



the ASKELADDEN news

Sons of Norway • Askeladden Lodge 5-610 • Kalamazoo, Michigan

August 2022

A Congenial Society of Sons, Daughters, and Friends of Norway

8-22

facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge

Meetings: *In-person cancelled until further notice due to the pandemic. Monthly meetings will be conducted virtually online.*

Sept - April: 2nd Sundays, 2 p.m.
May only: 3rd Sunday, 2 p.m.

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Midsommar with Vasa

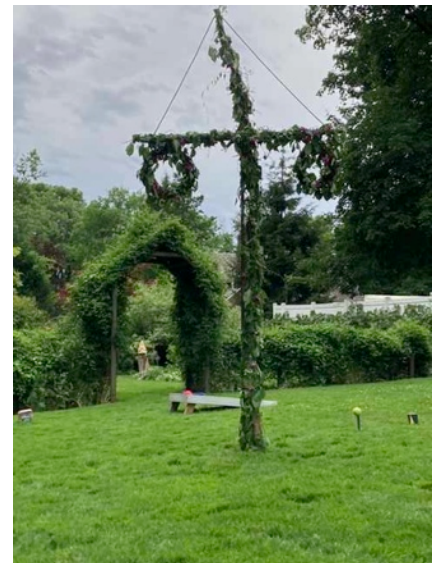
Every year on a Saturday in late June, the Vasa Satellite Lodge of Kalamazoo invites Askeladden members to join them in an authentic Swedish Midsommar festival. In Norway, this day is known as Midsommer. Since Askeladden Lodge doesn't typically hold events in June, we count this special Vasa event as one of our events. This year the celebration was held at a new, convenient location right in Kalamazoo. Although the obstacle of driving all the way to Hickory Corners was removed, and the setting was more inviting than

years past, these things were apparently not enough to entice many Askeladden members to attend. That is unfortunate, as it was a beautiful day with a tasty smorgasbord. The friendly celebration with Vasa members was a huge success, although Holly Jensen and Curtis Cleveland were the only Askeladden members in attendance.

Many thanks to Holly and Rick Jensen for their efforts in organizing this special event and for sharing their beautiful grounds with us for this fun and friendly gathering.



Some of the Vasa members gathered at the event.



Midsommarstangen (May Pole) with flowers and greenery in Holly's lush back yard.



Holly wearing a traditional flower head wreath. These are commonly worn in Norway to celebrate as well.



Dave Runstrom of Vasa and Curtis Cleveland enjoying the celebration.

Photos by Joan O'Bryan

ASKELOADDEN NEWS

Curtis Cleveland selected to attend International Convention

Joan O'Bryan, Vice President

Congratulations to Curtis Cleveland for being elected as a delegate from District 5 to the International Sons of Norway 2022 Convention! To my knowledge, this is the first time in the history of our lodge that one of our own members has been selected as an International Delegate. What an honor! To qualify to run, lodge members had to first be elected by their lodge to attend the District Convention as a delegate. Then, only benefits members (those owning a S/N insurance policy or financial product) who were delegates to the District Convention could run for delegate to the International Convention. It was at the District level that Curtis was elected by his peers to represent our Zone in District 5 to the upcoming international convention.

The last international convention scheduled for August 2020, which traditionally had been held in a different location across the US each time, was to be held in Norway for the very first time. However, the convention could not take place due to the unforeseen pandemic travel restrictions. This year's convention will be held virtually on August 31 and September 1.

I can't think of a more qualified person than our own Curtis Cleveland to represent Zone 6 of District 5 at the International Convention next week. Please join me in congratulating him on this honor!

Thank You from Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes

Curtis Cleveland

Recently, Askeladden Lodge received a memorandum from the Kalamazoo Loaves & Fishes, which said:

"Each and every day, nearly 37,000 individuals in Kalamazoo County face food insecurity - an obstacle that has serious physical and emotional consequences for the entire family.

Fortunately, generous community members, including you, step forward to help alleviate this obstacle. Your contribution of 27 pounds of food received on 5/16/2022 will help us work toward realizing the power of a community where all people have adequate access to the most basic of human needs - food and nutrition."

