



Coming Attractions

April 19th
Monthly Meeting
6 PM
First Lutheran Church
521 North 8th St.
Manitowoc

May 22nd
Vennskap Banquet
Millhome Supper Club
Kiel, Wi
Details to be determined



the Vennskap Lodge News

April 2016

Volume 24, Issue 2

Does April Showers Bring ...Spring?

Now that Mother Nature has finished poking her finger in our eye and sweeping out all her unused snow-flakes, we can get on with the business of the warmer days ahead. It's strange that we can always expect a snow-storm or something right around Easter! She's late, and the green buds are showing in the flowerbeds. April brings...things. It was a busy meeting in March as we renewed our friendships while remembering those we miss. Vennskap Lodge 5-822 came to life with a plethora of awards and certificates at our springtime meeting. One member, after visiting Norway, began a genealogical project spending many hours researching and reading works written by famous Norwegians, while another had completed a 387 mile trip on a stationary bike, travelling a route used by a famous Norwegian king. As we wondered who our next Vennsap leader would be, another member stepped up to say "I'll do it".

The Viking spirit is alive and well in our willing group and we can look forward to a season of friendship and activities as we learn more about our heritage and continue to appreciate all that we have inherited. We have much to accomplish and with the help and experiences of our members, we will have a great year!

See you at the meeting!

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Gratulerer Med Dagen!

April

Elizabeth Humke.....	3
Kelly Quick.....	4
Doris Fredricksen.....	5
Dawn BergsBaken	15
Heidi Becker.....	20
Brandon Dickrell.(Heritage).....	22
Janet Hellestad	23
Emily Waters..(Heritage).....	24

May

Maxwell Hrubecky (Heritage).....	3
Don Shawhan.....	7
Anita Thomas.....	8
Clara Soto.(Heritage.).....	11
Kyle Waters..(Heritage).....	16
Emily Waters..(Heritage).....	24
Terry Bruechert	29
Joanne Zschetzsche	31



Happy Birthday!

From The President...

Well, made it through the March meeting, and walked away with an even stronger love for you - my dear friends of the Vennskap Lodge of Sons of Norway. Working with you more closely makes me appreciate what special people you all are. I really mean that. March's meeting was a very busy one, with but a few glitches. Hopefully you will forgive me for my newness. Need to learn correct order of things. We did accomplish a lot, and Carolyn's comments on her vast research on her family's genealogy made me dig out my own. Actually, one of these meetings I'd love to hear family stories from more of our Lodge members. Having been an avid genealogist for many years, I have found we all have at least one good story if we've been searching out our roots. And I'd love to learn where your family was located in good ole' Norway. Many of you have even been so fortunate to have visited there. Our Activity Committee has come up with many great programs – from fascinating meetings, trips, banquet, picnic, and of course our most enjoyable Lutefisk dinner. Hope you are looking forward to each meeting as much as I am. Again – help me learn; help me serve.

Mange Takk dear friends.

Most Sincerely, Laurie.

laurieloushoses@milwpc.com

e-mail



Laurie Shawhan

**No Primary, No Caucus
needed.**

**Just a Vennskap
'Up or Down vote!'**

**Laurie
Shawhan
Vennskap Lodge
President
2016**

**Velkommen,
President Shawhan!**



Laurie mentioned that she has served in a presidential capacity of several organizations and is looking forward to a great year of Vennskap fellowship.

Marshall Mike Jurgens installs and welcomes our new president.

Stoughton Syttende Mai Festival

Norse Valley Lodge invites you to join our bus trip Saturday, May 14, 2016 to Stoughton for their famous folk festival celebrating all things Norwegian and a tour of the Livsreise Heritage Center. The cost is \$35 per person and includes transportation and entrance button and is open to the public. The deadline is April 27. Make check out to Norse Valley Lodge #491 and mail to Leah Johnson, 816 Lincoln St., Menasha, WI 54952. Info to include: Name, Address, Home Phone, Cell Phone, email address. The bus will load at 7:45 a.m. at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, 2330 E. Calumet St., Appleton and return at 9:00 p.m.

Takk,

Leah Johnson, V.P.

Norse Valley Lodge #5-491
Appleton, WI

Vennskap Members In The News!



Carolyn Johnson from Kiel receives a certificate of 35 years of Sons of Norway membership from Dolly Dickrell, Vennskap membership chairperson. Carolyn joined SON in a Milwaukee Lodge, later transferring to our Vennskap Lodge.

Medals Awarded for Vennskap Activity.

