



# NYHETER BREVET

## -A NEWSLETTER-

*Published by The Sons of Norway's Valkyrien Lodge in Woodville, WI.*

*Recipient of the 2015 "International Lodge of the Year" Award*



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### ORD FRA DIN VALKYRIEN LOSJE PRESIDENT

*(Words from your Lodge President)*

Hilsener Lodge medlemmer,



Wishing everyone a Happy and Healthy 2018. We hope the cold weather that began this year will warm up a little for the rest of the winter. Due to cold temperatures and snowy conditions usually in January, we will have no meeting this month but will start off with our meeting in February.

The Sons of Norway District 5 is again holding a Chili Contest in February. This will be held on our fourth Monday, February 26th, meeting. If you wish to bring a pot of your best chili for all to taste and vote on, please contact me by phone or email. Who in our lodge will win "bragging rights" for 2018? They will win a blue ribbon and a certificate.

The Barnebirke is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 22. Once again, the Sons of Norway have been asked to supply cookies. If you want to make nut-free cookies for the Barnebirke, let me or Sandy know. Like before, we will probably purchase some of our cookies from the Best Maid Company in River Falls. More information is forthcoming.

The Sons of Norway District 5 is also holding a bowling tournament. Some of you may have been part of this last year. The lodges can hold their individual tournaments from January through April. Let us know if you would like to bowl with a group of lodge members. Youth are also included so ask any children or grandchildren if they want to join us. If there is enough interest, a date will be set.

On January 6th, we lost one of our very active members, Gordon Otterson. Our sympathy to Judy and her family at this time. We will miss him at our meetings and language class.

Keep warm and healthy,

Se deg i Februar.

*Audrey Severson, President*

715-273-5019

apseverson@gmail.com

#### Coming Events

**January, 2018**

*There will not be a meeting  
this month.*



*Volunteers and Cookie Donations  
Barnebirke, Hayward, WI  
February 22 – 24*

#### Coming Events

**February 26, 2018**

6:00 PM

*2nd Annual chili Cook-Off Contest*



*Barnebirke & Birkebeiner Report*

*Election of Convention Delegates*

*Board Meeting at Zion at 1PM  
Feb 5th*

#### Coming Events

**March 26, 2018**

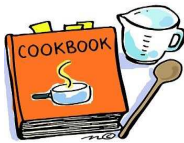
*Scandinavian Spoon Carvers  
Michele & Erik Vevang*



*(Featured in St. Paul Magazine)*

*Board Meeting: March 5  
1 p.m. Zion Church*

*Lodge meeting :  
Servers: Pat & Einar Sandom  
Don & Arlys Olson*



## Norwegian Split Pea Soup

*This recipe was taken from The Global Gourmet by Concordia Language Villages, Moorhead, MN. It makes a favorite wintertime supper.*

### Ingredients:

- 1 lb. green or yellow split peas
- 2 quarts boiling water
- 1/4 lb. lean salt pork (in one piece)
- 1 large carrot—diced
- 1 large stalk celery, including the leaves, diced.
- 5 green onions, including tops, sliced
- 2 tps. salt (less if the pork is quite salty)
- 1/4 tsp black pepper

### Directions:

Sort the peas. Place in boiling water in a large heavy kettle over moderate heat and add the pork. Cover and simmer, stirring occasionally, about 1 to 1-1/2 hours or until quite thick (about the consistency of gravy). Add salt if desired.



## COOKIE Time Again

The Barnebirkie (the children's XC Ski Race which precedes the American Birkebeiner) is coming up on February 22nd, 2018.

As you probably know, the Sons of Norway has always been a huge supporter of this event. Last year alone, District 5 donated 12,000 cookies and they were loved by all. We

would like to match that number again this year. Remember however, if you bake cookies be certain that nuts are not in the recipe. If you need help getting the cookies up to the Barnebirkie, we can arrange for a pick up for you. Simply contact:

michaeladecker@wi.rr.com  
or call 262-498-2085.



I want to take the time to give a heartfelt thank you to a couple of special people.

In early January, the cold/flu bug (known as H3N2) hit me pretty hard. Sandy Olson stepped in to assist me as did my dear hubby, Don. I am finally starting to feel better now and hope to be back to normal (*whatever that is*) very soon.

Then just the other day as I was finishing the newsletter and getting ready to mail it, my computer seemed to catch the bug, too! LOL! It has been in the PC Doctor's office for a couple days and is back home and now working well.

