



NYHETER BREVET

-A NEWSLETTER-

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ORD FRA DIN VALKYRIEN LOSJE PRESIDENT

(Words from your Lodge President)

Hei Members,

As Thanksgiving approaches, we should be thankful for those courageous Scandinavian ancestors who came to America for various reasons. Would we have had their fortitude to leave a known country and home to move to a strange new land?

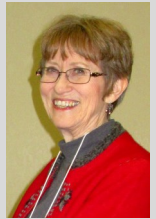
Fall is also the season of the church dinners featuring home-cooked meals. I hope that you will find the time to enjoy one of these. We are once again holding our Lutefisk Eating Contest. Please keep track of how many dinners you attend throughout the entire holiday season including February, 2019.

We hope to grow our organization each year but will need your assistance. Please invite friends or relatives to join our Lodge. Let's make it one of our New Year's Resolutions to bring prospective members to a meeting as a guest. They are always welcome to join us.

Thank you to those who have agreed to be officers and directors for 2019. We will hold the election at our November meeting. Please note that there will not be a December or January business meeting. The February meeting will mark the beginning of our 2019 programming. If you have a great idea for a program, just let us know.

Have a wonderful Thanksgiving and a God Jul !

Audrey Severson, President



COMING EVENTS

For Monday, November 26th

SING-A-LONG

AT PARK VIEW CARE CENTER

If you wish to join us to sing, meet at Zion Lutheran Parish Hall at 5:45 PM

Following the Sing-A-Long, return to the Parish Hall for the 6:30 PM

Julefest Potluck Dinner

The Board members will provide the entrees—members bring either a dessert, salad or vegetable.

Invite prospective members, friends and relatives to join us.

Special Prize Drawings For Prospective Members !

Happy Birthday

December:

Jerry Johnson	December 04
Jimmy Miller	December 09
Pat Schumacher	December 11
Don Olson <i>Golden Member</i>	December 14
Carol Forsythe	December 14
Einar Sandom <i>Golden Member</i>	December 18
Gordon Hendrickson	December 27

2019

January:

Mary Thompson	January 13
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February:

Randi Hoffman	February 02
Sylva Anderson <i>Golden Member</i>	February 08
Jennifer Smith	February 12
Betty Larson <i>Golden Member</i>	February 16

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to you all!

May each moment of your birthdays be the happiest ever and may it spill over to the next 365 days.

Have a wonderful day.



THE MISSION of the 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, contact: www.sofn.com



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LODGE LINES

Lodge Meeting

Zion Fellowship Hall—Minutes for October 22, 2018



Meeting was called to order by President Audrey Severson at 7:00 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was said and American, Canadian and Norwegian Anthems were sung. Mange Takk to Lloyd Newborg and Ron Thompson for the delicious refreshments. Visitors and new member were introduced. Welcome was given to Greg Warner and Kathy Pederson who recently transferred to our Lodge. Welcome also to a visitor, Merlee Jensen.

PROGRAM: Laurann Gilbertson (*left*) was our featured speaker. She is the Curator for the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah, IA. Laurann gave a very informative program on the history and explanation of the Nordic Design of Scandinavian sweaters. Many members wore their favorite Nordic sweaters and Laurann did an excellent job of describing the various patterns and telling us more about the sweater designs over time.

Secretary and Treasurer's Reports were approved as presented.

OLD BUSINESS:

Membership Recruitment Brunch : Due to the fact that a very few people were able to attend this event on Saturday, October 27th, the event was postponed. Members were encouraged to bring their perspective members to our potluck meal on November 26th. Babe Jacobson, Chair, will contact everyone involved that this event would be postponed.

Nominating Committee: Mary Lestrud, Carol Forsythe and Tom Gunderson reported on the nominees for 2019. Candidates will be voted on at our November 26th meeting.

Lutefisk Eating Contest: Don Olson reported that we will again hold a Lutefisk Eating Contest. Keep track of when and where you consumed this fine delicacy. The contest will run until our February meeting.

Float: Discussion continues on this. The Board of Directors will again discuss the pros and cons of keeping the float. This will also be on the agenda for our November meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

By-Laws: By-laws will be reviewed once we have more information from the Sons of Norway's District and Corporate.

Scandinavian Meatball and/or Lutefisk Dinners: Lutefisk dinner at Beldenville is this Thursday. Look for other listings throughout the next few weeks.

The next **Board Meeting is November 5 at 1:00 PM** and the **next meeting is on November 26th at Zion**. On the 26th, we will have our annual Parkview Care Center Sing-A-Long with the residents. Meet at Zion at 5:45 PM before going over to the center. Then we will return to the Parish Hall for our Julefest Potluck Meal. The Board will once again furnish the main course with other members bringing their favorite dessert, salad or vegetable. A meeting will follow with the voting in of our candidates.

Door Prizes were given and the meeting was adjourned at 8:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted by,
Sandra Olson, Secretary

**Please support Norwegian-American heritage and the
Nordic Heritage Foundation**

The Nordic Legacy Foundation is Sons of Norway's District 5 Norwegian heritage project. Profits from this book project will support Masse Moro youth camp and other District 5 heritage programs.

