

# Moose Nuggets



**Winter 2024**

Volume 21, Issue 1

January/February 2024

One of the goals of The Moose is to be a valued part of every community we are in, by doing things to help make each community a better place to live. Each Lodge and Chapter contribute to the community they are a part of by monetary donations, miles driven and hours volunteered in the community. The Moose takes on projects small to large, from local programs to international partnerships. Moose Members are always there and are reliable, compassionate and genuine in their responses to the needs of others. The goal of the Moose is to be seen by the residents both members and non-members as "The Heart of the Community."

Between August 1, 2023 and October 31, 2023 Anchorage Moose Lodge 1534 donated to the following organizations:

Mooseheart	Anchorage Search	American Red
Moosehaven	& Rescue	Cross
Wounded Warrior	Great Alaska	Habitat of
Project	Council Boy Scouts	Humanity
Make A Wish	West High School	Leukemia &
Alaska	Salvation Army	Lymphoma Society
Shriner's	Alaska	Multiple Sclerosis
Children's	Special Olympics	Society
Hospital	Alaska	Alaska Cribbage
Catholic Social	Alaska Public	Club
Services	Media	Bridge Club
Covenant House	American Cancer	Mahjong Club
Alaska	Society	

## Mark your calendars for these great upcoming events!

*Last Meat Raffle  
January 14th 3pm-5pm. WOTM Thanks you for your support!  
Happy New Year!*

*Murder Mystery  
January 19th 8pm-10pm*

*Moose Legion Quarterly  
January 20th*

*Super Bowl LVIII  
February 11th 10am until game ends*

*Chinese New Year  
February 24th  
6pm-8pm*

*Chapter \$10,000  
Drawing March 16th  
6pm-8pm*



## Welcome Moose Members

### We are so happy to see NEW members joining!

Sign up your friends and family for \$75.00 today! Lodge Membership \$55 plus one time enrollment fee of \$20

New Chapter Members \$15.00

New Moose Legionnaires \$15.00

You must be a Lodge member to be able to join the Chapter (Woman) or Moose Legion (Man)



SMS

### Are you getting Moose Texts?

Have you signed up for our text messages?

We send out about two weekly text messages to keep you informed on what is happening at the lodge thru the week and up to date with the Luck of the Moose total.

Monday Night Football is back so every Monday you will get a text with the MNF Food Menu! Joining is easy: simply scan the QR code below or text LOOM1534 to 40691 and you will receive a confirmation text! It's that simple!

Scan Here To Join



Our Weekly Text Messages

### 3 Easy Ways to Pay Your Dues

- Mail your check, credit card number or money order with the payment coupon, to the following address: Dues Processing Center Moose International, PO Box 88065, Chicago, IL 60680-1065.
- Go online to [www.mooseintl.org](http://www.mooseintl.org) Click pay dues and enter your member number.
- Call 563-3502 or stop by the Lodge office and we can assist you.




Incentives

The following incentives/rewards are given to Moose members for sponsoring new members.

- Sponsors will receive \$5.00 in Moose Bucks for all new members that you bring in.
- For the first 5 members you sign up, receive \$25.00 from AHMA.
- For every 5 members you sign up, receive a \$18.00 meal voucher.
- Sponsors are entered to win a \$50.00 monthly drawing for every new member they sign up.
- Sponsor 25 members or more in the Moose year May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024 and be eligible to win a lifetime membership or \$1200.00 cash.





**Congratulations  
to our Valued  
Veteran of the  
Year Stan  
Standridge!  
Thank you for  
all you do for  
the Country &  
The Moose!**

This year's recipients of the Quilts of Valor are Galen Coons, Richard Marshall & Jack Devlin.

Thank you to the ladies of Quilts of Valor for everything you do for our Veterans and the hard work, sweat and heart to give our Veterans these beautiful quilts.

Sadly Bob Lane who was the final recipient of a quilt at his home, passed away that evening, however the ladies were able to get him a quilt before he passed.

## From the Desk of our Administrator:

Happy New Year! We have much to be proud of in the past year. We are seeing solid gains in our membership totals each month. Thanks to all our members who have sponsored their friends and associates over the past year. On Page 2, take a look at the incentives you can earn by asking your friends and family members to join us in the Moose.

We continue to be of great benefit to the less fortunate in Anchorage through our ongoing Heart of the Community efforts. Be sure to check out the list of organizations that we support through our donations on the front page. In November we honored our Valued Veterans and hosted a Quilts of Honor Presentation. Check out the photos on Page 3. Over the past six months I've been continually impressed with the enthusiasm of our members in supporting the Mission of the Moose: Caring for Children and Seniors and making our community a better place to live.

