

NYHETER BREVET



-A NEWSLETTER-

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ORD FRA DIN VALKYRIEN LOSJE PRESIDENT

Feb. 24, 2017

(Words from your Lodge President)

Hello Lodge Members,

I just returned from the Barnebirkie in Hayward where I delivered the 172 dozen cookies contributed by Valkyrien Lodge. The day was mild but the snow was totally absent. However, the "race" turned into a running race for the children at the Hatchery Creek Park outside Hayward. We still had hundreds of children and their parents who were happy to have the cookies along with some Swiss Miss hot chocolate. The remaining cookies were taken to the Hayward High School where members of the District 5 Sons of Norway were selling coffee and giving out cookies. Special thanks to Tom Gunderson for purchasing the many boxes of cookies at Best Maid in River Falls and to the many other lodge members who contributed cookies or gave a monetary donation!



The absence of snow also cancelled the American Birkebeiner scheduled for Saturday morning. In lieu of this, there was a special event in celebration of the "Birkie Tradition" near Cable, WI. There refreshments were served and skiers were able to ski shorter loops of the trail where a small amount of snow was "scraped together" for the event. This is only the second time in the 44 year history of the Birkebeiner that the race had to be cancelled - the other time was in 2000 which was also due to a lack of snow.

Please encourage your friends and/or family to attend one of our lodge programs with the hope that they may be interested in our lodge and become members. Our goal is to sign up 3-4 new members during this year!

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Coming Events MARCH, 2017

Monthly Lodge Meeting:
Monday, March 27th
Snacks at 6:30—Program at 7:00

Program—Video:
Norwegian Stave Churches

Servers:
Karen Eicher & Sandy Olson

Coming Events APRIL, 2017

Board /Directors Meeting:
Monday, April 3 at 1:00 PM

Monthly Lodge Meeting:
Monday, April 24th
Snacks at 6:30—Program at 7:00

Robin Fossom—Guest
A Hardanger Violin Presentation

Servers:
Pat & Einar Sandom
Don & Arlys Olson

Coming Events MAY, 2017

Board/Directors Meeting:
Monday, May 1st at 1:00 PM
No Monthly Meeting

May 20th:
It is time for our annual
Syttende Mai Celebration featuring
lots of wonderful Norwegian
foods and demonstrations.

Event Chair -Judy Johnson
Co-Chair - Sue Faber

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from Page 1)

Our upcoming meeting on March 27th will feature a video of how old stave churches in Norway were made and how they have tried replicating these structures today. Our April 24th meeting will feature Robin Fossum from Dovre Lodge in Chetek, WI. Robin is an accomplished violin player and will have a presentation on the Hardanger violin (fiddle).

Looking ahead to this summer and the Masse Moro Camp, there is a potential of three children representing our lodge. We have a great opportunity to financially support them from our lodge as well as at the district level. This will help them to attend at a lower cost. Their names will be announced when the applications are completed in May.

Vennlig hilsen,

Audrey Severson, President

(Editors Note: Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 20th, which is the date for our annual Syttende Mai "Taste of Norway". More information will be discussed at our March and April meetings.)

THE NEXT BEST THING TO ROBERT REDFORD

-A Dessert-

(Editor's Note — I made this for our Chili Cook-off and was asked for the recipe.)

INGREDIENTS

1 cup flour
 1/2 cup melted butter
 1 cup pecans—finely chopped
 1 (8 oz.) pkg. cream cheese softened
 1 (8 oz.) container whipped topping (thawed)
 1 cup powdered sugar
 1 (4 serving size) pkg. instant vanilla pudding
 1 (4 serving size) pkg. instant chocolate pudding
 3 cups milk
 1 (1.45 oz.) milk chocolate bar grated

INSTRUCTIONS

Mix flour, butter and pecans until crumbly. Press into a 9 x 13" cake pan. Bake at 350 degrees for 15-20 minutes. Cool.

Make a mixture of cream cheese, sugar, and 1/2 of the whipped topping. Whip this together with a fork. Spread on the cooled crust.

Mix both the pudding mixes with the milk and stir until this is smooth and thickened.

Spread this on the above. Then spread on the rest of the whipped topping.

Sprinkle the top with grated chocolate and more finely chopped pecans (if desired).

Yield: 15 servings

President:

Audrey Severson (715-273-5019)
 apseverson@gmail.com

Vice President:

Betty Norvold (715-698-2978)
 tmnorvold@hotmail.com

Secretary:

Sandra Olson (715-698-3433)
 packerland@baldwin-telecom.net

Treasurer:

Don E Olson (715-235-8272)
 olsondon@hughes.net

Counselors:

Sandra Olson (715-698-3433)
 packerland@baldwin-telecom.net
 Carmen Peterson
 210 N. Lockwood St. Woodville 54028
 Audrey Halverson (715-273-5650)
 audjhalver@yahoo.com

Program & Cultural Director:

Judy Otterson (715-265-7027)
 gojo_otterson@yahoo.com

Membership Directors:

