

A special parade, a special lodge in Lewiston

**GUEST EDITORIAL
BY TERRY DUFFY**
Editor-in-Chief

Last weekend, the Village of Lewiston made history, playing host to the first-ever Festival of Lights Parade. It continues a tradition that began years ago in the City of Niagara Falls.

Held on a cold, wintry Sunday night, it was an amazingly successful event that drew hundreds of visitors. The parade units and floats were spectacular. They included fire companies, scores of local businesses, youth groups, dance companies and community organizations – some of the best this area has to offer.

One particular organization, Lower Niagara Moose Lodge No. 584, happened to win the overall first place honor that night. And when you talk of “the best” in the community – well, that certainly fits here.

Known simply as “The Moose Lodge” to its 700-plus members and local residents, Lower Niagara Moose Lodge No. 585, located on Water Street, is really much more than an enjoyable social gathering spot. It’s a place where its members care for the community and for each other.

This writer happens to serve as “president” of Moose Lodge 584. Known to many simply as the “Gov.,” the position includes working with both the men’s board of officers and its women’s chapter to help run this Moose International Lewiston affiliate, and help organize the lodge’s many community activities.

Today, our women’s group, known as Women of the Moose Chapter 1940, is the process of dissolving and will join officially

with the men in 2022 in directing the lodge’s overall operations, under the Moose International nationwide “One Moose” campaign.

But actually, a lot of this teamwork between these two boards has been already going on. The lodge hosted its first William Kilmer Memorial Golf Tourney earlier this year, where thousands were raised to provide for two college scholarships in 2022 for high school students. Just this fall, the lodge women – through their various raffles – were able to raise enough money to help brighten the holidays for two needy families in the River Region this year.

And the Moose Lodge’s latest example of a growing teamwork was its participation in the village’s successful Festival of Lights Parade. Under the guidance of both the lodge men and women, plans were set and contacts made and the work began.

Soon after, came the use of a 54-foot Peter-built truck and tractor-trailer donated by board member Scott MacVie of Robert MacVie Construction; the fabrication of signage and banners provided by Michael McInerney, CEO of Modern; and Jack Eggert of Modern Graphics; the donation of live Christmas tree for the float by Dave Erway of Erway Christmas Trees in Wilson; plus the creation of a very attractive wooden Moose by the lodge membership.

Then followed days of organizing, planning and building. One Friday night, lodge members, bar staff and friends worked for more than seven hours to construct a fabulous holiday float, complete with holiday decorations, lighting and the sounds that went on to win the praise of the community.



The work speaks volumes for the members of a Water Street hangout that many in the River Region community may have not even heard of. But they do now, as I mentioned on the float last weekend to fellow lodge board member and Village of Lewiston Trustee Vic Eydt.

Congratulations to all who made this the success that it was.

And to members of the River Region community, stop by at 112 S. Water St., and discover what this lodge is all about.

Pictured are members of Moose Lodge 584.

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