

= Loyal Order of Moose =

The Loyal Order of Moose is a fraternal and service organization founded in 1888 , with nearly 1 million men in roughly 2 @, @ 400 Lodges , in all 50 U.S. states and four Canadian provinces as well as Bermuda ; along with its female auxiliary , Women of the Moose with more than 400 @, @ 000 members in roughly 1 @, @ 600 Chapters in the same areas and the Loyal Order of Moose in Britain these organizations make up the Moose International . It is headquartered in Mooseheart , Illinois .

Moose International supports the operation of Mooseheart Child City & School , a 1 @, @ 023 @-@ acre ( 4 @. @ 14 km<sup>2</sup> ) community for children and teens in need , located 40 miles ( 64 km ) west of Chicago ; and Moosehaven , a 63 @-@ acre ( 250 @, @ 000 m<sup>2</sup> ) retirement community for its members near Jacksonville , Florida . Also , Moose Lodges and Chapters conduct approximately \$ 75 million worth of community service ( counting monetary donations and volunteer hours worked ) annually .

Additionally , the Moose organization conducts numerous sports and recreational programs , in local Lodge / Chapter facilities called either Moose Family Centers or Activity Centers , in the majority of 44 State and Provincial Associations , and on a fraternity @-@ wide basis .

= = History = =

The Loyal Order of Moose was founded in Louisville , Kentucky , in the spring of 1888 by Dr. John Henry Wilson . Originally intended purely as a men 's social club , lodges were soon founded in Cincinnati , Ohio , St. Louis , Missouri and Crawfordsville and Frankfort , Indiana . The early order was not prosperous . Dr. Wilson himself was dissatisfied and left the order of the Moose before the turn of the century . When Albert C. Stevens was compiling his Cyclopedia of Fraternities in the late 1890s he was unable to ascertain whether it was still in existence .

In the fall of 1906 the Order only had the two Indiana lodges remaining . On October 27 of that year James J. Davis became the 247th member of the Order . Davis was a Welsh immigrant who had come to the US as a youth and worked as an iron puddler in the steel mills of Pennsylvania , and an active labor organizer ( he later became Secretary of Labor in the Harding administration ) . He saw the Order as a way to provide a social safety net for a working class membership , using a low annual membership fee of \$ 10 ? \$ 15 . After giving a rousing address to the seven delegates of the 1906 Moose national convention , he was appointed " Supreme Organizer " of the Order . Davis and a group of organizers set out to recruit members and establish lodges throughout the US and Canada . He was quite successful and the Order grew to nearly half a million members in 1 @, @ 000 lodges by 1912 .

= = = Mooseheart & Moosehaven = = =

At the 1911 convention in Detroit , Davis , who now ? Director General ? of the Order , recommended that the LOOM acquire property for an " Institute " , " School " or " College " that would be a home , schooling , and vocational training for the orphans of LOOM members . For months offers came in and a number of meetings were held regarding the project . It was eventually agreed that the center should be located somewhere near the center of population , adjacent to both rail and river transportation and within a day 's travel to a major city . On December 14 , 1912 the leaders of the organization decided to purchase the 750 @-@ acre Brookline Farm . Brookline was a dairy farm near Batavia , Illinois . It was close to the Fox River , two railway lines and the ( then dirt ) Lincoln Highway . The leadership also wished to buy additional real estate to the west and north owned by two other families , for a total of 1 @, @ 023 acres . Negotiations for the purchases were held in January and February 1913 , and legal possession of the property was taken on March 1 . The name " Mooseheart " had been adopted for the school at the suggestion of Ohio Congressmen and Supreme Council member John Lentz by a unanimous joint meeting of the Supreme Council and Institute Trustees on Feb. 1 . Mooseheart was dedicated on July 27 , 1913 . Vice President

Thomas R. Marshall gave a speech for the occasion .

While Mooseheart began as a school , it soon grew to become a small incorporated village and hub of the organization , housing the headquarters of the LOOM , as well as the Women of the Moose . The population of Mooseheart would grow to 1 @, @ 000 by 1920 , reach a peak of 1 @, @ 300 during the Great Depression and go down to approximately 500 , the campus ' current maximum capacity , in 1979 .