I hope you and your families are well and I apologize for the delay.

Your Editor,

*Arllys Olson*

2018

## Valkyrien Lodge Officers & Directors

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*Nyheter Brevet* is published six times yearly beginning with the Jan-Feb issue. Please submit any news items to Arlys Olson, Editor, by the 30th day of months December, February, April, June, August and October to be included in the following month's publication. Email your submissions to [olsondon@hughes.net](mailto:olsondon@hughes.net).



# LODGE LINES

## At Zion Fellowship Hall – Woodville, Wisconsin

November 27, 2017

Sing-a-long and Potluck



*Singing at Park View*

Members of the Valkyrien Lodge met at Parkview Care Center to entertain the residents with a sing-a-long led by Chuck Bricton. A huge thank you to Janis Helgeson for playing the piano for us. A Scandinavian straw Christmas ornament was given to each resident of the Care Center (thanks to Arlys Olson for her contribution).

The sing-a-long was followed by a delicious potluck meal at Zion Lutheran Church.

President Audrey Severson called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. Guests were introduced and welcomed.



*Kathy, (Carmen Peterson's daughter), with grandson and Virginia. R-Kathy Williams*

The Pledge of Allegiance was stated and Chuck Bricton led us in the National Anthems of Norway and America.

Counselor Sandra Olson conducted a Memorial Service in memory of Valkyrien Lodge Members Mark Williams and Pastor Carmen Peterson. Their families were presented with a beautiful bouquet of flowers as a memorial to their loved ones.

President Severson led us in the election of officers and appointment of Directors for 2018. The officers and directors were elected unanimously as presented by the Nominating Committee.

The election of officers was followed by the Installation of Officers and Directors conducted by Counselor Audrey Halverson.

The October Secretary and November Treasurer's reports were approved as presented.

**New Business:** Reminder of Julefest – Christmas Potluck Party at the Lestrud's Farm on December 9 starting at 5:30 p.m.

Reminder—if you want to order a Norwegian flag see Arlys Olson tonight.

Lutefisk eating contest will run through our February meeting – so keep track of where and when you ate Lutefisk and also the longest distance that you drove just to eat Lutefisk.

Community Ed. Director, Jennifer Smith discussed a class being offered "How to do Spoon Carving" through the B/W Community Ed. Program. Contact her if you are interested in enrolling.

Lodge Members were encouraged to recruit new members. A handmade prize donated by Reuben Newborg will be presented to whoever recruits the next new member.

No Lodge meetings in December and January. Audrey Halverson entertained us with poems from the past.

Door prizes were awarded. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.

*Submitted by Sandra Olson, Secretary*



*Lining up to enjoy a delicious pot luck Christmas Party at the Lestruds.*



# Remembering Gordon . . .

*By Lodge Member Don Olson*

Gordon and I met at the Sons of Norway Lodge in Woodville, WI, about 10 years ago, although it seems like I have known him all my life. I think the reason for that is that we both grew up on farms here in western Wisconsin at approximately the same time period. Gordon and I liked to talk about growing up on a farm before all the modern conveniences that we now think are absolutely essential. We talked about life before television, telephones and electricity. Gordon remembered milking cows by hand, cutting grain with a grain binder and shocking grain, putting up hay before balers and choppers and of course “cleaning barns by hand.” The term “cleaning barns by hand” could be misunderstood by some people today and they may ask “Why didn’t you use a fork?”



Although Gordon left the farm to pursue a related career in agriculture, he was always very interested in how things were going on my farm from planting in the spring through harvest in the fall.

Several years ago I began holding Norwegian language classes. Gordon was one of the first people to sign up and he attended up to our last class meeting in December. He grew up in a very Norwegian community and he was very interested in carrying on many of the Norwegian traditions including the language. Gordon was able to contact relatives in Norway through an old letter that his parents had received from Norway. Through the many years of talking with Gordon in the Norwegian class and at the Sons of Norway meetings, I got to know a lot about his rich and meaningful life including his education, his military service, his work and of course his family and of his Norwegian heritage that he valued so highly.

I consider myself very fortunate to having known Gordon. He provided a window to the past to a rural agricultural life style that has disappeared. I will sorely miss him as will the members of Valkyrien Lodge and his classmates in the Norwegian class.

Gordon’s funeral was held on Friday January 12th at the North Beaver Creek Lutheran Church in Ettrick, Wisconsin. Our sympathy goes out to his wife Judy and his family. We will all miss him!



