

Moose Nuggets



Winter 2025
November/December
Volume 22 Issue 6



'Tis the Season of Giving!

Once again, the Anchorage Moose Lodge will be collecting donations, both food and cash, to help put together our annual Thanksgiving and Christmas food baskets.

Each year, our Lodge donates 25+ holiday boxes to the families of Willow Crest Elementary School students. These boxes include everything needed for a complete Thanksgiving or Christmas dinner, and for Christmas, we also add an extra week's worth of food to help families during Winter Break. In addition, we provide the same holiday boxes to Moose members and families who may be struggling, ensuring everyone enjoys a warm, festive meal.

How You Can Help:

We're in need of canned goods, potatoes, stuffing, frozen pies, dairy products, and more.

If you'd prefer to make a monetary donation, please see the office — funds will be earmarked for the food baskets.

We couldn't make this project happen without our amazing members! Your generosity brings joy and good meals to so many during the holidays.

We'll be assembling baskets in mid-November (Thanksgiving) and mid-December (Christmas) , specific dates will be announced soon. Volunteers are always needed and appreciated, so please let us know if you can lend a hand.

Thank you for helping us make the season bright for others!



Members may continue to earn points through the program simply by doing activities which will strengthen the Fraternity, such as signing new members, participating in training programs, and renewing their dues. Members may also redeem points for things such as dues renewals, convention registration, donations through Moose Charities, and gift certificates for the Moose Gift Store. All members are enrolled automatically and earn points as they complete activities without having to submit any forms. For more information about the program, please go to www.mooserewards.org

The following incentives/rewards are given to Moose members for sponsoring new members.

- Sponsors will receive \$5.00 in Moose Bucks for all new members that you sign up.
- For the first 5 members you sign up, receive \$25.00 from AHMA.
- For every 5 members you sign up, receive a \$18.00 meal voucher.
- Sponsors are entered to win a \$50.00 monthly drawing for every new member they sign up.

We are so happy to see NEW members joining!

Sign up your friends and family for \$75.00 today! Lodge Membership \$55 plus one time enrollment fee of \$20

New Chapter Members \$15.00

New Moose Legionnaires \$15.00

You must be a Lodge member to be able to join the Chapter (Female) or Moose Legion (Male)



BRIDGE

Party Bridge!

Make New Friends!

Join us Mondays and Thursdays, 11am to 2pm here at the Moose Lodge. It is free to play. We are looking forward to seeing many of you soon.

For more information, please contact Jan Boylan at 907-694-5387

Donate Blood, Get a free dinner on us!

That's right! Moose Members who donate blood get a free meal up to \$18 every time you donate blood and show your Moose membership card!

Did you know that only 5% of Alaskans donate blood?

Donors Change Lives Forever!

Finding a reason to donate blood is not hard, just take a look around the community and the answer is clear. Alaskans count on each other in their time of need. Becoming a blood donor will ensure that blood is available when it is needed.

Learn more about donating blood at bloodbankofalaska.org. Blood Bank Of Alaska is Located at 1215 Airport Heights Dr Phone Number 907-222-5600

3 Easy Ways to Pay Your Dues

- Mail your check, credit card number or money order with the payment coupon, to the following address: Dues Processing Center Moose International, PO Box 88065, Chicago, IL 60680-1065.
- Go online to www.mooseintl.org Click pay dues and enter your member number.
- Call 907-563-3502 or stop by the Lodge office and we can assist you.



Texas Hold 'Em Tournament

January 11–16, 2026 – Golden Nugget, Las Vegas

The annual Moose Texas Hold 'Em Tournament returns to the Golden Nugget Hotel & Casino! Last year's event drew over 1,100 players, prompting the addition of an extra day for 2026.

The Golden Nugget features top-notch accommodations, dining, and entertainment, earning multiple *Casino Player* awards.

Register by mail or online by November 30th — it's always a Full House, so don't miss out!



Kitchen Volunteers Needed



Join us for every Seahawks game! The Moose Lodge is the official home of the Midnight Sun Sea Hawks! They meet just before the game starts and cheer on the Seahawks!

