

A **HOW-TO** GUIDE FOR MODERN WOODMEN VOLUNTEER LEADERS

Impact

M A G A Z I N E

FALL 2021

**Support community
food pantries** p.4

**Thank members with
2021derful caps** p.6

GET YOUR 'HOUSE' IN ORDER!

*Wrap up your year . . . and
start planning for 2022*

**Activity ideas
for winter** p.9



Advice for ataxophobes like me

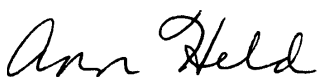
All right, I admit it: I'm pretty sure I have ataxophobia. Ever heard of it? It's a fear of messes and disorder. I *like* clean surroundings, but I *need* order in my life.

That's why I really resonate with Modern Woodmen's updated **Final Wishes Resources**. This member benefit helps us plan late-in-life/end-of-life wishes and communicate them to loved ones. And it guides us as we help family and friends organize *their* final wishes.

The new **My Life, My Plan workbook** encourages us to get our "houses" in order – literally and figuratively. (Music to my ataxophobic ears!) When I'm gone, my kids and grandkids will appreciate the information and notes I've stored in the workbook. This will help them and save them a ton of stress because there won't be any guesswork. They'll know where my important papers are, my usernames and passwords, what I want my obituary to say, how my funeral should go – and who should get my "treasures." (Psst! In case you haven't heard, younger generations don't want your stuff, so you might have to consider Plan B.)

Lots of people find it uncomfortable to talk about the end of life. That's why only 3 in 10 do! The workbook and **My Life, My Plan – A Helper's Guide** discuss holding "the conversation." The helper's guide also gives tips on what to do after a loved one dies, handling another's final affairs and getting through grief. Tough topics, tackled in one convenient place.

These new resources make end-of-life planning so easy you won't have any excuse for putting it off. (To order, simply contact your local Modern Woodmen representative.) Once your plans are in place, you – and your loved ones – can breathe a sigh of relief. And you can get on with living your best life!



Ann Held, innovations coordinator

P.S. Help your members get their "houses" in order, too! Promote the benefit at an upcoming chapter/Summit chapter activity. The topic would also make a great future educational event. (Learn more on Page 11.)

Ann enjoyed a break from getting her "house" in order this summer at Old World Wisconsin.



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Get to know ...

Amber Nichols

What's your favorite thing about your job?

I love the diversity of my job and the challenge of multitasking. It warms my heart to help leaders/representatives when they call in for help. Great satisfaction and appreciation usually come from those conversations. We also have an amazing Fraternal team!

Share a little-known fact about yourself.

I have two awesome kids and two grandchildren (see pic below). I love fishing, boating, gardening and bowling (I hold a 175 average).

What's something that's touched your heart recently?

My mother-in-law gave me a beautiful handmade quilt for my birthday.

What's a recent activity idea that caught your attention?

A service project for the homeless shelter. Members wrote inspirational messages (you're amazing, you're awesome, today's your day to shine, etc.) on white bags filled with donated care items/snacks.

How are you making 2021 wonderful?

One day at a time. Staying positive and helping wherever I can.



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Make it 2021derful for area food pantries.
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Get your chapter/club "house" in order.

How much can you collect?

Participate in the holiday food drive project this December

Roughly 10.5% of American households are considered food insecure. Support local food pantries and those who depend on them.

When? Anytime throughout December.

What? Invite members to participate in a holiday food drive, hosted at a local Modern Woodmen representative's office or other community location.

How?

Plan it!

- Identify a local organization in need of food donations. Consider food banks, shelters, senior centers, schools and others.
- Discuss the types of food or other donations needed.
- Set a goal for donations (number of items, number of donations, weight, etc.).
- Identify a location where members can drop off donations. (*Tip: A local Modern Woodmen rep's office could be a great location.*) If monetary donations are allowed, determine a way for members to send them.
- Determine when and where volunteers are needed.

Request it!

Submit an activity request at least seven days before your drive starts.

- **Name of event:** Holiday food drive.
- **Date:** 12/1/2021. (Optional: Select "yes" for the multiple days question and enter 12/31/21 or a different end date.)
- **Time:** Check "I would like to enter my own time." Enter the times members will be allowed to drop off donations.
- **Recipient category:** Special campaign.
- **Recipient information:** Enter name and contact information of your recipient organization.
- **Event location:** Enter the event location. If multiple, indicate that.
- **Event cost:** Estimate your cost. Request an advance, if needed.
- **Invitations:** Select Facebook closed group, other or both.
 - Use the fillable postcard on the Training Materials site or one of the postcard options available in the Supplies area of imakeanimpact.org.
 - Encourage members to donate and ask for volunteers.



