FUTURE OF HIGHER DEGREES

Presenters:
Bob Neff
Kim Pettit
One constant in life is change – and here we are discussing a new future
Our goal is to preserve traditions but modernize—
Recognizing some things may “morph” further in the future.
Historically we have seen revisions to meet the needs and desires of our members and our overall mission.
It is our intention to continue to recognize leadership for their accomplishments and contributions to the organization.
That said – what are the planned changes for the men of the organization regarding degrees?

- Current structure will essentially remain intact
- But might some requirements change over time? Yes they could as we go on.
Moose Legion Jurisdiction and Officer Structure

- Groups of lodges making up a jurisdiction
- Officers to be from those lodges
- No planned changes at this time
Moose Legion eligibility requirements

Now: Lodge member of Six months OR one sponsored member into the Order

Possible future – Male good standing member of lodge
  ▪ As it was in the beginning in 1913...
  ▪ Except that it was then men, women and even children
  ▪ Attendance at a Conferral was/is a requirement to complete the membership enrollment
  ▪ Dues in 1913 were just (a minimum of) two bucks a year
Using an online inflation calculator – that would equate to be about 26 times that in 2019

- Meaning: A minimum of about **fifty-four dollars ($54.00) per year** M L dues
- That demonstrates that our dues have run well behind inflation
- A side note to that is **lodge dues** were around just a minimum five dollars at the time....

Using the same calculator those dues should have become a **minimum of about $130.00 per year**
Fellowship Degree of Honor – for Male Members of the Order  (no significant anticipated revisions)

• OLD PROCESS - only select lodges received a recommendation form – distributed by the “State Director”

• CURRENTLY – ALL lodges are sent recommendation forms

• Minimum requirements for consideration (all by Sept 30th):
  ▪ Five years continuous lodge membership
  ▪ One year continuous M L membership
  ▪ Min Five members sponsored into Order
    o One of which transmitted since prior May 1st
  ▪ Min One member sponsored into M L in lifetime
  ▪ Have a record that demonstrates extra-ordinary service to the fraternity which clearly shows his worthiness of elevation

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Minimum requirements for consideration (all by Sept 30th):
  Five years continuous lodge membership
  One year continuous M L membership
  Min Five members sponsored into Order (was previously a min of 10 for about 3 or 4 decades)
    One of which transmitted since prior May 1st (unless in 25 Club)
  Min One member sponsored into M L in lifetime
  Have a record that demonstrates extra-ordinary service to the fraternity which clearly shows his worthiness of elevation
Recommendations are made by Lodge Fellowship Committees

- Reviewed by Moose International and passed to Pilgrim Council for consideration
- Up to four invites for conferral to approved candidates
- Degree Conferral is required

Recommendations are made by Lodge Fellowship Committees (each November)
Reviewed by Moose International and passed to Pilgrim Council for consideration
Up to four invites for conferral to approved candidates — Int’l — Assoc — Int’l — Assoc
Degree Conferral is required
Pilgrim Degree of Merit - for Male Members of the Order

- Minimum requirements to be recommended by any Pilgrim of the Order
- Good Standing male member of lodge for at least ten years and
- Five continuous years as a Fellow and
- 25 Club member and
- Past Governor of Order and
Pilgrim Degree of Merit

• Elected or appointed as officer in either:
  ▪ Moose Legion -OR- Association
  ▪ OR – Served as Association Chairman a minimum of 5 years
  ▪ OR – Appointed to a Supreme Lodge Board or Committee w/in past 5 years
  ▪ OR – Successfully Gathered a charter for a new lodge
  ▪ OR – Serve as Administrator at least 7 years
  ▪ OR – has extraordinary service to the lodge exceeding 20 years

• Recommendations are made by any Pilgrim in Good Standing
  ▪ For a period at least two years in advance
  ▪ If approved by Pilgrim Consistory member will be invited & must attend a conferral – held at the Mooseheart campus

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Recommendations are made by any Pilgrim in Good Standing (of any lodge)
  For a period at least two years in advance
  If approved by Pilgrim Consistory member will be invited & must attend a conferral – held at the Mooseheart campus
Once conferred with any higher degree – the degree stays with the member as long as both his lodge and Moose Legion dues remain in active status

Essentially these qualifying attributes will remain as they are

What might change?
- Terminology referencing things like:
  - PG might be Past President
  - Administrator – same thing if that ‘title’ were to change?
Questions have arisen as to sponsor Qualification criteria in the Moose Legion Degree
- We might adjust the qualifications to join as noted earlier but
- Otherwise No major changes anticipated

In comparing LOOM and WOTM degrees, some similarities exist but you cannot directly equate one degree to another.

