



Vennelag Lodge, 5-513

Vennelag News

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On Wednesday, April 23rd members of Vennelag 5-513 gathered to celebrate the signing of the Norwegian Constitution which occurred at Eidsvold, Norway on May 17, 1814.

Speaker for the evening was UW Senior Lecturer in Scandinavian Studies, Peggy Hager. She spoke about Constitution Day and this year's 200th anniversary of the signing. She shared how present-day Norwegians celebrate Syttende Mai.

Vennelag members got into the spirit of this momentous occasion by donning their national costumes or other Norwegian finery. To see how the bicentenary will be celebrated across Norway, use this link:

www.visitnorway.com

NEAT LOGO:

Ja (yes)

Vi (we) elsker (love)



BICENTENARY
NORWEGIAN CONSTITUTION
1814-2014

Upcoming Events

- May 10 Work day to clean float 9 AM
- May 12 Kaffe Stue planning 6 PM
- May 18 Syttende mai parade – Stoughton
- May 22 Lodge officers meeting - 6 PM at Culver's, 1700 E. Bus. Hwy 18-151.
- May 29 Lodge meeting 7 PM
- May 31 Hiking in Donald Park 10 AM
- June 16 Kaffe Stue planning 6 PM
- June 21 Visit Fennimore (See article)
- June 23 Newsletter input deadline
- June 25-29 5th District Convention Delavan, WI
- July 19 Kaffe Stue, Mt. Horeb Community Center
- July 20-Aug 2 Masse Moro Heritage Camp

NOTE: Unless indicated otherwise, All Board and Lodge meetings are held at the at Mt. Horeb Community Center, 107 N. Grove St., Mt. Horeb, WI

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 insurance and financial products to our members.

Gratulerer med dagen!

Sons of Norway strives to protect all of the personal information lodge members have provided in their membership application or any other information request. Vennelag lodge will no longer publish the monthly listing of birthdates in our newsletters. We apologize to anyone who may have been offended by this column having been published in the past few newsletters.

Birthdays and Anniversaries are something to celebrate and we may do so at the lodge meetings by asking our members if they care to share that information.



ORD FRA PRESIDENTEN

Our change of meetings to Sunday afternoons over the winter months of January-March will continue in 2015, as our attendance was markedly improved! Your Board plans to make these meetings worthwhile and looks forward to scheduling an exciting Vennelag Packer Party next winter! There is no need for Board approval to change the meeting day, as our regular meeting night of the last Thursday will be adhered to once Spring arrives. Exceptions are the week of Thanksgiving in 2014 and our Juletre Fest, on Saturday, December 6th.

As we transition from winter to spring, and later to summer, one is reminded that our lodge has many activities to look forward to over the course of the next three months. Our schedule accelerates into high gear in May, as we begin preparations for the Syttende Mai Parade. An addition to the festivities this year will be celebrating Syttende Mai in Stoughton Friday night, May 16th!



The former Sør Vest Viskonsin Lodge has invited us to Fennimore for fun and frolic! We are scheduled to tour both the railroad museum and the doll museum's collections of international dolls and children's toys. The Railroad Museum holds much Wisconsin history and will be of special interest to history buffs. We will then enjoy a picnic lunch.

The date set aside for this activity is Saturday, June 21st. Gayle Anderson is coordinator. We will meet at the Railroad Museum in downtown Fennimore, 610 Lincoln Avenue, at 11:30 AM. Please pack your own table service, a choice of non-alcoholic beverage, and bring a dish to share.

If the weather is inclement, our picnic will be moved indoors to the American Legion. A free will offering will be taken to offset expenses. The dress for this excursion is Norwegian casual! Wear a fitting t-shirt and your Viking helmet! Ja, yust go for comfort!

Gayle would like to know how many persons are planning to attend the event, so please let me know your wishes by Monday, June 16th. E-mail: rogcher@mhtc.net or by phone: 608-437-8960.

July 19th will find us welcoming the community and other guests to our annual Kaffe Stue (coffee room). Your assistance with this event is much appreciated. We cannot spell success without you!

The proceeds from past Kaffe Stue events have: purchased flags for Grundahl Park, helped to fund scholarships, placed rosemaling on the new water tower, and built community projects such as the bike trail welcome center. This year, a portion of our profits will be used to paint the Community Center building Norwegian blue!

Members and guests will be going to Thunder Valley Farmstead in Wisconsin Dells in July. This event is scheduled for Sunday, July 27th. The meal at Thunder Valley will be a smorgasbord affair featuring a variety of Norwegian foods, along with traditional American comfort food. Entertainment is included in our price of \$23.00.

A farmer's market is held there on Sundays. You may also visit the farm's animals, find your way to the gift shop, or simply wander the grounds. I hope you will find this event a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

Since this venue is so close to home, participants are asked to carpool to The Dells. I will need to get your reservation and payment for the trip to Thunder Valley in advance of our trip. Final reservations and payments are due no later than July 19th, Kaffe Stue Day. Checks should be made payable to Vennelag 5-513. You may also mail them to me at 200 Beth Circle, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572.