*The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote and preserve the heritage and culture of Norway and provide quality insurance and financial products to its members. For information, [www.sofn.com](http://www.sofn.com)*

# LODGE LINES



*This space, normally reserved for a message from our Financial Benefits Counselor, Tom Kunkel, will not appear in this issue.*

*Valkyrien Lodge sends best wishes to you, Tom, for a speedy and full recovery.*



Congratulations to the following lodge members who will be celebrating their birthdays in February.

Feb.2nd	Randi Hoffman
8th	Sylva Anderson *
12th	Jennifer Smith
16th	Betty Larson *
	* Golden Members



## A Touch of Humor

### True Wisconsinites Know That:

- ◆ “Vacation” means going up north past Hayward for the weekend.
- ◆ You know several people who have hit deer more than once.
- ◆ Your whole family wears green and gold to church on Sunday.
- ◆ You install security lights on your house and garage but leave both unlocked.
- ◆ There are seven empty cars running in the parking lot at Fleet Farm at any given time.
- ◆ You consider Madison exotic.
- ◆ Down south to you means Chicago.
- ◆ You know how to polka and two step
- ◆ You find 0 degrees “a little chilly”.
- ◆ You have more miles on your snow blower than your car.

## CONGRATULATIONS NEW GRANDPARENTS

Congratulations to Valkyrien Lodge members, Mary and Erling Lesterud, who became first-time grandparents to little Aksel Lesterud McCammon. He was born to their daughter, Ingrid and son-in-law Keith McCammon on October 21st. Aksel weighed in at 8 pounds, 5 ozs. The family resides in Herndon, Virginia.



Mary spent time with the family to help



out with the newborn. She knit this adorable sweater outfit for him..



Congratulations also to Lodge members Pat and Einar Sandom who became second-time grandparents. Their daughter, Mari, and her



hubby Travis welcomed their first child, Jayce Darwin Destache, on October 17th weighing in at 7 pounds, 7 ounces. Mari reports that he is a good baby and is sleeping through the night. “I look forward to getting him at

my parents place every day after work. He greets me with a big smile,” Mari told us. He is a real cutie!

## Bygone Times Revealed in Norway's Abandoned Farms



Author and historian Øystein Morten has studied ødegårder—abandoned farms—at length. Fascinated by their vacant, fallen structures, Morten believes deserted farms have a particular allure and tell us something important about the places and the culture that Norwegians have moved away from. With photographer Pål Hermansen, Morten has published—[Norske ødegårder – Historien om stedene vi forlot](#)—("Abandoned Norwegian Farms - The History of the Places We Left"), a book featuring nine deserted farmsteads that offer a glimpse into the past through clues found in diaries, photos and artifacts. Some of the farms were left in the Middle Ages, others within the last two decades.

What constitutes an *ødegård*?

This term originally applied to farms that stood vacant after the Black Death ravaged Europe in the mid-14<sup>th</sup> century. Roughly 60 percent of the Norwegian population perished as a result of the Plague. These farms, even ones that were later restored, were often permanently branded as Ødegård (or Old Norse variants Aunet or Øyjorda), with the old farm name lost to time. But *ødegårder* aren't all a result of the Plague. Since the 1970s, Morten writes, 115,000 Norwegian farms have ceased operation. By his count there are currently 30,000 farmsteads that are totally deserted, meaning no one lives or vacations there.

Sometimes the ødegårder can be tough to spot, as nature has almost completely reclaimed the land. In other instances, the silent buildings still appear eerily intact. To find suitable farms for his book, Morten contacted historians, municipalities and museums, got tips from friends and scoured Google. Morten compares abandoned farms to crime scenes, where he has to piece together their stories, by sifting through the desolate ruins. Traces of bygone times are found in the unraveled furniture, leaning structures, overgrown gates or a coffee cup left on the counter.

Mapcarta, an online searchable map that features past and present farms of Norway, reveals 427 entries with Ødegård in the name, 290 references to Aunet and 165 to Øyjord(a). Some entries refer to a hyphenated name, such as Jelsnes-Ødegård, which reincorporates the farm's previous name, but still refers to its former deserted status.

Morten lives on an ødegård himself, and jokes that in 100 years village historians will write that "the houses on the farm were well-kept until Øystein Morten took over."



From:  
*Sons of Norway E-post*  
Posted 1/12/18 by Jana Velo