In addition to Mooseheart , the LOOM also runs a retirement center , Moosehaven , located in Orange Park Florida . This project was inaugurated in the Autumn of 1922 with 26 acres of property and 22 retired Moose residents . It has grown to a 63 @-@ acre community with over 400 residents .

#### = = Organization = =

Local units are called " Lodges " , state groups are " State Associations " and the national authority is the " Supreme Lodge of the World " , which meets annually . In 1923 there were 1 @, @ 669 lodges " promulgated in every civilized country controlled by the Caucasian race " . In 1966 3 @, @ 500 lodges were reported in every US state , Guam , Canada , Bermuda and England . In 1979 the Order had 36 State Associations and over 4 @, @ 000 Lodges . Today it has 1 @, @ 800 Lodges , in all 50 states and four Canadian provinces , as well as Bermuda and the United Kingdom .

The entire membership is sometimes referred to as the " Moose Domain " .

#### = = Membership = =

In the early 1920s membership was restricted to white men of " sound mind and body , in good standing in the community , engaged in lawful business who are able to speak and write the English language " . In June 1972 the Supreme Court handed down a decision in the Order 's favor , saying that a Moose Lodge in Harrisburg , Pennsylvania , could not be denied a state liquor license because they refused to serve a black guest .

In the early 1920s the LOM reportedly had over half a million members with 32 @, @ 570 in the Mooseheart Legion and 5 @, @ 178 in the Junior Order of Moose . In 1928 this had grown to 650 @, @ 000 members with 59 @, @ 000 in the ladies ' auxiliary . There were slightly more than a million in 1966 . In 1979 the LOM had 1 @, @ 323 @, @ 240 members . In 2013 there were 800 @, @ 000 .

#### = = Rituals = =

An important ritual for the Moose is the " 9 o 'clock Ceremony " . At nine o 'clock , all Moose are directed to face toward Mooseheart with bowed heads and folded arms and repeat a silent prayer " Suffer little children to come unto me and forbid them not for such is the Kingdom of Heaven . God bless Mooseheart . " At that same time the children of Mooseheart kneel at their bedside in prayers as well . There are also the ten " thou shalts . " These begin with " Thou shalt believe in God and worship Him as thy conscience dictates . Thou shalt be tolerant to let others worship each in his own way " . Other " thou shalts " pertain to patriotism , service to fellowmen , protection of the weak , avoidance of slander to a brother Moose , love of the LOM , faithfulness and humility

James Davis drew up the initiation ritual for the order . It is relatively short , usually taking 45 minutes . The governor of the lodge asks the Sergeant @-@ at @-@ Arms to administer the Moose obligation . After candidates are asked if they believe in a Supreme Being , and if they are willing to assume the obligation they take the oath with their left hand on their heart and their right hand raised . Among other things , this obligation pledges the candidate not to " communicate or disclose or give any information - concerning anything - I may hereafter hear , see or experience in this lodge or in any other Lodge " . At this point the lodge performs the 9'O 'Clock Ceremony , and then the lodge chaplain or prelate explains the ten " thou shalts " . Next the governor grasps the hands of the candidates while the members sing Blest Be the Tie that Binds . Finally , the governor administers

the second part of the obligation , the candidates promise to support Mooseheart , Moosehaven , help fellow Moose , settle disputes within the order and not to join any unauthorized Moose organizations . The prelate offers another prayer at the altar , and all then join in singing Friendship We Now Extend .

There are also death and graveside services , granted on request of the family of deceased Moose , as well as a Memorial Day ceremony every first Sunday in May . The lodge altar is draped in black and white cloth , a Bible , a flower and drapes are placed on the lodge charter and the lodge prelate leads the members in prayers and the singing of Nearer , My God , to Thee .