The Sports Director Steve Olsen stops Louis Milsted long enough to present Louis with a Sons of Norway pin.



Louis has earned many medals for his Vennskap activities. The latest is a pin commemorating his project in remembrance of St. Olav, who was known to have walked 387 miles on his journey from Oslo to Trondheim, Norway. Louis noted the historic locations while travelling the 'St. Olav's Way' on this Virtual Pilgrimage...A long journey!



Earlier in the evening, Carolyn had received a pin presented by the Cultural Director, Steve Olsen for her genealogical research and completion of reading the works of several Norse authors while completing her many hours of her Norwegian Cultural project.



Candace Snider rejoins Vennskap with her daughter Mari, living in Fredonia. Candace is studying to work in day-care. Candace has eight children! A day-care start!!



President Shawhan welcomes a new member. Don Shawhan. An Irish Viking! Looks like he means business!



Paul Berg comes to us from Kiel. Paul is a retired veterinarian of 43 years, now operating a hobby farm, currently caring for a flock of sheep, and enjoying his retirement with his wife, Karen.

Velkommen and Congratulations to you all!

Sons of Norway, Vennskap Lodge

Meeting Minutes: March 15, 2016
6:00 p.m., First United Lutheran Church, Sheboygan

Officers Present:

*Laurie Shawhan (president),
Mikk Mikkelson (acting treasurer),
Signe Jorgenson (secretary)*



Signe
Jorgenson

Proceedings:

Meeting called to order by Laurie Shawhan at 6:05 p.m.

Business:

Mike Jurgens made a motion to elect Laurie Shawhan lodge president;
seconded by Dell Solberg. Motion carried.

Mikk Mikkelson proposed combining general and heritage funds into a single account to simplify book-keeping. Gary Henderson made a motion to combine account, seconded by Terry Bruchert.

Motion carried.

Treasure's Report:

Mikk Mikkelson announced that the checking account balance is \$3554.95.

The Heritage Fund balance is \$1128.87.

Announcements:

The lodge received updates on the health of Dolcye Johnson and Marv and Shirley Moen.

Gary Henderson presented the tentative roster of upcoming programs on behalf of the lodge

Programming Committee.

Ginny Mikkelson proposed taking a lodge trip to the free Livsreise museum in Stoughton in September.

The museum is free and includes many interactive Norwegian-themed displays.

Louis Milsted was presented with an award for taking a "Virtual Pilgrimage" through Norway, completing 387 miles on a stationary bike.

Carolyn Johnson was presented with an award for completing family genealogy research.

Attendance Drawing:

Dollie Dickerell won the \$5 attendance drawing.

Meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

Carolyn Johnson gave a detailed report on the things she learned by completing her genealogy research.

Minutes submitted by Signe Jorgenson.



According to ancient legend, the name 'Norway' comes from the old Norse word 'Norðrvegr', which means "the way north", a name given to this long and craggy coast because it was largely ice-free in the wintertime.

Who is #1 ?

DENMARK THE HAPPIEST COUNTRY!

Denmark has topped the World Happiness Report every year but one since 2012.

In Denmark, a normal work-week is 37 hours and Danish employees benefit from 5 weeks of holiday a year. This means that leisure time is a huge part of the Danish culture.

Leaving work on time, bicycling home or jumping on effective public transport, picking up your children from day nursery and having a cosy family dinner is happiness for most families in Denmark.



Denmark topped the list in the first report, in 2012, and again in 2013, but it was displaced by Switzerland last year. In this year's ranking, Denmark was back at No. 1, followed by Switzerland, Iceland, Norway, Finland, Canada, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Australia and Sweden.

Most are fairly homogeneous nations with strong social safety nets.

The United States rose two spots, from No. 15 in 2015.

Denmark is a society where citizens participate and contribute to making society work. More than 40 percent of all Danes do voluntary work in cultural and sports associations, social organizations, political organizations, They consider healthcare to be a basic right . This, and free or low-cost childcare create a feeling of 'well-being' throughout a Dane's life!



Have you noticed...?

There's some talk about an up-coming election!
European countries are asking the young!

NORWAY 16 YEARS OLD VOTERS?

In the elections in 2011, 16-and 17-year-olds in 20 municipalities voted as a pilot project.



After the first trial in the general elections in 2011, 16 and 17 year-olds will again vote in a handful of norway municipalities in this year's municipal elections.

(Why not?!)

Teenagers can join the British army at 16 . It's been said that
*"More than 40% of 16 to 17-year-olds have a different view than their parents -
Young people make up their own minds."*

The Scottish First Minister has called for the voting age in UK elections to be lowered to 16.
More than 100,000 teenagers registered to vote in the Scottish referendum.

