

Profiles

THE OHIO STATE MOOSE ASSOCIATION

People · Programs · Partnerships · September 28, 2011

And The Journey Continues!

2011 - 2012 STRATEGIC PLAN

- Thomas H. Ziegler, President
- William B. ... Vice President
- Don R. Eisel, Past Supreme
- Danny Albert, Supreme Council
- John R Sipes, Director, Moosehaven Board
- William G "Buck" Dials, Int'l Activities Com.
- Steve Speaks, OSMA and Int'l Webmaster
- Phil Dick, Int'l Communications Com.
- Tom Ziegler, Int'l Loss Prevention Com.
- Ed Thomas, Int'l Operations Analyst
- Gary ... Operations Analyst
- Ken C ... Analyst
- Jim Wi ...
- Jim Grandy, ...

President Thomas H Ziegler



SPECIAL

EDITION

This Ohio Moose Update is published by noon each Wednesday and meets the publisher, the Ohio State Moose Association, John Sipes, Secretary.

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... journey which Jr. Past ... at Jim Ludwig set us ... ear must continue, ... is my goal: To ... those good things ... which Jim got us started. ... I am ... as your new President that you will join me in every Association effort. These updates report our success.

Tenth Annual New Pilgrim Presentation Features Conferral of Eleven New Pilgrims!

After a day of fun on the golf course and in hospitality rooms, Moose Legionnaires, Fellows and Pilgrims readied themselves for the grand ceremony at NOON on Saturday, September 17, 2011, at the Worthington Double Tree Hotel for the annual new Pilgrim Presentation.

In a warm, solemn ceremony marked by the beautiful voice of Kurt Wehrmeister and subsequently by his inspiring words as this year's Keynote Speaker, eleven new pilgrims, their ladies, and family members were equally inspired with the Ritual of Conferral itself and with a special greeting by fellow Ohio Pilgrim, Director General William B Airey PSG.

The following pages of pictures reflects the beauty and the joy of this special day in new Pilgrims' lives!



ABOVE: Mr. Airey addresses the class. LEFT: The row of dignitaries include Mr. Airey, PSG Don Eisel, Supreme Councilman Danny Albert, International Activities Committeeman Buck Dials, OSMA President Tom Ziegler, and Webmaster Steve Speaks who chat among themselves while awaiting the beginning of the Conferral.





Acting Sgt-At-Arms John R Sipes opens the Holy Bible to begin the ceremony.



Phil Dick adjusts the PA system as Kurt Wehrmeister begins to sing our National Anthem.



CENTER: Fellows take their indicated seats before the ceremony. ABOVE: Women of the Moose assume their assigned seats as well.

Everyone's In Place; Let the Ceremony Begin!



ABOVE: RM Brown leads in the new Pilgrims. ABOVE RIGHT: Randy Cahill has been 'froked.' RIGHT: RM Brown struggles with Wayne Clark's Pilgrim blazer, which gives the Clark ladies the giggles!

Kurt Wehrmeister, Communications and Public Affairs Director, Delivers Keynote Address!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Traditionally we reprint the Keynote Address in its entirety for you further appreciation.

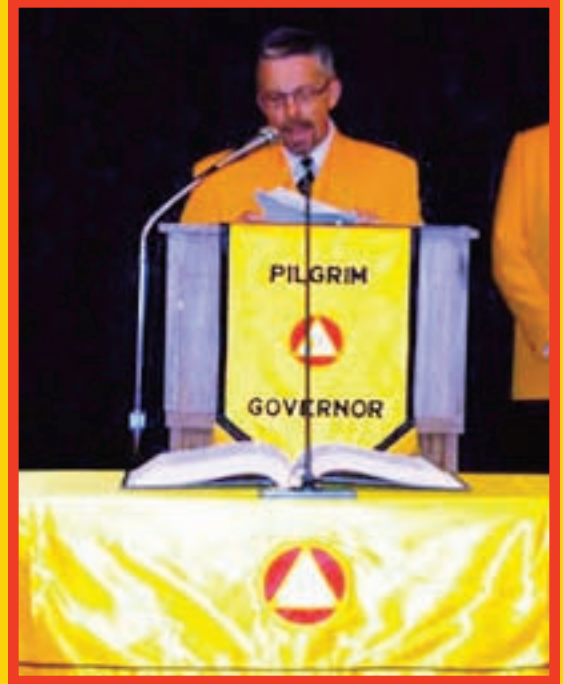
Today marks the 10th anniversary of this Ohio State Moose Association statewide Pilgrim Degree presentation. In no other of our 44 Moose Associations throughout North America, has an annual combined statewide presentation of regalia of the Pilgrim Degree of Merit, to its new conferees . . . nowhere

has this been made into nearly as successful an event as here in Ohio every September. And for those in our fraternity who have come to Ohio, and who have seen and experienced the class, and the quiet competence, and the pride and dedication, with which this state's Moose Association is run, that fact is no mystery.

I have been privileged to come sing during all ten of these events up to now, and every September I have so much looked forward to coming here, and to hearing the stories of the men who are changing their blazers from the blue of the Fellowship Degree to the gold of a Pilgrim at this ceremony.

Most of their stories revolve around records which many outsiders might think of, as a puzzling paradox of fraternal service . . . especially service to others as rendered to the extent, and for such a length of time, as is required for a Moose member to earn these coats of gold.

