

Update - December 23, 2009

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This Ohio Moose Update is published on the website by noon each Wednesday and meets the approval of the publisher, the Ohio State Moose Association, John R. Sipes, Secretary.
Updates Editor is Jim Grandy.

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Christmas Holiday Eating Tips

1. **Avoid carrot sticks.** Anyone who puts carrots on a holiday buffet table knows nothing of the Christmas spirit. In fact, if you see carrots, leave immediately. Go next door, where they're serving rum balls.

2. **Drink as much eggnog as you can. And quickly.** It's rare.. You cannot find it any other time of year but now. So drink up! Who cares that it has 10,000 calories in every sip? It's not as if you're going to turn into an eggnog-alcoholic or something. It's a treat. Enjoy it. Have one for me. Have two. It's later than you think. It's Christmas!

3. **If something comes with gravy, use it.** That's the whole point of gravy. Gravy does not stand alone. Pour it on. Make a volcano out of your mashed potatoes. Fill it with gravy. Eat the volcano. Repeat.

4. **As for mashed potatoes, always ask if they're made with skim milk or whole milk..** If it's skim, pass. Why bother? It's like buying a sports car with an automatic transmission.

5. **Do not have a snack before going to a party in an effort to control your eating.** The whole point of going to a Christmas party is to eat other people's food for free. Lots of it. Hello?

6. **Under no circumstances should you exercise between now and New Year's.** You can do that in January when you have nothing else to do. This is the time for long naps, which you'll need after circling the buffet table while carrying a 10-pound plate of food and that vat of eggnog.

7. **If you come across something really good at a buffet table, like frosted Christmas cookies in the shape and size of Santa, position yourself near them and don't budge.** Have as many as you can before becoming the center of attention. They're like a beautiful pair of shoes. If you leave them behind, you're never going to see them again.

8. **Same for pies. Apple, Pumpkin, Mincemeat.** Have a slice of each.. Or if you don't like mincemeat, have two apples and one pumpkin. Always have three. When else do you get to have more than one dessert? Labor Day?

9. **Did someone mention fruitcake?** Granted, it's loaded with the mandatory celebratory calories, but avoid it at all cost. I mean, have some standards.

10. **One final tip:** If you don't feel terrible when you leave the party or get up from the table, you haven't been paying attention. Re-read these tips; start over, but hurry, January is just around the corner. Remember this motto to live by: "Life should NOT be a journey to the grave with the intention of arriving safely in an attractive and well preserved body, but rather to skid in sideways, chocolate in one hand, body thoroughly used up, totally worn out and screaming "WOO HOO! What a ride!"

Hattie's List . . . yet another Christmas Carol, sung in harmony!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following is an e-mail from Hattie Hartschuh to her mother, a former student of ours from a thousand years ago, a tale of yet another Christmas Carol!

From: Hattie Hartschuh
Subject: Craigslist
To: harttfarm@yahoo.com
Date: Monday, December 7, 2009, 5:14 PM

So I was surfing Craigslist one day at work (while not really working) and I came across this ad and it really touched me:

"If anyone has boys toys for a 3 year old or girl toys for a 5 year old that are in decent shape and no longer want them, please e-mail me. We just moved here about 2 months ago and money is really tight right now. I am stressing about not being able to afford christmas for my 2 kids. We have a baby due in January and have been trying to get what we need for him.

My son is really into dinos and trains. My daughter loves just about everything, but is really into littlest pet shop. I know everyone is having trouble with finances and hate asking for anything, but I just figured if anyone had toys they want to get rid of i could take them off your hands. I don't really like to give them used, but that has to be better than not being able to get anything at all. Thanks for reading "

Initially I figured that this ad was probably a hoax, but I emailed a response and was surprised to find that the woman, Laura, really did need help. She didn't care if the toys were new/used, she didn't care if they were expensive... she just wanted something she could wrap for her kids. After emailing back and forth for a few weeks, I found that her husband was enlisted in the Army and that because the wait list for housing on post is so long they'd actually lived in a Hotel in Junction City for a month before finally finding a place to rent. I was shocked to find that our soldiers who have put our lives before tier own have to struggle like that.

The same day that she told me about that, I relieved a paycheck for some work I had done a month before. I took it as a sign and with a little extra in my pocket, I started at Dollar Tree for wrapping paper and stuff and then hit some pretty good sales at Target, even picking up some infant diapers (which I had to ask Ron what to get because I had no idea they

Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men!

actually come in different sizes!) and wipes for the baby she's going to have in January.

I finally met her in person today to give her my contributions and we both cried a little when she hugged me. She told me that it was hard for her to even ask for help but that she was so grateful. I told her that even though I may be young, I've learned that life deals everyone a hand. Some hands put you ahead of the game and sometimes you get a hand so crappy you feel like folding. I was raised to believe that if God gives you the opportunity to help some one who needs it, you do it... because God is the one who decides what "hand" you get. I thanked her for giving me the opportunity. She introduced me to her little boy who had been waving through the window, thanked me one last time and we went back to our lives...

It was the best \$100 I've ever spent and I wish I could've done more. I know what it's like to struggle too, I've scraped by with just enough to pay my rent more times than I care to count. I've eaten catsup and spaghetti sandwiches because that was all I had left in my cupboard.

I've always been blessed enough to have a family who I know is always there for me... I wanted to let you guys all know how much you mean to me. I love you all. I wouldn't be strong enough to be here if it weren't for you. I can't wait to come home and see you all for Christmas!

Love,
Hattie

EDITOR'S ADDENDUM: Here it is, two days before Christmas, and I'm sure that Craig's List has new items; even Hattie's List must be full. When you and I think of the children for whom we are caring at Mooseheart, we have to go to bed at night in the sure knowledge that their lists are full too.

We suppose that many times we tire of hearing about making this contribution or that one to Moose Charities, but there has to be a program which enables us to focus our attention on the various tasks at hand, and Moose Charities provides that avenue.

We conclude with a simple word: Thank you, Ohio Moose, for being the warm, wonderful, caring people that you are!

Merry Christmas, and God Bless Us, Everyone!

Gahanna Lodge 2463 Sponsor Annual Christmas Party for Stygler Nursing Home



ABOVE: Stygler residents listen for their number to be called to win a fruit basket or their table centerpiece.
BELOW: Here's a happy winner!



ABOVE: Stygler Residents enjoy a choice of ham or turkey dinner.
... more on next page



Santa Visits and Congratulates the Busy Beavers of Gahanna Lodge



ABOVE:: Santa checks to see if Gahanna Golden Moose President Jayne Leonard has been good. TOP RIGHT: Prelate Ryan Genton waits to deliver the next winner's centerpiece. RIGHT: And the winner is a nice little lady in her



Christmas finest! FAR RIGHT: Santa's pie-cutters are Bev Miller and Michelle Tennison, both of whom volunteered for the pie-cutting detail!

This dinner is an annual event for Stygler Residents which they await with great anticipation.



LATEST \$50 O.S.M.A. GAS CARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED!

CONGRATULATIONS are in order to Cindy L Miller, Cortland Chapter 341 and to Marion Lodge 889's Thomas N Wolf for their preferred member sponsor efforts and qualifying in mid-December for \$50 Gas Cards in the Ohio State Moose Associations special membership campaign.

O.S.M.A. Secretary John R Sipes Announces Change In Two Districts!

As provided by Article V of our By-Laws, which reads as follows:

“For convenience in carrying out the functions of the Association, districts comprised of geographically related lodges, shall be established by the Board of Officers of the Association.”

Secretary John R Sipes has announced that effective January 3, 2010, Wooster Lodge 1115 will move from District 5 to District 12.