There's a lot to look forward to in the New Year. On January 5<sup>th</sup> and every Friday until Memorial Day, we will offer Karaoke from 8pm to 11:30 pm. Our Annual Superbowl Party will be held on February 11<sup>th</sup>. The Women of the Moose Chapter will hold their \$10,000 Drawing on March 16<sup>th</sup>. Later in March we'll meet up in Petersburg with members from other Alaska Moose Lodges for the annual Mid-Year Conference. If you are interested in attending, details are available in the office. In April, we'll elect officers to serve the Lodge for the fiscal year beginning May 1. You can see the positions up for election on Page 11. On June 15<sup>th</sup> we'll hold our Annual Golf Tournament. In July, we'll hold the Annual Picnic on July 13<sup>th</sup> and head to New Orleans, Louisiana for the Moose International Convention from July 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>. After Labor Day, Steak Nights and Monday Night Football will resume. In October, the Alaska-Hawaii Moose Association Annual Convention will be held in Juneau and we'll hold our Annual Trunk or Treat and Halloween party later in the month. November will bring us Thanksgiving. That brings us to December when we will celebrate the Holidays and continue to help those less fortunate with Holiday Baskets and an Angel Tree.

In the Moose we have a Proud Past and a Bright Future through all of our efforts to make our community a better place to live.

Fraternally,

Norm Dean  
Administrator





## Remembering our Brothers & Sisters we lost in 2023

M Ileen Burger  
Ray Callaway  
Kenneth Cooper  
Wayne Cropper  
Father AJ Fisher  
Dorothy Gibbs  
Danette "Dee" Hearn  
Roger Isgrigg  
Vernon Kimball  
Janet Knight

Bob Lane  
Andee Langdon  
Richard "Coup" Lawrence  
Heather McIntosh  
Jim Milton  
Roy Poole  
Caroline Saur  
Dick Shake  
Ilene Stackhouse  
Wayne Stackhouse

Janet Stires  
David Popken  
William Powell  
Clarence Venhuizer

*Gone  
but not  
Forgotten*

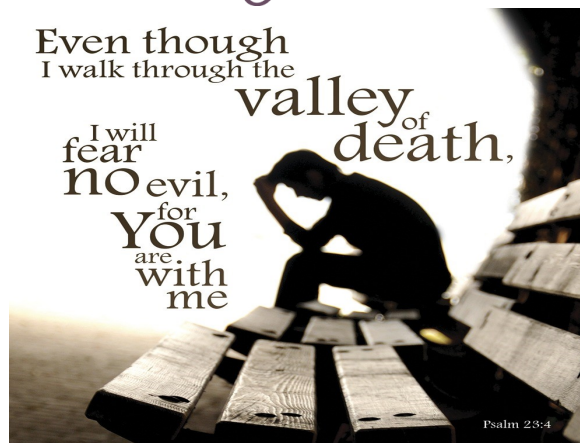
## Members to keep in our Thoughts &

John Borodkin  
Patricia Jackson  
Wanda Jones  
Winona Kroll  
Larry McAllister  
Candace Olson  
Frank Philip  
Heather Philip

Ardell Perdew  
Gala Smythe  
Toni Solomon

*Lord,  
Hear Our  
Prayer*

Even though  
I walk through the  
valley of death,  
I will fear  
no evil,  
for  
you  
are  
with me



## Chinese New Year Dinner

Appetizer: Egg Roll, Dumpling & BBQ Pork

Soup: Hot & Sour Soup or Egg Drop Soup

Entrees: Kung Pao Chicken, Mongolian Beef,  
Chung King Dan Dan Mein & Fried Rice

Dessert: Fortune Cookie

February 24th, 2024

6pm-8pm

\$18.00

## Party Bridge!

### Make New Friends!

Join us Mondays and Thursdays,  
11am to 2pm here at the Moose Lodge.

It is free to play. We are looking  
forward to seeing many of you soon.

For more information, please contact  
Jan Boylan at 907-694-5387



**BRIDGE**



**BRIDGE**

## From the desk of the President:

Welcome to 2024. I hope everyone enjoyed a blessed Christmas holiday with family, friends, and neighbors and that your New Years day left you bright-eyed and bushytailed the next morning.