Celebrating 50 Years of Moose Membership!

We're thrilled to recognize the following members who have reached an incredible milestone — **50 years of service** in the Moose!

Their dedication, friendship, and support have helped shape our lodge and strengthen our Moose family for decades.

Please join us in offering a huge **thank you** and heartfelt **congratulations** to these amazing members for their lifetime of commitment to our fraternity!

Donald Lauver
Steven D. Rasplicka
Phillis Linnean

Raffle Tickets

1st Prize: Two Tickets to the Seahawks vs. Vikings Game on November 30, 2025 and 50,000 Alaska Airlines Points

2nd Prize: Tactical Traps Hidden Concealment Shelf from distributor Evan Beedle

3rd Prize: Seahawks Swag Bag

Scan here to
purchase 6
tickets for \$100



Scan here to
purchase a single
ticket for \$20



All proceeds benefit Alzheimer's Resource of Alaska and other local charities.

Drawing on November 16, 2025. Need not be present to win.



A Letter From Our President

It has been a very busy, and very rewarding October at Moose Lodge 1534. We were so blessed to have visitors from all over the state and down south come in, see our renovations and in some aspects see us at our best. We have a lot to be proud of, and a lot to be thankful for. As we come into the holiday season, I want us to be mindful of that and remember to be kind to one another.



It won't be long until we have brand new social quarters, and a more expansive place to host our energies. Thanks to all the cooks and dishwashers. Thanks for the program coordinators, and those who made our Trunk and Treat a success. It was the coldest day of the Season so far. Thank you to the Seahawks for dragging out the fire pit and keeping us warm.

Christie Weaver and Marcy Peterson did a stellar job at the front gate. Thanksgiving is coming up soon and our heart of the community team, led by Vera Heart and Dolores Jones will be looking for your support in filling boxes and sending Thanksgiving & Christmas wishes out.

We are planning our Christmas Eve party/gift exchange so make sure you sign up ahead of time if you plan to come. Happy holidays to one and all. Lastly, thanks to Kristal for all her support in the office.

Faternally,
Carol Odinzoff
President



The Angel Tree Program is a special holiday assistance effort that allows individuals and groups to bring Christmas joy to children in need. Sponsors purchase new clothing, toys, or gift cards for deserving children, our "Angels"—whose gifts will be distributed during The Salvation Army's annual Neighborhood GIFT event.

Last year, The Salvation Army, with the help of many generous sponsors, provided holiday gifts for more than 4,000 families in the Anchorage area. For many of these children, the gifts they receive through the Angel Tree Program will be the only ones they open on Christmas morning.

Gift Ideas: Baby items, puzzles, games, toys, and gift cards for older children are all wonderful options.

Your kindness and generosity truly make a difference, thank you for helping us bring holiday cheer to our local families in need!



AHMA Convention Recognition

During our recent AHMA Convention, three of our Lodge members were honored for their outstanding dedication and service.

Congratulations to Norm Dean and Jessie Mayes, recipients of the Leadership Award, and to Jason Mata, recognized as Moose of the Year! We're proud to see their hard work and commitment celebrated; thank you for representing Lodge 1534 so well!



Valued Veterans

Moose Members Serving Then ... and NOW!

On Saturday, November 15th, we will present Quilts of Valor to select Moose Member Veterans in recognition of their service.

We will also acknowledge those members who self-identified as Moose Valued Veterans over the past year, as well as our Valued Veteran of the Year.

All Veterans attending the event will be invited to enjoy a complimentary dinner in appreciation of their service.

\$10,000

Moose Lodge 1534 Annual \$10,000 Raffle

Drawing December 13, 2025

Every 25th ticket wins!

Raffle Ticket Includes: 1 New York Strip Roast
Dinner

300 Tickets Sold @ \$100.00 each

Dinner at 6pm, Drawing at 7pm

No To-Go's until after 7pm

If you would like to help sell tickets, please see the office. For every winning ticket you sell, you receive \$50.00, and if you sell the winning \$10,000 ticket, you will receive \$300!



Quilts of Valor
Quilts = Healing!



