

March found us once again packing our bags to travel. Next stop, Pennsylvania. March 7 – 10th. To say our trip started out eventful was an understatement. Deputy Grand Regent, Gloria Weagly, and her husband Dave had invited us to come a day early and tour the battlefield since the conference was in Gettysburg. We were excited to be able to see this historic site, so, of course, we said yes. Wednesday morning started out with a phone call from the airlines informing us our flight into Harrisburg had been cancelled. A quick call to Gloria found us making plans for them to pick us up in Philadelphia. While we were at the airport, however, our flight into Philadelphia was cancelled – oh, did I say cancelled? Actually 10 minutes later the flight was reinstated and we were boarding the plane. When we got into Philadelphia our flight to Harrisburg, which was cancelled at 5:30 that morning, was now a go. Although we arrived a little later than scheduled we did arrive in Harrisburg. That was a first for me – arriving on two flights that had both been cancelled!! Through the whole process of multiple calls and texts we all stayed surprisingly calm, but we were sure happy to see Dave and Gloria waiting for us when we arrived at the airport.

Thursday Gloria, Dave, Byron Dalton – the LOOM Official Visitor, Ray and myself toured the battlefield on a bus excursion, and saw the beautiful cyclorama. If you ever have the opportunity to do these things take advantage of it. So much history was found right there in Gettysburg. What a wonderful day!

The conference was wonderful. Deputy Grand Regent, Gloria, and the hostess chapter McSherrystown, did an awesome job. It was obvious that great attention to detail was covered during my stay there. We even had the opportunity to enjoy a wonderful meal and spend time socializing at McSherrystown on Friday evening. What a warm welcome we received! The hostess chapter even wore pink shirts on Saturday in honor of their Deputy Grand Regent. Congratulations to the 81 co-workers who received the Academy of Friendship Degree on Sunday. Thank you to the co-workers of Pennsylvania for your warm hospitality – I love you all!!

Special thanks to the Pennsylvania Moose Association for ALL of the courtesies extended to Ray and me. They certainly know how to treat the Grand Regent in a grand style. Every single thing we could have wanted, and lots of things that we never expected were given to us during our stay. Their generosity and thoughtful gifts were often overwhelming. Words cannot express our gratitude to them. Their motto should be “expect the unexpected.” There is not enough space to tell you all the kind things they did for us, and we are so very appreciative to them for making our stay extra special.

Then home for a week, then off to my last conference as Official Visitor during my term as Grand Regent. It was for my home state of Missouri. Deputy Grand Regent, Sharon Charles, did a terrific job, and the Hostess Chapter, Lexington, did an awesome job also. It sure was

nice for my last visit to be in my home state, where I knew almost everyone!!! Everyone was wonderful and made my visit extra special. Thursday night was Moose Legion Fun Night, and we watched many brothers and co-workers vying to win the Minute to Win It Game. Friday night was karaoke and the banquet Saturday night had a western theme. What fun activities!!!

Everything went perfect until late Saturday night and early Sunday morning when the snow came hard and fast. Winter storm warnings were out and part of the interstate between us and home was shut down for a while. Many of our co-workers ended up staying an extra night because travel would be too dangerous. After a few changes in the co-workers performing the Academy of Friendship ceremony the session went off without a hitch. What a beautiful job the staff did in performing the ceremony. I have been fortunate enough to see many co-workers dedicated to making the ceremonies extra special for those matriculants receiving their degrees. Missouri welcomed 9 new Academy of Friendship members!!!

Now it is home for a while to prepare for the International Conference in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. I am hoping that many brothers and co-workers will be able to join us for what I know will be a celebration for our organization. I am looking forward to our time in Milwaukee. Hope to see all of you there.

I hope that you and your family enjoyed a wonderful Easter. Our family sure did. My snow-bird parents arrived home today – sure was good to see them.

Till next month.....

Fraternally
Cathey Russell, Grand Regent