

## Things You Should Know About the General Laws

*Below are some questions and answers concerning our General Laws that you may find interesting and enlightening:*

**Question** - *Can a lodge change its meeting nights and dues without obtaining approval from the General Governor?* **Answer** – *Yes! A special meeting of the membership is required and the lodge must report the change and submit the special meeting notice and minutes to the General Governor. The lodge must enter the change electronically in the LCL program (Sec. 26.7). (Note – A name change requires approval of the General Governor.)*

**Question** – *Can a former member who has been expelled reapply for membership or enter any lodge as a guest?* **Answer** – *No, unless he/she has obtained a special dispensation from the General Governor (Sec. 28.8).*

**Question** – *Can a member have multiple lodge memberships?* **Answer** – *Yes, multiple lodge memberships are allowed! (Sec. 28.9).*

**Question** – *Can a member sponsor himself into another lodge?* **Answer** – *No. Our laws require an applicant to be sponsored by another good standing member (Sec. 28.2).*

**Question** – *Can a member holding membership in more than one lodge vote in all lodges in which he is a member?* **Answer** – *Yes! (Sec. 28.9).*

**Question** – *If a member holds membership in more than one lodge in an association, how many votes does he have at district or association meetings?* **Answer** – *He is only entitled to one vote total.*

**Question** – *Can a member holding membership in more than one lodge hold office in more than one lodge at the same time?* **Answer** – *No, unless he receives a special dispensation from the General Governor (Sec. 28.9).*

**Question** – *Is a membership application legal if it only contains the signatures of the applicant and the sponsor?* **Answer** – *No. Applications must not only be signed by the sponsor, but by a member of the lodge endorsing the application (Sec. 28.2).*

**Question** – *Must applications for membership be investigated?* **Answer** – *Yes! A 3-member Application Review Committee has this responsibility. (Sec. 28.3).*

**Question** – *May the Board of Officers serve as the Application Review Committee?* **Answer** – *No! The Governor is required to appoint a separate 3-member committee (Sec. 28.3).*

**Question** – *Does the Board of Officers vote on applications for membership?* **Answer** – *No! The board merely accepts and records the report of the Application Review Committee, which must be signed by at least 2 of the 3-committee members (Sec. 28.3).*

**Question** – *Can approved applicants (candidates) be voted on by simply approving the minutes of the Board of Officers' minutes?* **Answer** - *No! Section 28.4 requires the membership to vote on each*

applicant for membership approved by the Application Review Committee. A separate vote is required.

**Question** – Can a rejected applicant reapply for membership in another lodge? **Answer** – No! A rejected applicant cannot reapply for membership for six months from the date of rejection and only into the lodge in which he was rejected, unless he receives a dispensation from the General Governor (Sec. 28.5).

**Question** – May lodges charge any amount for dues over and above the ABCD amount established by the Supreme Council? **Answer** – Yes! – if properly voted on at a special meeting of the membership. (Sec. 30.2).

**Question** – When can lodge members in arrears be dropped from the rolls? **Answer** – All members are now dropped twelve (12) months from the date they are in arrears by Moose International- (Sec. 30.5).

**Question** – What is the length of time that a dropped member may apply for reinstatement? **Answer** – Within 24 months from the date he became in arrears (Sec. 30.6).

**Question** – May a member in arrears, but not dropped come in the lodge as a guest? **Answer** – No! A member in arrears (not-in-good standing) shall not attend meetings (lodge, association or Moose Legion), enter a social quarters, attend fraternal social functions, or participate in any fraternal activities (Sec. 30.5).

**Question** – Does a former member applying for reinstatement have to fill out a new membership application and be voted on the same as a new member? **Answer** – Yes! (Sec. 30.6)

**Question** – If a former member applies for and is accepted for membership after 24 months, does he receive credit for prior years of service and does he retain his degrees previously earned? **Answer** – He retains all degrees and honors previously earned, but loses all prior years of service (Sec. 30.6).

**Question** – Can a member purchase a life membership and, if so, does the lodge have to vote on the life membership? **Answer** – Any member may purchase a life membership for \$600. The lodge does not vote on life memberships (Sec. 31.1).

**Question** – Does the receiving lodge vote on applications for transfer? **Answer** – Members applying for transfer into a lodge must complete an application and be voted on the same as a new member (Sec. 32.3).

**Question** – If the receiving lodge rejects an applicant for transfer, how long must he wait before he may reapply for transfer into the lodge that rejected him? **Answer** – Six (6) months (Sec. 32.5).

**Question** – What happens to fines, including those imposed by the Governor or other presiding officer? **Answer** – All fines shall be forwarded monthly to Moose Charities, Inc. for deposit into the endowment fund (Sec. 35.2).

**Question** – What right does the Governor of the lodge have to look at the books and records of the lodge? **Answer** – The Governor has the right to examine all books, records and documents of any officer at any time (Sec. 35.9).

**Question** – Can the Governor or Board of Officers vacate the office of Jr. Past Governor? **Answer** – No, only the General Governor can remove a Jr. Past Governor from office (Sec. 35.11).

**Question** – How many signatures are required on check? **Answer** – At least two, with one signature being that of the Administrator's and the other being either the Governor's or Treasurer's (Sec. 36.3).

**Question** – Are signature stamps allowed? **Answer** – No! (Sec. 36.3)

**Question** – Whose signatures are required on all approved legal documents? **Answer** – The signatures of the Governor and Administrator (Sec. 36.10).

**Question** – Are the minutes of the lodge considered legal documents? **Answer** – Yes! To be legal, all approved minutes must be signed by the presiding officer (normally Governor) and the Administrator (Sec. 36.10).