Fraternally,

Cheryl

Swede Carlson: Do you know how copper wire was invented?

Ole: No, I never heard. How was it?

Swede: It was two Norwegians fighting over a penny.

District Five Convention News The 2014 Convention Planning Committee for Cultural Arts has been working hard to bring you classes and workshops at the 5th District Convention to be held June 25-29, 2014. There will be a Genealogy workshop, and Hardanger, Rosemaling, Woodworking classes all in one place. The Convention will be held at Lake Lawn Resort in Delavan WI. You do not have to be a delegate to attend and take advantage of these wonderful opportunities. This is an event that every Sons of Norway 5th District member should attend with their family. Registration forms are available at www.sonsofnorway5.com



Our May lodge meeting is slated for Thursday evening, May 29th at 7 PM. Our presenter that evening will be Diane Alme, from New Glarus, who will showcase a love of hers, making doll costumes that correspond with the various fylkes in Norway.



In addition, Lora Lee will present a short musical program on the Hardanger fiddle. She and her mother, Ellen Holk, will also play duets of two traditional Norwegian songs. Both offerings will be a fine way to celebrate Norway's Constitution Day. Join us! Servers for the evening are David Hermanson, Ellen Holk, Lora Lee and Jane Huseth.

Another season of promoting our heritage and our village is just around the corner as the parade schedule ramps up. Our lodge needs to prepare the Good Ship Vennelag for her summer sailing. We plan to hold a work day on May 10th and have scheduled a rain date of May 17th. The ship needs to be washed, vacuumed, the paint touched up, and the shields applied. Members are asked to bring basic tools.



We will begin our clean-up at 9 AM, providing we can get the ship out of the pasture and will stop for lunch at 12 noon. Vennelag will provide water and a sub sandwich. Please bring chips, pickles, veggies, or cookies. As our past president, George, would say, "Many hands make light work."



For something different this year, our members are encouraged to attend the Syttende Mai festivities in Stoughton on Friday evening, May 16th! Dust off your dancing shoes and get ready to kick up your heels! After the long winter we have experienced, it's time to cut lose! I would suggest members carpool to this event. Cheryl has room for three people in her car; give her a buzz to secure your place! stoughtonwi.com/syttendemai/default.asp

To Celebrate Our Heritage

On Sunday, May 18th, Vennelag members will return to Stoughton to partake in the Syttende Mai Parade. Members should arrive around 12:30 PM to secure a parking space before the roads are closed. The line-up is at Mandt Park. Feel free to bring a snack for all to enjoy. Cheese and crackers, fresh veggies, fruit, or yogurt raisins are all good choices. Calling to mind last year's sailing, Vennelag will provide a cooler of cold water! Ja, it can get hot in May!

Steve Sopcak will lead the kaffe stue planning meeting on **Monday evening, May 12th**. We will meet at the Community Center at 6 PM. All members are invited to come and share their ideas on how to make this a successful event. A second meeting will be held on June 16th to finalize the plans.

Members from our scholarship committee will present the Vennelag scholarship at the Mt. Horeb Senior Awards Night on May 14th at 7:30 PM. It is always our pleasure to assist area youth with their college education.

Welcome New Members



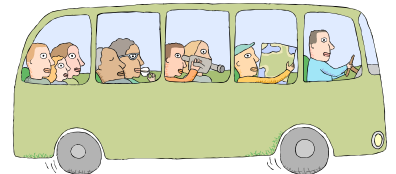
Colin Connors
1520 Tropp Cir., #203
Madison, WI 53706-1214

Joyce Nygard
3200 Conservancy Ln.
Middleton, WI 53562-1182

Gloria Foley
103 Mound View Cir.
Mount Horeb, WI 53572-1939

Katie Goplin-Field
2616 County Rd. F
Blue Mounds, WI 53517-9686

Vikings to Hit the Road



Event: Vennelag’s Tour of Thunder Valley Farmstead and Smorgasbord

Date: Sunday, July 27, 2014

Cost: \$23.00 per person (Feel free to bring some guests!)

Names of attendees: _____

_____ number of people attending @ \$23.00 per person for a total of: \$ _____

Please make your check payable to: Vennelag 5-513, and return it to Cheryl Schlessor, 200 Beth Circle, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572. Thank you!

***Reservations are due no later than July 19th. For further information, access the website: www.thundervallevinn.com**

In September, we are planning an excursion to Door County. New member and travel agent, Tammy Hermanson, will be planning this trip. One of the main things on the itinerary is a visit to Washington Island's stave kirke.

Attend the meeting on May 29th to get the scoop on this three day, two night stay in the beautiful Door Peninsula.

Get to know a Member Better – Doris Hayes

Chuck and I joined Vennelag in 1980 after our first trip to Norway. We were asked to attend a lodge meeting with my aunt and uncle Laura and Arnold Norslien. The evening's program was on stave kirker. That same year we also joined the Valdres Samband. Later, I served as the president of the Valdres Samband. With both organizations my fondest memories are of the friends I've made.

