

Vennelag Lodge, 5-513

## 2016 Mount Horeb Frolic Parade

A small but enthusiastic group of sailors hopped aboard the S.S. Vennelag on Sunday, June 12th for the 2016 Mt. Horeb Frolic Parade. Despite the light drizzle, they donned their best garments, carried umbrellas, and proudly cruised the streets of Mt. Horeb to the appreciation of many parade attendees. We have a great float and we are proud to use her to promote Mt. Horeb and Vennelag Lodge at area events. Thank you members for helping with this promotion.

Although it was a soggy day, neither sleet, nor snow, no rain, nor dark of night could keep the Good Ship Vennelag from her appointed sailing! I would like to extend a special thank you to Glen Schult and Marlyn Grinde who arranged transport. Lisa and Bo, we appreciated your efforts, too, as we continued a longstanding tradition championed by your loved one and former Vennelag Captain Rick Grinde.



### Glimpses Inside This Issue:

*Ord fra presidenten* (page 2)  
*Midsommer Celebration* (page 3)  
 Member News (page 4)  
 Calendar (page 5)  
 News from Other Lodges (page 6)  
 Stoughton Parade (page 6)  
 District 5 Convention (page 7)  
 Lodge Activities (page 7)



Straight from the District 5 Conference in Marshfield last weekend... It is with great pride that I announce that Vennelag Lodge, 5-513, Mt. Horeb, WI, has received special recognition and a Merit Award, Gold Level, from the International Board of Directors of Sons of Norway for the years 2014 and 2015. It was awarded on April 26, 2016 in Minneapolis, MN, and is signed by Jon Tehven, International President, and Dan Rude, International Secretary.

Congratulations all, for two years of fraternal excellence! Vennelag continues to excel, and it is due to your undying support and that we have achieved this milestone within the Sons of Norway fraternal organization. Our next goal... working toward the award of Lodge of the Year-small lodge. Can we do it? YES, we can! Stand up, be proud, shout your name out loud...We are Vennelag! *Cheryl*

**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

### The Winds of Change...

As we move officially into the summer months, we note the changing of the weather and season, as well as some important transitions for our Lodge. July is the month of one of our largest fundraisers, the Kaffe Stue (which translates from Norwegian to mean "coffee room"). This activity calls for a commitment from *all* members by offering their time, talents, or resources. I thank the many members who have chosen to do both! It is by working together that we have been able to offer amazing presenters, contributed \$1,000 to the Mt. Horeb Area Historical Society, provided an outstanding Syttende Mai party for our members, and have provided scholarships and support to area youth.

The 2016 co-chairs of the event are Jean Grindle and Vennelag President Cheryl Schlessler. Jean's expertise comes from many years of working as an event coordinator for many different kinds of celebrations; she is a stickler for detail and will give her all to make the Kaffe Stue a wonderful celebration of all things Norsk. Jean is also a great lefse maker, leading the charge to make certain that there was enough lefse for our event, not only for our lefse wraps but also for the bake sale. Members got a jump start on lefse making earlier this summer when over 240 rounds were baked. Last week, Jean added another 140 rounds to our freezer! Uff-Da! She informs me that she is done making lefse for a while!

Davi and Steve Penne will coordinate the members who are involved in the hall set-up, take down, and cleaning portion of the event. We have many youth who will be participating in hopes of meeting their Silver Cord requirement for high school graduation. If you have high school youth in your family, ask them to bring the official Silver Cord documentation for a signature.

Under the advice from former Vennelag presidents and counselors, the co-chairs have been busy since the winter months evaluating the menu and returning it to more traditional fare. They have redesigned the hall set-up. A new area has been selected for the "cookie room" based on changes recently instituted by the Mt. Horeb Area Senior Center.