**Live Music every Saturday night
from 8pm to Midnight!**

November 8th

Cold Fusion

November 15th

Woodrow

November 22nd

Jerry Wessling Band

November 29th

Glacier Hoppers

December 6th

Farrago Five

December 13th

Jerry's Situation

December 20th

Glacier Hoppers

December 27th

The Vintage Retro

December 31st

Woodrow



New Year's Eve Celebration

December 31, 2025

10pm - 1am

Music, Appetizers & Champagne Toast at
Midnight to ring in 2026!

Live Music by Woodrow

Come enjoy a great night and say goodbye to
2025 with friends.

Dear Co-Workers and Moose Family,

As we head into the season of thanks and giving, I want to take a moment to appreciate all that we have and all that we share as a chapter. The Women of the Moose are so grateful for your support, kindness, and commitment to our cause.

This winter, our hearts go out to the families in Western Alaska who have been displaced due to recent hardships. To help, our chapter will be donating \$1,000 to support those affected. Thank you for making it possible to offer help where it's needed most.

It was truly amazing and an honor to welcome everyone to our lodge for the Alaska-Hawaii Moose Association Convention! What a wonderful time it was to connect with chapters from across Alaska. The energy, ideas, and friendship we shared made it a convention to remember. Thank you to everyone who helped make it such a success!

Let's also give a big congratulations to Keri, who has earned the Golden Gavel, a well-deserved honor for her dedication and service!



We have some exciting events coming up:

 **Holiday Bazaar – Saturday, November 8**

Come shop local and support our vendors!

 **Bake Sale during the 10K Drawing – Sunday, December 13**

We need baked good donations! Please contact Mely Mendoza at melymendoza796@gmail.com if you'd like to donate.

 **Retro Party & Steak Dinner – Saturday, December 6**

Join us for a fun night of music, memories, and a delicious steak dinner made by the WOTM!



Congratulations!



As always, we invite all WOTM members to attend our monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM.

Your voice, your ideas, and your heart help us grow stronger together.

Wishing you a warm and joyful holiday season,
Fraternally yours,
Nicole Pennie, Senior Regent
Women of the Moose – Anchorage Chapter #139

November 2025

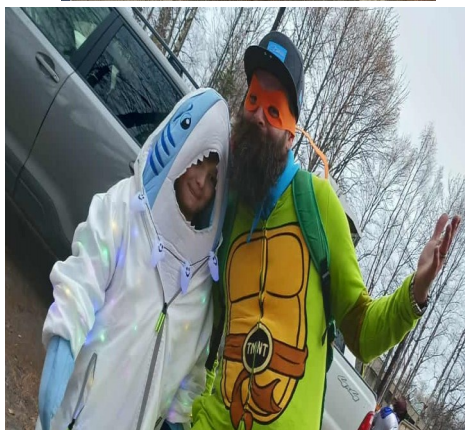
Dinner 6pm - 8pm

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Snack Sunday Every Sunday 3pm-5pm						1 Cribbage CARTA Kitchen is Closed
2 Breakfast by Carol & Crew 10am - 1pm	3 MNF Food 5:30pm to 7pm	4 Officers Meeting	5 Chicken Dinner by Mark, Erica & Crew \$15	6 Peppersteak Sandwich by Jason \$16	7 Shrimp Scampi by Mike & Irene \$18	8 Holiday Bazaar Steak Night by Vera & Crew
9 Breakfast by Jason & Crew 10am - 1pm	10 MNF Food 5:30pm to 7pm	11 Lodge Meeting	12 Chapter Meeting Taco Night by Zandra \$14	13 Spaghetti by Brian & Crew \$15	14 Pot Roast Dinner by Tracy Peters \$17	15 Orientation 2pm Valued Veterans Presentation Steak Night by Gerald
16 Breakfast by Carol & Crew 10am - 1pm	17 MNF Food 5:30pm to 7pm	18 Officers Meeting	19 Italian Grinder Sandwiches by The Cornhole League \$14	20 Po'boy Sandwiches by Jason \$16	21 Norm's Salisbury Steak \$15	22 Moose Legion Qrtly Steak Night by Gerald
23 Breakfast by Jason & Crew 10am - 1pm	24 MNF Food 5:30pm to 7pm	25 Lodge Meeting	26 Cribbage Kitchen Closed	27 Happy Thanksgiving Lodge Closed	28 Kitchen Closed	29 Kitchen Closed
30 Breakfast by Jason & Crew 10am - 1pm						

