

REPORT OF THE MOOSEHEART BOARD OF DIRECTORS

■ 125th International Moose Convention ■ 2013 ■ Milwaukee, WI ■



The Mooseheart Board of Directors met on two occasions during the 2012-13 Moose year: In June 2012 in conjunction with the 94th annual Mooseheart High School Commencement Exercises and in February 2013. There were also two conference calls held to provide the Board with timely updates on issues and opportunities occurring at Mooseheart. The Mooseheart Board met for a third important conference call on Jan. 7, 2013, to approve the appointment of Superintendent of Education Gary L. Urwiler as the new Executive Director of Mooseheart, as Scott D. Hart, Executive Director since 2003, had been appointed by the Supreme Council as the tenth Director General/Chief Executive Officer of Moose International.

During each regularly scheduled meeting, the Board receives an in-depth report on all areas of the Child City, including program outcomes and future goals of the largest residential child-care facility in the State of Illinois. The Board of Directors question the Executive Director and the administrative staff of Mooseheart on all topics related to the care and education of our children and teens, maintenance of our campus, as well as the financial goals and accomplishments of Mooseheart.

Special actions taken during the past year include the following approvals:

- Accepted the Mooseheart 2013-14 Operating Budget
- Accepted the Mooseheart 2013-14 Capital Budget
- Approved the start of the School Renovation Project, March 2013
- Approved Mooseheart's membership renewal in the Illinois High School Association (IHSA) for athletic competition
- Granted authority to Director General Hart to invite Supreme Governor Henderson as the Commencement speaker on May 25, 2013.
- Granted authority to the Executive Director to graduate those seniors, of the Class of 2013, meeting the academic and vocational requirements of the Mooseheart School.

Mooseheart census figures: Mooseheart's student Census, as of April 30, 2013, is 211. The youngest child at Mooseheart was 6 weeks old as of April 30. Mooseheart's population continues with a majority of boys, 123 to 88. The number of middle school students has grown to 41, with 116 currently in high school. Children from 26 U.S. states, Canada, and Sudan presently reside at Mooseheart. Lodges from the States of IL, IA, IN, FL, OH, CA, MD, and MO each sponsor at least 3 students.

During the 12-month period of May 1, 2012 – April 30, 2013, 66 children were admitted to Mooseheart; 39 boys and 27 girls. An Illinois Lodge sponsored nearly 55% of all youth admitted during this period. Twenty-one of the children were in fifth grade or lower at the time of intake. 10 of the student's admitted during this



12-month period report were living in the care of their grandparent as guardian prior to intake. Thirty-four of the students enrolled came from a family in which at least one parent was either incarcerated or whose whereabouts were unknown. Three of the students enrolled in this report period were part of the South Carolina Maternity Home here on campus.

On May 25, 2013, thirty-one (31) seniors graduated from Mooseheart.

Accreditation: The five-year AdvancED (North Central Accreditation) process is in its first year of completion, for the new five-year cycle. The Accreditation is designed to help educational institutions further their ongoing efforts for the benefit of their students and Mooseheart School is no exception. Although we realize that there is always room for improvement, we are constantly striving for excellence in the classroom. Mrs. Laura Zefo and the School Improvement Committee, along with the Mooseheart teachers, are continuing to meet the recommendations of the AdvancED Organization and have submitted their follow-up report for accreditation on April 20, 2013.

The report submitted addresses the following areas:

1. Written School Improvement Plan
2. Begin aligning the curriculum to the Common Core Standards
3. Using existing data to drive school-wide decision making.

The next visit of the AdvancED Accreditation process will take place in April 2017.

On January 7, 2013, Director General Hart recommended Gary Urwiler to the Mooseheart Board, as the next Executive Director. The Board of Directors approved his appointment, leaving the school without a Principal/Superintendent. Laura Zefo, who is the Assistant Principal/Guidance Counselor, was named Interim Principal to fill this vacancy.

