Summit chapter brings a lot to the table p.5

10 ways you win with new guidelines p.9

3 big changes to help you Make An Impact p.8

CLUB MEMBERS STIR butterfly effect p.6

imaeanimpact.org mwavolunteers.org
Q. What are the changes to the Matching Funds Program?
A. There are two major changes, which were effective July 16. First, the guidelines were simplified to focus on three key requirements:

1. Recipient must be local.    
2. Project must address a specific, tangible community need, or individual catastrophic need.    
3. Members must be involved. They can help plan, volunteer at or attend the fundraiser.

The second change is the reporting process. Instead of sending a check for the amount raised, you’ll submit the Matching Fund Project Report and new Declaration of Funds Raised Form. This form must be signed by you and the partner organization/individual – and notarized. The form is optional for 2015 projects, and will be required for projects in 2016. Visit the Ideas and Information area at mwavolunteers.org to view revised guidelines and the declaration form.

Q. Where can I find a notary public?
A. If you’re partnering with an organization, check if it has a notary on site. Often, your city hall or county courthouse offers this service. You may also inquire with a local financial institution, grocery store or printing business.

Do your members know how Modern Woodmen’s Final Wishes benefit works?
End-of-life discussions can be difficult and uncomfortable. The Final Wishes benefit is a free, interactive tool to help members plan and communicate final wishes. The interactive resource is a digital USB device that contains tools to help prepare, share and store important end-of-life information for loved ones. Order online at modern-woodmen.org.

What is your favorite volunteer experience?
"We helped update Noogieland, a play space for kids affected by cancer, at Gilda’s Club in Davenport, Iowa. I feel I was helping Modern Woodmen make a huge impact at Gilda’s Club and making each child’s experience there even more special!"

Sincerely,
Bill Baker
Fraternal Department Training Supervisor

Meet fraternal leader Marian Crow
Matching Fund for Virginia food pantry.

Follow the leaders
Examples and ideas from across the country.

Make An Impact
Three big changes to help you Make An Impact.

10 ways you win with new guidelines
Why changes are good for you as a leader.

Do it different
Dive into your service project pool of funds.

Plan ahead
Start filling your calendar with fun.

Try something new
New ideas for indoor social activities.
Marian Crow

City: Chesterfield, Va.
Occupation: Retired from United Network of Organ Sharing
Family: Husband Larry; daughter Crystal; and granddaughter Haley.

“Summit chapter activities are a time to get together to share information and socialize with people my age.”

Why did you become a Summit chapter activities coordinator?
I had so much fun as a youth service club leader when my granddaughter was younger – but now the activities are for adults. I really enjoy all the opportunities Modern Woodmen offers its members.

What’s your favorite Summit chapter memory?
We asked members receiving their 25- and 50-year pins to share why they joined Modern Woodmen and talk about activities they’d participated in. We learned so much about each other.

What inspires your planning?
My members like a variety of activities. I look in the newspaper and community calendars, and I take suggestions from the group. I put together a schedule for the year so they know what’s planned. We go to movies and baseball games, visit botanical gardens, and volunteer at a nursing care/independent living facility.

How do you spend your free time?
We travel on our motorcycle. We went to Wing Ding in Madison, Wisconsin, last year after Modern Woodmen’s National Convention in Indianapolis. We also went to Biketoberfest in Daytona, Florida, and spent a few days in Key West.

What’s your favorite meal?
I’m a traditional Southern girl. I’m still searching for meatloaf with mashed potatoes, peas and cornbread the way my mom made it.

What’s your favorite movie?
“Dirty Dancing” with Patrick Swayze. I liked all his movies, but that one is my favorite.

HOW-TO GUIDE: Matching funds to fill your local food pantry

Members in Marian Crow’s Summit chapter had a lot to bring to the table when they learned a food pantry in Richmond, Virginia, was struggling to feed local people in need. From June to September 2014, members helped sell tickets for a quilt raffle and then matched the proceeds through Modern Woodmen’s Matching Fund Program.

Here’s how Marian organized a successful fundraiser.

TAKE INVENTORY
Marian’s chapter previously honored a Hometown Hero who helped open the food pantry at a local church. Through the relationship, Marian learned the pantry needed supplies to meet a growing demand. She approached the pantry about hosting a fundraiser, letting them know Modern Woodmen could match money raised up to $2,500.

READY-MIX RECIPE
The food pantry and church were great partners for Marian’s first fundraiser. She determined a date when the food pantry would raffle off a quilt that had won several awards. The food pantry and church provided tickets and signs letting people know about the quilt and how ticket proceeds would be used in the community.

NOW YOU’RE COOKING
Marian’s Summit chapter members sold raffle tickets. They mailed postcards, called friends and family and sold tickets at chapter activities over the span of about three months. Members also reached out to other Modern Woodmen chapters and their regional office to advertise and sell more raffle tickets.

From top, Members of Marian Crow’s (third from left) Summit chapter presented $2,500 to a local food pantry last fall following a Matching Fund project. Members sold (and bought) tickets for a quilt raffle fundraiser. The pantry, operated by Ramsey Memorial United Methodist Church, was struggling to have enough staples and other nonperishable food supplies to meet a growing need in the community.

