



MOOSE Leader

Need-to-know information for officers and chairmen of Lodges/Chapters/Moose Legions Vol. 82, No. 6

King of Hearts Promotion Extended Through February!

Is Your Chapter On The Road to Success?

By **BARB McPHERSON**/Grand Chancellor

Now that the holidays are over and we are headed into the final quarter of the Chapter Year, I encourage all members of the Board of Officers to check their records and make sure they are inline to earn the Award of Achievement. The requirements for the Award of Achievement can be found in the May 1, 2015 Women of the Moose General Laws, Section 101 which is available online at www.mooseintl.org.

Officers should review the **Checklist For A Successful Year** found in the 2014-2015 Officers Handbook, beginning on Page 65. The completion of each task listed will ensure a successful Chapter year.

“Membership Retention Week” is behind us, but the Membership Retention Chairman and her committee should continue to contact the members of the Chapter whose dues have expired and have not renewed. The Recorder, or any authorized officer, has the ability to provide detailed lists via LCL.Net or the Expired Member Kit that is sent to Chapters each month.

The Membership Retention Committee should make personal contact, to find out why members have not renewed. It is possible they simply forgot or perhaps they are not happy with the Chapter for one reason or another.

During the 2014 International Conference in Las Vegas Director General Scott Hart challenged the Women of the Moose to increase their membership by

459 members over April 30, 2014. If we accomplish this goal on April 30, 2015, he will visit the Women of the Moose meeting in Nashville, TN in Western wear. Wouldn't it be great to have him eat his words? All Chapters will receive another Missing Documents report listing all reports, or the associated checks, that have not been received at Women of the Moose headquarters as well as a Missing Positions report showing all vacant positions. Please correct all inaccuracies as soon as possible to ensure correct records at the end of the Chapter year.

Please check the monthly statements provided by Moose Charities to make certain all contributions to Moose Charities have been properly recorded. Minimum donations must be met monthly to ensure credit toward the Award of Achievement.

Once you have verified that the Chapter is on track for the Award of Achievement, please make sure that all Co-workers attempting to qualify for their various degrees and honors are meeting their personal requirements – enrolling new members, attending training sessions and holding fundraising projects.

If the Chapter Officers and Co-workers are working together, everyone will be successful. “Enthusiasm is nothing more or less than faith in action.”

On behalf of the entire staff at Women of the Moose Headquarters, we wish everyone a successful Chapter year! ■

Change is Inevitable and Necessary

By **BOB NEFF**/Director, Ritual and Higher Degrees

Along standing and consistent saying is that “The one constant in life – is change!” Virtually all things change over time. A flower can start life looking like a weed but eventually blossom into a beautiful plant. A vegetable garden does a similar transformation from mere seeds to producing edible and healthy foods.

Without change, there is often no advancement in our efforts or in our lives. We should not think the organization we are members of would be so different. Each year we see change in some of our officers and chairmen. This brings new and fresh ideas from a different perspective, often resulting in some change in our operation.

This can be good – as long as we channel that change to be positive. But how can we assure things done differently, or those members we mentor, will bring about positive change? In honesty, we cannot have that assurance. However, leaving them as they are, especially if they are not currently successful, means there is virtually no chance of positive change. We must work together and plan to try some things differently than we have been doing.

So then, what changes should we implement? While Moose International

tries to make policies that navigate down the middle of the stream, it is impossible for a one size fits all approach. That is exactly why Boards of Officers, Boards of Directors and appointments of Chairmen in each unit become so important.

As we head into “nomination season” in our Chapters, Lodges and Moose Legions, those potential “changes of the guard” become critical to our future success. Higher Degree members have generally pledged and are asked to do all we can to assure the right changes are made on our boards. We must encourage the ‘right’ people to step forward as leaders.

When serving on nomination committees – we must have the fortitude to make tough choices in order to maximize the potential for positive change in coming years. This is necessary to assure the future of our fraternal units. We must do that to protect the future of our philanthropic work at Mooseheart and Moosehaven.

It is up to each of us as leaders to evaluate and initiate basic and necessary change so that there will be a future for our fraternal unit, allowing it the opportunity to be a positive component of our Order. We can stand tall and proud when we work side by side with open minds to make changes that assure a progressive future. Change is necessary. ■

Honor Commitment to Support Mooseheart, Moosehaven

By **JAN FREGULIA**/Executive Director, Moose Charities

‘Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It’s not.’ — Dr. Seuss, from *The Lorax*

When you submitted your name to be an officer of the Lodge, Chapter and/or Moose Legion, you indicated you had the desire and the determination to make a positive difference in your respective Fraternal Units. And, as an officer and a leader, you set the pace for others to follow. Do you believe you have done so?