December 2025

Dinner 6pm - 8pm

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Snack Sunday Every Sunday 3pm-5pm	1 MNF Food 5:30pm to 7pm	2 Officers Meeting	3 Dinner by the Seahawkers \$14	4 Spaghetti by Brian & Crew \$15	5 Chicken Fried Steak by Sal & Crew \$18	6 CARTA WOTM Dinner
7 Breakfast by Carol & Crew 10am - 1pm	8 MNF Food 5:30pm to 7pm	9 Lodge Meeting	10 Chapter Meeting Cribbage Taco Night by Zandra \$14	11 Burgers by Jason \$15	12 Fish & Chips w/Coleslaw by Sal & Crew \$18	13 10k Drawing & Dinner
14 Breakfast by Carol & Crew 10am - 1pm	15 MNF Food 5:30pm to 7pm	16 Officers Meeting	17 Cribbage Italian Grinders by Cornhole League \$14	18 Pork Loin by Mike & Irene \$15	19 Chicken Cordon Bleu by Jason \$18	20 Breakfast w/ Santa Steak Night
21 Breakfast by Jason & Crew 10am - 1pm	22 MNF Food 5:30pm to 7pm	23 Lodge Meeting	24 Cribbage Kitchen Closed	25 Merry Christmas Lodge Closed	26 Kitchen Closed	27 Kitchen Closed
28 Special Holiday Breakfast by Jason 10am - 1pm	29 MNF Food 5:30pm to 7pm	30 Officers Meeting	31 Cribbage NYE Party Burgers by Zandra \$14	Jan 1 Lodge Closed		





Halloween at Anchorage Moose Lodge 1534, 2025

From the Desk of the Moose Legion Chairman

Dear Moose Legion and Moose Lodge member,

As winter sets in and the year draws to a close, we take a moment to reflect on accomplishments, camaraderie, and service that has defined our Moose Legion this year. Despite the chill outside, the warmth of our fellowship continues to shine brightly in every event, every act of kindness, and every new member who joins our ranks.



As we know, this year's membership campaign is "Moving Forward, Giving Back". 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 in our society, by giving back.

Upcoming Events:

November 2nd and December 14th | Anchorage Moose Lodge #1534

Anchorage Moose legion members are encouraged to attend the meetings and get information about our Moose Legion chapter.

November 22nd, Moose Legion Quarterly | Anchorage Moose Lodge #1534

Come and support the Anchorage Moose Lodge and join us for the general meeting and dinner.

Monday Night Football | Anchorage Moose Lodge #1534

The kitchen will be serving delicious food and snacks every Monday night during football season. Supporting us at Monday Night Football helps the lodge with throwing a great Super Bowl party and getting prizes for the event.

As we move into the new year, let's carry the light of service and brotherhood with us. Every act of kindness, big or small, strengthens our bonds and keeps the Moose spirit alive. Thank you for your dedication, generosity, and heart. Here's to a joyful and successful year ahead.

Fraternally Yours,

Jason Allen Mata
Moose Legion Chairman/ Moose Legion #51 President
Jason.Hana@gmail.com

Mt McKinley Moose Legion #51 Quarterly Celebration

November 22, 2025

12:30 pm Continental Brunch available

1 pm-Directors

Silent Auction Opens

2 pm-District

2:45 pm-Conferral

3:30 pm - General Membership Meeting

4:15 pm Anchorage Lodge Fellowship Meeting

4:30 pm-Fun and Frolic

Silent Auction Closes at 5 pm

6:00 pm - Steak Dinner

8 pm Live Band

From the Desk of the Administrator

Hello Anchorage Moose Members! As we enter the Holiday season, exciting things are happening at your Anchorage Moose Lodge. The Social Quarters Remodel will soon be complete and we'll have a modern audio-visual system to control all the televisions and sound throughout the building. Once again, we thank you for your patience as we update our facility to better serve our members.