They have conducted an inventory of items in the cupboards and found over 1,000 rømmegrøt cups! Currently, they are ordering the food products and other supplies needed to make the event successful. Members have had the opportunity to sign-up for their preferred food donations and work options. At this writing, we are in excellent shape with donated foods and most of our work spots are full. If you have not been personally contacted, don't be hesitant to call me at 608-219-4464, and I will find a meaningful role for you!

The Vennelag Board approved a fixed-price menu for the Kaffe Stue, similar to that of the fall breakfast. This year we will be offering two dining options: Li'l Ole or Big Sven. This first option provides a diner with one entrée: meatballs, a hot dog, a lefse wrap sandwich "troll roll", or an open-face sandwich which will be accompanied by 5 sides. The second option provides the guest with two entrees and one "all you can eat" trip through the serving line. Prices for Li'l Ole are: \$8.00 and Big Sven: \$15.00, respectively. A beverage is also included with the meal. For the person with a lighter appetite and a sweet tooth, goodies and coffee will be sold a la carte at the bake sale table.

Advertising will be placed in the Mt. Horeb Mail and Shopper the three weeks prior to the event. A menu for the vestibule is being designed by Lodge member Siri Amundsen. It will list the food options from which our visitors may choose. I have also been informed that a bus of diners will come from Oakwood Senior Living Community in Madison. Advertising flyers have been circulated in area communities and have also been placed at Open House Imports. Other senior sites have received information, as well, where many of the residents fondly remember the Norwegian foods of their youth.

I look forward to working with you at the Kaffe Stue! Takk skal du ha (Thank you),

*Cheryl*



### MIDSOMMER CELEBRATION

A small but enthusiastic group of Vennelag Lodge members marked the coming of Midsommer on June 18<sup>th</sup> by enjoying a day at Willes' Lake, located between Edgerton and Janesville. Members enjoyed the bucolic setting, enjoyed traditional Norwegian music, brought items for a potluck meal, chatted around the grill, and played a few rousing games of Kubb. Masters of the game were Chuck Mørkri, Duane Kittleson, and Ann Walser who threw the winning tosses for their team.

A bonfire was lit at dusk and the members toasted the chief god of Norse mythology, Odin, and the rest of the Norse pantheon with a little bit of St. Hallvard's Likør. Skål! The evening ended with the serving of s'mores made by Nancy Kittleson and Tiffany Schwoerer. Mange takk to all who contributed to the meal; your efforts were deliciously appreciated!

I look forward to hosting Vennelag Lodge again next summer for another celebration. If we are in Norway for Midsommer in 2017, I will choose another time that we can spend a day at the lake.

*Cheryl*



## *We Remember*



**Connie Goderstad**, 89, of Black Earth, longtime Vennelag member, died unexpectedly on Saturday, June 18th. Funeral services were held on June 21st at Vermont Lutheran Church. Connie was seen at many Vennelag events, especially working the Kaffe Stue. She enjoyed seeing and visiting with friends and relatives who came to the annual event.

She is survived by her son Jorgen, Black Earth, as well as a grandson and two great grandsons, of Green Bay, WI.

The Ellestad-Camacho Funeral Home, Black Earth, is serving the family.

**Philip H. Johnson**, 79, passed away of natural causes on Monday, June 20, at his home in rural Belleville, surrounded by family. Phil is survived by his wife Carolyn, children Greg and Michelle (Mike) Skeels, grandchildren Kelly and Chris Skeels, as well as his brothers William and Richard.

Join family and friends for a Celebration of Life at Donald Park, 1945 State Rd. 92, Mount Horeb, on Saturday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, beginning at 2:00 PM with a remembrance gathering at 3 PM. Light refreshments, coffee and conversation will follow the Service.

The Becker-Beal Funeral Home in Belleville is assisting the family where Phil's obituary can be read.



