in a hospital or even worse, unimaginable. Brothers and Sisters, I said this would be short and I think I have hit that target. So, I hope this message has some value for you, your family, and friends. In a few short months, I will be getting ready for the International Moose Convention and my first time as a member of the International Loss Prevention Committee. I hope I can see some of you there, please stop me and say "Hi." If not Oklahoma City, then Sparks, Nevada.

So as always, I wish each of you - health, love, and laughter. And as always: **See You at The Moose!**

Fraternally,

**Sam Hoffman**  
**CNMA Loss Prevention Chair**  
**(510) 295-9177**  
[lossprevention@ca-nvmoose.org](mailto:lossprevention@ca-nvmoose.org)



**California Nevada Moose Association, Inc.**

**PO Box 207**

**Port Hueneme, CA 93044-0207**

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