

Women Redefining Fraternal Organizations

(NAPSA)—Conservative, tradition-bound social clubs—for men only. For too many, this is the image evoked when the Moose fraternity is mentioned. According to a national study conducted recently by Opinion Research Corp., only 11 percent of Americans polled associate the Moose organization with women.

The real story? Women have been part of the Moose organization since 1913. In 2007, women comprise fully a third of the 1.25 million Moose members, and their ranks, numbered at 440,000, continue to grow dramatically.

“Women of all ages and backgrounds are discovering that the Moose organization provides opportunities to give back and meet lifelong friends,” said Janet Fregulia, CEO of the Women of the Moose (WOTM). Fregulia is especially proud of WOTM efforts on behalf of Mooseheart, the residential facility and school for disadvantaged children and teens funded primarily by Moose members, both men and women.

Year after year, women who join the Moose cite the many volunteer opportunities as the No. 1 reason they join. Female Moose members represent diverse backgrounds: college coeds seeking leadership skill development, young mothers looking for low-cost family entertainment and ways to instill values in their children, members of our armed forces seeking fellowship within their communities, and energetic retirees eager to give back and meet new people.

Deana Adams, 21, a college student in Annapolis, Md., joined the Moose organization for the opportunities to gain experience in event management, her career of choice. As a community service



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chair, Deana has focused on developing a younger membership with initiatives to draw in people in their 20s.

Lori Mortenson, 44, a business administrator in Colorado Springs, joined Moose when her grown children left home. Committed to attracting more women members, Lori finds those who join Moose gain an instant connection with other people and access to numerous volunteer opportunities.

For Joy Stuart, 66, of Twin Falls, Idaho, Moose membership provides her family with the opportunity to help disadvantaged children and the elderly across North America. As a cancer survivor, she now volunteers through the Moose organization to counsel other cancer survivors and their families.

These are just a few of the women Moose members whose volunteer efforts have raised more than \$25 million over the past five years for Mooseheart and hundreds of local community organizations. For more information on the Women of the Moose, please call (630) 966-2229 and visit www.mooseintl.org.