Our Lodge has undergone some significant changes during the previous year. The turnover of management and employees due to circumstances which none of us could have foreseen nor could be wholly prepared to deal with. Change however is a constant. I am not the same person I was when I was 18 (with an afro no less) because of the experiences and lessons I have accumulated over the course of the many decades that followed. My outlook on life, my viewpoints on many issues and yes my hairstyle, have changed significantly over time.


Time offers us the gift of perspective, a chance to look back into the decisions of our past and decide whether the actions we took at the time were justified or rash, or perhaps made in the heat of the moment. Though I am not an avid reader (that title goes to my wife Irene), my favorite subject over the past decade or so has been history. I have read every book I know of concerning the lost Franklin Expedition of 1845-1850, in a search of the Northwest passage. For three straight winters without a spring their two ships, the Erebus and Terror, became hopelessly locked in the ice off the coast of King William Island in the Arctic. In April 1948 the survivors abandoned their ships and setup camps on shore. Some tried an impossible trek south into Canada seeking safety while others stayed behind. In the end all 134 souls perished, the largest loss of life of any British naval expedition. It is a fascinating tale and finding the answers to their eventual fate after so many years may now be impossible. A mystery forever lost in time.


We begin this new year charting our own course in life as friends, family, neighbors and Moose members and navigate the unknown wherein our futures lie. Let us all acknowledge our shortcomings, and our faults as well as our fervent desire to find our way, our strong fraternal ties and the love and friendships we share as Moose. Change is all around us, it is neither necessarily good nor bad. Winter will soon become spring and spring will then turn to summer. The most important goal for all of us is our continued faith in our mission as Moose and our ability to do some good thing for someone each and every day.

Fraternaly yours

Mike Douthit, President





**NAME:** 

**Support the  
Rocker Program  
thru the entire  
month of February!**

**Every dollar  
donated goes to the  
Mooseheart/  
Moosehaven  
Endowment fund!**

**MOOSEHEART/MOOSEHAVEN ENDOWMENT FUND**



**Anchorage Chapter #139  
Annual \$10,000 Drawing**

**Saturday March 16, 2024**

**6pm-8pm**

**Prime Rib Dinner w/ Ticket**

**To Go's Available after 7pm**

**300 Tickets Sold @ 100.00 Each**

**Every 25th Ticket WINS!**



**January 6th**

**Nothin' But Trouble**

**January 13th**

**Vintage Retro**

**January 20th**

**Woodrow**

**January 27th**

**Glacier Blues Band**

**February 3rd**

**Vintage Retro**

**February 10th**

**Danger Money**

**February 17th**

**Woodrow**

**February 24th**

**Glacier Blues Band**



**Super Bowl Party!**

**Sunday February 11, 2024**

**Breakfast Buffet starts at 10am to 12pm**

**Party Starts at Kickoff!**

**All members receive a ticket to be eligible to win a door prize.**

**Those who have supported Monday Night Football throughout the season have tickets in to  
have a chance at the big prizes!**

