

July 2011



Give A Hoot!

International Conference Acceptance Speech

So, here we are-, smack-dab in the middle of the most amazing dream I ever had. A dream almost impossible to imagine for someone raised in a tiny village on the prairies of Southwestern Minnesota. Could I ask you a huge favor? Please don't wake me up for at least a year. I want to enjoy every single moment of the weeks and months ahead.

I feel so honored and blessed to have been chosen to serve this coming year as your Grand Regent- and to be following in the footsteps of a grand lady. Thank you Libby for everything you have done for the Women of the Moose this past year. What an amazing leader you are! I only hope that I can live up to the very high standards you have set. I truly look forward to working with you another year. And, I have a feeling that Carl and Louie will come up with something to entertain the Board and Council husbands. Do you suppose we will have to hire chaperons for them?

I am also looking forward .to Creating Some Interest with our new and returning Board and Council members. I see a lot of familiar faces and can't wait to meet those of you who I haven't had the pleasure of working with in the past. I can't wait to see what Barb has in store for us, but know we are going to have a fantastic year together.

We have been given an inspiring theme to work with this year- Create Some Interest- and I know you are all doing just that.

Besides Creating Some Interest, I have a personal theme that you may also like to have some fun with.

It all came about very innocently last March, while on a flight to Alaska, for their Mid-Year Conference in Anchorage. I began chatting with the young woman seated next to me. Of course, the Women of the Moose soon became out topic of conversation. I don't remember exactly what I said, but she turned to me and said, "What did you say?" I guess I had told her whatever or whomever we were talking about, was a HOOT!!! She guesses that it must be a Minnesota phrase, I agreed and we continued our conversation.

Until that chat, I didn't realize how often I referred to something or someone as "A HOOT". So, I started paying a little more attention and throughout my stay in Anchorage, I realized she was right. I DID use it a lot! I continued to have fun with it throughout the conference in Alaska- and again, a month later in White Plains, New York. **It was a HOOT!** And, that is how my personal theme, GIVE A HOOT, came about. During this year while you are Creating Some Interest, please also GIVE A HOOT.

GIVE A HOOT- about your chapter by being a constructive, faithful member. Do what you are able to ensure its success. No matter your capabilities, there is always something that you can help with- in your own special ways. Don't be afraid to speak up or volunteer. I can almost guarantee you will receive more than you will ever give. Look at me - I'm proof that a little time and effort can be rewarded more than you could ever imagine.

GIVE A HOOT- about your coworkers. Encourage and assist your officers and members. Help where you can to insure your chapter earns honors and your members earn the degrees they work so diligently to achieve. Then, be happy for them - thank them for what that have done and encourage them to remain active.

We all know we have members who cannot attend events or come to the lodge. I ask you to make sure all members are remembered and contacted on a regular basis- not only when the Sr. Regner sends out her committee assignments, or when she receives her dues notice. A special note, a birthday card, a friendly phone

call or a news filled e-mail may help her feel that she is an important and valued member of her chapter. Please make a real effort to make all your members feel wanted and needed - true membership retention at it's most effective. Show her that you GIVE A HOOT

GIVE A HOOT- about your Lodge. Make sure it really is the friendliest place in town. Just for fun some evening, pretend you have never been in you lodge before. Pay attention to what kind of welcome you receive. If it's less then friendly, do something about it. It's hard to get members to come to the lodge when they are ignored, or worse yet, insulted.

Louie and I have been very fortunate to have done a lot of traveling on our RV. We enjoy stopping at lodges along the way. The lodges we remember most fondly are the ones where we were greeted warmly and made to feel part of their family. Thankfully, the biggest percentages of lodges we visit are very friendly and we enjoy meeting new friends all over this great country of ours.

So, when you get home, please pay attention to how strangers, or even your members, are treated when they come into your lodge. If it's less than what you think it should be, make it your task to GIVE A HOOT and do something about it.

GIVE A HOOT- about Mooseheart and Moosehaven. They are what we are all about. Spread the word about our Twin Cities, and how we strive to see that they will always be there for the children and seniors in our care. Always be positive about what we do and show others how much we enjoy our membership. I have a feeling if we do this, we won't have any problems getting our friends and relatives to join us. Never miss an opportunity to tell others about what we do- about our precious children and our wonderful seniors. If you have had a positive experience, share it. I know, if only from that one conversation on the plane, headed for Alaska, that people are really interested in what we are doing for our children and seniors and our communities.

GIVE A HOOT- about your communities. We are the volunteers that keep our communities going. Be proud that you are helping on behalf of your lodge and chapter. Find where there are needs and pitch in. I guarantee that the more you do, the better you'll feel. And, when you feel good, people notice and will want in on the action. Can you think of any better way to advertise our organization than to be a person who enjoys what they are doing and enjoys life?

Then while you are GIVING A HOOT, remember to BE A HOOT. Have fun - enjoy what you are doing. Be a positive role model and Create Some Interest. Let others know what your membership means to you and then share the opportunity of membership with them. By GIVING A HOOT and BEING A HOOT, we can keep our beloved organization strong and vital for many years to come.

The time has come to introduce you to someone who really gives a hoot- and truly is a hoot- my partner of 54 years-my best friend- my true love- my husband Louie. We are in this together- where you see one of us; you'll probably see both of us. True partners in every thing we do. Thanks, Louie, for always being there for me.

So, the dream continues - I can't wait to see what happens next. I look forward to a year filled with old friends, new friends and lots of hugs.

I pledge to you that I will fill my year as your Grand Regent with true devotion to our order, to you - my friends, and Mooseheart and Moosehaven.

Because I really do- GIVE A HOOT

Thank you,
Carolyn

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HOOT!
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