



Vennelag Lodge 5-513

## Vennelag News

Januar -Februar 2024

### Important dates to remember:

**Lodge Meeting Dates: 2:00 pm start**

**Sunday January 21, 2024**

**Sunday February 18, 2024 \*\*Friluftsliv\*\***

**Sunday March 17, 2024**

**All Lodge meetings held at the  
Community Center - 107 N Grove St. in Mount  
Horeb unless otherwise noticed in the  
Newsletter article of a different location.**

**Board/Business Meeting Dates:  
6:30pm at Culver's restaurant in Mt. Horeb**

**January 10, 2024**

**February 14, 2024**

**March 13, 2024**

### Scandinavian Holidays –

**January 5, 2024 – Twelfth Night (Sweden)**

**February 6, 2024 -National Sami Day (NE)**

**April 26, 2024 –Prayer Day (Denmark)**

**April 30, 2024 –May Day Eve (Finland)**

**April 30, 2024 - Walpurgis Night (Sweden)**

**May 18, 2024 -Whitsun Eve (Sweden)**

**May 17, 2024 - Syttende Mai (NE)**

**May 19, 2024 –Pentecost (Sweden)**

**May 19, 2024 – Whit Sunday (Denmark, Finland  
& Iceland)**

**June 5, 2024 – Consitution Day (Denmark)**

**June 6, 2024 – National Day (Sweden)**

**June 15, 2024 – Edward Grig's Birthday**

**June 17, 2024 – National Day (Iceland)**

Godt nytt år, alle sammen!

It's no great secret that across the area, state, and nation that service clubs and fraternal organizations are all struggling with the same issue: membership and finding people willing to serve in leadership roles. In Middleton, where I live, there are at least two organizations that closed for the latter reason and others are on the brink. Fortunately, here in Vennelag Lodge we are blessed with people who are willing and able to step in when called upon. We welcome Jane Heibel and Mary Krantz to the Exec Board for 2024, and thank all who will continue to help as board and committee chairpersons.

A great buzzword these days is sustainability. Without more members and younger members, sustainability becomes more and more difficult. So look around, reach out, recruit, and let's keep sustaining! We've got some fun stuff lined up for 2024. Plan to be a part of it, and bring a friend or two or three.

Here's wishing you all a happy and healthy new year....

Takk så mye - Allen

**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 provide quality**

**January program** - Join us for the presentation of the movie/documentary Falun-Røros Expedition; it is a brief telling of the trials and journey that 30 or so team members face when they travel from Falun Sweden to Røros Norway by horse-drawn sleigh. The subtitled film is of gorgeous Scandinavian background and steeped in traditions that may even be continuing to this day. Light refreshments will be served, heard that it might be popcorn!

**February meeting** - The woods behind the Eberhardt's house is calling our names! Karen and John Eberhardt have agreed to host again our Friluftsliv celebration in February. If there is enough snow plan to bring your sled, snowshoes, cross-country skis or any other outdoor sport you can think of for a winter outing. If there is not enough snow then you can plan on a winter hike around the gorgeous woods but regardless of the white stuff you can be guaranteed to have a bonfire so we can stay toasty. John and Karen will have markers at their drive way at **2996 Timber Lane, Verona** and will have areas for parking ready for our celebration. Bring your own snacks, and coffee will be on the burner.

Also for February please see the article for the Barnebirke to get details for a cookie drop/volunteering.

If you are in need of a thing to occupy you this winter if you are not able to join us for the meetings please consider all of the cultural medals that you can work on during the long winter nights. All of the projects can be found on [www.sofn.com](http://www.sofn.com) or you can type in the link below to get all sixteen Cultural Medal information after you log into your account on the website -

[https://www.sofn.com/member\\_resources/cultural\\_programming/cultural\\_skills\\_program/](https://www.sofn.com/member_resources/cultural_programming/cultural_skills_program/)

Nice thing is that you don't have to complete the work to get a connection to your Scandinavian roots just starting one project will lead you to a deeper understanding of your Scandinavian roots. Also there are some that you can use as bonding time with your family no matter how young your companion is as there are youth projects that they can work on with you in a few medal areas like Folk Dancing, Handknitting or Hardanger Embroidery.

To whet your appetite for the medal projects there are projects in Literature where you broaden your knowledge of the authors that called or call the Scandinavian Peninsula home. Then there is the Food/Cooking medal projects where you explore the food culture of a part of Norway that your family doesn't come from or mayhap dive into your family's recipe collection for those extra tasty recipes for a smorgasbord type meal for your next holiday celebration. Certainly not



the last medal is Figure Carving –if you have a knack for whittling and wood carving but are in need of a different winter project take a look on [sofn.com](http://sofn.com) to see which figures are associated with Norway besides the steadfast gnome.

There are classes from a few places that are going on this year; a few places to check out are Folklore Village in Dodgeville/Ridgeway area, the Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library in Madison and Vesterheim in Decorah Iowa. If you find in your travels a new folk school place please let us know we are always interested in learning more about how we can connect with our Norwegian roots also classes sometimes lead to presentations from the teachers to our Lodge.

