

# Moose picked as service organization of the year

**EDITOR'S NOTE — When Greenville Area Chamber of Commerce holds its annual dinner Thursday night, it will present awards to the business, business person and service organization of the year. Beginning today, The Record-Argus will run a profile on each awardee each day, before publishing coverage of the dinner in Friday's paper.**

By PHILLIP A. RAU

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Greenville Area Chamber of Commerce as the area's Service Organization of the Year.

It's not hard to see why, say the club's officers.

"If you look around, I think we're recognized by the community as the one that does the most," said Moose Administrator Paul Chianese.

Since 2006, when the club moved from Main Street to its Shenango Street Family Center, the Moose has enjoyed exponential growth.

It now counts more than 1,100 men and 800 women as members, Moose Junior Governor Dave Keep said, and has donated more than \$64,000 to local charities in the past two years.

Combined with its donations to Moose charities like Mooseheart, a home for children and infants, and Moosehaven, a retirement community, that puts donations from the club at about \$100,000.

It's that kind of philanthropic effort, Chianese said, that has become a Moose hallmark.

Residents need not look further than the American flags decorating Greenville's Main Street — a project the Chamber was

raising money for until the club decided to foot the project's cost — to see the results of the Moose's work.

"It's very rewarding; it feels good to give something back," said the club's current Governor Shawn Paddock.

Administrators at the club credit some relatively new groups within the organization for the success.

Moose Riders, a popular new fundraising arm that has grown to about 160 members of all ages, is "one of our strongest organizations, and newest," Chianese said.

"They're go-getters," Chianese said. "They can go out and do things."

The club also gets help from Women of the Moose Chapter 1890, Moose Senior Group, and Moose Legion Committee, Paddock said. He credits older and long-serving members with being the progenitors of the club's success.

"We have a strong history," Paddock said. He said former officers have a habit of "staying in view," and the club itself makes a point of recognizing long-time members and celebrating their personal milestones.

The effect, the officers say, is a motivated and cohesive membership that prides itself on results.

What's more than 100 years old. has 3,800 legs (two for each of its 1,900 members) and gives money away like its going out of style?

Greenville Moose Family Center 276.

The organization which spent the last year honoring its longevity — Greenville's Moose chapter celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2010 — and its pick as the number-one lodge in the nation last year by Moose International, now has something else to celebrate.

The Moose has been selected by

"We try to recognize everybody," Keep said. "Everybody's somebody here."

In addition to its charitable donations, the Moose runs initiatives like its Youth Awareness program.

The program places high school students in a seminar where they learn about good living practices and what to teach younger children. In 2010 two students from the program advanced to an international scholarship competition based on work they did for the seminar.

The club also offers members daily social activities and a restaurant — a very large membership draw, officers said, because the Moose caters to a variety of community members.

"We're constantly going out and recruiting new members," Chianese said. "(And) there's different reasons that people come. We are always looking for persons of good character to join our ranks."

The club also offers its banquet hall for community activities at no cost, officers said.

But the thing they enjoy most is the community re-

sponse to their work, Chianese said.

"I think the recognition we're getting from everybody is driving a lot of us," he said.

State and national accolades, too, have been galvanizing, Paddock said.

"I can't even explain it, it's a warm feeling that you get," he said of state and national awards the club has won in recent years.

The club has been ranked as the number-one lodge in Pennsylvania for the past two years, officers said, beating out 130 lodges in the process.

Last year it topped the organization's 1,800 lodges worldwide, to win Moose International's Shining Star award. In 2011 it followed up that performance by making the organization's short list of finalists for this year's award too.

Paddock and other officers traveled to California last year to accept the award, calling it an surreal experience.

"The hair stands up on the back of your neck," Paddock said. "It reassured us that we're doing the right thing; that this is what our community expects of us."