

Anniversary Celebration by Freeport Moose Family Center's 100th. Year 1909-2009. The lodge (also known as Family Center) is located at 601 E. South St., Freeport, IL. The celebration was actually on 9/20/2009 but this event was held at the end of a full week of scheduled activities culminating on Saturday, September 26, 2009. Facts reported here with pictures are by: Lynn Folgate acting Publicity for the Moose.



Start of the Saturday event some of the children from Mooseheart are allowed to view fire trucks from Shannon and Lena.



Shown with the Mooseheart student on the Shannon Fire Truck are Lodge, District and State Moose Association members and Shannon Fire department members.



Shown with the Mooseheart student on the Lena Fire Truck are Lodge, District and State Moose Association members and Shannon Fire department members.



Another image with the Mooseheart student on the Lena Fire Truck are Lodge, District and State Moose Association members and Shannon Fire department members.



Mooseheart students going through the hot food buffet line for the menu including corn, green beans, mashed potato, scalloped potato, ham and roast beef.



Mooseheart students going through the salads buffet line.



Those present enjoyed the complimentary dinner was served from 6:00 to 7:00 pm in the East (room ordinarily used for Bingo) as it has a capacity for 240 and the (West) dining hall capacity is only 120 persons.



Danny Schock of Savanna served as Master of Ceremonies. He is the Junior Past President of Illinois Moose Association (IMA) District 4. During his 3 years in that position he earned high marks and last year District 4 received the Shinning Star award with a tie by District 8. The other lodges of District 4 along with Freeport 162 are: Rock Island 190, Belvidere 295, Sterling 726, Dixon 727, Rochelle 903, Geneseo 990, Savanna 1095, Mount Morris 1551, Mooseheart 2655 and Rockford 2684.



Tammy Woodyatt-Wilson Senior Regent of the Freeport Women of the Moose (WOTM) Chapter 548 spoke of their pride in assisting the Lodge in reaching the 100 year mark.



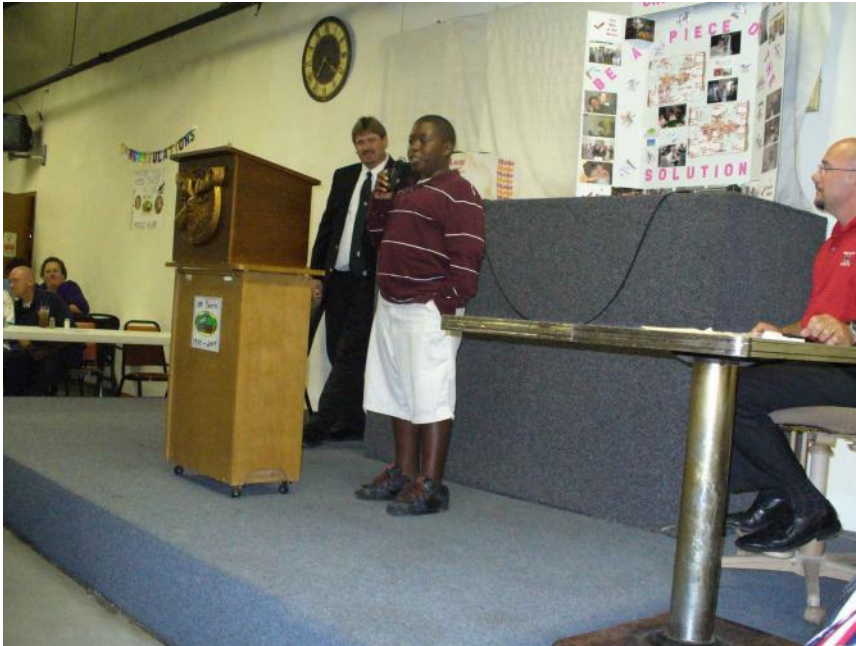
Ray "Hammer" Foster of Rochelle is IMA District 4 President. He related the joy helping to commemorate the 100th. Anniversary of the first lodge of 105 lodges in Illinois to reach that mark.



