

Vennelag Lodge, 5-513

Dates to Remember

November 9, 2017 Vennelag Board, Culver's, 6:30 PM

November 16, 2017 LODGE MEETING-PLEASE NOTE: DAY CHANGE, 6:30 PM

(See program description on Page 4 of this issue.)

November 23, 2017 Happy Thanksgiving!



December 2, 2017 Juletre Fest, 5:30 PM Appetizers and Punch

Potluck Dinner: 6:15 PM (approximately) Traditional fare and more!

December 14, 2017 Lefse-making at ELC (*Snow date is December 15*)

8:00 AM Arrival, Start 8:30 AM (See note in this edition.)

December 16, 2017 9:00 AM MHCC Lefse Sales

December 21, 2017 Vennelag Board, Culver's 6:30 PM (tentative)

December 25, 2017 GOD JUL!

***REMINDER: WE SWITCH TO SUNDAY MEETINGS**

FOR THE MONTHS OF JANUARY THRU MARCH.

January 7, 2018 Norway participants gathering, 1- 4 PM, Helen Dicks, hostess

January 11, 2018 SofN Board, Culver's 6:30 PM

January 21, 2018 Lodge Meeting (**Note special times!**)

12 Noon Movie: *The King's Choice* (See review below.) We will have a translator. Trailers available for viewing on-line.

2 PM, Lodge meeting, with installation of New Officers.

A light supper follows the meeting.

Takk for Hjelpen — Thanks for helping!

HELP?!?



November Set-up/Take Down Crew:

Jean Bower, Samantha Kienast, Jim Iverson, Jim and Pat Knudson. (If you cannot assist, please call another member to be your substitute.)

December set-up crew...Tiffany Schwoerer will form a set-up committee for the Juletreffest.

District 5 President's Leadership Conference

A leadership conference for all District 5 officers was held at Camp Lake, WI on Saturday, October 21, 2017. Forty persons were in attendance from five states, and several delegates traveled from Tennessee. Organized by District 5 President Andrew Johnsen with the assistance of District 5 Treasurer Michael Palecek, the conference addressed many concerns that local lodges have.

International Lodge President Jon Tehven and International Fraternal Director Linda Pederson were also in attendance and gave presentations on a variety of topics such as: characteristics of successful lodges, programming that reaches all ages, and community service ideas for lodges.

Directors from the District 5 Board assisted with the event and offered breakout sessions. Attending from Vennelag Lodge were President Cheryl Schlessler and Treasurer-elect Tamiko Clary.

The King's Choice, A movie review by Roger Ebert

Set during the three days in 1940 when the forces of Nazi Germany overran and subjugated previously neutral Norway, "The King's Choice" is hardly unusual in bringing to light a previously little-known story of World War II. What is unusual about the film is that it is a frankly admiring portrait of a monarch. The king here is the tale's hero, and the choice he makes regarding the Nazi invasion undergird a drama that is proudly and unequivocally patriotic.

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 its members.

Ord fra presidenten

Takk, alle sammen, for hjelpen to put Vennelag on the community's radar!

Super members who give of their time, their talents, and their resources

Unique opportunities such as: holiday observations, informative speakers, travel opportunities

Careful planning, organization, and ordering, which yielded an outstanding Frokost

Community partnerships that make our Lodge appealing to new members

Energized members whose great ideas become reality

Shirts that proudly bear the name of our Lodge and allow us to tell "our story"

Several new members who will serve Vennelag Lodge at the Board level

For all you do, these buds are for you!

Cheryl



Election of Delegates to the District 5 Convention

District 5 will be holding its biennial **Convention** in La Crosse, WI, **June 27-30, 2018**. The city, the Mississippi River, and our convention hotel are beautiful. The host committee has been busy working out the details for quite some time.

Based on membership, Vennelag will elect 3 members as our representatives. Delegates will be elected at the January 21st Lodge meeting, so that these names can be reported and passed on to the District 5 Board. Registration materials will follow. Three alternates will also be selected.

In addition, President Cheryl Schlessner, who serves on the District 5 Board, will also be in attendance. There is much to learn at a District Convention, and it gives one a better flavor for the entire organization that is the Sons of Norway. *A portion of your expenses for this convention will be paid for by Vennelag Lodge. This amount will be set by the Vennelag Board of Directors at their January meeting.

Also, it is from this convention that International Lodge delegates are selected. I encourage each of you to consider serving Vennelag Lodge in this way. The **International Convention** will be held in Minneapolis, MN, **August 16-18, 2017**.

TUBFRIM

By Mary Bennett, International Tubfrim Coordinator

Tusen takk to all District 5 lodges that donated stamps to Tubfrim in 2016. Thanks to your efforts, District 5 sent 250 pounds of stamps to Norway. Your help will improve the quality of life for handicapped children and youth.