**It's the biggest and best Super Bowl party in Alaska. You don't want to miss out on  
this one!**

# January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Luck of the Moose Sunday's at 4:30pm</b>  <b>Snack Sunday 3pm-5pm</b>	<b>1 Happy New Years!</b>  <b>Lodge Closed</b>	<b>2 Lodge Officer Meeting 6:00pm</b>	<b>3</b> Dinner by Vera & Crew Meatloaf, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy, Veg & Roll \$13.00 6pm-8pm	<b>4</b> Dinner by Jason & Crew Chicken Alfredo \$15.00 6pm-8pm	<b>5</b> Dinner by Lizz & Crew Authentic Spanish Chicken w/ Rice & Cowboy Beans \$15.00 6pm-8pm	<b>6</b> CARTA <b>Steak Night by Rich &amp; Crew</b> Price Varies 6pm-8pm  Music 8pm
<b>7</b> <b>Moose Legion Meeting 10:30am</b> Breakfast by Carol & Crew Price Varies 10am-1pm	<b>8</b> <b>College Football National Championship</b>	<b>9</b> <b>General Membership Meeting 6:30pm</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Chapter Business Meeting 6:30pm</b> Dinner by Brian & Crew Chicken Caesar Salad \$13.00 6pm-8pm	<b>11</b> Dinner by Mark & Malissa Oven BBQ Chicken, Cowboy Beans & Mac Salad \$15.00 6pm-8pm	<b>12</b> Dinner by Jamie & Crew Chicken Fried Steak \$16.00 6pm-8pm	<b>13</b> <b>Steak Night by Gerald &amp; Crew</b> Price Varies 6pm-8pm  Music 8pm
<b>14</b> Breakfast by Lizz & Crew Breakfast Burritos w/ Chorizo & Eggs \$11.00 6pm-8pm	<b>15</b> <b>MNF Playoff Football Monster Burgers</b> Price Varies 5:30pm-7pm	<b>16</b> <b>Lodge Officer Meeting 6:00pm</b>	<b>17</b> Dinner by Vera & Crew Pork Chops, Fried Rice, Veggie & Roll \$13.00 6pm-8pm	<b>18</b> Dinner by Mely & Marie Authentic Chili Verde w/ Rice & Beans \$13.00 6pm-8pm	<b>19</b> Dinner by Mike & Irene Chicken w/ Caper Sauce, Taters & Roasted Carrots \$15.00 6pm-8pm	<b>20</b> <b>Moose Legion Quarterly Steak Night by TBD</b> Price Varies 6pm-8pm
<b>21</b> Breakfast by Jason & Crew Price Varies 10am-1pm	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> <b>Orientation 5:45pm</b>  <b>General Membership Meeting 6:30pm</b>	<b>24</b> Dinner by Carol & Crew Lasagna \$13.00 6pm-8pm	<b>25</b> Dinner by the Cool Kids Chicken Tender Basket \$13.00 6pm-8pm	<b>26</b> Dinner by Jessie & Crew Baked Stuffed Potatoes \$15.00 6pm-8pm	<b>27</b> <b>Steak Night by Sal &amp; Crew</b> Price Varies 6pm-8pm  Music 8pm
<b>28</b> Breakfast by Jason & Crew Price Varies 10am-1pm	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b> Dinner by Carina & Mike Carne Asada or Grilled Chicken, Mexican Cowboy Beans & Rice \$15.00 6pm-8pm			



# February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<b>Luck of the Moose Sunday's at 4:30pm</b>				1 Dinner by Vera & Crew Chili & Cornbread \$12.00 6pm-8pm	2 Dinner by Lizz & Crew Authentic Chicken Fajita w/ Rice & Beans \$15.00 6pm-8pm	3 <small>CARTA/CRIB</small> Steak Night by Rich & Crew Price Varies 6pm-8pm  Music 8pm
4 Breakfast by Jason & Crew Price Varies 10am-1pm	5	6 <b>Lodge Officer Meeting 6:00pm</b>	7 Dinner by Vera & Crew Pulled Pork & French Fries \$13.00 6pm-8pm	8 Dinner by Mark & Malissa Oven BBQ Chicken, Cowboy Beans & Mac Salad \$15.00 6pm-8pm	9 Dinner by Mike & Irene Teriyaki Chicken, Gyoza, Rice & Miso Soup \$15.00 6pm-8pm	10 Steak Night TBD Price Varies 6pm-8pm  Music 8pm
11 <b>Superbowl Sunday!</b> Buffet Breakfast 10am-12pm Party starts at Kickoff ML Mtg 9:30a	12	13 <b>General Membership Meeting 6:30pm</b>	14 <b>Chapter Business Meeting 6:30pm</b> Dinner by Jamie & Crew Gyros \$13.00 6pm-8pm	15 Dinner by Mely & Marie Authentic Crisp Chicken Tacos w/ Rice & Beans \$13.00 6pm-8pm	16 Spaghetti Feed Fundraiser for STRaM Academy Cross Country Ski Team \$15.00 6pm-8pm	17 Steak Night by Gerald & Crew Price Varies 6pm-8pm  Music 8pm
18 Breakfast by Jason & Crew Price Varies 10am-1pm	19	20 <b>Lodge Officer Meeting 6:00pm</b>	21 Dinner by Sierra & Crew Halibut Caesar Salads, Twice Baked Potato \$15.00 6pm-8pm	22 Dinner by Brian & Crew Spaghetti & Garlic Bread \$13.00 6pm-8pm	23 Dinner by Jason & Crew Chicken Fried Steak \$16.00 6pm-8pm	24 Dinner by Mike & Irene Chinese New Year Details Pg 5 \$18.00 6pm-8pm
25 Breakfast by Lizz & Crew Breakfast Burritos w/ Chorizo & Eggs \$11.00 6pm-8pm	26	27 <b>Orientation 5:45pm</b>  <b>General Membership Meeting 6:30pm</b>	28 Dinner by Carol & Crew Meatloaf \$13.00 6pm-8pm	29 Dinner by Terry & Crew Wing Night \$14.00 6pm-8pm		



Just a quick note as we finish 2023 and go into 2024 full speed ahead.

