

Grand Regent's Message – August 2012

WOW! WOW! WOW! What an awesome, exciting, fantastic International Conference we had in Tampa, Florida. Once again, I returned from the International conference excited, motivated and PROUD to be a Woman of the Moose. Grand Regent Carolyn, the Grand Council, Academy of Friendship, Star Recorder and College of Regents boards once again worked very hard to put together a conference to inspire every co-worker present. I just want to personally tell each of them that their mission was accomplished. Each International conference serves as a reminder of what we are all about, and the conference in Tampa was no exception.

For those of you unable to attend I would like to tell you some of the highlights for me. We met a co-worker 105 years old! She joined the Women of the Moose 8 years ago and was at the International Conference. Of course, it's always exciting when they announce the top state for membership, which was Florida this year – congratulations. We learned our new theme for the year “Heard of Moose” – encouraging each of us to tell the story of Mooseheart and Moosehaven as we continue to build membership. Of course, there was the exciting announcement of the new Deputy Grand Regents – congratulations to each of you on this appointment! In addition, the conferral ceremonies were held for Academy of Friendship, Star Recorders and College of Regents. Congratulations to each of you on this achievement. There were exciting panel sessions on General Laws and Membership Retention and a State Chairman's workshop. The joint sessions were, as always, inspiring as we heard stories from Mooseheart and Moosehaven residents about their experiences. The most touching part of these sessions for me was when our children from Mooseheart knelt at their bedside and said their evening prayers, it brought tears to my eyes and was truly something I will never forget. The speech from our Moosehaven resident made me laugh and made me realize once again how great a life they have.

Tuesday, July 3rd, was one of the most memorable days of my life as I was installed as the Grand Regent!!! Before installation I had a chance to meet the co-workers who were also installed as Academy of Friendship, Star Recorder, College of Regents and Grand Council members, as well as those co-workers who will be serving their second year as Board and Council members. After meeting them I am so excited to see what this year will bring. I congratulate each of them as we work together this year to try and make it the best year ever. I am inspired by the devotion and talents that each of them bring to the Women of the Moose, and I know that we will have a fantastic year together.

In my speech I spoke about the co-workers that serve our chapters. Each of us has our own unique talents and personalities that make our chapters successful. Without each and every one of us, our chapters would not be the same. Make it a goal in your chapter to highlight the strengths and talents of each co-worker so they are allowed to shine this chapter year.

As I close, I wish that I could find the right words to express my gratitude to so many of you for your acts of kindness. Thank you seems so small compared to the gratitude that I feel each and every day. Thank you Grand Chancellor Barb McPherson for allowing me the privilege of serving as the Grand Regent. Your faith in my ability to serve is still overwhelming to me. I am so humbled and honored to have been asked to serve in this position. To each and everyone of you that took the time at the installation to congratulate me, to those in the airport and airplanes on the trip home, the cards, e-mail messages and facebook messages have been overwhelming. To the co-workers of Missouri, and my chapter, Kirksville 824 you sure make a girl feel special. Yes, I am still on cloud nine and will continue to be on cloud nine for the next year.

Has your community “Heard of Moose”? Let's all get out there and spread the word of our wonderful organization - the Women of the Moose!!

Fraternally,

Cathey Russell