



Nordkapen

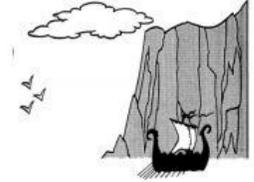
Nordkap Lodge 5-378 - Sons of Norway

The North Cape 71° 10' 21" North Latitude – The Top of Europe

A Congenial Society of Sons, Daughters and Friends of Norway

Organized August 10, 1929 – The first Sons of Norway Lodge in Michigan

<http://www.detroitnorwegians.com>



April/May 2020

Volume 90 Issue 3

NORDKAP CALENDAR

May 17 – Online celebration of
Norwegian Constitution Day, 1 p.m.

Sept. 13 – Steak & Corn Roast,
1 p.m., the Swedish Club

Oct. 25 – Lodge Gathering,
4 p.m., the Swedish Club

Nov. 14 – Scandinavian Market,
10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Finnish Center

Nov. 22 – Lodge Gathering,
4 p.m., the Swedish Club

Dec. 13 – Christmas Party, 2 p.m.,
Fox Hills, Plymouth

2020 Officers

President: Erik Duus

Vice President: Cathy Johnson

Treasurer & Scholarship Chair:
Carmen Collins

Secretary: Mary Morehead

Membership Secretary

& Sports Director: Carol Jehle

Cultural Director: Karen Herche

Social Director: Connie Hart

Youth Director:

Heather Vingsness

Foundation Director:

Derrick Hendricks

Store Director: Natalie Vaal

Editor & Publicity Director:

Louise Giles

Counselor: Bob Giles

Contact us:

Nordkap@DetroitNorwegians.com

Photos by Bob Giles, unless otherwise
indicated

Stay Connected on Facebook at
Norwegians in Michigan

[https://www.facebook.com/groups/
104416144749/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/104416144749/)

***May 17th Celebration Moved Online to Zoom
Live Gatherings on Hold due to COVID-19***

Nordkap Lodge has cancelled its three upcoming live events due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need to maintain social distancing for everyone's safety. The three events being cancelled at the Swedish Club are the lodge's April 26 gathering, the Norwegian Constitution Day celebration in May, and the Midsummer event on June 23.

However, **the celebration** of Norwegian Constitution Day will go forward as a virtual gathering, using the internet and the Zoom video conferencing app. You are invited to take part!

The virtual event will happen at 1 p.m. on Sunday, May 17, and last about an hour. Our May 17th chairperson, **Heather Vingsness**, will lead the video conference.

You will need a smartphone or a computer with a built-in camera and microphone—typically found on laptop computers—to join our video conference on the Zoom app.

Shortly before 1 p.m. May 17, go to the link:

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/863549638> . Then, if requested, enter the password "nordkap", all lower case. (For more detailed instructions, see the story on the next page.)

The timeline, as currently planned, includes the following:

1:00 - Everyone logs on and says "Hi"

1:05 - Virtual Parade (everyone marches around their house waving Norwegian flags, shouting "Hurra!")

1:10 - Singing of the Norwegian national anthem

1:15 - Welcoming message from Nordkap President **Erik Duus**

1:20 - Updates and news from Norway with **Dennis Flessland**, Honorary Consul of Norway to Michigan

1:30 - Bunads and updates from families - People can use the "raise my hand" button on Zoom to let us know they want to share or show off their bunads.

1:50 - Closing statements - families invited to make themselves a good Norwegian lunch of hot dogs and ice cream (preferably ice cream on a stick), and toss codfish (or maybe baseballs) in the comfort of their own homes

SUNSHINE UPDATES



Congratulations to **Russ and Debbie Simms** on the birth of their 5th grandchild, Conrad Russell Simms, born Feb. 11 to Jeff and Megan Simms of Grand Blanc. Russ and Debbie now have 4 grandsons and 1 granddaughter.

Best wishes to **Becky Medina**, recuperating at home and getting therapy treatments for her broken right leg.

Good health is also wished for **Georgia Roed**, undergoing chemotherapy treatments for lung cancer.

Ed Vingsness' back surgery, originally scheduled for April 10, has been postponed until June. Luckily, Ed remains in high spirits! Ed is the husband of Jennifer Vingsness and father of twins Haley and Heather and their brother Erik.

