

Happy New Year!

I hope that each and every one of you had a safe, happy and prosperous holiday season.

A New Perspective

With the New Year comes a new outlook, a new perspective and time to put things in order to ensure that the Chapter is on the right track toward earning the Award of Achievement and all co-workers are successful in earning their personal honors.

During these trying times, many Chapters are reporting an increase in new member applications because they are providing affordable and fun family activities to their members. Why not invite your friends, relatives and business associates to join with you in your service to children and seniors?

International Conference

The 2009 International Conference is scheduled for May 22 through 27 in Chicago, Illinois. This is your opportunity to visit our Child City on Saturday and, during the Conference, attend exciting meetings.

What can you look forward to during this Conference? How about an up close and personal look at the new Grand Chancellor, the announcement of many changes to the Women of the Moose General Laws, help celebrate with those who will be receiving their College of Regents and Star Recorder degrees, enjoy outstanding entertainment and make or renew friendships with other co-workers who are committed to ensuring the success of Mooseheart and Moosehaven.

New to the Conference this year per your request, the Women of the Moose have been invited to participate in the March of Checks that will be held during the Joint General Session on Tuesday morning, May 26th. Any Chapter or co-worker who would like to present a check for any project at Mooseheart or Moosehaven is encouraged to do so during this meeting. Those with checks in the amount of \$500 or more will be invited on stage. Please watch for further updates.

Watch for the latest schedule of events, hotel information and pre-register online at <http://www.mooseintl.org/portal/Convention/materials/2009-Chicago.asp>

SHHHHHH, It's a Secret

In an attempt to keep the winners of the State/Regional/Provincial Novice and International Co-workers of the Year a surprise, we are no longer notifying them to attend the Conference and that they are the winner. We do however ask that you encourage your nominee to attend the Midyear Conference, as it is very disappointing to announce a winner who is not present.

Stay on Track

Toward the end of February, we will again be mailing Missing Documents and Missing Positions reports to all Chapters. If the Missing Documents report shows forms missing, please make a copy of the missing forms and remit to our office via fax to 630-966-2211. Remember the Family Involvement Committee Activity Night can be held any time during the Chapter year and the Green Cap/Ways and Means Committee Activity Night is to be held any time February thru April. Please don't forget to hold these two meetings.

If the Missing Positions report lists Officers, Appointed Officers or Chairman information that we do not have, the Recorder is responsible to log into the Admin Menu via the Moose International website and enter the missing information. Please refer to the information found at the following link for additional assistance.

http://www.mooseintl.org/portal/pdf/FratEd/MMMS_Online_UserDoc.pdf

As we approach the end of the Chapter year, please be sure you are aware of your membership numbers. The beginning number was mailed to all Chapters in October. You may contact your Regional Manager to secure your latest End of Month number. Please be kind enough to contact them via email for the information. A barrage of telephone calls is not necessary.

A complete listing of Regional Manager information including email address can be found at <http://www.mooseintl.org/portal/contact/flashpaper/Managers.pdf>

Make sure your PEP Committee has been in personal contact with your members who are in arrears to avoid late payments. The last day to receive payments in order for payments to be properly processed and credited is April 24, 2009.

Once again, all applications and updated member information must be transmitted prior to 10:00 PM CST Thursday, April 30th to be included in your membership count.

Who knew

On a different subject, it appears we have had an unusual number of cases of Misappropriation of Chapter funds by Chapter Officers. I cannot stress the importance of the need to have your Chapter financial information audited on a monthly basis and make sure proper procedures are being followed when handling Chapter funds.

If the Audit Committee discovers and has sufficient proof of Misappropriation of Chapter funds, the Chapter Officers have a responsibility to contact the local law enforcement authorities and file criminal charges. The Officers should then contact Lockton Risk Services to file a claim. Sufficient evidence will be required in all cases.

Direct Donations

During the International Boards and Grand Council meeting, we had the opportunity to hear from John Capes, Executive Director of Moosehaven Operations and Scott Hart, Executive Director of Mooseheart. Many of our members have heard via the "moose-

vine" that some of the privileges of the Moosehaven residents have been taken away - or that the Mooseheart residents may not have everything they want.

The "moose-vine" has not been completely accurate. All "needs" are met - all "wants" may not be suitable or necessary. Please be assured the decisions made by both Directors and their staffs are in the best interests of our residents. Both Directors will respond to questions/concerns and may be contacted via email (jcap@moosehaven.org), (shart@mooseheart.org). One last request, Moose Charities asks of you - please contact either Director or Moose Charities office before taking on a financial commitment for some unannounced project.

Bulk Emails

To help ease the burden on our Fraternal Unit mailboxes, we will now be sending an email notifying the Fraternal Unit that a new Bulk Email is available at the following link. Don't miss out on the latest news from Moose International.

<http://www.mooseintl.org/portal/BulkMail/default.asp>

Finally

Due to no fault of our own, our membership card vendor ran out of blank card stock during the first part of January. They have replenished their supply, however cards that should have run January 9th and 16th are just now being printed and were mailed on January 27th and January 28th. Thank you for understanding.

Once again, I thank each of you for your continued dedication and commitment to ensure the well being of our children and our seniors, as well as the future of Mooseheart and Moosehaven. As the late, great Thomas Jefferson said, "I am a great believer in luck, and I find that the harder I work, the more I have of it." I am sure, each of you will agree.