On April 6, 2013, Executive Director Urwiler named the new Principal/Superintendent of the School, Mr. Jeff Szymczak. Mr. Szymczak began his career at Mooseheart back in 1984, just out of college as a family teacher. In 1985, Jeff became the Physical Education and Health teacher. Jeff also coached football, basketball, track and bowling during his years at Mooseheart. Jeff left Mooseheart, to pursue an Assistant Principal position at Yorkville Middle School from 1995-2012. Jeff returns to Mooseheart excited and proud to be back where he began his career. Mr. Szymczak will assume all duties, while Mrs. Zefo will return back to her previous assignment as Assistant Principal/Guidance Counselor, on July 1, 2013.

Heart of the Community Events: We have continued to partner with a number of local organizations throughout the year at Mooseheart and have successfully rented our facilities to organizations as well. Some of the organization include: Aurora Gators Youth Football, Tri-City Youth Football, Batavia Youth Baseball, Batavia Girls Soccer, Batavia Football, Jarrett Payton Football Camp, Aurora Track Lightning Running Club, Tri-City Mothers Twins and Triplets, Batavia Mother's Club, Kane County Agriculture Department, DuPage

and Kane County Jr. Leagues, North Aurora Days, Touch a Truck, Old Country Car Show, Aurora Amped Up Adventure Race, Feet of Strength Race, and Fraternal Order of Police for Kane County.

Circus: The Carson and Barnes Circus pulled onto campus at the end of August 2012 for its third straight year of performances. Attendance was lower than we expected, so the decision was made not to continue the Circus in 2013.

Mooseheart Holiday Lights: On December 31, 2012, Mooseheart wrapped up its Third Annual Holiday Lights show. This year was our most prosperous year, as we saw over 8,000 cars in attendance! Also, Mooseheart was able to cut the cost of the Light Show by contracting with a new company and switching the lights to a LED show, which used less electricity and was easier to maintain throughout the course of the Holiday Lights show. This year, Mr. Hart instituted a "Finding Frosty" contest. Each car was given a "Finding Frosty" post card that they had to write down and answer questions, then provide us with their email address, so we could inform them of the correct answer and winners. This proved to be a valuable marketing tool, as we were able to collect over 2,000 email addresses of people who had visited our show. We were able to create a database to include all the emails and the opportunity to invite them to future events that we will be hosting. In addition to the tremendous support by our fraternal units, one piece that truly makes our Holiday Lights show special is the number of volunteers. From the initial set-up day in early November, to each night of the show and the final teardown in January, many Moose International and Mooseheart employees plus the Mooseheart children work hard to make it all possible.

Easter Egg Hunt: On Saturday, March 30, 2013, Mooseheart hosted its Third Annual Community Easter Egg Hunt with more than 4,000 people in attendance and over 10,000 eggs/candy given out. It was a great event as we offered a variety of activities for everyone to enjoy: petting farm, pony rides, face painting, craft tables, bounce house, tours of the campus, pictures with the Easter Bunny and food. It was awesome to see so many children and families attend this event, taking advantage of Mooseheart's invitation to spend a few hours at the Child City and enjoy the Easter activities.

Centennial: The Mooseheart Centennial enthusiasm is gaining momentum as each day, month goes by. The plans for Centennial Day, Saturday, July 27, 2013, include:

- 9:00 a.m. Centennial Celebration Run / Race, Stadium Track
- 11:00 a.m. Rededication Ceremony, at Cornerstone (near Centennial Plaza)
- 12:00 p.m. School Renovation Project Presentation at Mooseheart School
- 12:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Carnival/Windy City Amusements, near Fieldhouse
- 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. International Cornhole Tournament, directed by Shawn Baile

- 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. Tours of the Mooseheart Campus
- 4:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Live Entertainment- Rick K and the Allnighters, at Fieldhouse
- 7:00 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. Live Entertainment - American English. A tribute band to the legendary Beatles will perform live, under the stadium lights on the Ohio Sports Complex football field.
- 9:30 p.m. Fireworks at Iowa Field

We are looking forward to the celebration, and hope that many of the members of the world's greatest fraternity can make it out as well.

