

SR 472
SENATE HEARING SLIP

(Please Print Plainly)

DATE: 2/27/02

BILL NO. LRB 5003/1

OR
SUBJECT Legal meetings

Kevin Lacey, Nancy Drexler, Mary Downs
(NAME) 5911 Ward Rd

4321 W. ~~Ward Rd~~
(Street Address or Route Number)

Appleton WI 54919
(City and Zip Code)

AA1/LLB
(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

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

PAPER BALLOT
Committee on Insurance, Tourism and Transportation

Senate Bill 472

Relating to: the frequency of local lodge meetings.

By Senator Breske; cosponsored by Representative Montgomery.

February 26, 2002 Referred to Committee on Insurance, Tourism, and Transportation.

February 27, 2002 **PUBLIC HEARING HELD**

Present: (3) Senators Breske, Grobschmidt and Baumgart.

Absent: (2) Senators A. Lasee and Schultz.

Appearances for

- Senator Roger Breske, Author
- Brian Casey, AAL/LB
- Nancy Drew, AAL/LB
- Mary Downs, AAL/LB

Appearances against

- None.

Appearances for Information Only

- None.

Registrations for

- Bill McClenahan, WI Fraternal Congress

Registrations against

- None.

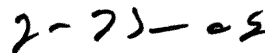
MOTION: By *Senator Breske* to recommend passage of Senate Bill 472.

- Aye
 Nay

Signature: _____



Date: _____



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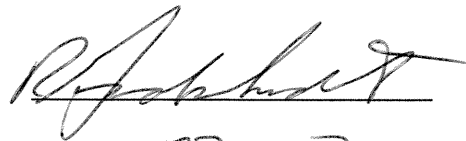
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Aye
 Nay

Signature:



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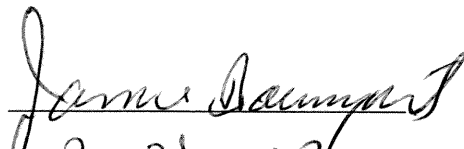
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Aye

Nay

Signature: _____

Date: _____

WISCONSIN FRATERNAL CONGRESS

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Catholic Knights Insurance Society

VICE PRESIDENT

George E. Reckin
Equitable Reserve Association

SECRETARY/TREASURER

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4321 N. Ballard Rd.
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(920) 734-5721 X2571

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National Mutual Benefit

Gene Schindler
Catholic Order of Foresters

Barbara J. Wolf
Lutheran Brotherhood

WEB SITE:

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

**WISCONSIN
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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
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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.