Brad Bowkers of Granite City is IMA President (left) as he congratulated Freeport's officers and WOTM ladies for staying with the challenges of continuing to support Mooseheart, Moosehaven and this community for the past 100 years. Guest Speaker, Gary Urwiler (right) Head Football Coach at Mooseheart.



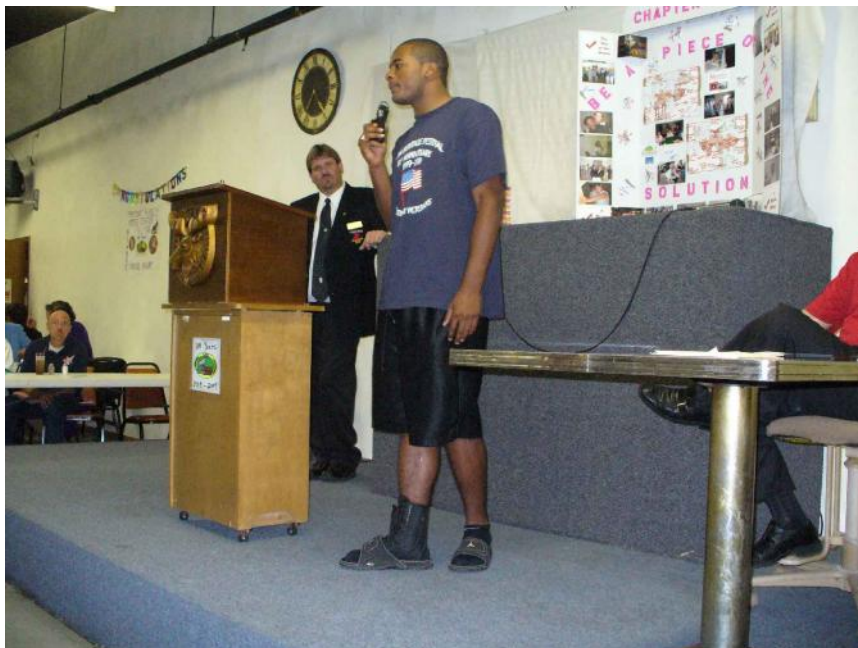
Overall view of those present to celebrate this momentous occasion. In the for-front on the left are board members. To the right of them (back to the camera) is Gerald Ashlock from East Alton, IMA Secretary and his wife Ginger. Across from Ginger (purple dress) is Rollie Abell of Dixon he was Regional Manager for many years and now serves as Justice of the Mooseheart Supreme Forum. Present Illinois Regional Manager Ron Kozuszek of Elgin has a previous committee as well as others from Mooseheart.



Aaron Moka of the Delaware House at Mooseheart, age 13, spoke on his appreciation of having the opportunity to be at Mooseheart and the joy it is to be there.



Levi Chavez of the Wisconsin House at Mooseheart, age 17, related his experiences at Mooseheart and thanked the Moose for making it all possible.



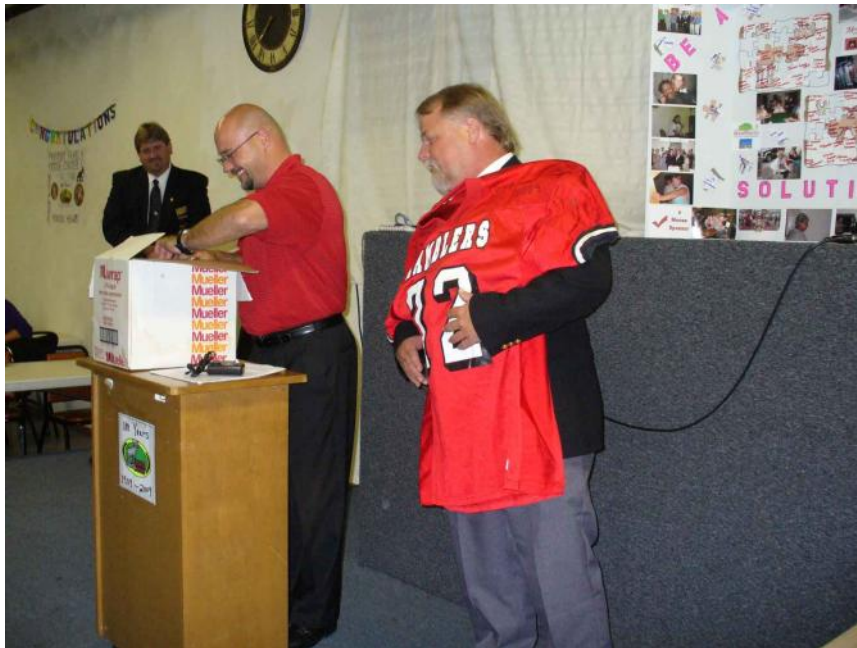
Joneu Crump of the Pennsylvania House at Mooseheart, age 17, talked about the future being bright now that he has been given an opportunity to grow up at Mooseheart and he thanks all those present for their continuing support of Mooseheart.