-Social/Cultural (SoCul) Committee



## 2023-2024 Scholarship Application

Vennelag Lodge is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to an applicant who is a member of or has a parent/grandparent who is a member of the Vennelag 5-513 Lodge. This scholarship is available to a high school graduate, a student currently attending an accredited post-secondary school or technical college or a student who has chosen to postpone further education and now plans to begin attending an accredited post-secondary school or technical college.

The applicant needs to submit the following criteria:

- Transcript showing successful completion of high school or previous semester in post-secondary
- Successful enrollment in an accredited post-secondary school or Technical School for the fall semester
- Evidence of maintaining a 2.5 GPA or better while in high school or post-secondary.

These items, official school transcript and a copy of the acceptance letter, **must be** submitted with this application. Payment will be sent to the school of choice.

Please complete the following:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

\*Please check one or both of the following as they apply to you and include the membership number. If you can't find your membership number see the mailing label on the Viking Magazine or contact a Board Member.

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a current member of Vennelag 5-513 Lodge.  
My membership number is \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ My parent/grandparent is a member of Vennelag 5-513 Lodge.  
Their membership number is \_\_\_\_\_

\*Name and address of the Institution you plan to attend or update us when a decision has been made:

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Scholarship Deadline is March 1, 2024  
Mail your completed application form to:  
Allen Watrud  
3701 Mandimus Ct.  
Middleton, WI. 53562

This application will be submitted such that the recipient will be chosen by the scholarship committee based solely on the responses given.

### **VENNELAG Lodge 5-513 Scholarship Application**

Include the following in your application letter.

- A. Describe a learning experience that you had during school which you found to be significant in your life. How did it affect your thinking about your future path?
- B. List the academic and extra-curricular activities you were involved in during school. Describe your involvement in each including: office held, if applicable, what you contributed to the activity, and what you learned from your participation.
- C. Describe your community involvement.
- D. Share what you know about your Norwegian heritage. Explain how you have served Vennelag Lodge 5-513.
- E. Describe the goals you have set for yourself as you continue to further your education.



## **YOUR HELP IS NEEDED TO MAKE THE BARNEBIRKIE SUCCESSFUL!**

The Fifth District of the Sons of Norway will be assisting with the children's cross country ski race for ages 2.5-13 in Hayward, WI, on February 22, 2024. District members volunteer to work in the registration area before the race, and they pass out cookies at the end of the course. Members also meet and greet adult skiers later in the day.

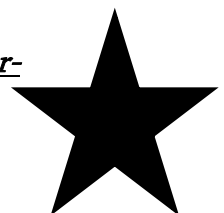
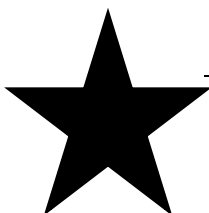
I am kindly asking our members to consider baking for this event. Please refrain from the use of nuts in any of the cookies you make due to allergy concerns in our youth participants. The kiddos enjoy all kinds of cookies, but the most popular are chocolate chip varieties. They also enjoy frosted sugar cookies. Some racers like homemade raisin oatmeal cookies, too!

After the cookies are distributed in the Celebration Tent, the excess cookies are moved to Hayward High School where the classic skiers come to obtain their timing chips and bibs. These skiers look forward to seeing our smiling faces, but mostly, they enjoy the homemade cookies made by our Sons of Norway members! Adults savor spice cookies and healthy varieties: molasses, sorghum, ginger, pepperkaker, and oatmeal raisin.

I will be leaving for the Barnebirkie on Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> (sooner if inclement weather is forecast). Consider bringing your cookies to our Friluftsliv event in February. You may also deliver them to Open House Imports early that week.

Thank you for your support in helping to make the Barnebirkie a memorable event for the littlest skiers of all. Should you have any questions, please contact me. If you wish to volunteer at the event, I am certain we can find a great position for you!

Cheryl Wille-Schlesser  
District 5 President  
608-219-4464  
[cwschlesser200bc@gmail.com](mailto:cwschlesser200bc@gmail.com)



**No this is not spot the 10 differences! Below is our dedicated rolling crew for the Host Frokost!! One is at the start of the day and the other is a quick break during the rolling. It's never too late to join the crew nor is it late to learn about Lefse!!**



**Baking Workshop was well attended and much fun had by all there.**



**BIG shout out to Harley and Carlyce Skjervem who have taken many of our Lodge Photos in this edition –THANK YOU!!!!!!!!!!**

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**Do you have a change of address?**

Please inform International Headquarters of any change in mailing address or email.

You may make a request to discontinue the printed copy of the Newsletter and to receive an email copy. Our newsletters are always available in color on the District 5 website:

[www.sonsofnorway5.com](http://www.sonsofnorway5.com).

\*Find us on the web: [www.sonsofnorwaymthoreb.org](http://www.sonsofnorwaymthoreb.org)

\*If you know someone who is interested in membership in Vennelag Lodge, please direct them to this site. It will give them a better idea of our organization.