= = = Gustin @-@ Kenny incident = = =

The Moose rituals took a tragic turn on July 24 , 1913 , when two candidates for membership , Donald A. Kenny and Christopher Gustin , died during an incident at their initiation ceremony in Birmingham , Alabama . Kenny was the president of the local Chauffeurs Union and Gustin was an iron moulder . Both men were made to look upon a red hot emblem of the Order , then blindfolded , disrobed and had a chilled rubber version of the emblem applied to their chests , while a magneto was attached to their legs and an electric current was applied to them by a wire to their shoulders . The aim was evidently to make them believe that they were being branded . Both men fainted , but , as it was thought that they were feigning , the lodge officers did not stop the initiation until it was evident that the two were dying and the lodge physician was unable to revive them .

= = Benefits and philanthropy = =

The LOOM has historically supported numerous charitable and civic activities . It has sponsored medical research for muscular dystrophy , cerebral palsy , cancer and cardiology , as well as the March of Dimes . It has also supported Boy Scout and Girl Scout programs .

= = Independent , Benevolent and Protective Order of Moose = =

In 1925 the LOOM brought a suit against the Independent , Benevolent and Protective Order of Moose , an African American order . They attempted to obtain a legal injunction to keep them from using the Moose name , ritual , emblem and titles of its officers . The New York Court of Appeals restrained the African American order from using the name " Moose " , but allowed them to continue using the same fraternal titles and colors . The I , BPOM was apparently an all woman order .

= = Religious objections = =

By 1966 the Lutheran Church ? Missouri Synod and the Wisconsin Synod forbade membership in the Loyal Order of Moose . The Catholic Church , however , has never explicitly objected to the Moose , despite having condemned similar organizations , such as the Freemasons for their oaths and other rituals .

= = Notable Moose members = =

= = = Presidents = = =

Warren G. Harding - U.S. President ? Marion , Ohio : Lodge 889  
Franklin D. Roosevelt - U.S. President ? New York City : Lodge 15  
Theodore Roosevelt - U.S. President  
Harry S. Truman - U.S. President

= = = Other politicians = = =

Evan Bayh - Former U.S. Senator / Governor of Indiana ? Elkhart , Indiana Lodge : 599  
 Robert C. Byrd - U.S. Senator ? Beckley , West Virginia : Lodge 1606  
 Tom Corbett - Governor of Pennsylvania ? Pittsburgh , Pennsylvania : Lodge 2699  
 Richard J. Daley - Mayor of Chicago 1955 @-@ 1976 ? Greater Chicago , Illinois : Lodge 3  
 Joe Manchin III - US Senator , State of West Virginia ? Charleston , West Virginia : Lodge 1444  
 C.L. " Butch " Otter - Governor , State of Idaho 2007 ? Boise , Idaho : Lodge 337  
 Tommy Thompson - Former U.S. Secretary of Health & Human Services ? Juneau County , Wisconsin : Lodge 1913  
 Earl Warren - Chief Justice U.S. Supreme Court ( Holder of the Pilgrim Degree of Merit ) -- Oakland , California : Lodge 324

#### = = = Entertainers = = =

Bud Abbott & Lou Costello Radio , TV Movie Entertainers ? Atlantic City , New Jersey : Lodge 216  
 Ernest Borgnine - Oscar @-@ Winning Actor ? Junction City , Oregon : Lodge 2238  
 Charles Chaplin - Motion Picture Actor / Director / Producer ? Los Angeles , California : Lodge 134  
 Harry Cording - Motion Picture Actor @-@ Van Nuys , California : Lodge 306  
 Erik Estrada - Television Actor ; National Spokesman , Safe Surfin ' USA ? Bedford , Virginia : Lodge 1897  
 Dr. Ralph Stanley - Bluegrass Recording Artist ? Dinwiddle , Virginia : Lodge 1993  
 Ralph Stanley II - Bluegrass Recording Artist ? Dinwiddle , Virginia : Lodge 1993  
 James Stewart - Oscar @-@ Winning Actor ? Indiana , Pennsylvania : Lodge 174  
 Danny Thomas - Entertainer ? Indianapolis , Indiana : Lodge 17  
 Darryl Worley - Country Music Artist ? Savannah , Tennessee : Lodge 1918