School Renovation Project: The first phase of the project was approved by the Mooseheart Board of Directors and forwarded on for final approval by the Supreme Council. The first phase began during spring break (late March 2013). The asbestos was removed from the middle school hallway and classrooms. Continuing of phase 1 construction will resume again on April 17, 2013, as the General Contractor, Nicholas & Associates, will begin excavating the area for the new elevator to be installed. Following the end of the school year and the students' last day of school, the renovation of Phase 1 will continue. The work in this project is extensive and will bring the educational environment of our children up to 21st-century standards. Each classroom, hallways, lockers, walls, and safety features will be addressed in this phase. The students, staff, community, and members of the fraternity are excited to see the project completed. We want to thank all of the associations and members, who have provided much support towards this project financially. Without your support, this centennial gift to the children would not be possible.

Student Achievement: During the National Honor Society ceremony on Feb. 28, 2013, three (3) new members were inducted into the Mooseheart Chapter of the National Honor Society. Juniors: Rocio Sanchez, Jeremy Kalicum, and Senior: Cody Henderson. Consideration for membership required each candidate to meet specific academic requirements and to develop a service project for the community. Each student upholds and exemplifies the four pillars of the National Honor Society- Character, Scholarship, Leadership and Service. Mooseheart was just the fifth chapter to affiliate with the National Honor Society in 1921 and the very first in Illinois.

On April 28-29, 2013, select band and choir student were able to participate in the 2013 Fox Valley Music Festival, which took place at East Aurora High School. They took part in two days of rehearsals and performed in a concert on the evening of the 29th, in front of an audience of thousands.

On May 10, 2013, the band and choir was to participate in the High Note Music Festival, which is a band/choir competition. The Mooseheart Band has received many superior rating over the past several years and this year most likely will do the same. This event is a popular one. After the competition is completed, the students are invited to attend Six Flags Great America for an afternoon/evening of fun, provided by the High Note Music Festival sponsors.

Rambler Pride was again in full swing this year, as many of our teams

found success at a high level. The varsity football team, the smallest school in the state of Illinois playing football, found themselves in line for a repeat shot at the conference championship, but fell short against Ottawa Marquette. Despite losing the conference game, the team finished with an 8-1 record and returned to the IHSA postseason before being eliminated in the second round. The team finished the season with a 9-2 record.

The boys varsity basketball team had one of the best seasons in Mooseheart basketball history. The team finished with a record of 24-6 and won the IHSA Regional Championship, before losing in the Sectional Competition to Chicagoland Jewish Academy. The team made Rambler Nation very proud and brought about much enthusiasm as their play was truly fun to watch and to cheer for. Congratulations to Makur Puou who was named to the All-State 1st Team, while Mangisto Deng was named to All-State 2nd Team. The team will be largely intact next year and is focused on using the experiences of this year to further their play next year in postseason State Tournament competition.

The boys & girls track season has begun with the teams of the Northeastern Conference competing in the annual Indoor event. The teams were hopeful in sending many individuals and relay teams to the state meet, at Eastern Illinois University. Oumarou Abdulahi looked to finish his amazing career in the high jump event. Oumarou jumped 6'8" to win the state title as a sophomore; two years later he's aiming to clear 7'0". Oumarou has been awarded a sports scholarship to attend Marquette University and plans to participate in track, after Mooseheart.

On May 4, 2013, the annual Mooseheart Relays took place. This marked our 38th year in hosting the small-schools relay event. The boys' and girls' track teams have been strong this year, with higher numbers of participants involved. Our former state champion in high jump, Oumarou Abdulahi, looks to finish his career in favorable fashion as he has already jumped an incredible 6'8".

The men of the wrestling mat found equal success this year as seniors Sammy Strickland, U-Jay Smith, Junior Smith, and Sophomore Joe Feemorlu advanced into the sectionals of the state wrestling tournament. Unfortunately, none of them made it past the sectionals. However, Junior Smith completed his regular season with an undefeated record. His first loss came to the state champion of 2012 in the Regional competition of the state meet. Junior will be attending Iowa State University, and wrestling for the Cyclones. Congratulations Junior!