**Delores Jelle** (Johnson) (Schraepfer), 91, of Mt Horeb, died July 19 at Ingleside Manor surrounded by her family. Delores lived in Wisconsin all her life. She married Rudy E. Schraepfer in 1943 and had four children: Donna, Rita, Mariann and Rollie. Rudy died in 1976, and she married Russell Jelle in 1980. They lived in Mt Horeb and enjoyed traveling & activities with the Sons of Norway Lodge. Russell died in 2006.



She was a charter member & golden member of the Vennelag Sons of Norway Lodge. She was always proud of her Norwegian heritage & being able to talk Norwegian. She was very active in the Lodge over the years & rode on the parade float many times. She was always taking pictures & was active compiling the history of her family. Dolores had a big garden & always had flowers. She took up ceramics in the early 70's & had her own Kiln. She was known for the Norwegian Nissen that she painted, the countless items she crocheted., and her numerous garage sales & craft sales.

She is survived by her children, Donna (Jim) Cockroft, Goodyear, Arizona; Rita Schraepfer-Derke, Mt. Horeb; Mariann (Don) Brown, Endeavor; & Rollie (Joan) Schraepfer, Mt Horeb. She is also survived by her sister, Ruth Hanson, Belleville; a sister-in-law, Sandra Johnson, Portage; and a brother, Dwayne (Darlene) Johnson,

Illinois; 5 grand children, 6 great-grandchildren, many nieces, nephews & cousins.

Delores's funeral was Sunday afternoon, June 26th at the Mt Horeb Evangelical Lutheran Church. The Ellestad-Camacho Funeral Home, Mt. Horeb, is serving the family.

**We offer all of these Vennelag members' families our condolences and our deepest sympathy. You may obtain more information about services in the obituaries which will be available on-line through each respective funeral home. The Wisconsin State Journal also printed their obituaries.**

The month of August provides a respite from Lodge responsibilities and meetings. Our fall calendar will resume in September, with the first Lodge meeting scheduled for Thursday evening, September 29<sup>th</sup>. Tiffany Schwoerer will lead the member discussion that evening, as she shares the cultural pin program with our members. Provided we have received word about the stave kirke re-dedication in Orkdal, Chuck Mørkri will present information about our upcoming trip to Norway. We will serve a light bite to eat at 6:30 PM with our business meeting to follow at 7:00 PM.



**IMPORTANT DATES (Clip and Save)**

- July 15, Beginning at 1 PM, Community Center                      Kaffe Stue Preparations
- July 16, Early morning prep, 6:30 AM, serve 9 AM- 1:30 PM, Community Ctr.              KAFFE STUE EVENT
- July 17, 2 PM, Beaver Creek Reserve                                      Camp Masse Moro Check-in
- July 31, 10 AM, Beaver Creek Reserve                                      Masse Moro Concludes
- August 7, 12 Noon, the Stoughton home of John and Darlene Arneson              Zone 3 Picnic
- August 24, Tacoma, WA (open to all members)                      SofN Innovative Leadership Conference
- August 25-28, Tacoma, WA    SofN International Convention
- September 15, 6:30 PM, Culver's, Mount Horeb                      Vennelag Lodge Board Meeting
- September 18, parade begins 12:30 PM                                      Parade in Monroe
- September 29, light lunch at 6:30 PM, Community Center              Vennelag Lodge Meeting begins at 7:00 PM