At the International Convention in Milwaukee this past May, I was fortunate to win a VIP trip to the NASCAR race in Martinsville, VA. We spent the day as guests of Trackhouse Racing and driver Ross Chastain in the #1 Moose Fraternity Car. We watched the race from the top of the pit box and cheered Ross to a 4th place finish. Mr. Chastain is an excellent spokesman for the Moose organization and brings attention to the Fraternity as he competes at racetracks across the country. If you ever have a chance to see a race in person, take it!



Our Defending Circle has been broken,

Kathleen Daymude passed October 18th. She enrolled in Women of the Moose Chapter on February 9, 1965, became a Life Chapter Member in 2015 and a Life Lodge Member in 2021, received the Academy of Friendship Degree in 1967, served as Sr. Regent 1971-72, earned the College of Regents Degree in 1973, the Star Recorder Degree in 1983, served as Deputy Grand Regent 1985-86 and on the Women of the Moose Grand Council 1990-92.

May she Rest in Peace.



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Saturday, December 20th | 11 AM – 1 PM

Bring the family and enjoy a delicious holiday breakfast with **Santa & Mrs. Claus!**

Menu: Pancakes, Scrambled Eggs, Sausage & Potatoes

Kids under 12 eat FREE!

Ages 12 & up – \$10.00

Every child receives a gift (*while supplies last*)

Come share the holiday cheer and make some magical memories!

With honesty and heart, Mike shares his journey in “Why I Hate Cancer.” We’re grateful for his courage and the reminder that none of us walk alone.

WHY I HATE CANCER

For those of you who do not know me, this year I am celebrating my tenth anniversary of being cancer free. When I was then Governor of our Moose Lodge in 2015 I authored an article for the Moose Nugget concerning the importance of our members getting their annual health exams, colonoscopies, mammograms etc., something which I had failed to do for myself. Briefly, my article provided some of the many excuses which anyone of us could use to either ignore or put off the time for a health checkup. I was busy; I could not take time off from work; the procedure was uncomfortable; I have children at home; I wanted to go fishing or camping this summer. The excuses could go on and on. I did not take the time, and cancer nearly claimed my life.

Since my battle with this disease, many of my friends in our Lodge, as well as some close family members, have also had to endure their battles with cancer. Their deaths and treatment ordeals not only saddened me deeply, but made me incredibly angry as well, which is why I drafted the original article. Sadly, many more have passed from cancer since then. In the United States this year, an estimated 52,900 deaths will occur from colon cancer; and this summer, colon cancer claimed the life of my dear mother.

This is my story.

In early 2015 I was diagnosed with stage 3 colorectal cancer and underwent six weeks of radiation treatment to reduce the size of my tumor. I then underwent several months of 24 hours a day chemotherapy with the aid of a portable pump which sent the chemical cocktail through a port embedded in my chest, releasing it directly to my aorta and into my heart. The surgery that followed the chemotherapy resulted in the removal of my anus and close to two feet of my colon. It also removed many nearby lymph nodes along with muscle tissue equivalent to the size of a large grapefruit. These alterations left me with things I was previously unacquainted with, such as a stoma and a colostomy bag. After surgery I underwent another round of follow-up chemotherapy. That follow-up treatment left me with permanent neuropathy on the bottoms of both feet and at the ends of my fingertips. My fingers are now extremely sensitive to the cold, which is why I live in Alaska. I am joking of course; I live here for the long summer days and the immense beauty of it all. But enough about me.

Why do I hate cancer? I hate cancer for its sheer randomness. It does not give a damn if you are young or old, rich, or poor, whether you abstained from alcohol, drugs or tobacco products or indulged in any or all of them. Cancer can let you believe you have won the battle against it, only to sneak up upon you again months, years, or decades later. It is an enemy that leaves anyone who has experienced the fight, with a lingering cloud of doubt; is it REALLY gone?

