



the Askeladden News



October

Sons of Norway • Askeladden Lodge 5-610 • Kalamazoo, Michigan
A Congenial Society of Sons, Daughters, and Friends of Norway
facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge

10-18

Meetings:

Sept - April: 2nd Sundays, 2 p.m.
May only: 3rd Sunday, 2 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church
504 S. Westnedge Ave
Kalamazoo, MI

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Sunday, October 7 - *First Sunday*

Fish Boil

Joint event with VASA

1:30 p.m. - *RSVP requested*

Trinity Lutheran Church

Please join us on Sunday afternoon, October 7, for a joint meeting with the Vasa Lodge, as they host the annual Fish Boil. The event is held at Trinity Lutheran Church, 504 S. Westnedge Avenue at Cedar Street, downtown Kalamazoo.

Activities begin in the church parking lot, the site where the fish, potatoes, and onions are cooked. Arrive before 1:30 to witness the exciting "boil over."

The meal will start around 2 p.m. in Fellowship Hall of the Church. A donation of \$5 per individual is suggested to cover the cost of the food. If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Roger at (269) 349-7654 or Holly at (269) 385-3693 by Wednesday, October 3. If you do not make reservations, but decide to attend at the last minute, please come. There will be plenty of food. Do not bring a dish to share as this is not a potluck. Dinnerware and utensils will be provided.

Fish boils, a tradition associated with Door County, Wisconsin, feature a menu which includes boiled whitefish, boiled potatoes and onions, melted butter, lemon wedges, coleslaw/salad, bread, and cherry pie.

After the meal, Askeladden Lodge members will hold a business session in the church lounge on the upper level. At this Lodge meeting, we will adopt the 2019 budget and accept the slate of candidates for the 2019 Lodge officer positions. Curt Osborn (269) 589-9425 is the chair of the Nominating Committee. The highlight of the meeting will be the drawing for the Norway Trip!

The Board of Directors will hold a BOD meeting after the Lodge meeting.

ASKELADDEN NEWS

30th Anniversary Celebration

Joan Renaas O'Bryan

Forty-seven people (including my one-year-old niece) gathered at the Fetzer Center on WMU's campus to celebrate our 30th Anniversary the evening of Tuesday, September 18. We certainly missed the eight people who had planned to join us, but had to cancel due to unforeseen circumstances.

Five dignitaries came from out of state and stayed over the night in Kalamazoo so they could celebrate with us. They included Sons of Norway District 5 President Andrew Johnsen, and two of our special speakers and their spouses: Jean Bittner and Dagrún Bennett. In addition, Honorary Consul of Norway for Michigan Dennis Flessland traveled from across the state to share his message with us and read a Proclamation of congratulations from Kalamazoo Mayor Bobby Hopewell. We are grateful for the effort and expense these people undertook to be a part of our special event.

Two display tables were situated along one wall. Photo albums, lovingly put together by the Darlings for our 20th and 25th anniversaries, were on display for people to browse through and reminisce. Our original charter document was also on display. Another corner of the room contained a table of props (Viking gear, "Scream" masks, etc) for anyone who wanted to do a whimsical 'photo booth' type of picture.

For our 30th gathering, our committee made an effort to identify and locate as many Charter Members as we could find. In some cases where a Charter Member had passed away, we located family members and invited them. We sent invitations to 45 Charter Members, including all current Charter Members and many local (but 'lapsed') Charter Members. Fourteen of these Charter Members planned to come, but two were unable to make it at the last minute.

Membership Secretary Curt Osborn awarded Golden Membership pins to eight of our current Charter Members: Louise and Richard Adams, Joyce Allworth, Earnie Best, Dennis and Jean Darling, Karen Jaegerson Kunze, and Anne Hansteen Rapp. Also recognized were four other Charter Members in attendance: Bertha Boettcher, Philip Kunze, and Judith and Theodore Ruser.

Karen Jaegerson Kunze led us in song throughout our celebration, including the special hymn, *Peace Among Earth's Peoples*, composed by Golden Member Margery Stomne Selden, which was a part of the Remembrance of Deceased Members led by Holly Jensen. Holly solemnly read aloud the names of 50 deceased members, recognizing 32 who were Charter Members. Twenty current and former members had passed since our 25th Anniversary.