In addition to the commitment you made to your FRU, surely you understood the reason your commitment is so essential is because the Moose Fraternity, as a whole, has a commitment to maintain and support its two

communities — communities that give life, health, safety, education, caring and dedication to at-risk children and senior members.

You know them — you talk about them with pride - Mooseheart Child City & School and Moosehaven, our Fraternity’s retirement community. At least, I sincerely hope you do. And you have heard the saying, “if you’re going to talk the talk, you’ve got to walk the walk” — or “walk it like you talk it.” This is a 20th century American alternative to various old sayings which epitomize the notion that “talk is cheap,” for example “actions speak louder than words” and “practice what you preach.”

Mooseheart and Moosehaven depend upon your commitment to giving as much as you can, as often as you can. If you have not made a donation yet this fiscal year, won’t you please do so now? The easiest and fastest way is to do so online at our website, www.moosecharities.org. You will be so glad you did. Thank you, one and all.

God bless Mooseheart and Moosehaven!

By Working Together, All Things are Possible

By **STEVE GREENE**/General Governor

Every parent wants their children to have the best and to be their best. They want them to go to school, get the best education possible so that they can take their place in the world and make a difference and to be happy with themselves as they help others.

Our Moose Fraternity operates the same way. Moose International wants our new officers to be properly-trained. We want you to be the best you can be and to be able to help others in your Lodge and Chapter and in your community and also to provide happy times for you and your family as well as your friends in your Lodge and Chapter whether you are a new officer or you’ve served before.

We start a new year with the opportunity to be better than we have ever been. Now is the time to plan activities for our families, community service

events and fundraising opportunities so we can make these things happen.

Our Lodge Governors should appoint chairmen for the standing committees of the Lodge. Section 35.5 of the General Laws lists all required committees. Brother Governor, you should have appointed members of the Audit Committee at your first regular meeting. Make your plans for your year of service so that you and your Board of Officers will end your term successfully.

Without a plan we often lose our direction and focus. If we don’t have a focus, then we won’t succeed. I’ve asked you before to chart your course for the future and stay the course until you complete your goals.

We must continue to support our membership, help in our community, take care of the children entrusted to us at Mooseheart and seniors at Moosehaven and celebrate life itself.

We have the best Family Fraternity in the world, and it’s up to each of us to ensure our future. By working together, all things are possible! ■

Who Will Care For You?

By **MARINA MATHEWS**/Director of Marketing, Brandon Place at Moosehaven

Many retired seniors are staying home longer, becoming more frail and having no real plan of action when they reach the age where they need a little help, or in some cases, full nursing care.

One of our Moosehaven residents commented on our Facebook page recently, and the comment has stayed with me. The post was an article titled “Tips for Creating a Life with More Joy and Less Stress.”

Her comment was: “Very interesting. The comments from people who are experiencing this give a little insight as to how it would be if a child has to care for you. They love us deeply but for me I want them to be free. Coming to Moosehaven has made that possible for them. I also am enjoying living in this environment.”

I have a large and close family. I have four siblings and many nieces and nephews, any of whom would gladly take on the responsibility of caregiver to my parents or my grandmother when the need arises. Notice I said when, not if. Let’s face it, at some point we will all get to the point where the need for additional help is a must.

The concern is not whether your children are willing to act as your caregivers. The concern is are they able; are they trained to do so? When you need assistance with personal or medical needs, are your children trained to meet those needs? Although willing to offer whatever my parents need as they age, I have no training to meet the medical and cognitive needs they may face.

I do not have the training to deliver care that my parents will one day require. What happens then?

I believe the comment made by our Moosehaven resident addresses this concern. She said, “I want them to be free.” While most children will declare that they will provide care, this statement defines a parent’s desire, not the child’s. Parents do not want to burden their children with their care, despite the child’s willingness to carry the burden.

Our resident also said, “Coming to Moosehaven has made that possible for them.” Once residents are in a retirement community, especially one as committed to members as Moosehaven is, they feel a burden lifted that has weighed more heavily each year that they aged. There is no longer a burden for anyone to carry, not the parent nor the child.

Retirement is to be enjoyed. You’ve earned it. Residents of Moosehaven are truly blessed. They enjoy a beautiful 73-acre campus on the banks of the St. Johns River, excellent amenities and 5-star services delivered by caring staff. They also benefit from the support of nearly 1 million fraternal brothers and sisters who spend countless hours in support of Moosehaven and Mooseheart.

I encourage you to take a look at your retirement plans to evaluate whether or not your children are able to provide the care you will need at some point in your life. Evaluate where you will retire. If you have not already done so, I encourage each of you to visit our websites, www.moosehaven.org or www.brandenplace.org, and start planning your future. ■