As a "tusen takk" for your donation, you can get the book "The First Norwegian Settlements in America." Learn about the *Sloopers*, the first group of Norwegians to come to America in 1825. As the west was opened, Norwegians had major settlements in Illinois and Wisconsin. Some of the earliest settlements in Missouri, Indiana, Texas and Utah are also covered in this volume.

Travel to some interesting Norwegian-American museums also featured in this book.

If you haven't earned a SON literature cultural skills pin, this book is a great way to get started.

ORDER FORM - HIDDEN HEROES: WORLD WAR II IN NORWAY

___ \$20 (1 book) allow 3 weeks for printing

___ \$25 (Nordic Heritage Fund donation for 1 book) and shipping (shipping to

___ \$100 (Nordic Heritage Fund donation for 5 books) one location)

___ \$250 (Nordic Heritage Fund donation for 15 books)

___ \$500 (Nordic Heritage Fund donation for 33 books)

___ I want to make a \$_____ donation, and receive only ___ books

Make checks out to "D5 Nordic Legacy Foundation"

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/St/Zip: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____ Lodge: _____



HAPPENINGS

From your Editor ...

In early October, Don and I welcomed visitors from Kongsvinger which is a town of over 17,000 and is situated on both sides of the river Glomma. The Kongsvinger Fortress is the main landmark and is situated on a hill west and north of the river. Work began on it in 1682 and it was built as a defense against the Swedes. The eastern parts of



Kongsvinger and neighboring municipalities to the north and south were populated at the end of the 17th century by Finnish emigrants who came across the Swedish boarder. The area is called "The Finnish Forest". Kongsvinger played an important role in the Norwegian resistance force against the Nazis.. In fact, Norway's highest decorated citizen, Gunnar Sønsteby, frequently passed through Kongsvinger during his work to sabotage the Nazis' installations in Norway. Some of the busiest escape routes for refugees also went through Kongsvinger to Sweden.

This photo taken on a very wet and windy day at a park overlooking the Mississippi River at Alma, WI. The gal standing to my right (*bottom left on photo*) is the daughter of my third cousin and her name is Anna Kaja. Behind her is her oldest daughter, Mia, and sister Lea. We had a wonderful five-day visit and look forward to them visiting us again !

Arlys Olson

A special day out for Lutefisk ...

Columbus County northeast of Madison, WI., was a destination for many Norwegian immigrants in the latter half of the 1800s. In particular, many from the Nes and Saude regions of Telemark settled in this area. For some, this was a temporary settlement location as they later moved on to other areas in Wisconsin and Minnesota. Ancestors of Don Olson and Audrey Severson arrived in this area before making a permanent residence in Pierce County.



Like many early Norwegian settlements, the church was an important part of immigrant life. The first Bonnet Prairie Church was a log structure built in 1847 and was destroyed by fire. A new stone church was then built on the same spot. Although this church also was damaged by fire in recent years, it has now been restored, and added to, and is in use today.

Don asked his cousin, Carolyn, if she and her husband would join us for a lutefisk dinner at this church. They were happy to join us. There are many interesting historical items in the church including wall racks containing history and photos back to confirmation in the early 1900s. After our delicious meal, we drove around the Rio, WI, area and located old farms and dwelling sites where some of the relatives resided.



Carolyn and Don are second cousins and share a great-great grandfather who is buried in the Bonnet Prairie Cemetery. Here is where many Norwegian immigrants are buried. The names on some of the tombstones are those of old farm names in Norway. *Photo, left to right: Carolyn Johnson, Don Olson and Leroy Johnson*

Julebukking, Anyone ?

Do any of you remember your parents or grandparents talking about Julebukking? I vividly remember my mother talking about this fun time—although she was too young to participate at the time.



Julebukking is a Christmas Tradition of Scandinavian origin. Between Christmas and New Year's Day, people wearing masks and costumes would go door to door, where neighbors received them and attempted to identify who was under the disguise. In one version of this custom, people go from door to door singing Christmas songs. After they have sung, they are usually rewarded with candy. Yet another tradition requires that at least one person from the visited household join the band of Julebukkers and continue to the next household. They often disguised their voices and body language to further the masquerade. Offering people holiday treats and something to drink was customary. Once identities were known and the food was eaten, they continued to the next home. In certain aspects, this custom resembles our modern-day tradition of Halloween trick-or-treating.

Actually, the earliest form of Julebukking was a pre-Christian pagan ritual. The tradition of the Yule Goat (Julebuk) is commonly believed to have originated in Norway, at a time when pagans worshiped Thor, the god who traveled in his chariot drawn by two goats. During the Yule holiday, they would disguise their appearance by dressing in a goatskin and go from house to house carrying a goat head. Christian missionaries modified the tradition and divorced its meaning from Paganism. The Yule Goat became one of the oldest Scandinavian and Northern European Yule and Christmas symbols and traditions. In Scandinavia, the figure of the Yule Goat remains a common Christmas ornament. It is often made of straw, has a red ribbon around the neck, and is found under the Christmas tree.



Did you know that this tradition is dying out in Europe but it can still be observed on occasion in rural communities in America with large populations of Scandinavian descendants, such as Petersburg and Ketchikan, Alaska.

Sources: Wikipedia

Arlys Olson