Marian says you can organize a Matching Fund project that’s more personal to members by asking what needs they know about in their community.

City: Chesterfield, Va.
Occupation: Retired from United Network of Organ Sharing
Family: Husband Larry; daughter Crystal; and granddaughter Haley.

“Summit chapter activities are a time to get together to share information and socialize with people my age.”
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI
Leaders make meaningful lifebooks for foster children
Building a scrapbook for a child in foster care holds meaning for the volunteers who start the books and the children who fill the pages with memories. In July, youth service club leaders at Modern Woodmen’s Merit Club Leadership Conference constructed “lifebooks” to document a child’s history and celebrate his or her achievements. Modern Woodmen donated the decorated binders to the Foster and Adoptive Care Coalition.

HOW TO:
Partner with a local foster or adoptive care agency. Print color copies of cover, inside cover and inside pages you’ll include in the books. Purchase three-ring binders with clear plastic front and back covers, scrapbook paper, stickers and other embellishments. Step-by-step assembly instructions are available at mwavolunteers.org. Box up and deliver books to the agency.

NEXT TIME:
Some leaders felt rushed to complete their work. Allow about an hour for the project, and make sure members decorate the scrapbook paper rather than the binder. Slipping the decorated paper into the plastic sleeves will protect the stickers and embellishments from wear and tear.

YOUR TURN:
Find an agency in your state by visiting childwelfare.gov. Contact the agency in advance to make sure it will accept the books, and gain approval for specific pages (some may be too sensitive for some children). Share sample pages with the agency by showing paper copies to a representative or emailing the link to dfpa.org to show pages by the Iowa Foster and Adoptive Parents Association. Ask local businesses to donate or provide a discount on supplies to build the books.

EASLEY, SOUTH CAROLINA
Club stirs butterfly effect to aid migrating monarchs
The butterfly effect is the theory that small events - like a butterfly flapping its wings – can have greater consequences. And in South Carolina, Janine Sutter’s youth service club planted a garden to help protect the migration path of the endangered monarch butterfly. Teens researched why monarchs are endangered and how they can help, then tilled and planted seeds to create a monarch waystation.

HOW TO:
Research what monarchs need (hint, milkweed is a must) as they journey between Mexico and Canada. Find a location for the garden and buy seeds and plants (or ask for donations). After planting, water often. Make sure the garden will be cared for after the project. Janine’s club planted at the edge of a parking lot the county will maintain.

NEXT TIME:
Janine’s club purchased a monarch garden kit to ensure the right seeds for the area. The club also purchased plants to beautify the garden while the seeds grew. Janine suggests planting seeds indoors ahead of time. She also advises borrowing a tiller (to avoid hand-hoeing) and incorporating potting soil for nourishment.

YOUR TURN:
A teen in Janine’s club suggested the idea, researched and led the garden project. Kids were engaged at every stage. No task took a lot of time, so kids could be involved a little or a lot. The kids are excited to build butterfly gardens in other areas, or build butterfly, bat or bird houses.

ROCK ISLAND, ILLINOIS
Chapter board sets yearlong focus on helping the homeless
Kathy Michell’s Summit chapter is concentrating on making a communitywide impact on the nationwide issue of homelessness. Instead of choosing different recipient causes throughout the year, the chapter’s yearlong efforts will aid six area organizations that address homelessness.

HOW TO:
Choose chapter board members who are creative, caring and community-minded. As a board, select a cause that will resonate with members and the community. Explain your focus to members. After Kathy’s board chose to focus on homelessness, she emailed or sent a letter to members informing them about the decision and listing monthly activities.

Suggest certain items for members to bring to different events. Donations may include toiletries, warm socks, warm hats (can be clean hats from home), flip-flops for showers, gently used towels and bedding, or a free-will donation to purchase diapers and other personal items.

YOUR TURN:
To fill your chapter board, keep membership simple. Kathy says one challenge to board involvement was concern that serving on the board would be time-consuming. Her chapter holds a planning meeting in January and a second meeting in the fall to review the year to-date and start planning for the year ahead.

To engage members, Kathy’s chapter offers events at the lowest club donation as easy as A-B-C
Learning about the needs of kids in their community was as easy as A-B-C for kids in Brittany Wheatley’s youth service club. In January, the kids colored pages for ABC books donated to a shelter for women and children. How can your members have fun while learning about a local need?

POCATELLA, IDAHO
Club donation as easy as A-B-C
Club donation as easy as A-B-C
Club donation as easy as A-B-C
Club donation as easy as A-B-C
Club donation as easy as A-B-C
Three major changes include:

1. New online tools. A new online system will replace mwvolunteers.org for chapter, Summit chapter and youth service club activities in 2016. When you log in at imakeanimpact.org you’ll find a one-stop shop for all chapter- and club-related activity and information. Read more below.

2. Streamlined chapter and club guidelines. A simplified model will offer similar program types to help you better understand the requirements and available funds for chapters, Summit chapters and youth service clubs. Read more on Page 9.

3. Simplified achievement levels. Requirements for earning merit club, gold level or platinum level will be replaced in 2016 with a simpler program. Clubs, chapters and Summit chapters can achieve premier status. Read more on Page 10.