I would like to thank all Moose Legionnaires that have helped with Monday Night Football this year (2023) and many other successful events the Moose Legion has done and will in the future.

Known as the "Degree of Service" the Moose Legion plans and executes several fundraisers and events during the calendar year including Monday Night Football followed by one of the biggest Superbowl parties in Anchorage and will be held on Feb 11th, 2024.

Our next regular Moose Legion meeting will be Sunday January 7th, 2024.

Our Mission is: "To have fun while providing greater service to the moose fraternity."

Our Motto is: "To do some good thing for someone each day."

The Moose Legion is considered a higher degree of the Moose Fraternity, above a general member and below the Fellowship and Pilgrim degrees.

Fraternally,  
Terry McIntosh



## Moose Legion Quarterly Saturday January 20th in Anchorage

**1:00pm Directors**

**1:30pm District**

**2pm Enrollment**

**3pm General Membership  
Meeting**

**5pm Fun & Frolic**

**6pm Dinner**

**8pm Music by Woodrow**

**We will have a silent auction,  
please bring an item if you can.**

**Auction will close at 8pm.**

**Do Some Good Thing...  
For Someone Each Day**



**Joining the m+m club is easy!** For just \$10 per month (or more), dedicated donors make the choice to help provide a dependable monthly source of funding for the children at Mooseheart Child City, the seniors at Moosehaven Senior Living Community or the Endowment Fund's recognition program, the Donors Circle. And, if we're working on a special capital project, donors have the option to choose the project for a monthly gift too.

Thank you to our **m+m club** members who continue to help us to secure tomorrow!



Nominations for the Board of Officers open in February. If you are interested in running for a position in the lodge, you must be a member of the Moose Legion or Women of the Moose.

The Positions Open are:

**President**—You must have held a prior office for 1 full term to qualify to run for this office.

**Vice President**—You must have been a member 6 months prior to the election date

**Chaplain**—You must have been a member 6 months prior to the election date

**Treasurer**—Must be a current member in good standing

**2 Year Trustee**—Must be a current member in good standing

**3 Year Trustee**—Must be a current member in good standing  
If Interested, see the office to fill out nomination form.



### And the winners of the \$10,000 Drawing are:

1st Ticket: Rock Becker by Michael Dyar

25th Ticket: Wendy Tucker by Margo Fisher

50th Ticket: Mari Jo Imig by Glennis Cutting

75th Ticket: Kirk Godfrey by Elisa, John & Mike

100th Ticket: Fred Head by Kim Deitz

125th Ticket: Kim Deitz by Kim Deitz

150th Ticket: Gala Smythe by Michael Dyar

175th Ticket: Terry McIntosh & Kim Deitz by Margo Fisher

200th Ticket: Adrienne Rossi by Kathleen Daymude

225th Ticket: Patrick Shepherd by Megan Clapper

250th Ticket: Lennie Dees by Megan & Misty Louis

275th Ticket: Jim Sartin by Michael Dyar

299th Ticket: Sherrie McCarty by Melissa Mendoza

300th Ticket: Patricia Callaghan by Megan Louis

**Congratulations To All The Winners & Thank You For Supporting This Annual Fundraiser!**



Congratulations to Michael Dyar on obtaining the 175 division of the 25 club!



Thank you to everyone who came out to fill stockings and baskets this year! We cannot make these events happen without members like you!



# **SPECIAL MEETING NOTICE**



**Tuesday January 9, 2024  
6:00pm**

Meeting will be held at the Anchorage Moose Family  
Center,  
4211 Arctic Blvd, Anchorage, AK 99503

**THE ONLY TOPIC THAT WILL BE DISCUSSED IS  
THE UPDATING OF THE LODGE SOCIAL  
QUARTERS ALLOCATING OF \$20,000, PERMITING  
AND PROJECT MANAGER**

Only members in good standing of the Moose,  
Anchorage Lodge 1534 may vote.