Nancy Redilla's tests at the Cleveland Clinic, in preparation for aortic valve replacement, went well. Surgery may be scheduled for late May.

After several hospitalizations and receiving therapy at home, **James Lafnear** is improving.

Hans Jorgensen has been sheltering at home, making a model B-24 heavy bomber airplane from scratch out of balsa and tissue. It's the same type of plane his older brother piloted in 50 missions over Italy during WWII.

How to Access the Zoom Video Conferencing App

Here's how to join our 17th of May video conference celebration:

ON A COMPUTER:

Go to <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/863549638> and enter the password nordkap, all lower case, OR

Go to zoom.us/join and type in the meeting ID 863549638 and enter the password nordkap, all lower case. The Zoom desktop program will download automatically when you join the call.

ON A SMARTPHONE:

Download the Zoom app from the App Store (if you have an Apple phone) or the Google Play Store (if you have an Android phone). Tap "Join a Meeting." You do not have to sign in.

Enter the meeting ID 863549638 and enter the password nordkap, all lower case.

FOR MORE INFORMATION: Here is a link to Zoom's instruction page: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-Joining-a-Meeting>

Applications for Scholarships due June 30

All college-bound students looking to qualify for Nordkap scholarships should be preparing their applications to send to the scholarship chairperson. Applications are due June 30.

Printed applications sent by mail are preferred, but due to the current emergency, e-mailed applications will be accepted. Application forms are available at

<http://www.detroitnorwegians.com/scholarship.html> or from scholarship chairperson Carmen Collins at skicarmen@att.net.

Gratulerer med Dagen!

April Birthdays: Catie Hart, Laura Howe, Duane Kirking, Konrad Kohl, Annette Lundberg, Clarence "Doc" Myrold, Constance Pike, Emma Skidmore, Riley Skidmore, Ian Sorensen, Mary Tornquist, Wade Tornquist

May Birthdays: Arne Borgnes, Sarah Duffy, Charlotte Duus, Adam Early, Myrtle Ebert, Emily Eelnurme, Olive Engman, Thomas French, Joseph Hart, Norman Kirsch, James Lafnear, Kathleen Hanlon-Lundberg, Zachary Marko, Bernard Moen, Ralph Pedersen, Jan Persson, Nancy Redilla, Gail Ritchie, Laura Roed, Lynn Rose, Susan Schotts, Carrie Sills, Patricia Smith, Jennifer Vingsness, Donald Wang

Coronavirus Concern Cancels Conventions, Youth Camp, Norsk Høstfest

The Fifth District Youth Camp, **Masse Moro**, was cancelled for 2020. The **International Norsk Høstfest** in Minot, North Dakota, was also cancelled. Both will return in 2021.

The Sons of Norway's District and International conventions were cancelled, as well. More on that from Fifth District President **Andy Johnsen**, who asked lodges in the District to carry the following message in their newsletters:

District President Har Ordet
(District President Has the Word)

Kjære Venner (Dear Friends),

As of now, I am sure that most of the members of the District have received word that the 2020 Fifth District Convention/Meeting and the 2020 International Convention/Meeting have been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There was a unanimous vote by the International Board of Directors to cancel the 2020 conventions/meetings. President Ron Stubbings has instructed all sons of Norway Officers, Directors, and Delegates to, "continue in service until the regular session lodge meetings of 2022." As members of Sons of Norway we need to follow President Stubbings' instruction in order to maintain our cohesiveness as a fraternal in this time of uncertainty.



As your District President I am requesting that all local lodge Presidents and Officers be prudent, and that they follow all State and Federal government mandates concerning the COVID-19 virus. Be thoughtful and do not put yourself or any of your lodge members in any undue risk. Stay in touch with your other lodge members using the telephone and electronic means (conference calls or skype).

These are difficult times we are all experiencing. It is my hope that when this pandemic is over, the Sons of Norway will continue to be as strong and vibrant as ever.

It is with sadness that the Fifth District has lost one of its finest members, Gene Steensma, who passed away on March 25, 2020. Gene was a past Fifth District President, an International Director, and a long-time member and President of Samhold 5-473. Gene will always remain in the hearts of those who knew him. Keep Gene's family in your prayers as they go through their time of mourning.