For earning the Pilgrim Degree of Merit nearly always involves, in part, many hundreds of hours, or even thousands of hours, over the course of 10 or 20 years or more, of utterly uncompensated time and labor. It's time on your feet in the kitchen or out on the patio in back of the Moose home,



flipping burgers, turning bratwurst or stirring spaghetti sauce for a fundraiser for Mooseheart, instead of staying home fixing dinner for your family; time under harsh fluorescent lights calling numbers for Bingo, time setting up tables for a family chili night, and then busting them down and mopping up afterward . . . all instead of spending that same evening at home in your comfy chair. Time spent in seemingly endless Lodge Board meetings or Committee meetings. In nicer weather it can be time hauling wheelbarrows full of topsoil to make the Lodge grounds or a local park look better – instead of doing the same in your own front yard.

But in doing so – as you punished your feet and your backs and your eyes for all those years....much more often than not, you did all that hard work with smiles on your faces, and jokes on your lips! Good heavens – why? How is that possible? Well, if you're a dedicated Moose, that's not a puzzling question at all: Because you're doing all that work in the company of your Brothers, most of whom, you knew, were just as tired as you were – and who were, together with you, bearing more lightly, a

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Angie and Brian Cox and children of Celina 1473 seem excited about the upcoming ceremony!

burden of love and service that would have been impossibly heavy for any one of you to bear alone!

And because you knew you were doing all this toward the cause of something great, and profoundly worthwhile, and lasting, you knew that in doing all this work, you were doing just your little bit toward giving hope, and comfort, to a young life that might otherwise have very little of either.

And doing just your little bit to give security and peace to your elders – who had once supported us and gave us all a decent start in life.

And doing, again, just your little bit to help your own communities become better, kinder places in which to live and raise our families.

It was in return for doing all of that, for all of those late nights over months and years – for doing more than most other members – that this fraternity repaid you with its ultimate thank you.

For these eleven gentlemen seated right before me, it came this past June 4, when our fraternity's ultimate gratitude was bestowed upon you and 116 others from

across the continent. At noon on that beautiful Saturday, you were led through the portals of the magnificent House of God at Mooseheart, Illinois. And after your names were read, each of you was handed a symbolic "cup of human kindness" by one from among our littlest children at Mooseheart. The children are, of course, too young to comprehend the full meaning of what they do on that day. But they do know, instinctively, that they are participating in something grand and important. And through the smiles on their faces, and their act of giving, we know that they are conveying the most cherished thank-you that any Moose can possibly receive. Here's what those little faces say to us:

Thank you for providing me with a secure home, and clean sheets, and three good meals every day. Thank you for providing me with a teacher who can take the time to really know me, to know how I learn best, and to be patient with me, in a classroom of just 12 or 15 kids instead of thirty-five. Thank you for giving me the opportunity, in time, to make everything of myself that God has made me capable of making.

You gentlemen have worked harder, more consistently, and for more years, than most Moose members choose to work, to make all of that possible for your children at Mooseheart. And that is why the leaders of this fraternity – who are always paying attention – saw fit that you had earned the right to wear the coat of gold, and to call yourself from now on, a Pilgrim of the Order.

Most state Moose Associations do not have as many new Pilgrims conferred every year as does Ohio. For it has never been a secret that Ohio has been consistently dominant in the leadership of this Order. Indeed, of the nine men who have led this fraternity as its Director General and Chief Executive Officer over the last 102 years, fully four of them have come from the Moose of this Buckeye State.

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But there are many more examples of great Moose leadership from Ohio than just Jack Stoehr, Herb Heilman, Don Ross and now, our current Director General, Bill Airey.

You have been led here in the Ohio Moose by examples of great personal warmth – both Jack and Jay Stoehr, and more recently my friend Don Eisel. You have been led by the meticulous attention to detail of the late Supreme Secretary Carl Weis and State Director Loyd Hawley, and of course the great gentleman from Columbus 11 whom we lost just this last year, Jim Stonerock.

You have been led by men of quiet, unwavering dedication like the late Past Supreme Governor Tom Geesey, and now, by your veteran Secretary John Sipes and your Regional Manager Dwaine Brown, and International Webmaster Steve Speaks. You've been led by gentlemen of great business acumen and necessary tough-mindedness, like our long-ago Mooseheart Governor, Congressman John Lentz – the man who coined the name Mooseheart back in 1913 – and much more recently, like our own Supreme Councilman Danny Albert.

And you have been led by men with a facile command of the spoken and written word, in the manner of the late Gordon Jeffery, and more recently Jim Grandy, and of course, Director General Airey.

All of this is why – other than being honored with the presentation of my own Pilgrim blazer seven years ago this fall – the most cherished honor that I have received in my 20 years in this fraternity was given to me five years ago in 2006, and was represented by the white jacket I wore last evening – that of a conferred Past President of the Ohio State Moose Association.

Permit me to close with words of a 19th-century American writer who never had the opportunity to become a Moose, but he would have made a great one. I quote from Ralph Waldo Emerson:

“To laugh often and much;

To win the respect of intelligent people—and the affection of children;
To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends;

To appreciate beauty; to find the best in others;

To leave the world a bit better—be it through a healthy child, a garden patch, a redeemed social condition;
To know that even one life has breathed easier because you have lived . . .

This . . . is to have succeeded.”

Let me then pay my own tribute here today to some of the most successful gentlemen I know – the Moose Pilgrims of Ohio.

Thank you and God bless you.



Ron Johnson, whose face is behind Dan's, removes the Fellow blazer while Dwaine Brown readies the Pilgrim blazer for Dan Hudkins.



Sometimes the ceremony is almost too much for the little ones.
ABOVE: Cheryl and Don Perdue seem to expect the 'come-down' from granddaughter April's earlier energy. Isn't she a sweet one?



LEFT: Don Ballentine and Ted Haas respond to roll call. ABOVE: President Tom Ziegler gives instructions for after-ceremony goings-on.

Post Roll Call, It's Time To "Exit Left!"



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