Today, Austria is the only country in Europe that allows 16-year-olds to vote in national elections. However, the voting age has been lowered for local elections in many countries, and national debates are taking place on this issue across the EU.

Have you heard the one about Ole and...?

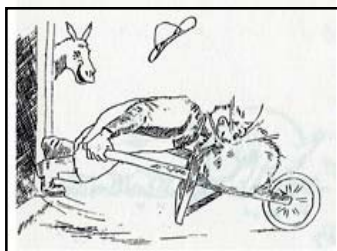
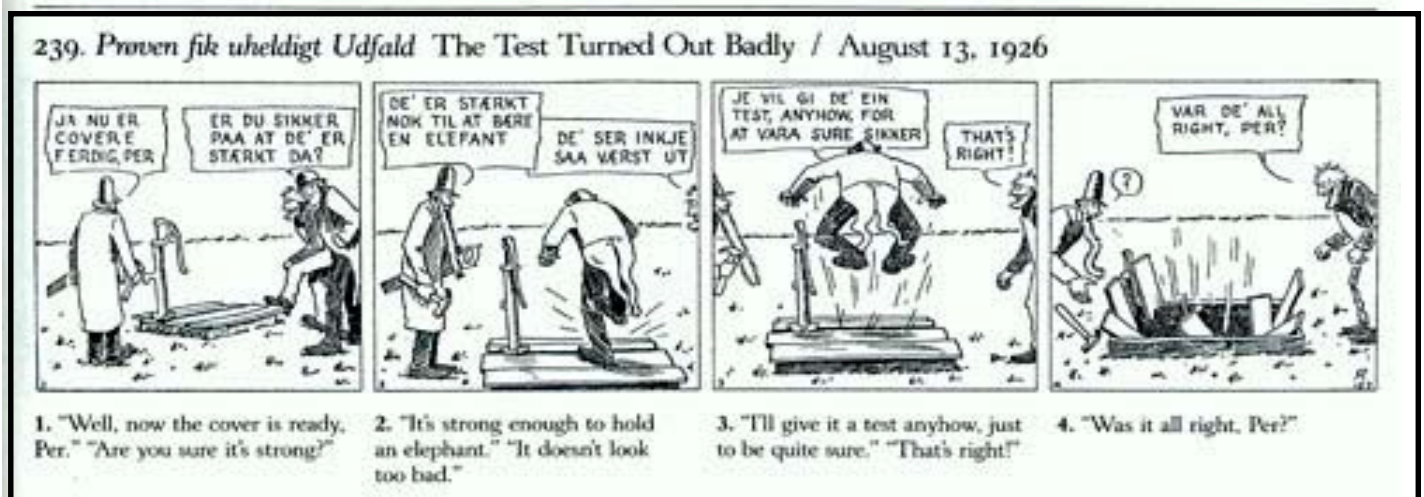
Two Norwegians went fishing with their friend, Dooda. They drifted too close to the dam and the boat dropped over the edge. The Norwegians could swim, but Dooda drowned. They had to think of a way to tell his wife, so they came up to Dooda's wife and one burst out singing "Guess who drowned at the lake today, Dooda, Dooda..."

You heard that one, right?!

It's almost **impossible** to find a NEW Norwegian joke!

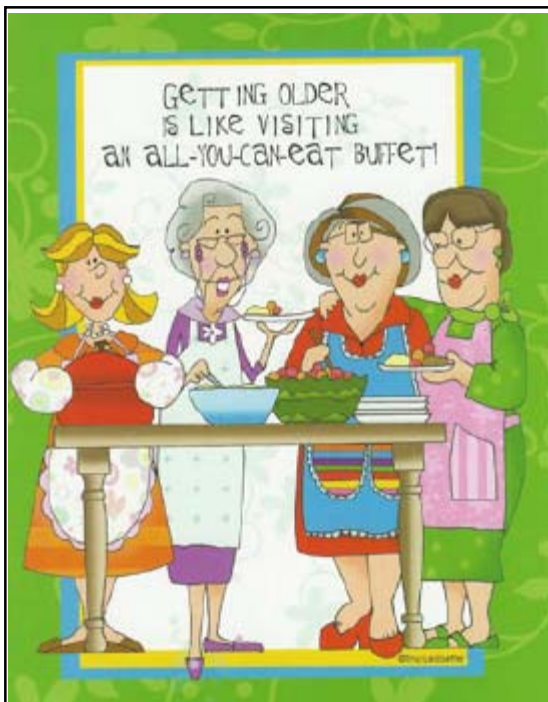
The original Norse joke must have started when the new Norse-Americans settled in their new country. Their daily life must have been extremely difficult and any humor or entertainment must of been enjoyed! Learning the new language and keeping in touch with the country they left behind must of been a heavy task!