When we met on May 15 at Gail Thompson-Hadley's home in Hartford for the Syttende Mai Celebration, we included a food drive.

Our next Food Drive is tentatively scheduled for December of this year.

Member Spotlight

Happy 85th Birthday to Jean Darling!

Askeladden Lodge recognizes Charter Member Jean Darling on her milestone 85th birthday this month. Jean has held many key roles in our lodge and was one of the core people who worked diligently to found our Sons of Norway lodge in Kalamazoo. Jean has researched and presented many memorable cultural programs. She also regularly works behind the scenes to ensure the success of our programs and special events. Jean even hosted our 2015 Christmas Celebration in her beautiful home. Happy birthday to our dear Jean!



Jean and Dennis on Jean's 85th birthday - August 2022.

all photos courtesy of Philip Kunze



Jean hosted our lodge in her home for our 2015 Christmas Celebration on St. Lucia Day. It was a beautiful event with amazing food and wonderful music provided by Dr. Margery Stomne Selden.



Jean at the Nottawa Crossing Fjords farm for our Norwegian Fjord Horse summer event in July 2009.



Jean and Dennis hosted the 2008 Ice Cream Social at their home. It was a beautiful day and the successful event was enjoyed by many.

August Board Meeting

The Askeladden Board of Directors will meet virtually on Monday, August 22 from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. For more information or if you wish to watch the meeting via Zoom, the link and proposed agenda were sent via email with this newsletter.

ASKELADDEN NEWS

Fra Presidenten

2022 District 5 Convention and Our Future

I returned from the Sons of Norway District 5 Convention, June 15-19, proud of our accomplishments over the challenging past two years of COVID-19 and energized and optimistic about our future. While many are concerned about the change in governance from elected delegates who meet every other year to governance by a board of directors, it's my understanding that the State of Minnesota required this change to ensure the financial viability of Sons of Norway's non-profit insurance business which in turns funds our fraternal activities.

Darlene Arneson, District 5 Secretary, provided an excellent summary of the convention in the June 24th Friendly Fifth Friday News (FFFN) which I have linked here. She included new president Cheryl Wille-Schlesser's address to the convention as well as short biographies of the new District 5 Officers. www.sonsofnorway5.com/library/original/docman/June242022-FFFN.pdf

Curtis Cleveland, Karen Hare, and I served as the delegates from Askeladden using the 52-page 2022 Convention Report Book with officer reports and district financial information. Curtis and I served on the Reports Committee at the convention and provided brief oral as well as written summaries of the eight officer reports to the 100 convention delegates. District 5 had total income for 2021 of \$179,871 with disbursements of \$88,405 for a net gain of \$91,466.

I especially valued talking with Sons of Norway members from other lodges to learn about their challenges and successes. The Norwegian cultural displays of members' folk art was inspiring. Owen and Elspeth Christianson presented an awesome program on Medieval Vikings based on their research of woodworking, food, clothes and ancient ways of life. www.uwgb.edu/viking-house/about-owen-and-elspeth/

Curtis, Karen, and I will report on the District 5 Convention during our September 11th business meeting. We will each share our reactions to what transpired including: changes in governance policy and the **Viking** format; the Viking Helmet Hornless resolution which was soundly defeated with good humor with help from a Viking in full Viking regalia; the silent auction which raised thousands of dollars for the Nordic Legacy Foundation; the lodge banner display and competition; lodge displays like the foam board of sample Askeladden newsletters which I brought; and the wonderful folk art displays and demonstrations.

The Askeladden Board of Directors will meet via Zoom on Monday, August 22nd from 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Please email me at glthadley@gmail.com for the Zoom link if you are interested in listening to our meeting. (*Editors Note: Due to the lateness of this newsletter, the link has been sent via email to all lodge members with email addresses.*) I would like our second Sunday lodge programs to return to in-person gatherings after two years of surviving via Zoom. We had a fun picnic here to celebrate Syttende Mai and I now invite lodge members back to Hadley Homestead for a barn party, program, and business meeting on Sunday, September 11th, 2-4:30 p.m. Details will be in the September newsletter.