**Question** – May an Administrator accrue his compensation? **Answer** – No! Compensation shall be paid or waived, but not be accrued. (Sec. 36.12)

**Question** – What is the procedure for approving and paying bills? **Answer** – All bills, except recurring overhead item, must be examined by the Trustees, who submit their recommendation for payment (Sec. 40.2).

**Question** – Can a lodge membership meeting required by the by-laws be cancelled? **Answer** – No, if a presiding officer and quorum are present (Sec. 42.1, Sec. 42.7 and Sec. 42.8).

**Question** – Can general membership meetings be rescheduled? **Answer** – Yes, if they fall on a major holiday or on the date of an international or association convention or conference . The membership must be notified thirty (30 ) days in advance of this change. (Sec. 26.7)

**Question** – May appointed officers attend House Committee meetings? **Answer** – No, unless they are in attendance to give a report and they must leave following the conclusion of the report. House Committee meetings are confidential. Appointed officers are fraternal officers who serve on the lodge/fraternal side of the lodge – not on the social/business side of the lodge (Sec. 48.1).

**Question** – May lodge business be discussed at a House Committee meeting, and may House Committee business be discussed at a lodge meeting? **Answer** – No! Separate minutes must be kept. Board of Officers minutes are read to the lodge and approved by the membership, thus, no confidential House Committee business should ever appear in the officers' minutes.

**Question** – If a lodge has a chapter, must the two boards of officers meet monthly?. **Answer** – Yes, the laws require the lodge and chapter boards of officers to meet at least once a month (Sec. 42.4).

**Question** – Is smoking and consumption of alcoholic beverages allowed at any official meeting or enrollment? **Answer** – No! (Sec. 42.5)

**Question** – Can meetings be recorded? **Answer** – No, unless a special dispensation is obtained from the General Governor (Sec. 42.6).

**Question** – Are all official correspondence and circulars required to be read to the membership and posted in the lodge? **Answer** – Yes, at the next regular membership meeting (Sec. 42.11).

**Question** – Are decisions of the Board of Officers binding on the lodge without approval of the membership? **Answer** – No! No decision of the Board of Officers shall be binding upon the lodge until the lodge concurs (Sec. 42.2).

**Question** – Can a lodge remodel its building without a dispensation if the amount is under \$5,000? **Answer** – No! All transactions or matters involving real estate require a dispensation from the General Governor (Sec. 43.4).

**Question** – Can a lodge buy equipment or other personal property if the amount of the purchase price is less than \$5,000? **Answer** – Yes! (Sec. 43.4)

**Question** – What happens if a lodge does not pay its debt to Moose International and/or the association? **Answer** – The lodge is not in good standing and is disqualified from receiving any awards, higher degrees, participating in sporting and ritual competitions, voting at conventions, and is in jeopardy of having its social quarters permit or charter suspended (Sec. 51.5, Sec. 43.6).

**Question** – How much is a delegate entitled to receive for attending a convention or conference? **Answer** – Reasonable lodging expenses, per diem (as permitted by governmental guidelines) and travel expenses (the lesser of traveling by the lowest airfare or by automobile at 30 cents per mile) (Sec. 43.7).

**Question** – Does a lodge have to get a dispensation to conduct a community service or charitable fundraising event? **Answer** – No, as long as the lodge complies with Section 44.3 of the General Laws and no alcohol is being served. (Sec. 44.3).

**Question** – Does a lodge have to get a dispensation to advertise activities authorized by the General Laws? **Answer** – No, as long as the lodge complies with Section 45.2 of the General Laws.

**Question** – Does a lodge have to get a dispensation to have a Web site? **Answer** – No, as long as the lodge complies with Section 45.3 of the General Laws.

**Question** – May lodges publicly solicit members into the Order? **Answer** – No! (Sec. 45.1)

**Question** – May a lodge or chapter officer be compensated by the lodge? **Answer** – No! Other than the Administrator, no lodge or chapter officer shall receive any wage, gratuity or other form of compensation for his/her services or be a paid employee of the lodge or House Committee (Sec. 46.2).

**Question** – May lodges pay an officer to perform work arising out of his or her personal business, which is unrelated to the services rendered as an officer (i.e., entertainer, DJ, karaoke, plumber, contractor, caterer, etc.)? **Answer** – Yes!

**Question** – Our lodge publishes a newsletter to inform the membership of meetings and activities. Does our lodge have to get permission to publish this newsletter and are we required to send a copy to Moose International? **Answer** – Yes! To publish a newsletter requires a permit from the Supreme Council, which is obtained through the Publications Department. It is required that a copy of each

issue of every publication be mailed to the Publications Department at Moose International (Sec. 46.11).

**Question** – May lodges conduct an open house and invite the public? **Answer** – Yes, as long as the lodge complies with Section 46.13 of the General Laws.

**Question** – Is the House Committee required to adopt rules and regulations regarding smoking during social functions? **Answer** – Yes! (Sec. 48.2)

**Question** – Do House Committee rules and regulations require the approval of the lodge membership? **Answer** – Yes, with exception of opening and closing hours (Sec. 48.2).

**Question** – How many times may an unmarried co-worker sponsor her gentleman friend as guest into a lodge? **Answer** – There are no limitations, just like there are no limitations on the number of times an unmarried lodge member may bring in his girlfriend (Sec. 50.2).

**Question** – Are off-premises sales or package sales of alcoholic beverages permitted? **Answer** – No! (Sec. 50.7)

**Question** – My state requires alcohol servers to go through training for alcohol awareness (i.e., TIPS). Is my lodge required to report this to Moose International? **Answer** – Yes! Section 50.7 requires the lodge to file a copy of the server certifications to the annual insurance report filed with Moose International (Sec. 50.7).