

## Kenosha, WI Governor Matteucci Brings Younger Ideas to Lodge



Young leader Joe Matteucci is a 36 year-old Governor at **Kenosha, WI Lodge 286**. He joined his lodge when he was 28 and balances his time as a husband, father and plumber with his Moose responsibilities.

### Q and A with Joe Matteucci

#### What led you to join the Moose when you were 28?

I grew up across the field from the lodge. I'd go out of my house and look to the left and there was the lodge and the softball pavilion. My dad was also a member and I spent a lot of time there. By the time I joined, I'd grown tired of the bar scene. I wanted a place where I could bring my kids where I didn't have to worry about riff-raff.

#### How encouraging is your lodge in getting members involved?

At the monthly orientation, they talk about the opportunities that exist and that you can get as much out of the Moose as you want to put in. You can have a lot of fun and do some good at the same time.

#### Have older members, such as Administrator Rich Smart, been helpful?

I was always going into Rich's office after meetings, this 28 year-old guy, asking a lot of questions. He never shooed me out of his office and he never seemed annoyed with me. He took me under his wing and he's been a huge help while working with me as Governor. He taught me early on that we're just torchbearers and that, as we get older, we need to have somebody to pass the torch to.

#### Is it hard to balance your family, work and lodge obligations?

It took a little while to find the balance, but my wife and kids have been supportive and I couldn't do it without them. My kids are now treating the lodge like a second home, and it's great that they're seeing the lodge the way I did when I was a kid.

#### Can the Fraternity balance younger and older members successfully?

The first thing is that we don't want to push any older members out. They built this place long before we came around. At the same time, you have to adapt and if you're not willing to change, you're going to become irrelevant. You have to be willing to update halls and social quarters to attract younger members.

#### How successful is the Kenosha lodge at attracting younger members?

We're turning the corner. We're doing a number of events. Every section of our organization has gotten behind what we want to do and we're starting to see younger faces turn up in the lodge.

#### Are you confident in the future of the Moose?

When I went to my first state convention, they asked everyone 33-and-under to stand, and I was the only one who stood up. Now there are others. If people are listening to what Moose International is telling them to do, we'll be fantastic. They're pushing for positive changes and to get younger people involved. Members have to be receptive to that, and as long as that happens, I've got all the confidence in the world. ■