Change is good. But change is best when it’s good for you. New rules restructuring chapters, Summit chapters and youth service clubs are good for Modern Woodmen and our members, whose lives and communities we hope to enrich.

The new guidelines are good for you as a leader, as well. Here are 10 reasons why.

1. Easy to understand. There are fewer categories for types of activities, and the categories are similar across chapters, Summit chapters and youth service clubs. If you lead more than one group, you don’t have to learn drastically different requirements and rules for each. It will also be easier for Fraternal Department staff to answer your questions.

2. Flexible. Categories are fewer but broader. You’re not limited to specific activities; you simply must meet the category guidelines.

3. Fun. Broader categories will open opportunities for a variety of activities you and your members can enjoy together. Be creative and ask about their interests.

4. Focus on impact. With activity rules that are easier to navigate, you can focus more on making a difference in members’ lives and communities.

5. New activity for youth service clubs. Clubs can now honor a community member as a Hometown Hero. In addition to recognition and thanks, Modern Woodmen will make a $50 donation on the recipient’s behalf to an organization he or she chooses.

6. More money. Funding for educational activities is $200 per event for all groups.

7. Simpler Matching Fund rules. There are three primary guidelines for who or what can be a recipient (local, specific community or individual need, and member involvement) and the new reporting forms won’t require you to submit a check.

8. New online tools. A new website with advanced tools for leaders will support the new structure.

9. New training material. Information will be available for leaders online in text and video formats.

10. Pick your paycheck. You’ll be able to select online whether to be paid monthly, quarterly, semiannually or annually, and use of Modern Woodmen Bank will make getting paid easier and faster than ever.
Swimming, splashing and jumping into the water. Pools are fun. And your chapter, Summit chapter or youth service club’s new service pool is no exception. Starting in 2016, chapters and clubs will have up to $1,000 per year for service projects of their choosing. Summit chapters will have up to $100 per year.

The pool of funds will replace money for specific service-oriented projects. It gives you flexibility to plan service events and activities that are fun and engaging for your members and appropriate for your community.

So dive in! Here’s how to get your service project preapproved (required) by the Fraternal Department.

1. Using member input, choose service projects that make sense for your chapter or club – and for your community. You’re not limited to specific events such as Make a Difference Day, Join Hands Day or Plant a Tree. You can request to do these events or a new service idea. You’ll submit an activity request form online.

2. Describe the general type of service your club or chapter will perform. Examples could include:
   - Community beautification. Painting benches, picking up trash or planting flowers at a local park.
   - Helping people in need. Building a wheelchair ramp or serving food at a homeless shelter.
   - Exhibiting patriotism. Placing flags on veterans’ graves or assembling care packages for soldiers.

3. Estimate the project costs. You tell us how much you need, instead of us telling you how much to spend. The final cost will be deducted from your chapter or club’s available pool of funds. Chapters and clubs can access up to $1,000 per year. Summit chapters have up to $100 per year. You’ll be able to view the balance at imakeanimpact.org.

4. The Operations Team will review the request to make sure it meets three basic requirements:
   - Member involvement.
   - Hands-on service (leader can’t simply purchase items to donate).
   - Local community impact.

5. Hold your event and have fun! Make sure to submit your reports afterward.

Funds won’t roll over from one year to the next, and additional funding won’t be provided when the pool is depleted. Planning will be important, so start thinking now about your service projects for 2016.
try SOMETHING NEW

Steal the show
with your indoor social activity

Coming soon to a Modern Woodmen chapter, Summit chapter or youth service club near you (read in your best movie trailer voice) …

The glamor of star-studded red carpets and suspense of entertainment’s top awards. The rivalry of sports tournaments and the emotional exhilaration of victory or agony of defeat. And … the anticipation for your chapter or club’s activities during the first few months of the year.

OK, most leaders probably wouldn’t describe activities in January, February or March as their most anticipated events of the year. Weather in many parts of the country drives activities indoors and is a damper on members’ enthusiasms.

You can still entertain a full house, however, by riding the wave of excitement for the Academy Awards, Super Bowl or March Madness. Reserve a table at a restaurant or sports pub, organize a potluck or plan a pizza party to watch the televised events together. Or steal the show with one of these indoor social activities.

Sports
The Super Bowl takes place Feb. 7. The first round of March Madness starts about a month later, on March 15 and 16. Your chapter or club can:
• Organize a tournament for darts, cards or a football or basketball themed video game.
• Host an indoor basketball game, free-throw or dribbling contest, or H-O-R-S-E competition.
• Watch a basketball- or football-themed movie.

Entertainment
The Academy Awards ceremony, also known as “The Oscars,” will air Feb. 28. Your chapter or club can:
• See a nominated movie or watch a live play together.
• Gaze at stars (the astrological variety) at an observatory.
• Host a talent contest or karaoke activity to showcase members’ abilities.
• Play an entertainment-themed trivia game.
• Invite members to walk the red carpet for a mock awards ceremony. Offer a photo station with props for a paparazzi experience.

The big attractions take planning. Start planning today for your 2016 activities.