We anticipate All Degrees will remain similar to how they are now

LOOM Higher Honorary Degrees will only be award to GS members of both the lodge and M L and
• WOTM Higher Honorary Degrees will only be awarded to GS members of both the lodge and chapter

• Continued Good Standing (Active) Membership in both the Lodge....along with the Chapter and/or the Moose Legion will preserve current degrees

• Again as with previous topics – we will have Q & A at the end of this portion of the program

• With that I would turn the program over to Kim who will continue with topics specifically concerning the WOTM Higher Honorary Degrees

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The One Constant in life is change
Change is why we are here today discussing our future
Preserving the traditions of our unit “The New Chapter”, is vitally important in keeping the traditions of the Higher Degrees

- Our Higher Degrees allow us to recognize the accomplishments of our members

- It is our way as an organization to say “THANK YOU” for following the steps in earning Honors and Degrees

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Our Higher Degrees allow us to recognize the accomplishments of our members. It is our way as an organization to say “THANK YOU” for following the steps in earning honors and Degrees
Honors and Degrees as we know them today

- The Award of Achievement
- The Green Cap
- Academy of Friendship Degree
- Star Recorder Degree
- College of Regents Degree

**LET ME BE CLEAR** – It is our desire to maintain the WOTM Higher Degrees. We will keep the degree structure but may need to revise the requirements.

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The Green Cap
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College of Regents Degree

Let me be clear – It is our desire to maintain the WOTM Higher Degrees. We will keep the degree structure but may need to revise the specific requirements of how honors are earned.
Women of the Moose Honors and Degrees are the way in which we recognize the accomplishments of women members who go above and beyond the call of duty.

Presently, WOTM Honors and Degrees can only be earned by a member of the Chapter. In our proposed future structure, she (all members) will belong to “One Moose” and if she desires to earn or maintain her degrees, she must also belong to the Chapter.

Current WOTM members who hold degrees **WILL MAINTAIN THEIR CURRENT DEGREE RECOGNITION** so long as their Chapter membership is in active status.
A COMPARISON OF THE MOOSE LEGION AND WOTM DEGREES

A SIMILARITY:

- Degrees of both have a SPONSORSHIP REQUIREMENT!

A DIFFERENCE:

- WOTM Honors and Degrees are earned by meeting specific requirements
- MOOSE LEGION degrees are awarded on years of service and nominations by their peers

As the NEW CHAPTER unit is formed we must modernize or morph the degrees.

As the NEW CHAPTER unit is formed we must modernize the degrees. At some point in the future, the degrees may morph into something new – something that appeals to the membership, recognizes their accomplishments, and elevates the member in our Fraternity.
We anticipate that the Award of Achievement (or whatever we will call it) and the degrees will remain similar to as they are now. WOTM Degrees will be awarded only to members of the CHAPTER.

- Remember as changes to the Chapter are made, we may have to make changes to Honors and degrees

- For now, HONORS AND DEGREES WILL STAY THE WAY THEY ARE

We anticipate that the Award of Achievement (or whatever we will call it) and the degrees will remain similar to as they are now. WOTM Degrees will be awarded only to members of the CHAPTER.

Remember as changes to the Chapter are made, we may have to make changes down the road to Honors and degrees, but for now, honors and degrees will stay the way they are!
Presently the Award of Achievement must be earned by the whole Chapter in order for Co-workers to earn degrees. Requirements for what we now know as the Award of Achievement could directly affect how honors/degrees are earned.

The Grand Chancellor and the Grand Council will need to evaluate these requirements once the New Chapter structure is finalized, determining how the Award of Achievement may/will be altered.
GREEN CAP, is the terminology dated? Does it need to be more modern or updated? College freshmen no longer wear “beanies” so maybe we need to reconsider references to a cap.

However, we still need to recognize the accomplishments of the Junior Graduate Regent (or whatever we will call her) for meeting specific requirements while serving as the Presiding Officer of the New Chapter, currently known as the SENIOR REGENT.

Should we make our references to the Necklace vs. the Cap? Will we still use the color Green….probably - green is often affiliated with growth and Spring and Hope.

Will we call it the Green Cap or give it a whole new name? This is yet to be determined
In order for a member of the WOTM to earn the Academy of Friendship degree as we currently know it, the co-worker must meet the following minimum requirements:

- Serving in an installed position
- Sponsoring and enrolling 2 or more members
- Chapter earns the Award of Achievement
- Meeting requirements

OR

- Signs 5 members into the Order
- Chapter earns the Award of Achievement

ACADEMY OF FRIENDSHIP NOW

In order for a member of the WOTM to earn the Academy of Friendship degree as we currently know it, the co-worker must meet the following minimum requirements: serving in an installed position of the WOTM Chapter, sponsoring 2 or more members in the Order, the Chapter must earn the Award of Achievement, and she must meet all the requirements outlined in the General Laws.

