



SONS OF NORWAY

Edvard Grieg Lodge 657 District 5

Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio & Kentucky

- First Lodge in Ohio -

Sons, Daughters and Friends of Norway Newsletter

July 2019

Notes from the Lodge President

Happy Midsummer to all! Tusen takk to Glenn and Susie Mikaloff for hosting our annual summer party once again (more in Susan's article). I am happy to see the Lodge's continued growth along with many fun, informative, and rewarding programs and events. Some doings in the life of the Lodge:

1. Karl Halvorson and his Norwegian flag have hiked 867.1 miles of the Appalachian trail - roughly the distance our ancestors sailed from Trondheim to Iceland. We are very proud of Karl and look forward to hearing more about his exploits.
2. When you receive your July issue of Viking, open it to the District 5 page towards the back. There you will see our lodge featured (once again) with a photograph from our officer installation.
3. We now have lodge business cards. Please let me know if you would like to have some. They are nice to carry with you to share with potentially interested parties and allow them to contact us and learn more about the Lodge.
4. We have some openings on the Board (Foundation Director, Publicity Director) for anyone wanting to help with Lodge initiatives. Please let me know if you are interested.

Enjoy the rest of your summer, and we look forward to seeing you at the Johnsons' on August 17!

Hilsen, Jim Herman

Membership News

Great News! We have a couple of new members to introduce to the Lodge. In fact, they both stopped by our booth at the Dayton International Festival. Shane Russell and his wife Aimee, along with their two boys Soren and Anders, are now part of the Lodge. Ron Thompson and his wife Vicki came to our picnic at the Mikaloffs', and he joined as well.

Shane writes:

We joined Sons of Norway because my wife (Aimee) has Norwegian heritage. Her grandmother was Norwegian, and Aimee grew up in Minnesota where many of the people in her community had Scandinavian heritage. Every year we make lefse around the holidays (and eat it with butter and brown sugar)- a prized delicacy in our home! We enjoy learning about Norway and hope to visit soon. Our sons, Soren and Anders, have been learning the Norwegian language along with us, using Duolingo. We look forward to getting to know our fellow members.

There were over a dozen people that made a point of stopping at our booth at the Dayton International Festival to chat about Norway and our lodge, so, hopefully we will gain a few more members in the near future.

We also had another addition a few months ago and would like to extend a belated welcome to Mark Sutton.

Mark writes:

My connection to Norway is on my mother's side. Her grandparents on both sides were born in Norway. Her maternal grandmother was Rounnag

Pynten and she married Torger Dauve. Her paternal grandfather was Halvor Storbakken and he married Maria Amundsen. They settled in Coon Valley, Wisconsin (an hour west of Madison) and became farmers in the beautiful rolling hills which reminded them of Norway. My aunts and uncles all spoke Norwegian, but after Mom moved to the big city, she only spoke English in our house. We hope to meet you soon.

The Lodge wishes to extend our sympathy to our members who have lost loved ones. Lance Larsen's mother passed at the end of last year. Charlotte Ellingson's brother passed recently. Monica DuShane's mother passed on June 17.

Please do remember to pay your membership renewal in a timely manner. And if you know of someone that might be interested in the Lodge, you can give me their name and I will send them some info on Sons of Norway.

Recap of the Dayton International Festival

Our booth at the festival had the best year in the ten years that the Lodge has been involved with it. I attribute our success to the great location our booth received this year.

This was the first year that we sold lefse, and it sold out halfway through the festival! Next year we will have to order a larger quantity to sell.

There are many thanks to go around to all those who helped work the festival. Tim and Connie Holmen helped us to set up and helped most of the day on Saturday. Larry Bannick and Linda helped us with set up and then helped us to pack up on Sunday at the end of the festival. Thanks to both of those couples. Adam Sokol helped on Friday evening and Monica DuShane and her family were great workers on Saturday. Monica gets a gold star for telling people why they needed to buy lefse. Nelda Chandler has been a stalwart mainstay through the years along with Sharon Smythe.

Please think about joining us for the festival next year. It is a lot of fun!

Esther Charlton, Membership Secretary

Birthdays

July

Soren Russell[5], Janice Ohlsen Betscher[7], Tim Holmen[9], Benjamin Powers[11], Monica DuShane[13], Maria Luiso[13], Roy Solvik[16], Jorgen Jorgensen[17], Katherine Herman[23], Conor DuShane[25], Thomas Varland[29], Kristin Szava[31].