Host it!

- Create a schedule for volunteers and notify them. Remember the limited-contact guidelines.
- Set up the drop-off location(s). **Remember to hang the goal tracker! (See Page 5.)**
- Have a volunteer on site to greet and thank donors.
- Encourage members to post pictures of their donations on social media.
- Count and sort donations regularly (daily, weekly). **Update the goal tracker (See Page 5.)**
- Keep members updated via your closed Facebook group.
- Load and deliver the donations to the recipient organization. Take photos.
- Share a final update and thank-you in the closed Facebook group.
- Send a thank-you note to the volunteers.

Report it!

- Use the new **Fraternal Connect app (see Page 7)** to capture members and guests who bring donations, or use a sign-in sheet. Include the number of people donating and the volunteers in your attendance count.
- Include expenses your chapter or youth club incurred (if applicable) in the cost area.
- Attach receipts in the receipt area.
- Include the cost of postage if postcards were mailed.

Win it!

- Submit your report **no later than 30 days after your event** to be entered into a drawing for a \$500 travel gift card. (Ten winners will be drawn in February.)

Tip: Be sure to promote the food drive at your October and November activities!



What are leaders planning?

Steven Kuper, Missouri, will ask his Summit chapter members to collect and drop off food donations for the local food bank at the Qulin Senior Center. Monetary donations will be used to purchase turkey and ham for baskets given out at Christmas.

Karla Gruis and her South Dakota youth service club members are collecting food for the Dell Rapids Community Food Pantry. Each member will donate food, help advertise the event and help collect donations from community members. Karla will use club funds to purchase specific items that are most needed. To increase donations, members will hang signs at local schools and business entryways.

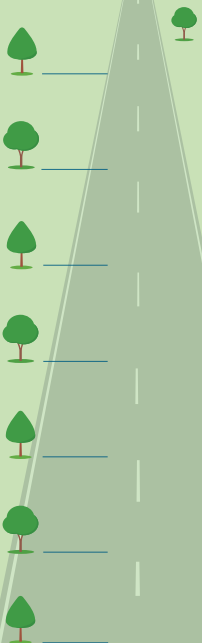
Modern Woodmen
FRATERNAL FINANCIAL

LET'S MAKE AN IMPACT!

Our project: _____

Our goal: _____

Goal



Keep track visually

The new **2021derful project goal tracker** (P-9686) can help you display progress toward your food donation goal. This reusable dry-erase poster clings to walls and windows. It's perfect for this or any donation drive or fundraising event. Order the tracker now in the Supplies area of imakeanimpact.org.

Idea! Give a 2021derful ball cap to every member who donates items during the food drive. If members deliver the donations to the recipient organization, ask everyone to wear their caps on delivery day. Take photos and share them in the Modern Woodmen Fraternal Leaders closed Facebook group. Encourage members to post on social media too.



Don't miss your reward!

Remember, if you **participate in all four** 2021derful activities, you'll **automatically earn a \$25 gift card** to one of 10 popular retailers! Check out the 2021derful toolkit on the Training Materials site at imakeanimpact.org for complete details.

In case you missed it

Quick tips and ideas gathered from the Modern Woodmen Fraternal Leaders closed Facebook group

“OK, what the heck is a paint book?”

Members in Mississippi could tell you. Leader **Jessica Eaton** shared photos in the Facebook group with this explanation, “You take a book and paint it, put a design on it with lace, and then put an antique coating on it! Super cool.”



“Totally forgot to take photos. Ugh!”

Do you get too nervous or busy to remember to take photos at your activities? **Charlotte Kvale**, a leader from South Dakota, admits that she does. She plans to start assigning one of her board members to be in charge of the pictures.

“Where are you wearing the 2021derful ball caps?”

Leader **Sandra Thomas**, Florida, loves them. She posted a picture of her youth club members wearing their caps during an educational event at the Mosi Museum.



Members in Texas sported caps while painting pottery.



Leader **Aimee Sanders**, Nebraska, wore her cap while passing out backpacks during a drive-thru event.