Gail Thompson-Hadley

Askeladden and the C.A.R. Honor Flight

Lodge members Elizabeth, Alice and James Kraatz were front and center at the Yellow Ribbon Honor Flight activities on June 17 and 18. Elizabeth's mom, lodge member Sandra Santas, was also involved as she served as guardian to a veteran on the Honor Flight. The special flight for Vietnam-era vets, organized by Alice Kraatz when she served as president of the C.A.R., finally came to fruition on June 18. Two weeks before the flight, the guardians were required to attend training at the Air Zoo. The activities for the veterans started on Friday, June 17, with a catered banquet and a program at the RAI Hangar. The program got off to an emotional start with an impressive 4-aircraft flyover. Very early the following morning, the vets and their guardians took off from the Kalamazoo Airport on a chartered Airbus on their Honor Flight to Washington D.C. The incredible amount of planning to get to this stage by Elizabeth Kraatz and others was nothing short of astounding.

Our lodge sponsored Air Force veteran William "Bill" Stokka, whose son, Ken, accompanied him as his flight guardian. Askeladden Charter member Philip Kunze was also on the flight, accompanied by his son (and former lodge member), Erik Kunze.

The day ended when the vets returned home that evening to the Kalamazoo airport and came to the Wings Event Center for an outdoor "Welcome Home" reception. Lodge member Joan O'Bryan was among the hundreds in the crowd welcoming home the vets and guardians and shaking their hands after their very long - and at times - emotional day.

Askeladden Lodge thanks everyone who helped by donating to our veteran's sponsorship and those who wrote a "Welcome Home" note to Bill for his flight home.



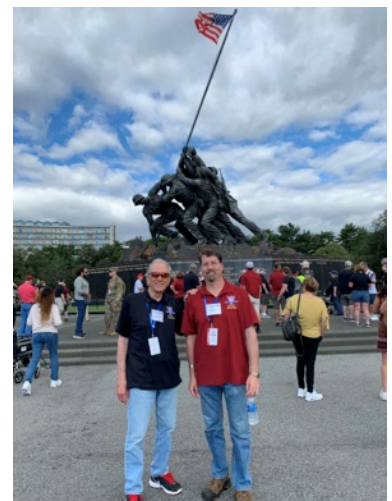
Bill Stokka and his son Ken visit the WW II Memorial



Phil Kunze and his son Erik visit the WW II Memorial



Bill and Ken Stokka with the Jefferson Memorial in the background



Phil and Erik Kunze visit the US Marine Corps War Memorial (Iwo Jima)



SONS of NORWAY

August
2022


Askeladden Lodge 5-610

507 Clinton Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

AUGUST KALENDER

You are reminded: Under our Lodge's established Norway trip drawing rules, if you want to be considered for the October 2022 drawing, you must submit your request in writing (or e-mail) to the Membership Secretary by the September meeting. Amongst other membership requirements, you must have attended at least three regular Lodge meetings or other qualifying events in the previous year to be included in the drawing. Acting Membership Secretary Joan O'Bryan's complete contact information is found on page 1.

If you would like more information about our annual Norway trip drawing, consider becoming a member of our lodge, or attend an event to find out more. Members can contact the Membership Secretary for the text of the current policy.

-  • august 19 - HRH Crown Princess Mette-Marit birthday (1973)
- august 22 - Askeladden Lodge Board Meeting 6 p.m. via Zoom
- august 31 - last day to submit *Askeladden News* articles.
- august 31 - Virtual International Sons of Norway Convention, day 1
- september 1 - Virtual International Sons of Norway Convention, day 2

Askeladden Lodge Library

www.librarything.com/catalog/Sonsofnorway

Contact Curtis Cleveland with questions or to reserve resources.

Gratulerer med dagen!

Fødselsdag Hilsener

August Birthdays

Jean Darling	Daniel Renoos
Joyce M. Allworth	Joyce M. Hare
Curtis A. Cleveland	David Code
Svein Thoen	Kate Phillips
Catherine Hande	Abigail Renoos



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 to provide quality insurance and financial products to our members.