Or as an active co-worker (dues paid current) she signs 5 members into the Order and the Chapter earns the Award of Achievement, this co-worker may earn the Academy of Friendship degree.
In the possible proposed future of the degree, only Chapter members (females) would be awarded degrees. Maybe the requirements are revised as follows:

sponsoring 5 members into the WOTM Chapter or maybe into One Moose in the same fiscal year,
Chapter earns the Award of Achievement (or whatever we call it)
The co-worker meets new requirements to approved by the Grand Council,
She may or may not have to serve in an installed position, (we don’t know yet)
then she could earn membership in the Academy of Friendship.

There are a lot of things to be considered by the committee and the Grand Council before a finalized proposal can be made to the membership. We anticipate there will be some changes, but we also believe in our fundamental traditions. Please be patient as we review all possibilities and make the best decisions for the Fraternity as a whole.
A bit of history:

Back in 1913, women has a desire to do something good for someone each day...primarily to support their spouses, communities and Mooseheart.

While the 19th Amendment ending women’s suffrage and giving women the right to vote was passed in 1920, the Moose recognized Women of the Mooseheart Legion in as early as 1916; we were ahead of our time.

Women’s Lib and the feminist movement was prevalent in the 1960’s, but as early as 1953 the A/F degree recognized Senior Regents who “proved their worth” to the organization. (that’s a quote from the General Laws at the time)

It is the intention of the Grand Council and this committee to continue to recognize those members who prove their dedication to our Organization in one way or another. It’s time for an update to our program; to find a way to give all members the same rights and privileges under One Moose but also continue to elevate qualified members with a touch of tradition.
Presently the Star Recorder degree will remain as is, recognition for the Recorder serving her Chapter and meeting all the requirements as stated in the WOTM General Laws.

Possible Future:
Maybe this will become the “Star Degree”, this would maintain traditions but allow for the title of Recorder to change or be more modern or more in tune with today’s financial world. Maybe she will be the Treasurer, the Financial Director, Chief Financial Officer or another name.

We anticipate that this degree will still be awarded for meeting Financial Reporting requirements, sponsoring members and attending training during her term of office.
The committee is not proposing any major changes to the College of Regents degree.

Possible future revisions:
Maybe this will become the College Degree; this maintains the tradition but allows for us to be able to change the title of REGENT. In order to modernize maybe the regent becomes the President or Chief Presiding Officer or Executive Officer. Specific criteria for earning the degree may also change but the degree is still earned for exceptional leadership.
An Idea:

Could the “President” of the One Moose Lodge earn the College degree for her service to the Order or does she have to serve as the Presiding Officer of the Chapter to receive this degree?

Here’s A Thought:

Could the President of the New Moose earn the “College degree” for her service to the Order or does she have to serve as the Presiding Officer of the Chapter to receive this degree?

Traditionally, she has to serve as Presiding officer of the Chapter; Down the road we could see a change.
Will regalia Change? Maybe, maybe not.

While we recognize the tradition and honor of the cap and gown.....does it appeal to perspective members in today's society?

On the flip side......the Cap and Gown is symbolic of our achievements of “graduating” to an elevated level within our Fraternity. Each year we witness co-workers proudly conferred with tears in their eyes, shouts of joy from their mentors and themselves , and the pride in their eyes with humble pledges of honor as they take their oath.

We must consider all of these traditions as we look to modernize our degrees.
With all of our honors and degrees, will we still have specific requirements to be met during the term of office such as.....

- Consistency of Participation
- Enrollment of Members
- Attending training sessions

And so on
What about the Red Tassel and Red stole?
For now, we anticipate these requirements will stay the same.
In the future, will we continue with participation and sponsor requirements only at the Chapter level or at the One Moose level as well? This is something yet to be determined.
Will conferrals Change?
At present, the committee doesn’t anticipate any major changes. Our current conferrals have long standing traditions that will continue to be recognized.

As we journey down this new road, honors, degrees, regalia and conferrals may be revised. Members have indicated an interest in morphing the degrees into a new honors program honoring both men and women equally. The committee will consider and debate suggestions from the general membership and make proposals accordingly.
While revisions, enhancements and changes are something that might happen down the road, THE COMMITTEE IS NOT PROPOSING A NEW HIGHER DEGREE STRUCTURE AT THIS TIME.
We anticipate WOTM Degrees will remain similar to how they are now, but we are aware that we are entering a new future for both the men and the women of our Organization.

All of this is a work in progress, to bring us into the 21st Century, modernizing our Chapters, the Moose Legion, and One Moose.

Will you join in this new adventure to become the greatest, modern Organization of this Century? Men and women who as in 1913 had the same vision we have now; to do some good thing for someone each day? Primarily to do what we do now for Mooseheart, Moosehaven, our Communities, and for our Families. We are.....ONE MOOSE!