

The Feather

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Like many men, my husband has to have cable TV with all of the channels so he won't miss any sports programs. Due to the way the Cable companies set up their program packaging, it means we have many of the movie channels as well. Since Duncan almost always has control of the remote, I see bits and pieces of programs as he surfs for the next game or movie to watch. This has allowed me to see bits and pieces of the movie Forrest Gump many times. I'm hoping that by now most of you have either seen the movie or heard references to it.

As I was partially watching this movie again awhile back, I focused on how the movie started and ended with the feather floating around in the breeze. Isn't it a peaceful feeling thinking of the gentle way that it danced about? Soaring upward into the blue sky with the wonderment of how far it will go and where it would land. Forrest wondered if we're all just floating around like a feather or if we all, like his momma said, "have a destiny." I don't know, but I do know I, as well as all of you, have a purpose as a member of the Women of the Moose. I believe this is part of **our destiny**.

The characters in the movie can be compared to our chapter members and projects. Although he didn't seem to realize it, Forrest was always challenged in some way or another. It seemed like no matter what he did, he always came out smelling like a rose. If we were all as lucky as Forrest seemed to be, it would make our jobs much easier. Maybe it was the blind faith he had that made his life so fulfilling. Forrest didn't seem to acknowledge his hardships. He accepted them without complaining or kicking himself for the things that he did or didn't do. We all can learn from that trait and be better for it. Many times we will have things that don't work out as planned, but the key is not to give up. We, too, must have faith and hope in our chapters' endeavors.

Being as negative as Captain Dan, will have detrimental effects on our chapters and result in problems for all. Although Captain Dan's destiny was not what he thought it should be, it seemed like once he accepted his challenges, things started working out for him. Our chapters are challenged every year to maintain membership, fill the chairs with officers and chairman, remit monthly checks to International, and plan community projects and more. Let's not have a negative Captain Dan lead or disrupt our chapters. If there are negative feelings in our chapters, why would old and new members care to participate? Positive feelings will bring co-workers together to accomplish great things.

Forrest's' momma is best known for her reference to life and a box of chocolates. You never know what you are going to get. Each time we sign up a new member, we aren't sure what type of co-worker we are going to get. Our **destiny** is to make sure all of our co-workers can share in what the Women of the Moose can offer them and they in return can offer the Women of the Moose. We, as co-workers, have a variety of personalities, life styles, ideas and goals for ourselves, as well as for our chapters. With the diversity of co-workers, it is hard to find out what will work within our chapters to increase participation at our chapter meetings. The Women of the Moose has changed the format of our meetings to allow for fun and socializing, to help increase attendance. We need to keep trying different things to find out what works. Please take advantage of this conference to share ideas to take back to your chapters.

Forrest's forever love, Jenny, was the wild child. I have seen co-workers inspire chapters by their unconventionality. They offer new ideas that can help a fledging chapter by breathing new life into it. Are we taking advantage of these co-workers or are we trying to brainwash them to our current stale and uneventful programs? Are we promoting a different atmosphere of excitement and friendliness or doing the same old boring thing? Are we willing to reinvent our chapter and try something new and different?

Mooseheart and **Moosehaven** are the **main purpose** of our chapters. The support and love that we give to both of them is part of our destiny. How we choose to proceed, may be like the feather, just floating around. We need to grasp those ideas that float around in our heads and utilize them. We must keep searching for ways to keep our “feather” floating in the breeze by offering our co-workers ways to appreciate their membership and make them realize we need their help in caring for those in our care at our twin cities. Like the floating feather, we need to keep our spirits uplifted and try to keep the negative spirals out of our future. Just think of the peaceful feelings we would convey to our co-workers if we acted more like the gently floating feather.