



Donna Howe

DEAN, Academy of Friendship Board

Our Theme Journey

I started my Moose journey in 1990, when did you start yours?

Do you remember the theme the year you joined? I remember mine; it was the *Slot Machine*, because joining the Moose was like hitting the jackpot!

Shortly thereafter the theme was represented by a *Hot Air Balloon*. As my journey began, the co-workers of my Chapter grabbed my hand and off we went, seeking new horizons. I was amazed at how many friends were on board with me. We worked together towards the success of our Chapter, planning fundraisers, cooking meals and spending time together. It didn't take me long to realize they were a bunch of *Clowns*! While riding high on our adventure the weather turned a little chilly. Looking around we found only one *Quilt* on board. So what did we do, we bundled up and kept each other warm. We were bound together in friendship, in compassion for others and for our love of our twin cities. We were a patch-work of ideas and talents, woven together perfectly.

As our journey together continued and we explored our options for advancement, a co-worker spotted a *Carousel* so off we went for another adventure, hand in hand. While riding the Carousel, reaching for the brass ring of success, a *Dove* flew over us symbolizing the love we felt about our mission for Mooseheart, Moosehaven, and our communities.

From a distance we spotted an enchanting glow. We all started walking towards the light, which brought us to the *Lighthouse*. The glow engulfed us with its warmth, but also shined its light on the *Bears, Peacocks* and of course lots of Moose. We were proud to serve our *World*.

It wasn't long before we were jumping on board a *Train*. We were chugging along steadily, laughing and having fun, but as the temperature began to climb, we all pulled out our *Fans* to use along the way.

When we reached our destination, we were told to put on our *Red Shoes* before embarking from the Train. “Why Red Shoes?” you ask. Well, these special shoes would allow us to surf a wave with *Dolphins!* Their influence made us feel lucky, happy, playful, and complete.

Now after riding in a Hot Air Balloon and a Carousel and a Train we all needed to check a *Mirror* to see how we looked. It was up to us to get ready for our next adventure. While looking in the Mirror we each realized it was like gazing into a *Crystal Ball*. We started to share all the possibilities we had to improve the lives of others, to celebrate our friendships and accomplishments and the personal growth we had experienced. The love and knowledge we had cultivated motivated us to *Pass It On*.

I *Believe* beyond belief that we must all be a *Piece of the Solution*. We need to find a solution to retaining more members, to ending discontent in our Moose homes, to educating our members about Mooseheart and Moosehaven. *The Time is Now*, to get out and *Create Some Interest*. Our members are interested in learning more about potential changes to our operational structure, our co-workers are excited about equal opportunities in our Associations. Share your excitement - make sure everyone you know has *Heard of the Moose*. So come on co-workers let's *Go the Distance*, and get *Back to Basics* of caring for one another. We built a *Foundation* on faith, hope and charity, and enthusiastically *Raised the Roof* by cheering on our members. We spent time *Honoring Community Heroes* because we are *Moose on a Mission!* It's up to each and everyone us to *Create Our Future*; to secure an eternity for our children at Mooseheart and our seniors at Moosehaven; to embrace the changes and opportunities being presented to us this weekend and to continue to promote the good works of the Moose Fraternity for generations to come.

As my Term as Dean of the Academy of Friendship Board comes to a close I would like to take this time to thank Suzanne, Trisha, Dawn and Gloria for a very fun and memorable year. I will cherish our time together.

To the Star Recorder Board and President Carla, College of Regents Board and President Lisa, the Grand Council, and our Grand Regent Mary, Thank you all for a Great Year!

A special thank you to Barb McPherson for giving me this great opportunity. And of course, I can't leave out Denielle and all the ladies at Moose International behind the scenes who are always there for all our needs. Thank you ladies.

To the Frankfort Chapter Co-workers and all the co-workers in Indiana, a Big Thank You for all your love and support. I couldn't have done this without all of you.

To all the co-workers of the Women of the Moose, thank you for all that you do and I am sure will continue to do.

God Bless Mooseheart, Moosehaven and each of you.