We enjoyed Swedish meatball and spanakopita appetizers and a delicious dinner of Champagne Chicken, with Angel Food Cake for dessert. Gifts (placemats designed with the new Sons of Norway logo) were presented to all the visitors attending from four other lodges, two Michigan lodges and two Indiana Lodges.

The main program was "Voices from WWII Occupied Norway." Joyce Allworth began by reading the story her late

mother, Charter Member Ruth Bongers, submitted 20 years ago. Jean Darling read the story submitted by her good friends, former Lodge President Terry Gilbertson and his wife Norma, Charter Members now residing in Minnesota.

Jean Bittner, who, 20 years ago, gathered and published the collected stories of occupied Norway from members across District 5, then read her own compelling story. Finally, Dagrún Bennett, whose "The Eighth of May" essay was the original inspiration for the *Remembrances of WWII in Norway* anthology, read her moving story. Both women feel strongly that these stories must not be forgotten. Both expressed gratitude for the chance to once again share their personal experiences during that unimaginable time in Norway's history.

As the evening wound down, we acknowledged our past (and current) presidents in attendance: Curtis Cleveland, Dennis Darling, Joyce Hare, and Curt Osborn. We honored President Cleveland with a book recently translated from Norwegian into English: *The 99th Battalion*.

Local Norwegian Per Hagard was honored with a copy of *Hidden Heroes*, which contains – along with Charter Member Inger Thoen's – both Jean Bittner's and Dagrún Bennett's essays. Per recently donated 150 books (in Norwegian) to our Lodge Library!

A copy of Clifford Davidson's *Norwegians in Michigan* was presented in thanks to Hon. Consul Dennis Flessland.

In honor of the Askeladden Charter and Golden Members, Gail Thompson-Hadley, and Marion Thrana from the Sonja Henie Lodge, led us in a Norwegian toast supplied by Marion. Then with a great sense of humor, District 5 President Andrew Johnsen delivered remarks to our group.

We ended our celebration singing the Norwegian Royal Anthem that was sung by families and communities across Norway on Liberation Day, May 8, 1945: *Kongesangen*, or *King's Song*. Some lucky people got to take home the beautiful red, white and blue flowers that decorated each table. As we said our goodbyes to new friends and old, Andy Johnsen treated us to familiar Norwegian tunes on his accordion.

Destination Scandinavia: Traditions

The Vicksburg Cultural Arts Center held a Scandinavian event concentrating on Denmark, Norway and Sweden on September 22 at the Vicksburg Main St. Pub banquet room.

American-Scandinavian traditions were celebrated in several ways. Servers dressed in national costumes, including Megan Reish, who wore Lodge member Inger Thoen's authentic Hardanger bunad. They were joined by Askeladden Lodge member Brett Jensen as a Norwegian Troll. Delicious food and a wide assortment of desserts (including three Kransekake created by Holly Jensen!) were served in a sit-down fashion. A humorous Ole and Lena exchange was presented by two WMU professors. The event ended with a "make & take" craft of Scandinavian heart baskets directed by our own Holly Jensen.

ASKELADDEN NEWS

Sons of Norway Foundation Month

President Curtis A. Cleveland

At the October 7 Lodge meeting, Dennis Darling will update members on the Sons of Norway Foundation.

October is designated Sons of Norway Foundation Month.

The Sons of Norway Foundation is a separate 501c(3) not-for-profit corporation devoted to the promotion of Norwegian culture and community development. In fiscal year 2017, the Foundation gave \$108,552 in scholarships to 33 students (average of \$3,300 per scholarship). In addition, the Foundation gave \$44,940 in grants for youth, heritage, culture, and Norwegian youth heritage camps (such as Masse Moro). As of December 31, 2017, the Sons of Norway Foundation had net assets of \$7.5 Million. For more information on the Sons of Norway Foundation, please read the Annual Report in the June 2018 issue of the *Viking*.

Askeladden members will have an opportunity to make donations to the Sons of Norway Foundation at the October 7 meeting. Please write a check to the Sons of Norway Foundation or give cash. Gifts to the Sons of Norway Foundation are tax deductible.