If you have not been involved with Tubfrim, I encourage your family to participate! Simply save stamped envelopes, and clip the stamps from envelopes or postcards **leaving a margin of at least 1/4 inch**. Tubfrim also accepts stamp collections, old envelopes, covers, and postcards.

If envelopes and postcards are more than 50 years old, do not cut off the stamp, send the whole item. Stamps may be given to President Cheryl Schlessner or brought to conventions. They may also be mailed to me (Mary Bennett) at: 6414 Irving Drive, Sun Prairie, WI 53590.

For every one pound of stamps an individual or lodge collects, an entry can be made for the chance at winning \$1,000 towards a ticket for a trip to Norway!

Cards are available from the International Office. If you have any questions, contact me at 608-837-8335 or mjbenn4@gmail.com. You may obtain more information about the Tubfrim Program by visiting their website: www.tubfrim.no

What a great Frokost! What a great fund raiser!

A big thank you to all who helped in any way. Your contribution is appreciated. You made a difference!

Because the Norway trip fell in the midst of our usual prep time for the Frokost, groups of members met ahead of time to make lefse, frycakes and rosettes. Thank you to the many hands who pitched in.

I want to thank our members for:

- Donating food or cash.
- All the calls made lining up donations and workers.
- Ordering and picking up supplies and wrapping silverware.
- Setting up the Community Center on Friday.
- Setting up, taking down and working in the "New" cookie room.
- Providing food donations.
- Setting up the coffee pots, making and pouring coffee and pouring the milk and juice.
- Putting up and taking down the signs and banners.
- Cashiering at the door.
- Working at the bake sale.
- Working at the membership table.
- Frying pancakes, making waffles and boiling eggs.
- Cutting the salmon, filling fruit cups, organizing serving trays of meat, cheeses and vegetables.
- Picking up additional food at Miller's store during the breakfast.
- Helping with the tear down on Saturday.

We served nearly 400 guests, many from out of state who attend each year. Our lodge and our events are becoming well known.

Tusen takk! Rita Schraepfer, Event Chair

Newspaper Articles

Several members are interested in obtaining copies of newspaper articles covering the opening ceremony for **Thamspaviljongen** in **Orkdal**, Norway, on September 9, 2017. Lora Lee is looking into this, and the cost is to be determined. If you didn't already sign the list during the October Lodge meeting, please call Lora at (608) 437-2846 to indicate your interest.

On Oct 26th there were about 40 people in attendance at our Lodge meeting. Retired Pastor Glenn Borreson spoke about the Lindisfarne Moment, a Viking invasion in North Umbria.



Internet sites of interest

www.sofn.com - This is the International Sons of Norway website.

www.sonsofnorway5.com - This is the District 5 website.

www.sonsofnorwaymthoreb.org - This is Vennelag's website. See our calendar and information about upcoming programs and activities.

Vennelag Lodge Sons of Norway Search for this if you want to check out our lodge **Facebook** page. You will find many pictures from the Norway trip here.

Are you NOT connected to the Internet?

Is there a need to distribute additional information to members who are not connected to the Internet? Could we try to use a phone tree or postcards? All members receive a newsletter with dates identified. Currently, those connected electronically may receive a meeting reminder. The Board is discussing ways to keep everybody informed. Please call Lora Lee if you have an idea or would like to help. Her number is (608) 437-2846. Thank you for caring about each of our members, whatever our technical ability.

November 16 Lodge Program

Ellen Macdonald will present a program on the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum Coastal Voyage Tour of Norway. She will show photos and tell about this tour that she took in August, 2017. The highlight of this trip was 6 days on the **Hurtigruten** voyage from Bergen. Also included on the itinerary were Bergen, the Hardanger Fjord area, the Kirkenes area and Oslo. Ellen will also show a few highlights from additional days in Norway and a five day stopover in Iceland.



Ellen will also have information about Vesterheim Folk Art School classes, especially the chip carving class that she will be teaching in November, 2018.

Biography: Ellen Macdonald is a resident of Decorah, Iowa and has been involved with the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum in several capacities over many years. She has been a volunteer guide in the outdoor division and a teacher of chip carving classes. In 2016, she completed the re-writing of the Sons of Norway Cultural Skills Unit on Chip Carving. In August, 2017, Ellen and her husband celebrated their anniversary on a Vesterheim sponsored Coastal Voyage of Norway. Ellen has a special tie to Mt Horeb because her daughter, Rachel Kennedy, and family are residents.