Please plan to attend this very important meeting

President  
Mike Douthit

## A Word from our Senior Regent:

Welcome 2024! As Senior Regent I am blessed to be part of this lodge that ensures our Mooseheart/Moosehaven, and our local community service remains strong and steadfast. Our Holiday Bazaar in November brought our community together in a wonderful way and was highly successful again this year. Big thanks to Jessie and Glennis and her kitchen crew. Our \$10,000 Annual Bake Sale December 9<sup>th</sup> was terrific. A big thank you to all our bakers out there! We could not do this without you. Kudos to Dolores Jones and Amy Mackey Hornak for managing and selling all those treats! The Stocking Raffle was great! Congratulations to member Olga Grove. She is the lucky recipient of this 8 ft long Christmas stocking.

We still need a few more Moose chefs and cooks to help the Chapter in the kitchen on Snack Sunday for the month of January. This is your time to shine and share your favorite snack with friends and fellow members and you have kitchen help to boot! If you are interested, please send me a text message 907-301-9759.

Another fun upcoming Chapter event will be our Wallet Raffle in February. This is one Valentine's Day you do not want to miss! Stay tuned for details.

Important dates:

Snack Sundays 3-5 PM

Wallet Raffle February 14<sup>th</sup>, tickets will be available January 1<sup>st</sup> and \$5.00 a ticket

Murder at the Grand Gatsby Speakeasy, Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup> \$25.00 a ticket

The Women of the Moose (WOTM) meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm. The board meets the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at 5 pm. Please check out a meeting to find out what your Chapter is doing and a chance to win some Moose Bucks too!



Fraternally,  
Teresa Nelson  
Senior Regent

### **ANCHORAGE CHAPTER #139 NOMINATION OF OFFICERS**

Nominations for the Offices of:

Senior Regent

Secretary

Treasurer

Are being accepted from January 10th thru  
February 13th, 2024.

Must be a member of the Chapter to be

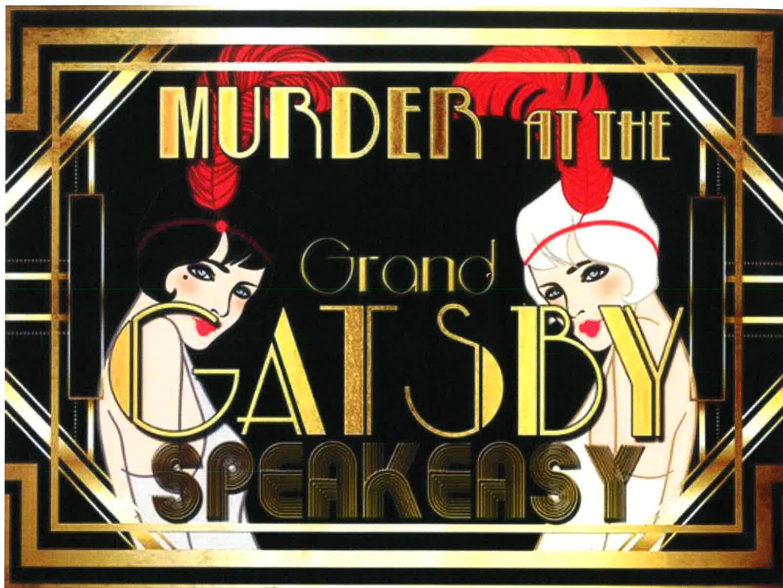


## **Karaoke Night Comes Back!**

Join us every Friday starting January 5th from 8pm-11:30pm for Karaoke!

Radio Personality Steve “DJ Lefty” Franklin will be hosting along with his partner Kathy.

Come out and sing your favorite song!



## **Murder at the Grand Gatsby Speakeasy**

Join us January 19, 2024 for a Murder Mystery!  
8pm-10pm

Ticket Prices \$25.00

Contact Diane Brownlee for tickets at 907-351-3755

This event is put on by the Women of the Moose!

Proceeds go to Mooseheart/Moosehaven



- Did you know you can set up auto pay for your membership dues? Its easy! Go to [www.mooseintl.org](http://www.mooseintl.org) and scroll down to My Membership Record, log in or register, once in go to Manage Account. Scroll down to manage auto pay, add credit info. It's that easy and you do not have to worry about sending in your payment. Your card will be auto paid in plenty of time for you to receive your new card. Never worry again about forgetting to pay them, let auto pay take care of it for you!
- Did you know you can sign up a new member no matter where you are if you have your cell phone or computer? All you need to do is go to [www.beamoose.org](http://www.beamoose.org) and have them fill out the application on line. The Lodge will be notified.
- Did you know that if you donate blood at the local blood bank you receive a meal voucher for the lodge for \$18.00. Just mention you're a Moose member!
- Did you know if you are a Moose Legionnaire and attend the once a month meeting you receive \$3.00 off your Sunday breakfast?