I hate cancer for its unfairness. Two individuals may be diagnosed with identical cancers and receive the exact same treatments, and yet one might have an excellent outcome while the other does not and is lost. Yes, I am aware of the role that genetics and other factors which may play into treatments and outcomes, but cancer is a duplicitous, heartless, maniacal sonofabitch in all of its forms and permutations.

I hate cancer for all of the lives of family members and dear friends it has claimed, many of them too young and dear to leave this world so soon.

I hate cancer for all of the nausea, hair loss, loss of appetite, loss of breasts, loss of limbs, eyes, tongues, organs and memory issues and the resulting addiction to pain medications.

I hate cancer for the debilitating medical bills that its treatment creates, treatments which can bankrupt families and leave them in debt for decades if not for the rest of their lives.

And yet, though it was difficult for me to admit, cancer also changed my life in some more positive ways. My appreciation for just living each and every day has been multiplied by an order of magnitude because of my cancer. I take so much less for granted now than I did before my diagnosis; raindrops falling against my skin; the sweet scent of decaying autumn leaves; a magpie that lands upon a nearby branch and glances at me before taking flight again. Mundane moments and sensations such as these are now an endless source of joy for me now, and I deeply appreciate each and every one of them.

My interactions with my wife, family and friends also changed for the better. I too often took them all for granted more than I could ever previously admit to myself. I am honestly surrounded by some of most wonderful people I could ever hope to meet, fall in love with or to be lucky enough to have as family members. Cancer also greatly enhanced my inner strength, confidence, and optimism, all of which I had previously possessed, but cancer brought them all to the forefront and with a much greater focus.

For those of you who have just begun your cancer journey, I truly wish you all the luck in the world, because sometimes, just being lucky will be enough for you to prevail. Try your best to find your inner strength, that which dwells deep inside of us all and use it to fight your cancer each and every day. Visualize your cancer cells as being permanently destroyed with each treatment you receive. I am not selling snake oil here, just another tool. If a placebo cures the patient in lieu of the medication what does it matter? Try to remain optimistic, and yes I know this can be exceedingly difficult, but pessimism will not help you either. The half full glass IS better than the half empty one.

Listen to your doctors but remember they are there to serve you. If you ever have any doubt concerning the care which you are receiving, consider looking elsewhere and always remember that a second opinion is your right as a patient.

Do not be afraid of asking for aid when you are in need. That is what your family and friendships are for. We WANT to help you. We LOVE you!

Everyone's cancer story is truly their own. Just remember that a diagnosis can be wrong, new treatments may appear, and hope and prayers will never hurt your outcome. No matter what the prognosis, I wish you the absolute best in your journey. Stay strong my friends and please take the time for your yearly checkups. If not for yourself, do it for the ones who love you. Preventative medicine can only work if you take the initiative.

Sincerely, Mike Douthit

Moose Lodge 1534



**EARLY
DETECTION
Saves Lives**

Lodge Board of Officers

President - Carol Odinzoff

Jr Past President - Jessie Mayes

Vice President - Marcy Peterson

Chaplain - Lew Ulmer

Treasurer - Debbie Hardwick

1 Year Trustee - Gerald Leier

2 Year Trustee - Mark Everson

3 Year Trustee - Brian Holmes

Administrator - Norm Dean

Women of the Moose Officers

Sr Regent - Nicole Pennie

Jr Past Regent - Keri Jones

Treasurer - Connie Haas

Secretary - Melissa Mendoza

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Website: anchoragemooselodge.com

Non-Profit
Organization

U.S. Postage

PAID

Permit No. 88

Anchorage, AK

**Do we have any AHA Basic CPR Instructors out there?
We'd love to team up and offer a Basic CPR class right
here at the Lodge! If you're interested, get in touch
with**

Carol at 907-360-7452.

Snack Sunday

**Join us every Sunday during the NFL season
for delicious snacks from 3:00 to 5:00 PM
Volunteers always welcomed**

Menu

**Chicken Wings, Nachos, Hot Dog, Pretzel, and
more**



Snack Sunday Crew
(Menu subject to change)

Want to get Moose texts?

Signing up is easy! Just scan the
QR code below, fill in a few
quick details — and boom,
you're in! Stay up to date on
events, specials, and more!