August

Sara Chubb[3], Sandra Nelson[12], Austin Scherbarth[13], David Peterson[14], Jean Crocker-Lakness[15], Diane Flautt[14], Skip Wicklund[18], Shawn Peterson[21], Arlene Goodison[22], Benjamin Downs[27], Alisa Suzanne Jordheim[29].

September

Kjell Evensen[3], Ordelle Hill[4], Ethan Peake[6], Nancy Vallette[6], David Bratten[9], Erica Peterson[12], Larry Welin[19], Chris Butterworth[20], Susan Wicklund[24], Judy Stewart[25], JoAnn Krugh[26], James P. Herman[28].

July Reading Circle & Board Meeting Saturday, July 6

2:00pm Reading Circle followed by 3:00pm Board Meeting. All members are welcome at either or both meetings.

Location: Forest Park Library (meeting room), 655 Waycross Rd., Cincinnati, OH 45240

Contact Susan Herman, 513-227-8790 or susan.herman3501@gmail.com.

August Lodge Meeting

End of Summer Gathering at the Johnson's! Saturday, August 17, starting at 4:00pm

Potluck dinner at Paul and Laurie Johnson's: 2765N. Waynesville Rd., Oregonia, OH 45054-9620. Appetizers at 4:00p, dinner at 5:00. Play kubb after dinner. Bring an appetizer, salad, main dish, side dish, or dessert to share. Beverages provided.

RSVP by August 15 to Susan Herman at: 513-227-8790 or susan.herman3501@gmail.com.

Recap of Events

I hope many of you were able to celebrate Syttende Mai in some way on your own, with family, friends, perhaps you recalled memories or family stories, or at least paused to think about its significance in Norway's history! I look forward to gathering next year and celebrating with all of you.

Our Summer Solstice and pool party was just a little over a week ago and sounded like it was amazing once again (Jim and I were in France). I heard it rained in the morning, but by 3pm the sun was out and it was beautiful. Thanks to Susie and Glenn Mikaloff for hosting this annual event. Here are a few comments from attendees:

- Nice having new members join that day.
- A nice time and well attended.
- Once again, the potluck was fantastic! Along with the great variety of foods were the 'Bjorn Burgers' and delicious sausages. Tusen takk to Susie and Glenn for once again hosting this annual event.
- Everybody really looked good!

Susan Herman, Social Director

The History of Olsok

By Elisabeth Pettersen Sonoff

King Olav was born around 995 and became king of Norway about 1016. During his reign, Christianity became the only accepted religion. However, his ruling was met with opposition from the local chieftains, many of whom fled to the court of king Knut of Denmark. In 1028, Knut came to Norway with a fleet of 50 ships and at the assembly at Øre, he was acclaimed king of Norway. Håkon, the son of one of Olav's enemies, became the Earl (Jarl) of Norway in his place. Olav fled the country and found refuge in Kiev.

In 1029, Håkon died in a shipwreck and Olav saw a chance to reclaim the rule of Norway. He returned in 1030 with a small army of about 100 men. On July 29, 1030, at Stiklestad, his army met with a larger and better equipped army of local chieftains. They were defeated, and although Olav was killed in action, the battle is generally lauded as victory for Christianity in Norway. A year after he was killed, his body was exhumed and placed in a chest under the altar in the Klemens Church in Nidaros (Trondheim). He was later canonized as Saint Olav, the patron saint of Norway. People started making pilgrimages to see the chest that Olav was buried in. According to legend, many miracles took place at the church where he was buried, particularly around the day of his death, July 29. Many people would come to the church the night before Olavsdag (Olav's Day), or Olsok, to pray and fast. The day was declared a holy day by the Catholic church.

Olsok is still celebrated in Norway and it is an official flag day. There may be local arrangements to celebrate the day. The biggest celebration takes place at Stiklestad and is called the Saint Olav Drama (Heilige Olav Spelet). It is an outdoor theater performance played over four days at the end of July at Stiklestad. It draws on historical events mentioned by Snorri Sturlason in Heimskringla and more than 700 people are involved with the production. It was first performed in 1954. To date, more than 80,000 people have attended this performance which is held at the largest and oldest outdoor theater in Norway



Painting by Peter Nicolai Arbo in 1859 - Olav den helliges fall i slaget på Stiklestad (Saint Olav's fall at the Battle of Stiklestad)

Special Request

If you are traveling to Norway this summer, please let Susan Herman know! It would be great to have you share some of your experiences with us at future Lodge meetings.

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**Here is our Edvard Grieg website link. Once on the main page, click on the calendar link to view information/details and updates on our lodge events.
<http://www.evensens.net/sons/sons.html>

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