Leader **Sharon Alexander** and members in Ohio wore them during a Matching Fund event.



Get ready for Fraternal Connect (for real this time)

The wait is over! The first mobile app for Modern Woodmen fraternal leaders is here.

Fraternal Connect is a convenient application for smartphones and tablets, specially developed to help you take attendance electronically at fraternal activities. This new tool:

- Is available in the Apple App and Google Play stores. (A browser version will also be available Nov. 1 on imakeanimpact.org.)
- Is easy to use.
- Allows you to check in entire member households at one time.
- Pre-populates guests who previously attended an event.

- Helps you analyze who is attending events.
- Helps you report attendance accurately.

Fraternal Connect will replace the current electronic attendance tool Nov. 1. Plan to use it for all activities moving forward.

Check your inbox on **Nov. 1** for an official rollout email from the Fraternal Department. Watch the promotional video, learn about incentives for early adoption and consistent use, and link to resources and training.

Have you thanked members yet?

Make this a 2021derful year for members by giving them a small gift. If you haven't already, **order 2021derful ball caps now** and give them to members and their guests at your next activity.

You can order caps in the Supplies area of imakeanimpact.org for any event scheduled through the end of the year. Receive a limited quantity for free and purchase the rest with chapter/club funds for just \$1.50 each. (An inexpensive way to make your members feel appreciated!)

Remember to share your photos on the closed Facebook group!

Be safe with in-person activities

It's exciting to see members engaging in fraternal activities throughout the country. However, COVID-19 continues to spread, and variants are circulating. It's critical that you follow all local and state COVID-19 guidelines when planning and hosting events. Even if your state is more relaxed, we encourage you to also follow the most current CDC guidelines.

- Don't attend in-person events if you have any symptoms of illness.
- Follow CDC guidelines based on your vaccination status and the level of transmission in your community.
- Provide masks, wipes and hand sanitizer. (Include the cost of these items in the total cost of your event.)
- Choose venues that follow local and state guidelines.
- Host outdoor events when possible.

Drink to your health!

Educational event
Chapter 8313
Theresa, Wisconsin

In early October, members in Wisconsin had the opportunity to make and try various juices made from ingredients that could be found at a local farm stand.

“Juicing is a great-tasting way to get your daily nutrition and also use up aging produce that may go uneaten or be thrown out,” says Cassie Schmidt, chapter activities coordinator.

The owner of Nest Vitality, a local healing arts studio, led the interactive and educational piece of the event. All attendees received easy-to-follow recipes to take with them, so they could make the juices at home anytime.

Cassie got the idea from a local chamber of commerce event she had attended.

“When [the Nest Vitality owner] was talking about juicing and how it can be fun for all, I thought we just *have* to do this as a member event!” Cassie says. “I mean, who doesn’t like to make nutrition fun – especially if you have kiddos who don’t like to eat their fruits and vegetables.”



While this activity was held in person, you could easily turn it into a virtual or hybrid event. This may attract a different subset of chapter/club members who may be too busy or uncomfortable to attend in person right now.

Bike Works night

Service project
Youth Service Club 294-1
Saint George, Utah

We caught up with leader Clarissa Draper as she was planning her youth service club’s October activity – volunteering at the Cedar City Bike Works shop. This nonprofit program provides a supportive workshop for neighbors to:

- Learn bicycle maintenance and commuter safety.
- Make ownership affordable by repairing and selling gently used, donated bicycles and parts.
- Collaborate with community partners to provide bikes to children and people in need of transportation.

Club members will choose tools to donate to Bike Works, learn about bike care and repair, and then get to work.

“We’ll help disassemble bikes, fix up a broken bike or prepare bikes for winter storage – depending on their needs that day,” says Clarissa.

Clarissa got this activity idea after meeting a Bike Works representative. She loved the company’s mission and was excited for her club members to learn about bikes while performing hands-on service.



This event is a great example of playing to the interests of members. Get to know your members and what activities they’d be most interested in by using the Member Interest Survey, available on the Training Materials site on imakeanimpact.org. Find it under Chapters/Summit Chapters/Youth Service Clubs > Engage Members.

Upcoming holidays

Plan any of these activities in person or offer a virtual/limited-contact twist, depending on your members' preferences and comfort level and your area's COVID guidelines.