**Join us in New Orleans for the 2024 International Moose Convention from July 24th-27th, 2024!**

New Orleans was named the #3 Top Destination for City Lovers in the United States in 2022. But Moose members already knew that. The Big Easy is one of our favorite convention destinations – a vivid nightlife, world-class dining, jazz, and all that history. New Orleans has something for everyone. From a stroll through the French Quarter to a unique visit to a haunted cemetery, you can find it here. Join your Moose brethren when we return in July 2024 and start our own adventure.



This year's 25 Club/Fun Night celebration promises Moose members a night of laughter with actor/comedian Billy Gardell.

As a standup, Gardell took the long road to Hollywood, stopping at every small-town lounge, military base and comedy club along the way. His comedy act took him to Los Angeles where his dedication to acting, along with touring as a stand-up comedian, allowed him to grow consistently in both arenas. His stand-up show is a powerhouse. His grounded, down-to-earth point of view strikes a strong chord with American audiences. Stories about his rough childhood, wild adolescence and new family life are executed with the skill of a master craftsman.



(Christmas toys & clothing for children ages 12 & under)



## Salvation Army Angel Tree

This year the Lodge participated in the Salvation Army's Angel Tree Donation Program. On December 15th gentlemen from the Salvation Army came to pick up the gifts our members donated and boy did you donate! They said this is the biggest donation from a supporter they have had! Kudos to everyone that took their time and money to make kids in need Christmas special. This an annual event, and you just keep donating more every year!

Thank you!

## Why I Hate Cancer:

For those of you who do not know me, this spring I will be celebrating my eighth anniversary of being cancer free. When I was then Governor of our Moose Lodge in 2015 I authored an article for the Moose Nugget concerning the importance of our members getting their annual health exams, colonoscopies, mammograms etc. Something which I had failed to do for myself. Briefly, my article provided us all with the many excuses anyone could use to either ignore or put off the time for a health checkup. I was busy; I could not take time off from work; the procedure is uncomfortable; I have children at home; I wanted to go fishing or camping this summer. The excuses could go on and on. I did not make the time and cancer nearly claimed my life.

Since my battle with this disease, too many of my dear friends in our Lodge, as well as my close family members, have also had to fight their battles. It not only saddened me deeply, but it also made me incredibly angry, which is why I wrote this article.

This is my story.

In early 2015 I was diagnosed with stage 3 colorectal cancer and underwent six weeks of radiation treatment to reduce the size of my tumor. Then several months of 24 hours a day chemotherapy with a portable pump attached to a port imbedded in my chest. The surgery which followed the chemotherapy resulted in the removal of my anus and close to two feet of my colon. It also removed dozens of lymph nodes along with muscle tissue equivalent to the size of a grapefruit. These alterations left me with things I was previously unacquainted with, such as a stoma and a colostomy bag. After surgery I underwent another round of follow-up chemotherapy. That follow-up treatment left me with permanent neuropathy on the bottoms of both feet and at the ends of my fingertips. My hands are now extremely sensitive to the cold, which is why I live in Alaska.

I am joking; I live here for the long summer days and the immense beauty of it all. But enough about me.

Why do I hate cancer? I hate cancer for its sheer randomness. It does not give a damn if you are young or old, rich or poor, whether you abstained from alcohol, drugs or tobacco products or indulged in any or all of them. Cancer can let you believe you have won the battle against it, only to sneak up upon you again months, years, or decades later. It is an enemy that leaves anyone who has experienced the fight, with a lingering cloud of doubt; is it REALLY gone?

I hate cancer for its unfairness. Two individuals may be diagnosed with identical cancers and receive the exact same treatments, and yet one might have an excellent outcome while the other does not and is lost. Yes, I am aware of the role that genetics and other factors may play in treatments and outcomes, but cancer is a duplicitous, heartless, maniacal sonofabitch.

I hate cancer for all of the lives of family members and dear friends it has claimed, many of them far too young and dear to leave this world so soon.

I hate cancer for all of the misery and grief it has encumbered upon the surviving family members and friends.

I hate cancer for all of the nausea, hair loss, loss of appetite, loss of breasts, loss of limbs, eyes, tongues, organs and memory issues and the resulting addiction to pain medications.

I hate cancer for the debilitating medical bills that its treatment creates, treatments which can bankrupt families and leave them in debt for decades if not for the rest of their lives.