Viewing Ellen's trip will plant the seed for a future Vennelag trip to Norway! This year, several Vennelag members also participated in a similar excursion. Please feel free to ask Jackie or Roger Brown or Lora Lee for their input on this great vacation option. (Photo credit, Hurtigruten ship in Molde harbor: Lora Lee)

Preview of Juletfest Entertainment

The Mystical Kid, from Ostestaden Lodge in Monroe, will provide magical entertainment for the young and young at heart. Santa and Mrs. Claus will also arrive to interview the little ones and distribute a treat from the Lodge.

Roxie and Allen Fauque will be performing a set of light jazz music for your listening pleasure. Roxie is a vocal music teacher at the Intermediate Center in Mt. Horeb and is a pianist. Allen will accompany her on saxophone. The Fauques moved to Mt. Horeb from Montana to be closer to their daughter who lives in the Madison area.

What: **Jultrefest 2017**

When: **Saturday December 2nd, 2017**

Time: Social hour starts at **5:30 pm** and we will start the evening meal around **6:15 pm**

Where: **Mount Horeb Community Center**, 107 North Grove Street in Mount Horeb

Why: Celebrate the Holidays and to share **holiday traditions** among families

Who: Vikings, people who wear their **bunads**, people who wear their **Scandinavian or holiday sweater**, and everyone in between, including Santa!



Please **provide table service and non-alcoholic drinks for your entire group, as well as a dish to pass**. This year we ask that you consider making a favorite **Norwegian recipe** from your family, or try a Norwegian dish like *Fårikål* (Lamb in Cabbage) or *Kumle* (Potato Dumplings) or a family favorite that is always on your Holiday table.

The Lodge will have **gifts for the children**, so please cut off the portion below the dotted line and mail it to Tiffany Schwoerer, Cultural Director, or call and leave her a voice mail message **by November 29th**, 2017 to reserve a spot / chair for you, your family and friends. See you there!

Name: _____

How many children under 12: _____ How many adults: _____

Mail to: Tiffany Schwoerer, Cultural Director
220 Durst Rd, New Glarus, WI 53574

Or leave a voice mail message with the above information on **Tiffany's** phone: **608-214-4786**.

What is the Sons of Norway? (Jon Tehven, International President)

The Sons of Norway is a group of people who share a richness of Norwegian heritage, preserving the best, keeping it alive, and recognizing its value for the future.

We are mission driven: we promote, preserve, and celebrate our common culture, and we provide insurance products and investment opportunities for our membership.



November is **Anniversary Month for Vennelag Lodge**. You can read our complete Lodge history on the District 5 webpage: www.sonsofnorway5.com—Click the Lodges tab, and a dropdown menu will appear offering lodge histories for most lodges in District 5. Some are in the updating phase. Note: A number of lodges have declined due to a variety of factors and may no longer be active.

We are blessed at Vennelag Lodge to have members who are proud of their heritage, believe in what we do, and share their love of all things Norsk with their family and friends. Thank you for sharing our story with others. It is due to the efforts of the entire lodge that we continue to flourish and welcome others into our fold. Keep up the great work you do!

Sons of Norway Lodge #513 was chartered in Mt. Horeb, WI, by Hilmen E. Kjorlie, President of the Supreme Lodge in the Seminar Room at the Gonstad Clinic on Nov. 19, 1971 with 83 charter members. The first official meeting was held on Jan. 27, 1972, when the name for the new lodge was chosen. “Vennelag” means circle of friends. By the time the charter was closed 164 members had signed.

IN MEMORIAM: Vennelag Lodge lost two veteran members recently: **Allen Fjelstad** and **Carol Nyland**.

We will honor these members and others who passed in 2017 at our Lodge Memorial Service in November.



Høst Frokost 2017—a great success!

We welcome the following new members:

Diane Bartz, Linda Coughlin, Marsha Lichte-Crow, Patrick Flynn, Chelsi Wille



Lodge Members Get in Touch with Their Roots in Norway

Jean and Dave Grindle — A Family Dream Come True

Tuesday September 19th we took the Valdresekspressen to Fagerness, in the valley of Valdres, Norway. Our relatives were waving American and Norwegian flags to welcome us in a pouring rain! They had a luncheon planned for us at the Valdres Folkemuseum. There were over 20 cousins at that meal. Ole Astad Braaten is the director there, a cousin. He and his twin brother, Knute, were our hosts and shared their musical talents playing the langeleik, which sounds similar to an autoharp. Their CD was nominated for the Norwegian Grammy in 2012. The instrument was played by our great grandmother Barbaro Pedersdatter Mykelson. The museum has a large collection of these instruments (early 1100's). There was also a young Hardanger fiddle player and couples dancing to traditional tunes in a cabin similar to what my grandparents lived in before they immigrated to America. We also were taken to the families' home church, Skrautvaal Kyrkje. My grandparents were married and baptized their first child there. The church history was given to me, as well as a candle to light, and I said a prayer for my dad. Many tears came from all of us. This was just the first afternoon!