DECEMBER 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

2021derful holiday food drive: Host a monthlong food drive at the office of a local Modern Woodmen financial representative or other community location with a visible storefront. Remember to order the goal tracker (P-9686). See pages 4-5 for details.

- **National Pie Day – Dec 1:** Learn how to bake pies. Donate them to a local organization, or host a pie-eating contest.
- **National Dice Day – Dec. 4:** Play dice games for a social activity.
- **Christmas Card Day – Dec. 9:** Make special cards for teachers, caregivers, parents, neighbors, etc.
- **National Lager Day – Dec. 10:** Visit a local brewery or distillery to learn about their offerings and how they're made.
- **National App Day – Dec. 11:** Try out the new Fraternal Connect mobile app to track attendance at your activity this month!
- **National Cocoa Day – Dec. 13:** Make hot cocoa bombs, or sip hot cocoa while visiting a local holiday lights exhibit or riding a holiday train.
- **New Year's Eve – Dec. 31:** Have a special meal with members where everyone reminisces about the past year and shares what has brought them joy and gratitude.



JANUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 30	24 31	25	26	27	28	29

National Blood Donor Month: Host a blood drive or encourage members to donate blood this month. Track participants for attendance using the Fraternal Connect app.

- **New Year's Day – Jan. 1:** Create calendars for 2022, marking dates to remember. Members can bring supplies, such as colored pens and stickers, to share.
- **National Bird Day – Jan. 5:** Make bird feeders for members to take home or donate to a local organization.
- **Elvis Presley's birthday – Jan. 8:** Celebrate with Elvis bingo, trivia or a movie. Serve his favorite snacks: peanut butter and banana sandwiches and Coca-Cola.
- **National Save the Eagles Day – Jan. 10:** Learn about bald eagles, watch a nest cam, or raise funds to donate to an eagle sanctuary or refuge near you.
- **National Dress Up Your Pet Day – Jan. 14:** Invite members to bring their (friendly) pets to a pet costume show and contest. Send members home with doggie (or kitty!) bags for their pets.
- **World Snow Day – Jan. 16:** Bring members together for sledding, skiing, snowboarding or snowshoeing.
- **National Inspire Your Heart with Art Day – Jan. 31:** Visit a local art museum or exhibit. Or create your own art with an instructor-led class.



FEBRUARY 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

Random Acts of Kindness Week (Feb. 13-19): Mark your calendars for the first 2022 national fraternal campaign activity! Support brain health by donating Kindness Kits (self-care packages) to local organizations. Watch for more information coming soon!

- **National Thank a Mail Carrier Day – Feb. 4:** Create grab-and-go baskets for members to set out as a thank-you to postal and delivery workers.
- **National Kite Flying Day – Feb. 8:** Create kites and test out their performance at a local park.
- **National Pizza Day – Feb. 9:** Visit a local pizzeria to learn their behind-the-scenes magic, or make pizzas on your own.
- **National Make a Friend Day – Feb. 11:** Include fun icebreakers at your next social activity to help members interact and get to know each other better.
- **National Caregivers Day – Feb. 18:** Shower caregivers with love by creating special thank-you valentines for them.
- **National Chili Day – Feb. 25:** Host a chili potluck or cook-off. Encourage members to make their favorite recipes to share, and invite other members to judge the winners.
- **National Floral Design Day – Feb. 28:** Invite members to learn from a local florist about different flowers and how to create their own arrangement.

LEAN ON your team

Wrap up 2021 and plan for 2022 together now


Planning ahead can be challenging, but that's what your team is for. Get together with your chapter board or impact team and start planning how you can engage members, earn premier and participate in the national fraternal campaign in 2022 (brain health focus, more info coming soon!).

Use the **chapter board/impact team meeting agenda** to help you:

- Review funds, past events and activity suggestions.
- Plan ahead for activities and funding.
- Divide tasks between board/team members.

Find the agenda in the Training Materials site at imakeanimpact.org. Go to Chapters/Summit Chapters/Youth Service Clubs > Resources & Materials > Lead a Successful Chapter/Youth Service Club.

Working as a team helps you create meaningful, fun and engaging experiences that will attract more members throughout the year. Need a few tips? A module on the Training Materials site shares how to use your chapter board/impact team to the best of its ability. Find it under Chapters/Summit Chapters/Youth Service Clubs > Training Modules & Quizzes.