And yet, though this is exceedingly difficult for me to admit, cancer also changed me in some more positive ways. My appreciation of just living each and every day has been multiplied by an order of magnitude because of cancer. I take so much less for granted now than I did before my diagnosis; raindrops falling against my skin; the sweet scent of decaying autumn leaves; the magpie that lands upon a nearby branch and glances at me before again taking flight. Moments and sensations such as these are now an endless source of new joy for me now, and I deeply appreciate each and every one.

My interactions with my wife, family and friends also changed for the better. I too often took them all for granted more than I could ever previously admit to myself. I am honestly surrounded by some of most wonderful people I could ever hope to meet, fall in love with or to be lucky enough to have as family members. Cancer also greatly enhanced my inner strength, confidence and optimism, all of which I had previously possessed, but cancer brought them all to the forefront and with a much greater focus.

For those of you who have just begun your cancer journey, I truly wish you all the luck in the world, because sometimes, just being lucky will be enough for you to prevail. Try your best to find the inner strength that dwells deep inside us all and use it to fight your cancer each and every day. Visualize your cancer cells as being permanently destroyed with each treatment you receive. I am not selling snake oil here, just another tool. If a placebo cures the patient in lieu of the medication what does it matter? Try to remain optimistic, and yes I know this can be exceedingly difficult, but pessimism will not help you either. The half full glass IS better than the half empty one.

Listen to your doctors but remember they are there to serve you. If you ever have any doubt concerning the care which you are receiving, consider looking elsewhere and always remember that a second opinion is your right as a patient. Do not be afraid of asking for aid when you are in need. That is what your family and friendships are for. We WANT to help. We LOVE you! Everyone's cancer story is their own. Just remember that a prognosis can be wrong, new treatments may appear and hope and prayers will never hurt your outcome. No matter the diagnosis, I wish you the absolute best in your journey.

Stay strong my friends and please take the time for yourself. Get your checkups.

Sincerely, Mike Douthit, President

Moose Lodge 1534



# Breakfast with Santa



## Ugly Sweater Contest Winners!



Thank you to everyone who made these events happen! We cannot do it without you!



S L F S D P F J Z N I L D G H K J S F X U A U G T H T O G M  
 V X U Q I R D R Q S X K V C U S E N X I T G A M E S Q U J G  
 P W O H X C V D R V H J F R X Q K R N P S A B S C N C N W B  
 A O N T O F Z C S S L S R S S P A R K L E R S T W M B O K T  
 R O K M I U F J P O U E I O P Z P O B F B H B O X S J I X N  
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 G U J J C S L P L A S Y G T G R G O S O E B O Z L P P K O E  
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 N P H Y S P E I G B G W R V A H N C N P I E P R I B D E I W  
 R Y G J L Z W F Y M I D N I G H T C E O O O S L Z D Y V M K  
 F E V K W N Y A A P M O W U S Q V J E A N L C J Z H A P E Q  
 E H P Z Z B E U C X W Q X Y B N E D N M Z T C W N G K Y X M  
 G B T Q C O A O O Z P A R T Y P O P P E R S Q D X N I N C D  
 A N S M T V R K U H J I P S T F V Z Y T M A W F W R L L I A  
 Z O F A P V Z L N A W C Y T N D X P R P Y S B R J K G S T I  
 G W R V I H T Q T L I M H G X I O G W K K T H G X H J F E Z  
 Y B V Q L A K E D T U V W A G K U O Y M Y R O A Y C M N M H  
 D B Q U M T L R O N E V E N M J R A A U C E R Z R L F N E I  
 H R X C B N B E W E H X V G Z P M L K I H A T D D J P U N R  
 A T C K R K Y I N Y C L X H Q K A S B Q O M S O Y U J F T N  
 G F U K R O E E Z P A F U A I F T G F P R E G L G O G W M A  
 C I Q V I T B I B Z Q U N T Z I U B N N N R Q P K I R B I M  
 X M T H R Y Q P R N S C P S A E Z N E E S S I E O H U A I E

PARTY POPPERS

DECORATION

NOISEMAKER

FUN

EXCITEMENT

RESOLUTION

STREAMERS

EVE

COUNTDOWN

CHAMPAGNE

FIREWORKS

SPARKLERS

HOURGLASS

MIDNIGHT

HOLIDAY

RESOLVE

FRIENDS

JANUARY

PARADE

CONFETTI

FAMILY

GOALS

GAMES

HORNS

TOAST

NEW YEAR

DANCE

HOPE

HATS

HAPPY

WINE



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