

Vennelag News

Vennelag Lodge, 5-513

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Upcoming Events

NOTE: Unless indicated otherwise, all lodge meetings are held at the at Mt. Horeb Community Center (MHCC), 107 N. Grove St., Mt. Horeb, WI

2016

- Jan 14 – Board meeting 6:30 PM, Culvers, Mt. Horeb
- Jan 17 – Lodge meeting 2:00 PM (Install officers) **MHCC**
- Jan 23 - Hosting Zone 3 Leadership event **MHCC**
- Feb 11 - Board meeting 6:30 PM, Culvers, Mt. Horeb
- Feb 21 – Lodge meeting 2:00 PM **MHCC**
- Mar 11 - Board meeting 6:30 PM, Culvers, Mt. Horeb
- Mar 20 – Lodge meeting 2:00 PM **MHCC**
- Apr 14 - Board meeting 6:30 PM, Culvers, Mt. Horeb
- Apr 28 – Lodge meeting 7:00 PM **State Bank of Cross Plains, Mt. Horeb upstairs meeting room**
- May 12 - Board meeting 6:30 PM, Culvers, Mt. Horeb

NEW MEMBERS:

Blue Mounds – Anna Tranel, Claire Tranel, Ethan Tranel, Kari Tranel
 Mt. Horeb – Gerald Haglund
 Verona – John Eberhardt

TUBFRIM

Save used stamps and expired or used phone cards for Tubfrim to help disabled children and youth in Norway. Cut leaving about ¼ inch around each stamp on all sides. Bring them to a lodge meeting.

Jultrefest was a fun time with lots of good food and entertainment.



Santa thanks Glen for driving and making repairs to float.

(Continued on page 6)

The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic countries, and provide quality insurance and financial products to its members.

Ord fra presidenten



Godt Nyttår (Happy New Year)!

Vennelag Lodge closed out the 2015 calendar year with its annual Juletreffest on December 5th. Guests enjoyed appetizers and punch before beginning a potluck meal. Mange takk for bringing the many entrees, side dishes, and desserts which fed our guests.

The décor and table arrangement this year were organized by David and Janet Andersen, with fresh pine boughs coming from Marlyn Grinde, making for a festive and truly Nordic feeling. A special thank you is sent to Conrad and Grant Schult who assisted with table and chair set-up and tree decorating, prior to the event. Entertainers for the evening were David Jeglum, Tom Black, and Diane Dangerfield who played and sang many holiday favorites. Do you have an idea for next year's party? Contact our newly installed cultural and/or social directors, Martin Amundsen or Tiffany Schwoerer to express your wishes!

It was a perfect night to kick up one's heels, as Lodge members danced around the Juletre led by Marlyn Grinde and Barb Mørkri. Tiffany Schwoerer distributed gifts to guests, while Santa Duane and his elf Arthur invited the young and young at heart to tell Santa their Christmas wishes. Each child received an old-fashioned bag of treats this year. Thank you to all who played a role in preparing the Community Center for our guests and for the hospitality shown. Vennelag is in a growth cycle, and it is from your friendly interactions that newcomers feel welcome and want to join us.

Rita Schraepfer-Derke had an idea that became reality later in December when numerous Lodge members came together to produce **mange** lefse for the first annual Vennelag Lefse Fundraiser. 110 pounds of potatoes were peeled, cooked, riced, and later made into dough which became the 600+ rounds of lefse that we sold!

Under the direction of Duane and Nancy Kittleson and Jean Grindle, this fundraiser grossed nearly \$800.00 for our coffers! It has been decided to continue the fundraiser next year, with increased involvement needed from more members. One suggestion was to have two crews of workers, the producers and the sellers. More information on this fundraiser will be shared at a future Vennelag meeting.

Join us on January 17, 2016, when Vennelag kicks off a new biennium with the installation of its Board of Directors. Set-up for the meeting will begin at 1 PM, with the business meeting commencing at 2 PM. Outgoing officers will be recognized and the new Board will be seated by Zone Director, Duane Kittleson, the installing officer. Entertainment following the installation is a trio of Hardanger fiddlers, including our own Lora Lee.

As we look ahead to February 21, author Deb Nelson Gourley, who has written many books with Norwegian characters and themes, will speak about her books. Deb will also be bringing books for sale.

Extend a hearty welcome to someone you know to attend these gatherings. Both meetings commence at 2 PM, and members will share a light luncheon following each presentation.