Modern Woodmen of America
Board Meeting Minutes

Date: _____ Time: _____
Location: _____

Attendees:

Welcome and introductions:

- Welcome and introduce new attendees.
- Recognize successes that your chapter has accomplished since your last meeting.
- Discuss the agenda for this meeting.

Review:

- Share details from chapter's financial accounts.
- Funds that have been used since the last meeting.
- Funds that are available and how to use them for members' best interest.
- Past events and activities - what went well and what could have gone better.
- Activity suggestions from members that have been brought to the board's attention.

Notes

Continue

Meet a premier requirement!

Another great thing about meeting with your chapter board **now**? If you meet before Oct. 31, you'll fulfill a 2021 premier requirement.

Earning premier helps you receive extra funds for your chapter or club, which means you can host more engaging activities for your members. ***(Bonus: Chapters and youth clubs that reach premier in 2021 will receive an additional \$100 in premier funds.)***



FAQ

Q Where can I find information about leader compensation payments, supply orders or general chapter/club information?



A Click the tabs at the top of your chapter's/youth club's dashboard page on imakeanimpact.org. These lead to pages that can be especially helpful as you wrap up the year.

- **Activities:** Shows requested, reported and approved events.
- **Fraternal Achievement:** Outlines your progress toward premier status, sharing the number of required, completed and pending activities.
- **Finances:** Records leader compensation payments, advances and activity reimbursements.

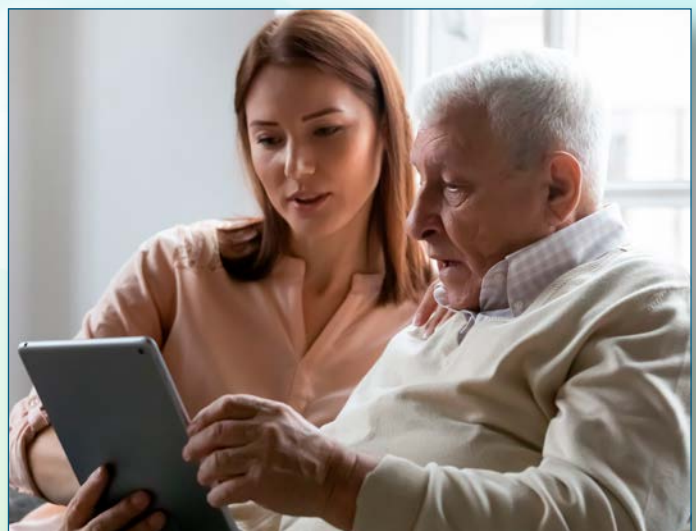
- **Orders:** Allows you to view supply orders, check approval status and verify what has been ordered.
- **Chapter/Youth Service Club Details:** Shares contact information, history and other key information about your chapter/youth club and its leadership team.
- **Roster:** Lists names, addresses and phone numbers of the members assigned to your chapter. *(Available for chapters and Summit chapters only.)*

HELP MEMBERS get their 'houses' in order

Late-in-life and end-of-life planning is important. You and your chapter members may be reluctant to discuss the topic with loved ones, but doing so can clear up confusion and anxiety.

Modern Woodmen's updated Final Wishes Resources member benefit and a new educational presentation/script (coming soon) can help. Invite a Modern Woodmen representative to present on this important topic as an educational event later this year or anytime throughout 2022.

Once available, you can find the presentation/script on the Training Materials site at imakeanimpact.org. Go to Chapters/Summit Chapters/Youth Service Clubs > Resources & Materials > Engage Members.



**“For every minute spent in organizing,
an hour is earned.”** – Benjamin Franklin



Get your chapter/club ‘house’ in order!

A lot is said about spring cleaning, but fall can be another opportune time to tidy up. That includes putting on your fraternal leader hat and taking a critical look at your chapter or youth service club.

Modern Woodmen’s revamped Final Wishes Resources benefit helps members get their financial “houses” in order and focus on late-in-life/end-of-life planning. (Ann Held shares more about that on Page 2.)

What could you be doing now to get your chapter or youth service club “house” in order?

- Tie up loose ends before the end of the year.
- Spend some time learning about the tools available to make your fraternal leader role easier. (Hint: Fraternal Connect is just one. See Page 7.)
- Survey your members to learn about interests and gain ideas that could lead to more impactful, better-attended activities.
- Meet with your chapter board or impact team to start planning for a successful 2022.

Here’s to a wonderful wrap-up to 2021!