

Williams is International Moose Legion President

by Kate Evans

The Loyal Order of the Moose is all about protecting children, the elderly and performing community service, said Berkeley Springs resident Daniel Ray "Danny" Williams, Sr. — and he has spent much of his life promoting its cause.

Williams was tapped last month as the International Moose Legion President at

the 127th International Moose Convention in Nashville.

Williams previously served the Loyal Order of the Moose as International Moose Legion Vice-President from 2014 to 2015 and as an International Moose Legion Councilman since 2010. He has also served on the International Level as Deputy Supreme Governor, Deputy Grand North Moose, Supreme

Outer Guard, Supreme Inner Guard and Supreme Sergeant-at-Arms.

Williams joined the Glen Burnie, Maryland Lodge No. 1453 in 1971 and is a dual member of the Berkeley Springs Order of the Loyal Moose Lodge No. 1483. He is a lifetime member of both lodges as well as other Moose lodges.

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Daniel Ray "Danny" Williams Sr.
photo courtesy of
Moose International

Berkeley Springs, W.Va.

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Williams

(from front)

Williams has lived in Berkeley Springs for nearly ten years with his wife Beryl and is retired from the *Baltimore Sun*.

Honors

Williams has served all elected positions at the lodge level and received the Governors Merit and the Governor's Excellence Awards.

Williams received the Moose Legion of Honor and the Moose Legion Elite Ring. He has also served as past president of the Maryland, Delaware, D.C. Moose Association and the West Virginia Moose Association.

Williams is also a member of the Masonic and Elk Fraternities, the American Legion, and the VFW and is an Army veteran.

His mission

Williams said his mission this year is retention and recovery—calling Moose members to make sure their dues are paid.

Moose membership dues support Moose heart, a 1,000-acre residential facility outside of Chicago for orphaned children of Moose members and other youth in need. They also support Moose haven, a residential community in Orange Park, Florida for dependent retired Moose members and their spouses.

Members' dues also fund

local Moose donations to community organizations and activities such as local food pantries, school sports, Special Olympics, senior citizens, D.A.R.E. and Red Ribbon.

Williams said he recently has traveled to Ohio, Illinois, Oregon and Washington State speaking to groups about the organization and promoting Moose membership.

He has upcoming visits to Virginia, Oklahoma, California and more places in Illinois. Williams said he gets an invitation almost every week to travel somewhere. His wife Beryl travels with him when she can.

About the Moose Lodge

The Moose is considered a powerful protector and preserver of its herd in the wild. It was chosen to represent the fraternal organization because of the animal's instincts to protect the young and the old and infirm.

Moose lodges offer family activities for members including dinners, games and social interaction. They also sponsor sports leagues and tournaments.

Famous Moose members include Presidents Harry Truman, Warren Harding and Teddy Roosevelt, Senator Robert C. Byrd, astronaut Eugene Cernan, actors Jimmy Stewart and Ernest Borgnine, entertainer Danny Thomas,

golfer Arnold Palmer and boxer Rocky Marciano.

Berkeley Springs

At the Moose Lodge in Berkeley Springs, members have social activities and take on special community projects.

During the whole month of October, they're having an Eerie Acres for kids. Members also hold children's activities for Easter and bring Santa for Christmas.

Their lodge holds yard sales in the parking lot, teams with the fire department and reserves for a Cash Bash and offers a Queen of Hearts night jackpot every Friday. They also take gifts to the nursing home.

The lodge sends a couple of students to the Youth Awareness Day in Martinsburg every year. The students speak to younger kids in the schools about staying away from drugs. Kids can win scholarships through the program, he said.

The Moose Lodge tries to help families in need if there has been a catastrophe, including food and clothing drives. The lodge also considers requests for financial aid and donations to community organizations.

Williams said he felt that the Moose does a lot for people from all walks of life and ages—"from the cradle to the grave."