Med beste hilsen (With best regards),

Andrew Iver Johnsen
Sons of Norway Fifth District President

In Memoriam: We honor the passing of:

--**Eugene “Gene” E. Steensma** (1940 – 2020), former president of Samhold Lodge, who passed away on March 25 at his new assisted living home in Waterford.

Gene was a native of North Dakota and graduated from Augustana University in Sioux Falls before beginning his 35-year career with John Morrell and Co. in the sales department.

He moved to Michigan in 1964 where he and his late wife Delores were very active in Gloria Dei Lutheran Church and the Sons of Norway.

Besides serving as president of Samhold Lodge for many years, Gene had also been president of the Sons of Norway’s Fifth District and a Board member of the International Sons of Norway. He additionally had served as a governor on the Sons of Norway Foundation and was awarded the King Olav Medallion. He was awarded the Distinguished Service award by the Norwegian Consul in 1987. He was a member and, until recently, the secretary of the Norwegian Club of Detroit-- which awarded him a Distinguished Service Award.

With the merger of Samhold Lodge into Nordkap Lodge earlier this year, Gene transferred his Sons of Norway membership to the Fifth District’s Central Lodge. Gene is survived by a stepdaughter, stepson, 4 grand-children, 11 great-grandchildren, and two great, great grandchildren.

--**Nordkap member Marjorie “Marge” D. Wiley** (1927 – 2020), a longtime member of Samhold Lodge and its music director for several decades, who passed away on February 16.

A native of North Dakota, Marge helped keep watch from civil defense lookout towers as a teenager in North Dakota (reportedly never seeing much) and worked a summer in the circus riding elephants. She married John J. Wiley in 1947, eloping to Ostrander, Minnesota, and he preceded her in death on December 21, 2007.

Marge was a graduate of Michigan State and the University of Detroit. As a young mother, she taught piano and sang opera. She was an active and longtime member of Christ Lutheran Church in Waterford where she served as an organist and youth and bell choir director for over 50 years. She also taught vocal music in the Waterford School District.

Marge lived in Waterford for many years until her health required her to go into assisted living near her son in Chelsea, MI. Marge is survived by three children, five grandchildren, and six great grandchildren.

To honor Gene and Marge, Nordkap donated \$150 to our Scholarship Fund.



--Wiley family photo

February's Successful Gathering Gives Hope for the Future

In retrospect, our lodge gathering on February 23 seemed like an overabundance of riches. We had an outstanding speaker, a brand new president assuming leadership, a delicious selection of soups to eat, and a record number of initiates sworn in as members. Nordkap was continuing what looked to be a very auspicious year for our lodge.

Too soon, the advance of COVID-19 forced schools, businesses, and organizations across our state, our country, and much of the world to cancel plans. Thus, Nordkap's February gathering turned out to be our last for a while. But what a gathering it was!



MotorTrend's Frank Markus (left) delivered a fascinating talk about driving an exotic sports car through some of the most scenic parts of Norway-- all this illustrated with slides and a professionally produced video. Frank also told about the pursuit of his own Norwegian heritage. He finished by taking questions about Norway's quest to wean its roads from gasoline to electric-powered vehicles.

New President Erik Duus presided with charm and a welcome touch of humor. He led the initiation of 16 Nordkap members and officiated as Nordkap elected four delegates for the Sons of Norway's 5th District convention to be held in Madison, Wisconsin, in June. (That convention has since then been postponed until 2022.) Elected as delegates were Dennis Flessland, Geir Gronstad, Karen Herche, and Phyllis Skora. Alternates were Erik Duus, Robert French, Louise Giles, and Magda Pecsénye.

Our hot meal won praise from many of the 50 people in attendance. The crispy bread and hot soup selections included Norwegian Meatball Soup, New England Corn Chowder, Fish Soup, and Yellow Pea and Ham.

We look back fondly now on that event—all the while bracing for what the rest of the year will bring. But we do so with hope and the confidence that we will get through this and come out the better for it, as Vikings always have.



New initiates: (Lt. to rt.), Konrad Kohl, Sue Kohl, Greg Kehoe, Marlene Kehoe, Sigrid Radwan, Roy Marvel, Janet Flessland (with Olivia Vaal), Magda Pecsénye, Robert French, Dave Nelsen, and Brandt Monson

Not pictured: Connie Hart, Greg Morehead, Barry Rabe, Dana Runestad, and Yana Thompson



A Letter from President Erik Duus

Eighty years ago – on April 9, 1940 – Norwegians woke up to hear that Nazi Germany was invading their country.

