

women of the moose

Kindness And Civility: Concepts We Need To Practice



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— Barb McPherson, *Women of the Moose Grand Chancellor*

The cover article of this magazine is so exciting and gives hope to the future of our organization. It shows that men and women can work together, treat each other as equals and do so for the betterment of the Moose as well as build a bright future for the children and senior members entrusted to our care. Men and women working together will help bring success to our lodges, chapters and to our associations.

What concerns me is the way people treat each other too often in our lodges, chapters and in society. Bullying and the posting of untruths on social media seems to be the big issue. There is a lack of civility and human kindness falling in right behind. Would anyone accept this kind of behavior from our Mooseheart children? Why is it all OK for adults to do it? The more high-tech we get, the more distant we become from each other. Harsh words and violence are becoming the most commonplace solution for our grievances.

What happened to sitting down and talking out issues with your friends, family or fellow Moose? Not everyone is going to be right 100% of the time. Sometimes people make mistakes – accept an apology and move on. If your lodge and chapter is supposed to be the friendliest place in town, is it? If not, why not?

We currently have television public service announcements to tell people to be nice to one another, to respect each other and even our snack bars have become KIND! The KIND company (www.howkindofyou.com) has a #kindawesome card program where you send a “kindawesomecard” to someone who performs an act of kindness. They receive a coupon for a free KIND bar and another “kindawesomecard” to pass on to someone else! Ellen DeGeneres ends each and every show with “Be kind to one another” and yet, people think it’s ok to use their freedom of speech to make sick jokes about other people

This holiday season, have you had to make your celebrations device-free so everyone could enjoy the magic of the holiday? Again, what happened to consideration for others? Perhaps relatives have waited all year to visit the family yet find people glued to their phones and not participating in the conversation or activities. How about a brightly-decorated basket at the door for everyone to put their device in? There probably isn’t anything happening that can’t wait a couple of hours.

Perhaps the holiday spirit of kindness, compassion and goodwill to all mankind needs to remain with us all year long. We need to be the ones to bring civility back to society and have patience and understanding with our fellow man. How about if we give it a try?

There is a reason why the windshield on a car is so much bigger than the rearview mirror – where you are going is far more important than where you have been. How true – how true! ■