Cheryl

On January 23rd, Vennelag will host the Zone 3 leader's conference. Zone 3 is comprised of the following lodges: Idun-Madison, Østestaden-Monroe, Vakkertland-Wisconsin Dells, Norseman of the Lakes-Williams Bay, Nordland-Janesville, Mandt-Stoughton, and Vennelag-Mount Horeb. Zone 3 Directors will be leading the conference and will address questions about lodge functionality, procedures for electing delegates to the D5 and International Conventions, update lodges on the change in leadership at the Sons of Norway Foundation, and will provide breakout sessions on topics identified by local lodge officers. Your help for this event is needed such as registration or other set up, please call Cheryl at (608)219-4464.

Vennelag Lodge is responsible for serving a coffee break to delegates, which can include Norwegian and American sweet favorites, as well as a luncheon. Food chairman, Ann Walser, will lead this effort and has formed a serving committee, but food donations and additional help is needed for set up and clean up. You may reach Ann at (608)831-7226 to volunteer.

Members of Vennelag Lodge are encouraged to join us for this training session. It is a great time to network with others from across our zone.



As the calendar turns to February, our minds turn to the Barnebirkie (children's ski race) in Hayward, WI. Once again District 5 Lodges are asked to send cookies for this event. President Cheryl will be gathering cookies from the main depository, Open House Imports, and will transport them to Hayward for official counting.

Cookies need to be delivered to Open House Imports by Wednesday, February 17, 2016. Please record the number of dozen in each container and add the name, Vennelag, to the top of the container.

Due to the increasing number of individuals with allergies, the American Birkebeiner Planning Committee has asked that bakers refrain from using nuts in the cookies. Classic skiers prefer spice, oatmeal, ginger, molasses, and cranberry or fruit cookies. One can never go wrong with the old stand-by, chocolate chip. Mange takk for hjelpen with this task!

Food Servers for lodge meetings:

January 17

- Aldeen Fjelstad
- Jean Grindle
- Ann Walser

February 21

- Davi Penne
- David and Janet Andersen

March 20

- Carol Nyland
- Tiffany Schwoerer

Baking Workshop a Roaring Success!

On Saturday, November 7th, Vennelag Lodge held its annual holiday baking workshop. This year's participants numbered 35 in all! A wonderful morning was spent making traditional foods found on a family table over the holidays. Students rotated between seven baking stations learning the ins and outs of each item.

It was by far the most well-attended and enjoyed event. One family celebrated their mother's birthday at the workshop! A grandmother and her grandson enjoyed some quality time cooking and baking new foods together. Several mother-daughter pairs had a great time reminiscing about past holidays, and two guests who mastered rolling lfe, volunteered to help us at our December fundraising event.

One woman, whose mother passed away recently, learned that she can make the foods her mother did! Now, her mother's equipment will see new life and her young grandchildren will come to know their family's traditions, too. In addition, a new member was added to Vennelag Lodge! If you know Kari Tranel, extend a hearty velkommen to her family when you see them at a future Lodge meeting!

Thanks go to Martha and Lydia Martin, Janet Robertson, Tiffany Schwoerer, Barb and Chuck Mørkri, Mary Gullickson-Krantz, Nancy Kittleson, Jean Grindle, and Carolyn Johnson for their teaching skills. Aldeen Fjelstad did variety of tasks that made the morning run smoothly. Rita Schraepfer-Derke photographed the event. Our Food Chairman, Ann Walser, organized her first baking class. On behalf of Vennelag Lodge-Tusen takk til alle!



Lefse – Jean Grindle



Krumkake – Chuck & Barb Mørkri



Sandbakkels - Carolyn Johnson



Smørgrøt – Martha Martin



Æbelskivers – Tiffany Schwoerer



Flatbrød – Ann Walser & Janet Robertson



Lefse – Nancy Kittleson



Rosettes – Cheryl Wille-Schlesser



Heart Vaffler – Mary Krantz

What's Happening at the Sunday, January 17 meeting?

On Sunday afternoon, January 17th, 2016, Vennelag members will be reconvening to seat its recently-elected Board. Although some members are new, many are returning and wish to continue their service. It is through the efforts of all that Vennelag has once again regained its rightful status in the greater Mt. Horeb Community. People have noticed that we are here, and many have come to recognize the importance of sharing their heritage with youngsters in their families. Evidence of this awareness came at our October Frokost (breakfast) and the November baking workshop when younger and older participants enjoyed their Norsk heritage together.

Following the installation, a talented Hardanger fiddle trio will share their music with members. The group is comprised of: Carlyce Skjervem, Karen Rebholz, and Lora Lee. A light meal will be served following the program. Our goal is to send members on their way early in the evening. Just think...by the middle of January, the days will be getting noticeably longer!