#### = = = Athletes = = =

Ed Beard - Middle Linebacker , San Francisco 49ers ? South Norfolk , Virginia : Lodge 464  
 Raymond Berry - NFL Hall @-@ of @-@ famer , Baltimore Colts / Super Bowl XX Coach , New England Patriots ? Montgomery County , Virginia : Lodge 1470  
 Larry Bird - NBA Hall @-@ of @-@ famer ? Orange County , Indiana : Lodge 2530  
 Walter Blum - Hall of Fame Jockey with 4 @,@ 382 wins ? Lauderdale Lakes , Florida : Lodge 2267  
 Manute Bol - NBA 's tallest @-@ ever player ? Chicopee Falls , Massachusetts : Lodge 1849  
 Jason Couch - Hall of Fame Professional Bowler ? South Lake County , Florida : Lodge 1615  
 Jack Ham - NFL Hall of Fame linebacker , Pittsburgh Steelers ? Indiana , Pennsylvania : Lodge 174

Woody Hayes - Ohio State University Football Coach ? Columbus , Ohio : Lodge 11  
 Ted Hendricks - NFL Hall of fame Linebacker ? Hialeah , Florida : Lodge 1074  
 Bob Huggins - Men 's Basketball Coach , West Virginia ? Charleston , West Virginia : Lodge 1444  
 Pete Johnson - Fullback , Ohio State & Cincinnati Bengals ? Gahanna , Ohio : Lodge 2463  
 Jerry Lucas - Basketball Hall of Fame ; NBA Rookie of the Year 1964 ; Sports Illustrated " Sportsman of the Year " 1961 ; Only Three @-@ Time Big Ten Conference Player of the Year ? Bucyrus , Ohio : Lodge 669  
 Rocky Marciano - Boxer  
 Billy Martin - All @-@ Star Infielder , Manager ? Oakland , California : Lodge 324  
 Zach Miller - Tight End , Jacksonville Jaguars ? Mooseheart , Illinois : Lodge 2655  
 Arnold Palmer - Golfer ? Greensburg , Pennsylvania : Lodge 1151  
 Cal Ripken Sr. - Baseball Manager ? Aberdeen , Maryland : Lodge 1450  
 Gale Sayers - NFL Hall of Famer ? Elkhart , Indiana : Lodge 599  
 Billy Sims - 1978 Heisman Trophy Winner ; Running back , University of Oklahoma ( 1975 ? 79 ) and Detroit Lions ( 1980 @-@ 84 ) ; Member , College Football Hall of fame ? Grand Rapids @-@

Sparta , Michigan : Lodge 50

Bill " Moose " Skowron - Major League Baseball Player ( 1954 ? 1967 ) -- River Park , Illinois :  
Lodge 2578

Bill Stewart - Head Football Coach of West Virginia University ? New Martinsville , West Virginia :  
Lodge 931

Tony Stewart - NASCAR Driver ? Columbus , Indiana : Lodge 398

Gene Tunney - Boxer ? Cincinnati , Ohio : Lodge 2

Bill Veeck - Major League Baseball Executive ? Greater Chicago , Illinois : Lodge 3

Honus Wagner - Baseball Hall @-@ of @-@ Famer ? Pittsburgh , Pennsylvania : Lodge 46

Donnell Woolford - Pro Bowl Cornerback , Chicago Bears ? Batavia , Illinois : Lodge 682

= = = Other = = =

Eugene Cernan - Astronaut ; " the last man on the moon " in December 1972 ? Bellwood , Illinois :  
Lodge 777

Jean Davidson - Author and granddaughter of Harley @-@ Davidson co @-@ founder Walter  
Davidson ? Mooseheart , Illinois : Chapter 3001

Henry Ford - Inventor of the mass @-@ produced automobile ? Detroit , Michigan : Lodge 160

Virgil I. " Gus ? Grissom ? Astronaut : Warwick , Virginia : Lodge 1711

Darell Hammond - Founder / CEO , KaBOOM ! Inc . - Builder of playgrounds worldwide ( and ,  
member of Mooseheart High School Class of 1989 ) -- Batavia , Illinois : Lodge 682

Lt. Col. Edward A. Silk - Mooseheart Class of 1935 ; Recipient of the Medal of Honor in World War  
II ? Johnstown , Pennsylvania : Lodge 48