The second day we met our ride at 9:30 am to travel up the mountain and visit the homes where my grandparents lived before they immigrated, and where their parents lived as well. The farmers that owned the land trimmed away the weeds with a hand scythe and marked a pathway for us. Research was done by Knute, and he explained in both English and Norwegian about how little food our ancestors had to survive thru the winter: only a barrel of barley, 1 cow, 1 goat and many mouths to feed. These people were poor; no wonder families left and never came back!

The family is large and it became easy to lose track of the ancestral connection. Because of my letter and visit, the family has begun to reconnect. They knew many of the people because of living in the area, but didn't realize they were related! At dinner, everyone stood and explained who they were and who their parent/grandparents were. It was amazing to see similar facial family resemblances, including one woman whose daughter looked just like our daughter, Sara. (Needless to say they are on Facebook now). If anyone doubts that they have family still living in Norway, they need to know about my "Cinderella story". We were treated like royalty. It certainly is worth the effort to find your Norwegian roots (*røtter*). Who knows? If your family is from Valdres, we could be cousins!

Chuck Mørkri, Linda McCormick of Borton Overseas, The Sons of Norway, Jerry Paulson from the NAGC and our Vennelag Lodge were all major players in truly making this trip a once in a lifetime, family dream come true. *Tusen takk* to all of our fellow travelers!

Jean & Dave Grindle

Lora Lee Reunites with Liahagen Family in Hallingdal and Cruises with Hurtigruten

After a wonderful 2-week trip with the Lodge, I spent a weekend with my daughter who lives in Torpo. Our extended family had a splendid reunion with 40 people present. Then I took a scenic week-long Hurtigruten cruise northbound from Bergen to Kirkenes.

Lora with cousin at ancestral family homestead near Gol, in Hallingdal



Lora's daughter Rebecca by the Torpo Stave Church



One of many spectacular views from the cruise ship, north of the Arctic circle



Memories of Norway Trip, Sept 2017

Photos by Susan, Helen, Carlyce, Harley, Cheryl, Allen, Lora



Hotels and views from our fabulous hotels



Please inform Duane Kittleson of any change in mailing address or email so the newsletter will be received by you in a timely manner. You may also make a change from/to receiving a printed mailed copy or to an email notification.

Duane Kittleson
 6225 Mineral Point Rd, Apt. D90
 Madison, WI 53705
 Phone: 608-229-6738
 Email: dkittverona@gmail.com



Carolyn Johnson with her daughter Michelle Skeels and granddaughter Kelly Skeels—having a great time at the top of Mount Fløyen in Bergen.



Vennelag News

Lora Lee, Editor
327 W Main St
Mount Horeb, WI 53572

www.sonsofnorwaymthoreb.org

Cheryl Wille-Schlesser, President
Phone: (608) 219-4464
Email: rogcher@mhtc.net

Carolyn Johnson, Vice President
Phone: (608) 424-3149
Email: cmj@chorus.net

Lora Lee, Editor
Phone: (608) 437-2846
Email: loralee@mhtc.net

Greg Ragan, Fraternal Benefits
Counselor
Phone: (800) 442-4146
Email: gregagan@aol.com

**Next Newsletter Dead-
line: December 17, 2017**



From the Food Chair:

Thursday, Nov.30—the meeting is hosted by the Board.

Saturday Dec. 2—the annual *Juletrefest* POTLUCK.

The **Baking Workshop** will be held on Sat. Nov.4th at the Community Building, starting with coffee and heart waffles at 8:30 AM. The workshop will start at 9:00 AM. We limit the attendance to 30 people. The following items will be prepared: *lefse*, *rosettes*, *æbleskiver*, *krumkaker*, *sandbakkels*, *Berlinerkranser* and *smørgrøt*.

I will start the serving sheet around at the Nov. 16th meeting. I will ask for 4 servers for each meeting since more people are able to attend our meetings. It is hoped you all will check your calendars and find it possible to serve at least once every two years. Thank you.

Ann Walser

Looking for a Scholarship?

Applications for 2018 scholarships are now available through the Sons of Norway Foundation. Approximately 25 scholarships will be awarded next spring to qualifying members of Sons of Norway, their children and/or grandchildren. To learn more about the scholarships, check out the Sons of Norway website and click under Scholarships.

Also available this December will be the applications for Vennelag scholarships to deserving high school seniors who are members or have parents or grandparents that are members of Vennelag 5-513. Give them a try and good luck!!

Carolyn Johnson