The Decorah-Posten newspaper, a Norwegian-print paper from Decorah, Iowa was their connection. Spring Green, Minnesota, the oldest settlement on Norwegians in Minnesota, became the home of Peter Rosendahl and he began a comic strip in 1856 with characters featuring Ole and Per. Blending farm humor, readable Norse with English translation and very rudimentary art, readers received news, entertainment and a lesson in the new language- English. This continuing series was still being enjoyed by my grandparents in the mid 1940's as my grandmother read it in Norse and laughingly translated it to me.



Want to learn what's happening in Scandinavia?

"VennskapNews" began as a lodge blog, but due to a lack of reporters, it morphed into a bi-weekly report of current news about the "old country". For those interested in District five or want to read other lodges' newspapers (as well as our own), links are included! Check it out. If you have something to add, e-mail the Blog-guy, Dell Solberg. Check out: vennskapnews.blogspot.com on your computer or tablet.



*What should be hot is cold,
What should be firm is limp,
and you'll find
That the buns aren't very fresh either!*

The Ladies Page

Jere Solberg

ALMOND OR NUT CAKE

4 eggs
3/4 cup sugar
1 tsp baking powder
2 cups ground almonds or other nuts

350° oven - Bake 30 minutes

Beat eggs and sugar until light and lemon-colored. Combine baking powder and nuts and fold carefully into the egg mixture.

Pour into a greased 9" spring-form pan.

Bake 30 minutes. Cool in the pan. Serve with whipped cream or ice cream.

(This recipe taken from 'The Norwegian Kitchen')

A police officer called the station on his radio to report an interesting case. It seems Olga had shot Sven for stepping on the floor she had just mopped. He inquired how to proceed and was asked, "Have you arrested her?" The officer answered, "Not yet, the floor's still wet."

A Penny for your Thoughts

We were so busy with "April Fool's Day" we may have missed "National One Cent Day" which is observed on April 1. In 1909, the Lincoln penny was adopted, replacing the Indian Head penny. From 1959 to 2008 the Lincoln Memorial was featured on the back of the penny. In 2009, four different designs were featured honoring Lincoln's 200th birthday. In 2010 the Union Shield was introduced as being a permanent reverse.

The U.S. Mint's official name for a penny is "cent". As of 2012, a cent costs 2.00 cents to make because of the cost of materials, production and distribution. How often do we bend over to pick one up off the sidewalk?



Lena was multitasking while speeding down the highway. A highway patrolman pulled up alongside her car and was astounded to see her knitting while behind the wheel. He cranked down his window and yelled, "Pull over!" at the top of his lungs. "No!" Lena yelled back. "Scarf!"



Coincidence?

April, the month that begins with "April Fool's Day", ends with "May Day" and has "Tax Day" stuck right smack in the middle of it.



Sons of Norway Program 2016

(Subject to change..Stay tuned!)

Manitowoc

4/19/2016 – Anna Bondal AFS student at Sheboygan North High School
Anna Comes from Fyredal Norway (3 hours north of Oslo)

Sheboygan

5/22/2016 – Annual Banquet – Millhome Supper Club, Kiel, WI

Sheboygan

6/21/2016 – Ginny Mikkelsen - Game

Manitowoc

7/10/2016 – Sons of Norway annual picnic. Lincoln Park Manitowoc

Manitowoc

8/16/2016 – Dressing for the Ball

A group of Civil War Reenactors will demonstrate getting ready to go to the Ball at the time of the Civil war.

Sheboygan

September 2016 – Trip to Stoughton Wisconsin

Visit the Livsreise center to learn about our Norwegian Heritage

Manitowoc

10/18/2016 – Open for suggestions

11/12/2016 – Lutefisk Dinner set-up

11/13/2016 – Lutefisk Dinner



Earth Day April 22, is an annual event created to celebrate the planet's environment and raise public awareness about pollution. There are two simple ways to celebrate Earth Day to make the world a little better," said Nathaniel Weston, an associate professor of environmental science at Villanova University. "The first is to promote understanding of important environmental issues so that more people are aware of the critical actions we need to take to protect our environment. The second is to commit yourself to service on or around Earth Day — plant some trees, clean up a stream or help your local community garden."