Judy & Gordon Otterson (715-265-7027)
 gojo_otterson@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor/Publicity/Sunshine:

Arlys Olson (715-235-8272)
 olsondon@hughes.net

Greeters:

Pat & Einar Sandom (715-386-3831)
 esandom@hotmail.com

Historian/Librarian:

Babe Jacobson (715-684-3159)
 lbj@baldwin-telecom.net

Language Instructor:

Don E Olson (715-235-8272)
 olsondon@hughes.net

Marshals:

Jerry & Judy Johnson (715-688-9138)
 Judy_54028@yahoo.com

Music Director:

Chuck Bricton (715-772-4523)
 bricton@wwt.net

Social Director:

Karen Eicher (715-265-4075)
 theeichers@gmail.com

Financial Benefits Counselor:

Tom Kunkel (715-828-4993)
 tomkunkel@yahoo.com

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 olsondon@hughes.net or call Arlys at 715-235-8272.

LODGE LINES

A HOT TIME FOR ALL AT OUR CHILI COOK-OFF !

We had a great time at our Chili Cook-Off last month. Lots of tasting, a side of cheese and crackers and a cool creamy dessert to top it off.



John Mikkelson and Sylva Anderson seem to be enjoying testing out the chili.

Judy Johnson, left, and Carol Forsythe need to make a decision as to which one to try next !



Following the events of our "Chili Night", we enjoyed a wonderful reading by Audrey Halverson. We think that the hat had something to do with her Norwegian "brogue". Great job, Audrey!

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

(The following is a message given to out-going President, Sandra Olson from our incoming President, Audrey Severson.)

Dear Sandra,

The members of Valkyrien Lodge would like to thank you for your leadership during the past four years. Because of that, you have inspired us to grow in our Norwegian heritage ... finding educational programs and speakers, craft presentations and music. You have encouraged our support of Masse Moro, baking cookies for the Barnebirkie, attending Sons of Norway conventions and other events too numerous to mention.

Enjoy your "down time" and as you have told us all many times ... "Mange Tusen Takk" for your service.

Audrey Severson
President

Hello to you all ...

A heartfelt thank you to our wonderful Lodge family for this special gift and beautiful card *(above)*. Our Sons of Norway Valkyrien Lodge means so much to me. Again, I thank you for supporting me as your president these past four years. I can't tell you how much you mean to me. You are all super special and our lodge is very fortunate to have wonderful members like you!



Sandra Olson

Sandra (above) is admiring her gift of an original carving done by Lodge member Jimmy Miller. Jimmy is currently studying at Luther College in Decorah, Iowa. He is the recipient of a number of awards for his carvings at the Vesterheim Museum there—where in 2013, he became the youngest person to ever receive the Gold Medal at the National Exhibition in Norwegian Tradition.

LODGE LINES

SECRETARIAL REPORTS

JANUARY 23, 2017

Past president Sandy Olson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM with a welcome. She led us in the Pledge of Allegiance—Don Olson led us in the singing of the National Anthems of Norway and America. Randi Hoffman and Marge Weiske were thanked for providing the refreshments and guests were introduced.



Installation Officer, Audrey Halverson, then installed our 2017 Officers and Committee Directors.



New Officers are President—Audrey Severson, Vice President—Betty Norvold, Secretary—Sandy Olson and Treasurer—Don Olson. Committee Directors were then installed. (Total list on page 2.) Past president Olson presented Clair Severson with a gnome statue (left)

to recognize spousal support of our new president—his wife Audrey.

Judy Johnson presented the outgoing officers (right) with Certificates of Recognition. Recipients were: Sandy Olson, President (above right), Betty



Norvold (right middle seated), Social Director, Karen Eicher (right) Vice President and Audrey Severson, Secretary. Cultural Director Judy Otterson presented bronze, silver, gold and enamel medals to Clair Severson and to Sandy Olson. Judy also discussed her endeavor in starting a book club

adding there are more details to come. Jerry and Judy Johnson won the Lutefisk Eating Competition—they consumed 10

meals each ... *UFFDA!* The Secretary's Minutes and the Financial Reports were approved as read and submitted.

NEW BUSINESS: President Severson discussed the donation of cookies to the Barnebirkie. A sign-up sheet for volunteers to help with distribution of these cookies at Hayward was circulated to members. Sandra Olson made a motion to give \$100 to Zion Lutheran Church for the use of the hall in 2016 and Sue Faber seconded it. The motion was carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Clair read an excerpt from *"Hidden Heroes"*. Books are available for a suggested donation of \$10 to go to Masse Moro.

Our next meeting will be on Monday, Feb. 27 starting 6:00 PM at the Parkview Nursing Home with a sing-a-long for the residents. Following this, we will return to the hall for our District 5 Chili Cook-Off.

