

COUNCIL OF HIGHER DEGREE HISTORY

1957 – One council started in New York named Southwest Fellowship Council of Higher Degrees. Only members of the Fellowship Degree of Honor and Pilgrim Degree of Merit were members. This council is still going strong in 2009.

1993 – First Fellowship Councils of Higher Degrees were formed in the Moose Associations and established as a separate and autonomous unit of the Order under Article IV (d) of the Constitution and By-Laws of Moose International and the Supreme Lodge of the Loyal Order of Moose. There were 16 Councils formed originally. Only members of the Fellowship Degree of Honor and Pilgrim Degree of Merit were full members. Women of the Moose degree holders could be honorary members. A set of easy, uncomplicated by-laws was established.

1994 – The word Fellowship was dropped from Council name. Members of the Women of the Moose Academy of Friendship, Star Recorder and College of Regent Degrees were accepted as members holding equal status with the Fellows and Pilgrims. A new set of by-laws was established.

2001 – Official logo was developed with standing Moose superimposed over five colored rings. Each ring color designated a higher degree of the men and women – Gold for Pilgrim, Alyce Blue for Fellow, Blue for Academy of Friendship, Green for Star Recorder and Black for the College of Regents. A new set of by-laws was established.

2007 – Moose Legionnaires were designated as a higher degree and became eligible to join the Council of Higher Degrees. The Higher Degrees of the Order are designated in Article VI of the Constitution and By-Laws of Moose International and the Supreme Lodge of the Loyal Order of Moose as of August 1, 2008. A Purple ring was added to logo for the Moose Legion. A new set of by-laws was established.

2009 -- Today there are 100 Councils of Higher Degrees across the fraternity. There are 3,516 members of the Pilgrim Degree of Merit, 19,850 members of the Fellowship degree of Honor, 64,885 Moose Legionnaires, 44,632 members of the Academy of Friendship, 6,198 Star Recorders and 16,015 College of Regents eligible for membership in the Councils of Higher Degrees.

The basic purposes of the Council of Higher Degrees have not changed since 1993.

- a) To be actively involved in the retention of Lodge, Chapter and Moose Legion members.
- b) To promote and support the programs of Moose Charities.
- c) To honor all newly elevated members of the higher degrees.
- d) To honor the memories of deceased members of the Council of Higher Degrees.
- e) To promote the programs of the Loyal Order of Moose and the Women of the Moose.
- f) To encourage fraternal and social unity, benevolence and charity among all members of the Order.