

## **ADMINISTRATOR, GRAND LODGE OF GREAT BRITAIN KEVAN RANDALL:**

Supreme Governor, Director General, Distinguished Officers, My Brothers all ~It is my privilege and honour to bring to you, Supreme Governor, and all here assembled, fraternal greetings from the Grand Governor Terry Ewels, the members of the Grand Council and all Lodge and Ladies' Circle members of the Grand Lodge of Great Britain. We also trust that you will have an enjoyable and successful Convention.

In Las Vegas last year, I was able to stand before you and advise that we had for the first time in a number of years had an increase in our membership numbers. I was fully confident we had turned the corner and that the only way was now up. Just how wrong I was and just how true the old saying is - "one swallow doesn't make a summer". The end result being, that we have suffered our biggest losses for the past five years and have seen four Lodges close. What was very disappointing was that the Lodges had all closed for the reasons we had been warning about for a number of years, the failure not only to recruit new members but also younger ones. The age of the members had become such that they were no longer able to continue to fill the Offices and hence unable to operate. We can only hope that the rest of the membership will now sit up and take note. We could see from our half year returns that we were heading for a membership loss, so like yourselves, we too suspended the enrolment fee and supported this further with an incentive package for both the members and Lodges who enrolled three or more members, but sadly the only real winner was apathy. So, gentlemen please learn from our shortcomings and honour your membership pledge and use every opportunity to increase our defending circle.

Well that's the bad news, the good being that at our National Convention at the end of April we launched our 2009 / 2010 membership campaign "**You only have to ask**" and, despite the inevitable deaths, we are showing some early signs of progress and a number of members from the Lodges that have closed have either transferred their membership to the "Grand Lodge of Protection or joined another Lodge. We are also hoping that in the coming year we will start to see some new members coming from our "Moose in the Community" projects. For a number of years our Lodges and Ladies Circles have supported a National Charity and, whilst we raised vast sums of monies for them we didn't get the recognition our efforts deserved. At the start of the 2008 / 2009 Moose Year we launched "Moose in the Community" this programme encourages our Lodges and Circles to raise monies for a Charitable or good

cause within their local Community. By doing this we hope to make the Local Community aware of who we are and what we do and therefore the name of Moose will become well known within that Community. Our other hope being for people to become interested in the work we do, what we offer and want to join our membership.

We have taken the introduction of your new Legion Ritual as an ideal opportunity for us to re-focus our membership's attention on our Moose Legion. We have highlighted the fact that it is now recognised as one of the Higher Degrees of our organisation and, to this end, have introduced a new enhanced joining package which includes a certificate, membership card and legion lapel pin, all contained within a presentation pack.

To those of you who are members of the "Grand Lodge of Protection and to all of you who have supported our Grand Draw, may I extend the sincere and grateful thanks of the Grand Lodge. By being members of the "Grand Lodge of Protection" you will have received your copy of our Magazine and no doubt seen the pictures of the wonderful day we had celebrating our Mooseheart 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, with the highlight being the opening of our new Conservatory. It was a great pleasure to have as our guests at Mooseheart for these celebrations the Director General and his wife together with Executive Director of Mooseheart Charities Mrs Jan Fregulia and her husband. I have to say how delighted we were to receive the painting presented to us on your behalf; to all of you I say a very big thank you from us all. The painting now hangs in pride of place in our newly decorated Entrance Hall at Mooseheart.

During January we undertook the redecoration of the Entrance Hall area, stairway and upper landings and only last week we completed the redecoration of the upstairs passageways, ceilings etc. We have also purchased a new carpet and chairs for our TV Lounge. We are very grateful to our Ladies' Circles who have raised the monies for this re-decoration to have taken place. All the changes are complemented by the appearance of our Grounds which have benefited from the mild Spring weather we have enjoyed; the months of March and April have blessed us with a magnificent display of colour from the daffodils, tulips, bluebells and other woodland flowers. ***For those of you who have not seen British Mooseheart I would like to take this opportunity to share some photographs with you. (Will this be possible? I will bring a disc with some pictures on).***

I must, once again, thank the Director General for his kind invitation to be present at this International Convention and for the opportunity to address this meeting. Whilst 2008 / 2009 was not a good year for us, I am sure that we have

the commitment and determination to make 2009 / 2010 a successful year in respect of membership growth in the UK, and please remember, ***“You only have to ask”*** and by doing so you have a 50/50 chance of success. Success is down to each and every one of us; it is us who can ensure the long-term future of our beloved Order. May God bless you all and bless our respective Moosehearts and give us the strength and determination to continue our work for the benefit of those less fortunate than ourselves.