Officers elected at the November 19, 2015 lodge meeting to serve the lodge for the years 2016 – 2017 were as follows:

President: Cheryl Wille-Schlesser
President/Membership Secretary: Carolyn Johnson
Secretary: Lodge Meetings: Lana Dyreson
Board Meetings: Tiffany Schwoerer
Treasurer: David Andersen
Editor: Lora Lee
Cultural Director: Tiffany Schwoerer
Social Director: Martin Amundsen
Youth Director: Davi Penne
Sports Director: Davi Penne
Foundation Chair: Aldeen Fjelstad
Counselor: Duane Kittleson
Historian: Rita Schraepfer-Derke
Musician: Eric Albrecht
Food Chairman: Ann Walser
Greeter: Carlton Severson
Trustee: Allen Fjelstad
Trustee: Arthur Ness
Public Relations: Arthur Ness



Lodge board meetings are normally held about 7-10 days prior to a lodge meeting. Current meeting location is Culvers Restaurant in Mt. Horeb at 6:30 pm. Meeting time, location and agenda items are emailed to officers a few days prior to the meeting. **Any lodge member may attend the meeting.** Contact an officer for details if you plan to attend a meeting.

Join us on Sunday, February 21, 2016 – 2:00 PM , Mt. Horeb Community Center

The presenter for the February meeting will be Deb Nelson Gourley, author and publisher from Astri, My Astri Publishing. Deb was a recent presenter at Høstfest, 2015, in Minot, ND.

Raised in Fillmore County, MN, Nelson-Gourley now calls Waukon, IA home. She received both her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science degrees from the University of Minnesota. Her two sons assist with the bilingual aspects of the books she writes.

Deb has published many books with links to Norway. You can view her works by visiting the www.astrimyastri.com website.

We Remember



Long time Vennelag member Sylvia Hankel died December 21, 2015. Sylvia joined Sons of Norway in 1982 and earned the Golden Member status in 2012. She was very active in the lodge activities until her move to Ingleside Manor. Members of the lodge were **Honor Guards** at the funeral on December 29, 2015.



Jultrefest pictures include entertainers, Santa and his elf with naughty & nice list, the snack table, members and guests enjoying the meal and children watching Santa.



A Note from the editor.

This will be my last newsletter as editor for Vennelag Lodge. The new lodge officers who were elected in November will be installed during the January meeting.

Putting together the Vennelag News six times each year requires a tremendous amount of help with input from many sources. I am thankful for all of the assistance given to me during the past two years. Communication is very important. We can always look back at events to see things we could have done differently which might have been more effective or easier. This newsletter is the primary method used to inform all of the lodge members about dates, times and activities for our lodge. I hope you have found this useful to you.

During the past year the lodge officers voted to survey the Vennelag Lodge newsletter mailing list recipients as to how many would be willing and able to receive the newsletter electronically. The savings in printing and mailing costs for those choosing the electronic version were projected to be significant. I am happy to say the number of copies printed and mailed by US Mail has dropped from 220 to about 90 copies. Members choosing to have a printed copy mailed to them will continue. However, cost savings from printing and mailing costs has allowed the lodge to become more visible in our community with donations to the Southwestern Dane Area Heritage Center (Mt. Horeb Historical Museum) and to the Village of Mount Horeb toward painting the Community Center. Other community groups are scheduled to receive donations in 2016 when the board votes on their requests.

It is that time of the year when attention is focused on scholarship applications. Sons of Norway offers scholarships for post high school education and some specialty adult education. There are many opportunities available. The applications and guidelines can be found at various sources.

- Vennelag Lodge 5-513 offers a \$500 scholarship to a high school senior which may be used for any post high school education class. Information is available at your local high school guidance counselor's office. **Application deadline is March 1, 2016.**
- Sons of Norway, District Five offers three types of scholarships.
 - A. Two book scholarships in the amount of \$300 each.
 - B. Norwegian Folk High School scholarship is available for \$500. There are two offered each year if you are interested in attending a Norwegian Folk High School.
 - C. One International Summer School scholarship for \$1,000 is available. You must be accepted for attendance to a Norwegian summer program to apply.

Applications and guidelines are available online for all District Five scholarships at www.sonsofnorway5.com. Click on District 5 Scholarship tab on left side of home page. Deadline is March 15, 2016 for all District applications.

- Sons of Norway International offers many scholarships that appeal to a variety of education specialty interests. All applications **MUST** be completed online. You can find information at www.sofn.com. Select the Foundation tab on the home page. **Deadlines range from March 1 to May 1, 2016.**

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Next Newsletter Deadline February 22, 2016



A note from the newsletter editor!

Please inform the editor of any change in mailing address or email so the newsletter will be received by you in a timely manner. You may also make a change from/to receiving a printed mailed copy or to an email notification. Also, if you have information to be shared with all lodge members, contact me at:

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