Recap of September Lodge Meeting

Curtis Cleveland, Cultural Committee Chair

On September 9, Askeladden Lodge members and Vasa Lodge members held a joint meeting at Trinity Lutheran Church, downtown Kalamazoo. Twelve (12) members of Askeladden Lodge attended the program.

After the meal, Holly Jensen gave the cultural program, telling us everything we wanted to know about Finnish Saunas. Her 60-minute presentation which included slides (or PowerPoint pictures), was called "Nordic Sauna Culture (Some Like it Hot)."

During the joint meeting, we had a Memorial Service, reading and acknowledging the members who died during the past 12 months. Three members, Marge Hastings, Joseph Cassetto, and Robert Kaarlie were remembered. Members sang the hymn "Beautiful Savior" as part of the Memorial Service.

To commemorate the 30th Anniversary of Askeladden Lodge, I read the names of the Vasa Lodge members who were Charter Members of Askeladden Lodge: Audrey Engstrom, Jan Forsberg, Judy Ruser, and Ted Ruser.

During the business session, no new business motions were discussed or passed. There were several reports on past Lodge events, Board of Directors meetings, and the District 5 Convention. Several announcements and updates were made about upcoming events, including the 30th Anniversary Celebration.

Thanks to all who attended and participated. Thanks to the Vasa Lodge for the set-up.

Fra Presidenten

On September 18th, a Tuesday evening, we had a very nice 30th Anniversary Celebration and Dinner of Askeladden Lodge at the Fetzer Center at Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo.

Current Askeladden Lodge members, former Askeladden Lodge members, Vasa Lodge members, visitors or members of other Sons of Norway Lodges, and guests attended this event.

A lot of work is required to have an event like the 30th Anniversary Celebration. Most of the work was done by the three-member 30th Anniversary Committee. I want to express thanks and appreciation to these persons on the organizing committee: Joan O'Bryan, chair, Jean Darling, and Gail Thompson-Hadley.

I want to thank the District 5 President Andy Johnsen and the Honorary Consul of Norway Dennis Flessland for attending and participating in this event.

The visitors, defined as members of other Sons of Norway Lodges, came from four other lodges. Besides Johnsen of the Scandiana Lodge (Chesterton, IN) and Flessland of the Nordkap Lodge (Detroit), visitors included Gary Lee, Judy Olson and Marion Thrana of the Sonja Henie Lodge (Lansing); Burton and Jean Bittner of the Circle City Lodge (Indianapolis); and Robert and Dagrund Bennett of the Circle City Lodge (Indianapolis).

The highlight of the evening for me was meeting many of the people who attended the 30th Anniversary Celebration. This included meeting 30-year Askeladden Charter members who I had not met prior to this event, such as Joyce Allworth and Anne Rapp.

Curtis Cleveland, Lodge President

Board Meeting

A Board of Directors Meeting will be held Sunday, October 7, at Trinity Lutheran Church, immediately following our monthly meeting. Interested Lodge members are welcome to attend.

Askeladden Lodge Library

www.librarything.com/catalog/Sonsofnorway

Contact Roger Drong with questions or to reserve resources.



SONS of NORWAY

Askeladden Lodge 5-610

5749 Stadium Drive # 245
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

OKTOBER 2018 KALENDER

- oktober 7 - **VASA Fish Boil** - 1:30 p.m \$5 per person donation to cover food.
Trinity Lutheran Church 504 S. Westnedge St. Kalamazoo. Entrance in rear corner.
RSVP to Roger Drong or Holly Jensen - see article, page 1.
- oktober 7 - Askeladden Board of Directors meeting immediately following normal business meeting
- oktober 8 - Columbus Day
- oktober 9 - Leif Erikson Day
- oktober 24 - United Nations Day – *FN-dagen*
- oktober 31 - Halloween
- november 2 - final day to submit articles for *Askeladden News*
- november 4 - Daylight Saving Time ends
- november 6 - Election Day in Kalamazoo and other localities

Gratulerer med dagen!

Fødselsdag Hilsener

Oktober Birthdays

James Moe

James John Kraatz

Haakon Selden

Clifford Davidson



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.