Christmas Surprise: On Dec. 10, 2012 our children were once again surprised and blessed to have a special trip to Target in St. Charles, Illinois. Chicago Bears placekicker Robbie Gould provided \$10,000 so that our children in grades 8 and below could shop for their siblings, grandparents and parents. As an additional surprise, Robbie provided each student with an opportunity to shop for themselves as well, as he supplied a gift of \$25 to each student. Robbie signed many autographs and took as many pictures as the children wanted. This is the second year in which Robbie has done this for the

Mooseheart children. Go Bears!

Corporate Support: On April 27, 2013, the Mooseheart Community, along with 63 Kohl's department stores throughout the Region, joined together for the Kohl's "National Go Green" event. Over the past three years this event has proven to be very successful. This year, Kohl's reached out their hand of service again, and made this a much larger event than in years past, by having more than 500 volunteers. Students and Volunteers joined together to complete "spring" projects on the Mooseheart campus, which included mulching the entire campus, planting flowers/shrubs, pruning trees, picking up sticks/trash, and planting a tree in honor of our partnership with Kohl's. We are extremely grateful of the service and the donation that was given to Mooseheart due to this event.

Capital Projects: Thanks to the Mooseheart Board of Directors, Supreme Council, and to Director General Scott Hart, we were able to start the school renovation project this spring, which was approved as a capital project. The first phase of the project will cost \$6.1 which includes: all new windows, library roofing, new doors, the refinish of existing interior doors, addition of a wall on the second floor, casework and countertops in each classroom, gas solenoid shut-off valves in all science labs, stair guard and hand rails, electrostatic paint lockers, digital system temperature controls, unit ventilators, chillers, exhaust fans and terminal units, packaged roof top units, plumbing fixture trim, domestic water heater, domestic water piping, handicap drink water coolers, electric service size increase, electrical distribution panels, electric outlets, lighting fixtures upgrade, exit and emergency lights, addressable fire alarm system, intercom system, lobby and 2nd floor restroom handicap accessible, heating and cooling systems, and a new elevator. The students and staff of the school are very excited about this renovation and look forward to starting the 2013-14 school year. A great deal of gratitude is extended to the many Moose Associations who have supported this endeavor financially, allowing this birthday celebration gift to be given. Thank you Men and Women of the Moose!

Veterans' Walk: Already in its second year, we have seen significant growth of participants in the Veterans' Walk. Each year, the NJROTC Cadets of Mooseheart's Naval Junior Reserve Officer Training Corp acknowledges those men and women who proudly served our country in times of war and times of peace. This spring we have seen over 400 flags and marker sets displayed for Memorial Day. Our NJROTC cadets administer all the details of the Veterans' Walk and are proud to set and watch over the flags placed along the sidewalk from the Mooseheart Museum to past the House of God. After the annual Memorial Day program at the House of God, every child and staff member at Mooseheart walked through the flag walk in silence, led by our NJROTC cadets.

Yellowstone: This summer two (2) high school students (Leslie Ballard and Kamryn Kolb) from Mooseheart will be employed to work at Yellowstone, in the National Park Service's Youth Conservation Corps program. Even

though the Moose fraternity no longer contributes financially to the YCC program, the YCC program Director and Coordinator continue to offer this great experience to our students each year.

Respectfully submitted,

MOOSEHEART BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2012-2013

Thomas C. Hatcher PSG, *Chairman, Mooseheart Board of Directors*, East Hartford, CT Lodge No. 1477

Scott D. Hart, *Director General*, Mooseheart, IL Lodge No. 2655

James F. Henderson, *Supreme Governor*, East Mesa, AZ Lodge No. 2082

Bruce T. Masopust, Lodi, NJ Lodge No.1971

Mark J. K. Penzkover, Muskego, WI Lodge No. 1057

Elliot B. Chaffee, Hornell, NY Lodge No. 210

Verna M. Miller, Lake Havasu City, AZ, Chapter 1608

James W. Pizarek, Michigan City, IN Lodge 980

Michael G. Coen, Cut Bank, MT Lodge 334



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