My mother's family hails from Bang, Norway, and our family farm is still there. I am fortunate to say that I have stayed at this farm. My husband and I traveled extensively through Europe and led trips there for the Cross Plains senior group. Later, I was asked to found the State Bank of Cross Plains Prime Time Club. Chuck and I were amazed by what we learned and experienced in China. Chuck liked to film the children and we found the people to be welcoming and gentle. I always carried candies for the children.

Marlyn Grinde and I worked side by side to coordinate programming through our roles as lodge cultural and social directors. I also served our lodge in the capacity of secretary and newsletter editor.



One dear friend from our lodge was Melba Huseh with whom I traveled. We had more fun together...interesting hotel adventures, being stopped by police for speeding, and attending Syttende Mai events. Melba was simply game for anything! Chuck and Barb Mørkri and Paul and Jo Sheffel are close friends we met through our involvement in Vennelag. We attended many events together and still enjoy one another's company to this day.

I remember being asked by Scott Winner to help at Little Norway through our association with Vennelag. Both my husband and I were guides at Little Norway, but later I was asked to coordinate the opening each spring and to "put Little Norway to bed" each fall. I loved every minute of my 19 years there with the Winner Family and we remain close friends and confidants.

While our boys were growing up, Chuck and I traveled with them and their friends through the Madison Scouts and Drum Corps. Chuck worked with the boys, while I was in charge of ordering all of the food and preparing the meals for all participants. We even started a souvenir outlet for the Scouts. I remember making pink panther outfits for the souvenir shop while the Scouts played that music as part of their summer repertoire. They sold like hotcakes and it was difficult to keep up with the demand while keeping hungry boys fed.

Chuck and I are parents to two boys Chuck Jr. or Big C., as some of the relatives refer to him and Doug. Each is a specialist in his own right, Chuck as a trainer and representative for specialty paints and Doug a professional semi-trailer driver. In the summer, Doug takes his vacation to drive semi for The Madison Scouts, and he's been a part of the corps since age eight.

In my free time, I like to do Hardanger embroidery, try new recipes, and go camping. Chuck and I owned a motorhome at one time and we traveled south each winter. I am eager to travel to Decorah, Iowa any day I'm given the chance.

Hiking In Donald County Park

The Spring Hike: **10:00 AM, Saturday May 31, 2014** Meet at Pop's Knoll (about 5 miles south of Mt. Horeb on Hwy. 92) for a panoramic view of the area we will hike through. From the Knoll we will drive the short distance back to Sutter Drive and the fishing access parking lot where the hike begins. This rather easy hike of about 1.5 miles does have some irregular terrain; sturdy footwear is essential.

The first segment of the trail is along the banks of Deer Creek; a class A trout stream. We will pause frequently, for a full range of sensory input: bird calls, gentle breezes, insect or frog sounds, flowing water, and a variety of plants. From the point where the Deer Creek trail ends there are several options; we will turn right and continue through a wooded area eventually leading into prairies. Our attention will, again, be drawn to sights and sounds that include rock outcrops, a variety of trees and other plants and, with a bit of luck, the sound of a piliated woodpecker "hammering" on a tree trunk. A close look at and careful examination of: flower buds, leaves, mushrooms, moss, rocks and other objects can be rewarding. Gently overturning small logs often reveals some interesting life forms; be sure to return the log to its original position.

Ole was working on his car and just couldn't seem to get the brakes to work. After a couple of hours Ole just decided to make the horn louder.

(Reprinted courtesy of Wergeland Lodge.)

We will pause, briefly, at Larson Pond then take a peek into a blue bird house. If done with care, eggs or young birds can be observed close-up while the parent birds wait patiently for the intruders to leave. A short walk around a wooded knoll will bring us back to the parking place.

Rain date: Saturday, June 07.

Watch the Newsletter for details about a fall Hike tentatively scheduled for September. This will be along some rather demanding trails totaling about 3.5 miles. The reward will be: scenic vistas, an Historic Cabin site, two large springs, a broad expanse of prairie, blue bird sightings, forests and more.

Midsummer in Scandinavia

Midsummer is Scandinavia's most popular festival right along with Christmas. A traditional celebration of the Summer solstice, Midsummer is the longest day of the year ([June 21](#)). In Sweden, Midsummer is even celebrated as a national holiday (also see [Scandinavian national holidays](#)). Most Midsummer's Eve celebrations take place on **the Saturday between June 20 and June 26**.

Vennelag News
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Newsletter input deadline

June 23, 2014

Learning to speak Norwegian

Useful phrases	Pronunciation	English
Unnskyld!	oohn-sheell	Excuse me / sorry!
Hjelp!	jehlp	Help!
Vær så god!	vaer soh goo	Please (as in "please help yourself")
Takk for nå.	takk for noh	Thank you for this time together.
God sommer!	goo sohm-mer	Have a nice summer!
God tur!	goo tewhr	Have a nice trip!