

August proved to be an exciting, whirlwind month with opportunities to travel, see new things, and of course meet lots of new co-workers. I was definitely treated like a queen by the co-workers in the states that we visited. My heart is full of wonderful memories of my visits and I feel truly blessed by both experiences.

My first official visit as Grand Regent was to the Massachusetts/Rhode Island conference in Andover, Massachusetts. Deputy Grand Regent, Cindy Riley, met us at the airport with a sign that said "Welcome Cathey Russell, Grand Regent, Women of the Moose". It sure made me feel welcome and made me feel extra special. The weather was beautiful when we got there, but for much of the rest of the conference the forecast was full of rain, something this Missouri girl had not seen in quite awhile. However, the rain outside definitely could not dampen the spirit of the Hostess Chapter, Plymouth, who had planned a beach party theme for the weekend. It brightened our spirits and created such a fun atmosphere. The aqua colored shirts they wore for the entire weekend, the beach balls, and the beach music made for a fun-filled weekend.

I was also thrilled that the Association had invited the Family Teachers and boys from the New England Home to be a part of the weekend. I was honored to meet Anondre, Ben, Jose, Khaciff, Edgar, Joey, Jamall, Chuckie and Scott. For me, they were a reminder of all the reasons we work so hard for our beloved Mooseheart. To Philip and Lisa Johnson and Sarah McWilliams, and Philip and Lisa's children Kadin and Haley – thanks for dedicating your lives to mentoring and giving the boys a safe, happy, loving home to live in.

Then it was back to work for a week before packing our bags for the next visit, New York!!

Deputy Grand Regent, Carolyn Turner, had invited us to come a day early, which I don't usually take the opportunity to do, to take in some of the sights. How could I refuse her offer when she told me she and her husband Ray wanted to take us to see Niagara Falls!!!!!! We were so excited, and it was certainly a beautiful sight. We went right from the airport to the Falls, and tried to take in all the beauty that Niagara Falls has to offer. We walked down as close as we could get and in the process got plenty of pictures, video, and oh yes, SOAKING WET!!! It was so much fun. We also got to eat at the home of Buffalo wings. The Hostess Chapter, Gowanda, were well prepared and helped me thoroughly enjoy my visit. The co-workers of New York were so much fun, and once again, I was treated like a queen. Deputy Grand Regent Carolyn and her husband Ray made sure that we had plenty of food for the weekend, and I must have gained at least 5 pounds eating Carolyn's delicious fudge!!!

Thank you so much Deputy Grand Regents Cindy and Carolyn, the hostess chapters, and the co-workers of Massachusetts/Rhode Island and New York for memorable conferences. You all hold a special place in my heart, and in my memories.

Now it's back to work for a couple of weeks until Missouri's state conference. Our official visitor will be Judy Sisson, Director of Operations. I can only hope that she will feel as welcome in Missouri as I have felt on my visits. We are so excited that she is our Official Visitor!!

Fraternally,

*Cathey Russell,
Grand Regent*