Guest Speaker, Gary Urwiler (left) Head Football Coach at Mooseheart thanked the students for their talks. He mentioned they were not informed in advance that they were chosen to speak at this ceremony so their comments were from the heart. He continued mentioning how it is an honor to speak at this event and related his first association with the Moose. He recalled at age five he was with his dad and they visited their own Riverside Lodge 279. His father died that year and he ended up at Mooseheart in 1974. So, as he put it, "I know from first hand experience what Mooseheart means to children." He went on to explain how he is a Mooseheart graduate and continued his schooling to become a director at Mooseheart. He expressed that diversity is important because everyday you are going to fail at something. He stated, "We provide a second chance to the kids at Mooseheart. Imagine 100 years ago who has come before us to lay the groundwork for being here today." You have made a difference to the 1,200 students that have gone to Mooseheart since it began in 1913.

There are six in Freeport who have distinguished themselves with the highest honor of the Moose Fraternity – the Pilgrim Degree of Merit. He read off the list and asked them to stand and be recognized. The first 3 deceased are: Robert Noble (1967), Loran "Shorty" Hoefle (1972) and Clarence Luy (1983). Then, those who stood were Ken "Bud" Kostenbader (1989) and Lynn Folgate (2002). Willard "Rab" Shenberger (2004) is hospitalized but he sent his congratulations for the 100th. Anniversary. Following his topic of recognizing those who have laid the groundwork, he asked those of over 30 years in the Moose to Stand and about 30 did. Next, he asked for those with over 40 years in the Moose and only Rollie Abell stood with kind of a shy look on his face.

In closing, couldn't pass up the opportunity to state that the Red Ramblers are 4 and 1 in Football. Then, he continued briefly stating that they usually start their practice after breakfast but on August 14 someone had delivered 5 or 6 dozen donuts early that day. Because they were so fresh and tasty, they were all gone before breakfast! Gary thanked Tammy Woodyatt-Wilson (owner of Donuts Delite in Freeport) for them.



Shown in the middle is Gary Urwiler Head Football Coach at Mooseheart about to present a football helmet to Dave Snyder Lodge Governor who has already received a Red Rambler Jersey from Gary.



Dave Snyder Lodge Governor (far right) holds up Red Rambler helmet with signatures of the team member's signatures on it. Gary suggested it can be placed in the trophy cabinet for future generations to enjoy.



Bud Kostenbader of Freeport is Deputy Regional Manager for IMA Districts 3 and 4. Just wanted to comment that the success of Freeport reaching the 100th. Anniversary was achieved because we have a team of workers. And, the support of Mooseheart, Moosehaven and our community projects is also due to the cooperation of teams working together.



Freeport Moose Family Center Board of Officers. Left to Right. Mark Veach Trustee (out of view), Tom Shenberger Treasurer, Ed Salzman Jr. Governor, Roger Folgate Trustee, Dave Snyder Lodge Governor, Josh Snyder Prelate and Wally Shenberger Trustee.