Submitted by Sandra Olson, Secretary

FEBRUARY 27, 2017

Prior to our meeting, Chuck Bricton led a sing-a-long with help from some members of our lodge and performed for the



residents of Park View Nursing Home. Following that, we all met at the Zion Fellowship Hall for our **DISTRICT 5 CHILI COOK-OFF CONTEST**. Each member was asked to rank the top two chilies—#1 and #2. When the results were in, President Severson announced the winners. Tom Gunderson (left) earned the First Prize and Judy Johnson—the Second Prize (right). This event was very much enjoyed by the group ... and very tasty too!



President Severson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Fellowship Hall. The Pledge Of Allegiance was followed by singing of the American and Norwegian anthems. The Secretary's Report and the Treasurer's Report was motioned for and seconded by Judy Otterson and Arlys Olson and Chuck Bricton and Babe Jacobson, respectively.

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LODGE LINES

SECRETARIAL REPORT

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Old business:

- ◆ As there was not enough snow to ski, instead the children had foot races. Einar Sandom and Don Olson gave a report on this year's Birkebeiner. A 5K Fun Ski was held in lieu of the regular race. *(Editor's Note: Hats off to Cheryl Wille-Schlesser, District 5 Youth Director, for coordination of the "Cookie Call". Cookies came from as far away in District 5 as Indiana (via District President Andrew Johnsen). Cookies from Southern Wisconsin were gathered and taken to the Barnebirkie by members of Idun and Vennelag Lodges. Our President, Audrey Severson, made the trek up to Hayward from her home in Ellsworth to deliver our own lodge's 172 dozen and was a volunteer in their distribution as well. All the efforts were GREAT—even if the snow wasn't!)*
- ◆ The *Hidden Heroes* book is still available for a donation of \$10.00—proceeds going to Masse Moro Camp.
- ◆ Judy Otterson gave a Book Club Report. *(See article below)*

New Business:

- ◆ Sue Faber made a motion to give \$200 scholarships for each of the 3 possible campers to this year's Masse Moro. It was seconded by Tom Gunderson - motion passed.
- ◆ A motion was made by Chuck Bricton and seconded by Jerry Johnson to give \$200 to Zion for use of the facility this year. Motion was passed.
- ◆ The Ringeriklag Convention will be held on September 14 of this year. Our lodge has been asked to provide a noon meal for 30-40 people. They have requested open-face sandwiches (smørbrød), pølser i lefse, coleslaw, cookies and rømmegrøt. Motion made by Babe Jacobson and seconded by Betty Norvold to provide lunch for this group. Gordon and Judy Otterson have volunteered to pick up the lefse from Blair and the Zion Fellowship Hall will be reserved if available.

To close the meeting, Audrey Halverson entertained us with a wonderful Norwegian story .

Minutes submitted by Judy Johnson *(sitting in for Sandra Olson)*

BOOK CLUB

For the past year, we have been discussing the possibility of starting a book club. It seems that the best way to do so would be to have an organizational meeting. I have scheduled this for Monday, March 27th, at 5:15 PM in the library at Zion. This is an hour prior to our monthly meeting. Here are a number of things we need to decide:



- * Would this time work for all interested
- * Would we all read the same book and discuss it or each read a different book and report on it to the group
- * Do we want to read books strictly for pleasure or work towards a Cultural Skill Medal in Literature.
- * If this is for a medal, there will be information available to guide you.
- * I will have a list of books on the SON shelves in the Zion library, plus a book list available through SON.

Judy Otterson

If you have any questions, you can reach me at: gojo_otterson@yahoo.com or 651-346-9812.



Tom Kunkel, FIC, and our Valkyrien Lodge Financial Benefits Counselor will be writing an article for this and future issues of the "NYHETER BREVET" Newsletter.



Listed below is a brief paragraph on each of the products and services available to you as a member of the Sons of Norway. Learn how your lodge will benefit when you make the decision to purchase a Sons of Norway product.

Finally, a brief "Did You Know?" about Financial Benefits Counselors - or FBCs).

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

We offer complimentary financial reviews; Tax-free and Roth IRAs, Non-Qualified Account Rollovers and Transfers, Bank CD Alternatives with higher interest rates, Lifetime Income, Retirement Planning, Estate Planning, Charitable Giving and Pre-Funded Funeral & Final Expense Plans. Most importantly, we offer Universal Life and Whole Life Insurance.

YOUR LODGE BENEFITS

Each Spring, a "Revenue Sharing Check" is mailed to your lodge from the Sons of Norway. This check represents a percentage of all the insurance and products purchased by members of your lodge for the previous year. Some lodges have received checks for hundreds of dollar and a few even received thousands of dollars! So why not do you business with Sons of Norway and help your lodge earn fraternal benefits?

DID YOU KNOW?

Sons of Norway's Financial Benefit Counselors are NOT employees of the company? Instead, they are all independently-contracted representatives who have a strong interest in being involved with Sons of Norway. FBC's pay for all their expenses and travel to lodge meetings and are only paid commission for helping members purchase the Sons of Norway products.

Support the Sons of Norway and contact your Lodge's Financial Benefits Counselor for your on-going needs.

With warm regards,
Tom Kunkel, FBC

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