

AB 869

**SENATE HEARING SLIP**

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 2/27/02

BILL NO. AB 869  
OR

SUBJECT Festivals

BILL McClellan  
(NAME)

15 N. Pinebary #102  
(Street Address or Route Number)

Madison 53703  
(City and Zip Code)

U.S. Senatorial Congress  
(Representing)

Speaking in Favor:

Speaking Against:

Registering in Favor:

but not speaking:

Registering Against:

but not speaking:

Speaking for information only; Neither for nor against:

Please return this slip to a messenger **PROMPTLY.**

Senate Sergeant-At-Arms  
State Capitol - B35 South  
P.O. Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

# Impact of Fraternal Benefit Societies in Wisconsin

NFCA Member Societies Doing  
Business In Wisconsin ..... 60

Fraternal Domiciled In Wisconsin ..... 6

Local Lodges ..... 2,477

Certificates in Force ..... 840,467

Fraternal Support Expenditures ..... \$2.7 million

Community Service Disbursements ... \$13.2 million

Volunteer Hours/Fraternal Support ..... 1.1 million

Volunteer Hours/Community Support ... 4.0 million

# Impact of Fraternal Benefit Societies in the National Fraternal Congress

Fraternal That Belong To NFCA ..... 88

Local Lodges ..... 41,967

Certificates In Force ..... 10.4 million

Fraternal Support Expenditures ..... 98.5 million

Community Service Disbursements .... \$204 million

Volunteer Hours/Fraternal Support ..... 18.9 million

Volunteer Hours/Community Support .. 78.5 million

# Fraternal Benefit Societies in the Wisconsin Fraternal Congress

Aid Association for Lutherans\*

American Slovenian Catholic Union

Catholic Aid Association

Catholic Family Life Insurance\*

Catholic Knights\*

Catholic Order of Foresters

Concordia Mutual Life Association

Croatian Catholic Union of USA

Croatian Fraternal Union of America

CSA Fraternal Life

Degree of Honor Protective Association

Employee's Mutual Benefit Association\*

Equitable Reserve Association\*

Federation Life Insurance of America

First Catholic Slovak Union of USA and Canada

Greater Beneficial Union of Pittsburgh

Independent Order of Foresters

Knights of Columbus

Lutheran Brotherhood

Modern Woodmen of America

National Catholic Society of Foresters

National Mutual Benefit\*

Police and Firemen's Insurance Association

Polish Roman Catholic Union of America

Royal Neighbors of America

Slovak Catholic Sokol

Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol of the USA

Slovene National Benefit Society

Sons of Norway

U.S. Letter Carriers' Mutual Benefit Association

Western Fraternal Life Association

William Penn Fraternal Association

Woman's Life Insurance Society

Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society

Workmen's Benefit Fund

\*Domiciled in Wisconsin

**Year 2001**

# Programs and Statistics

**WISCONSIN  
FRATERNAL  
CONGRESS**

*A member-society of the  
National Fraternal Congress  
of America*

[www.wifraternalcongress.org](http://www.wifraternalcongress.org)

# What Are Fraternal Benefit Societies?

The fraternal benefit system is a unique, charitable force of almost 200 not-for-profit fraternal benefit societies in America, with over 10 million members. Fraternal benefit societies are self-help organizations that operate within a lodge or branch system. Members of these societies elect their own local officers as well as representatives for each society's board of directors. Fraternal benefit societies provide for the payment of death, illness and disability benefits through insurance programs; they also serve their members and society at large through social, educational and fund-raising activities.

Fraternal benefit societies, composed of men and women of diverse religious and ethnic backgrounds and of all vocations, provide a positive democratic influence in their communities and throughout the world. Fraternal benefit societies serve their members and others through various volunteer activities and educational opportunities. As it has throughout its proud history, fraternalism today enables people's dreams to become reality.

## What Is The Wisconsin Fraternal Congress?

The Wisconsin Fraternal Congress is not a fraternal benefit society. It is a non-profit organization comprised of the 35 fraternal benefit societies who support the Wisconsin Fraternal Congress and are licensed to do business in Wisconsin.

This organization was founded more than 40 years ago and is dedicated to promoting the fraternal benefit society system in Wisconsin and to conduct benevolent and educational activities for people in Wisconsin. The Wisconsin Fraternal Congress also fosters the true fraternal spirit in the State of Wisconsin.

## Fraternalism:

### A Tradition Of Service

While lifestyles may change, basic human needs continue to be met by the volunteer efforts of the members of the nation's fraternal benefit societies. These efforts can include members providing physical labor to complete a project—such as building a community playground or remodeling a home for someone in a wheelchair. They also organize fund-raising events to provide money for needy individuals and organizations.

Fraternal benefit societies seek ways and offer programs to assist families in meeting the challenges and issues that face them in today's world. These societies offer high school and college scholarships, foster patriotism and organize other athletic, social and cultural activities.