Eighty years later, both Norwegians and Americans wake up to hear how the coronavirus (COVID-19) disease continues to invade their countries.

So far, more Americans have been killed by this “invisible enemy” than Norwegians who died as a result of World War II. Fortunately, national and local government leaders in both countries – and more importantly the citizens – realize that this is also like a “war” and drastic governmental and individual actions are required to slow down – and eventually stop – the effects of this invasion.

Throughout most of my life, I have always known *some* of what both my parents had to endure throughout the war. I knew that my father had to go down to the bunkers in his German hometown while the Allies were bombing overhead. And I’ve heard many stories from my mom about her memories living in Nazi-occupied Norway.

I don’t know that I’ve ever told anyone this, but I have always drawn a kind of inner strength from my parents’ fortitude developed in the midst of pain, suffering, poverty, hunger, and even death. Because they still “lived life” in the midst of. And they did so, ironically, on opposite sides of that war.

So how then will we “live life” during this season? Personally, I am finding that I *need* to go outside more. Not just because going outside is a Norwegian thing to do, but also to go a couple hours in a row of not eating, snacking, or hanging out in front of the fridge!

A few days ago my mom and I went for a nice long walk at one of our wonderful Metroparks (metroparks.com). Again she reminded me that if we were in Norway, there would be many more people taking full advantage of such a park. Even considering that the entire country of Norway has only about a half million more people than Southeastern Michigan, we could still picture far more Norwegians spending the day in the park enjoying the outdoors.

So my “Executive Order” for all of you during this time is to be like a Norwegian and “GO OUTDOORS!” If that means cutting way back on the doom saying news, stretching out your Norwegian/Nordic Netflix shows over more time, or even going back to eating just three main meals per day, just do it!

In the meantime, may you and your family remain healthy and safe!

**Med vennlig hilsen (with best regards),
Erik Duus**

P.S.--I am excited to hear more about how you and your family used this time for good!

* * *

Stay Connected to the Michigan Norwegian Community on Facebook:

Norwegians in Michigan

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/104416144749/>

Cancelled Fundraiser Becomes Virtual Bowling Event

Concern for the coronavirus forced us to cancel our annual bowling fundraiser for the Nordkap Scholarship Fund.

But cancellation of the March 22 event led fellow member **Magda Pecsénye** to come up with an alternate idea for a fundraiser—substituting a virtual "Bowl at Home" event for live bowling. Each "bowler" would contribute \$10 (or more) to the scholarship fund and send in a photo of them holding a bowl to be published in this newsletter.

The idea struck was a "strike" for some of our members. To see the result, see below. Left to right, top row: Carmen Collins' gnome & bowl, Bob Giles, Louise Giles, and Mary Morehead; bottom row: Greg Morehead, James Zawicki, Kate Zawicki, Eli Savage, and Luke Savage. Many thanks to some who skipped the photo and just sent a check, including **Norm and Judy Kirsch, Eli Steyskal, and Marge Sorensen.**

It's not too late to get in on the fun. Send your check made out to Nordkap Lodge 5-378 to lodge editor Louise Giles at P.O. Box 1198, Royal Oak, MI 48068. Then, e-mail the photo of you with your "bowl" to Nordkap@DetroitNorwegians.com.



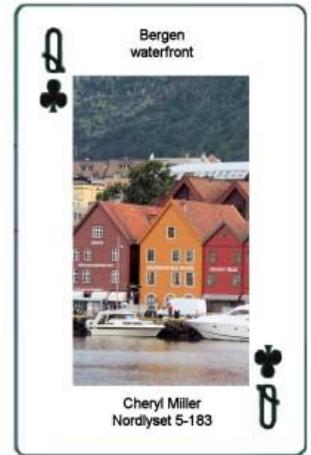
Scandinavian Photo Contest is Looking for Your Nordic Photos

Many people are currently feeling cooped up in their houses, wanting something to do—just the time to consider the Scandinavian Photo Contest being started by the Fifth District Sons of Norway.

The District is looking for your best photos taken on a trip to Scandinavia (Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Greenland or Iceland). The deadline for entries is July 5.