**Lefse making party May 5th at Jean Grindle's home**

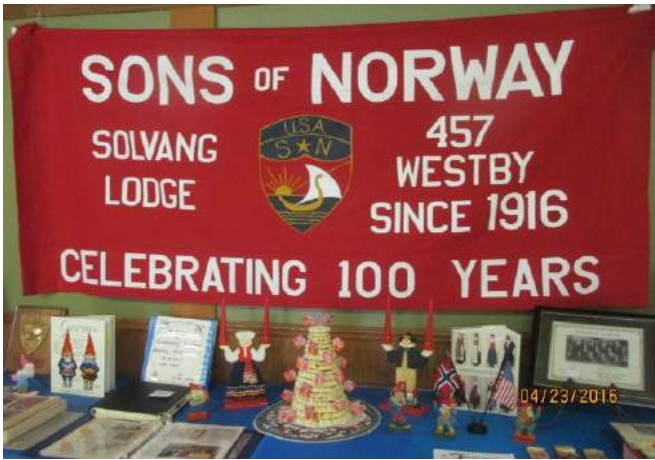


Please inform Duane Kittleson of any change in mailing address or email so the newsletter will be received by you in a timely manner. You may also make a change from/to receiving a printed mailed copy or to an email notification. Also, if you have information to be shared with all lodge members, contact:

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### Solvang Lodge, Westby, WI, Marks 100 years

Numerous Sons of Norway members from Zone 3 were in attendance at Solvang Lodge's 100<sup>th</sup> year celebration on April 23, 2016. District 5 Board members also attended: Darlene Arneson, Mandt Lodge, Duane Kittleson and Cheryl Wille-Schlesser, Vennelag Lodge joined in the festivities. Jon Grinde, Idun Lodge, Madison, and a member of the International Board of Directors was also in attendance.



**Nordic Fest**  
**50 YEARS STRONG**  
Decorah, Iowa 2016 July 28 to 30

Mandt Lodge in Stoughton is sponsoring a **Bus Trip to Nordic Fest in Decorah, IA**, on Friday, July 29<sup>nd</sup>. The full festival runs July 28-30, 2016, but the bus trip is for Friday! A few seats remain! Leaving Stoughton at 7:00 AM and returning at 9 PM. A stop will be made at the Park N Ride west of Mt. Horeb (exit 65) at 7:45 AM to pick up people on the west side of Madison.

Invite a friend and have a great day in Decorah! There are many food venues, live music, shopping, and an art and craft fair among other offerings. Costs: \$35 for Mandt Lodge members, \$40 for Sons of Norway members (any other lodges) and \$45 for non-members—a real deal! For further information go to the Nordic Fest webpage: [www.nordicfest.com](http://www.nordicfest.com) and contact Darlene Arneson at [arnesonfamily5@gmail.com](mailto:arnesonfamily5@gmail.com) or call her at 608-873-7209

### Vennelag participates in the Stoughton Syttende Mai Parade, May 16, 2016



*Hurra for Syttende Mai!*

The Vennelag ship sails once more!



Vennelag delegates attend banquet: Jo Don Anderson, Ann Walser, Duane Kittleson (District 5 Treasurer), Nancy Kittleson, Cheryl Wille-Schlesser (District 5 Youth Director)

### District 5 Convention in Marshfield, WI

Vennelag received two additional gold level Merit Awards for 2014 and 2015 for Fraternal Excellence and Lodge President Cheryl was recognized with the President's Merit Award for 2014 and 2015. Awards are for all to share. Without dedicated members and their willingness to share their time, talents, and resources, these awards would not be forthcoming. Thank you, members, for your tremendous investment and volunteer commitment in continuing George Sievers's legacy of making Vennelag Lodge great!



Bowling, May 6, 2016



### Syttende Mai Celebration at Vennelag Lodge, May 26, 2016

Music, Food and Fun!



**Vennelag News**

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**Next Newsletter Deadline:  
August 20, 2016**

*Happy Summer!!*

Note from the Editor:

Due to a computer glitch, some pages of this issue are incorrectly marked as "May June 2016", instead of "July August 2016". This should be fixed by the next issue.

**VOLUNTEER HOURS:**

Please when you fill out the volunteer hours sheet use one sheet per activity or please put the hours next to the program. The Secretaries Lana Dyreson and Tiffany Schwoerer have blank copies if you need and will take the filled out ones for inclusion in our Volunteer Hours report.

Please note that members should not report time spent at the lodge meetings or other events like the Kaffe Stue but the preparation at home for the events should be included, like baking or making posters, as is the time spent traveling to the meetings or events.