## Why Are Fraternal Benefit Societies Important To Wisconsin?

Fraternal benefit societies in Wisconsin:

- ★ Provide outreach opportunities for over 750,000 Wisconsin members.
- ★ Support orphanages, homes for the aged and other humanitarian institutions.
- ★ Help the destitute and homeless.
- ★ Contribute material and financial aid during times of natural disaster.
- ★ Assist the mentally and physically disabled.
- ★ Support literacy centers with donations and by encouraging mentor programs.
- ★ Generously support and participate in such programs as:

Habitat for Humanity  
Join Hands Day  
Jubilee Ministries  
Special Olympics  
Next Door Foundation  
Food Pantries  
Wisconsin Adopt-a-Highway  
Stony Hill School (Birthplace of Flag Day)  
Symposiums for Today's Youth  
Emergency Shelters  
Salvation Army

# WISCONSIN FRATERNAL CONGRESS

WFC Officers 2000-2001

## PRESIDENT

Lee F. Berg  
Catholic Knights Insurance Society

## VICE PRESIDENT

George E. Reckin  
Equitable Reserve Association

## SECRETARY/TREASURER

Joseph E. Gadbois  
Catholic Family Life Insurance

## CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Dennis H. Hendrickson  
Aid Association for Lutherans  
4321 N. Ballard Rd.  
Appleton, WI 54919-0001  
(920) 734-5721 X2571

## IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT

Mary C. d'Arras  
Catholic Family Life Insurance

## DIRECTORS

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Employes' Mutual Benefit Association

Joseph Kuzma  
Western Fraternal Life Association

Marsha J. Mahan  
Aid Association for Lutherans

Anne D. Rogers  
National Mutual Benefit

Gene Schindler  
Catholic Order of Foresters

Barbara J. Wolf  
Lutheran Brotherhood

## WEB SITE:

[www.wifraternalcongress.org](http://www.wifraternalcongress.org)

## SB 472 / AB 869: FRATERNAL BENEFIT SOCIETY MEETINGS

Contact: Bill McClenahan, Martin Schreiber & Assoc. (608) 259-1212 ext. 4  
Brian Casey, AAL/LB (920) 628-3738

## Background

The organizations that make up the Wisconsin Fraternal Congress (WFC) do much more than offer insurance and financial products; they are a unique charitable force in this state. In 2000, nearly 1 million fraternal benefit society members contributed over 4 million volunteer hours worth an estimated \$62 million. Our members support orphanages and homes for the aged, help the destitute and homeless, provide aid during natural disasters, assist the mentally and physically disabled, and support literacy programs.

## Issue

Volunteer branches, or lodges, are the backbone of fraternal volunteer efforts. These local organizations lead the volunteer activities in their communities. We are asking the Legislature to update the laws regarding branch meetings so that fraternal volunteers can spend more time on volunteer activities.

Currently, the law requires volunteer branches to hold formal business meetings on a monthly basis. *We propose that this requirement be changed to every three months.* The law would read:

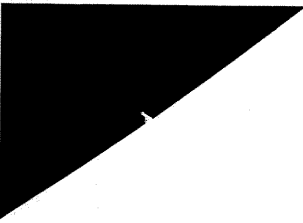
- **614.01(1)(c)3** - The local lodges are required by the laws of the fraternal to hold regular meetings at least monthly once every three months; and

## Rationale

One-hundred years ago, monthly business meetings provided an important organizational and social outlet for fraternal members, and they provided important access to the fraternal society. Today, with more advanced communications

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Croation Fraternal Union of America • CSA Fraternal Life • Degree of Honor Protective Association • Employes' Mutual Benefit Association  
Equitable Reserve Association • Federation Life Insurance of America • First Catholic Slovak Union of USA & Canada  
Greater Beneficial Union of Pittsburgh • Independent Order of Foresters • Knights of Columbus • Lutheran Brotherhood  
Modern Woodmen of America • National Catholic Society of Foresters • National Mutual Benefit • Police and Fireman's Insurance Association  
Polish Roman Catholic Union of America • Royal Neighbors of America • Slovak Catholic Sokol  
Slovak Gymnastic Union Sokol of the U.S.A. • Slovene National Benefit Society • Sons of Norway  
U.S. Letter Carriers' Mutual Benefit Association • Western Fraternal Life Association • William Penn Fraternal Association  
Woman's Life Insurance Society • Woodmen of the World Life Insurance Society • Workmen's Benefit Fund



capabilities and busier lifestyles, required monthly business meetings actually deter volunteer activity rather than enhance it.

That's because "volunteer activities" are not business meetings. Current law forces people to get together for business meetings ... sometimes just for the sake of getting together! ***People would prefer to spend more time leading volunteer projects in their communities, rather than meeting monthly to discuss volunteer activities.***

Fraternal branch business meetings do serve an important purpose. Volunteers plan activities, consider budget and financial issues, and elect officers. But, the formal business concerns of a fraternal branch can easily be attended to every with formal meetings every three months, as opposed to once a month, especially in an age of cell phones, voice mail, email and computer printers.

By modernizing the branch meeting law, legislators will enable the fraternal volunteers – constituents they represent – to ***dedicate more time to the charitable activities that improve communities.*** It would be a win for fraternal societies that are working to make the volunteer experience even more attractive, for the volunteers who are active in fraternal charitable initiatives, and – most importantly – for the people whose lives are positively impacted by volunteer efforts.