The winning photos will be printed on a deck of Scandinavian playing cards, available for purchase in October in time for the Christmas season. The winners' names and lodges will be printed at the bottom of their photos on the cards. Winners will also receive a deck of the cards and a certificate.

As photos are submitted, they will be placed on the District 5 website: <http://www.sonsofnorway5.com>. Even if you don't enter, you can check the website and vote for your favorite photos for the “People's Choice” awards, beginning in mid-July.



For details, see the link on our website at <http://www.detroitnorwegians.com/>

Convention Postponed but Virtual Walk to Norway Continues

Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the Fifth District's virtual walk to Norway membership challenge which was to end on June 15 has been extended to December 15.

The objective is to track the actual miles you log from various sporting activities and go the virtual distance from your lodge to Minneapolis (where Sons of Norway was founded) and then to Ringsaker, Norway, where the International Convention was to have been held in August of this year.

The walk was designed for three purposes:

- 1) To promote fitness among our members
- 2) To provide an opportunity for our District to celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the Sons of Norway, as we headed toward the site of the 2020 International Convention (which was postponed until 2022 due to the pandemic).
- 3) To help provide some on-going support for Masse Moro, the 5th District's heritage camp.

Those goals continue with the extension of the walk. At the end of the challenge, participating lodges are asked to send a check for \$50 as their entry fee, unless individuals sought private sponsorship. With 48 lodges in the district, some \$2400 could be raised for Masse Moro.

Posted on the District 5 webpage are the details and forms needed to complete this challenge. See http://www.sonsofnorway5.com/programs/sports_and_recreation.php While on the Sons of Norway Sports and Recreation page, on the right side, click on the following links to download:

- First link gives a sheet of activities and how to convert time to steps
- Third link gives the Tracking Sheet for 2020 Challenge (let Carol Jehle know your totals)

Contact Carol, Nordkap's Sports Director, to report your miles or get answers to your questions, at jehlecarol@yahoo.com.

Fun Facts about Norwegian Constitution Day

While you're celebrating May 17, here are some facts to consider about this special day when the Norwegian Constitution was signed:

- The Constitution signed and adopted in 1814 is the second oldest written Constitution in the world still in existence today.
- The document was inspired by the United States and French Constitutions.
- The delegates in this famous painting of the Constituent Assembly at Eidsvold by Oscar Wergeland are painted so well that about 70 of them can be identified.
- Fredrik Meltzer, a member of the constitutional assembly, designed the Norwegian flag in 1821. It incorporated red, white and blue from countries that Meltzer thought best symbolized liberty: the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands.
- The Constitution received a linguistic revision in 1903. While the overall language of the Constitution has essentially remained unaltered, the language from 1903 is still used when proposed changes are made.
- The first public 17th of May speech was given in Christiania (now Oslo) in 1833 by poet Henrik Wergeland.
- Today, two food staples of Norwegian Constitution Day are ice cream and hot dogs. It's widely believed that Norwegians consume more ice cream on May 17th than on any other day of the year.



How To Celebrate Syttende Mai at Home

Even if you're not joining our Zoom video conference on May 17, you can still celebrate.

Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Get dressed up for the occasion—wear your bunad, something with Hardanger embroidery (like an apron), special Norwegian jewelry or your Sons of Norway membership pin, or a necktie with a Norwegian flag or rosemaling design.

- Display your Norwegian flag. If you don't have one, you could draw one. Or ice a cake with a Norwegian flag design.

- Sing the Norwegian national anthem, "Ja vi elsker dette landet."
- Say the Norwegian table prayer.
- Enjoy polse (hot dogs) and ice cream (preferably on a stick).
- Make a delicious Norwegian dessert.
- Lead a toast to Norway with a shot of Linie Aquavit. Skål!



Another Norwegian Baking Class Produces Great Krumkake!



Mary Morehead hosted another fun-filled baking class with a great group of bakers. They made Inger Ehrenfeld's Krumkake recipe on Saturday, February 15. Y UMMY!!! It is the best recipe! From left to right: Sue Schotts, Carol Jehle, Magda Pecsénye, Eli Steyskal, Derrick Hendricks, Roy Marvel, Dee Marvel, and Mary Morehead. – Photo by Mary Morehead.

NORDKAP

LODGE 5-378

c/o Louise Giles

Box 1198

Royal Oak, MI

48068