



Vennelag Lodge Dates of Note

***Until further notice, Vennelag Board meetings will be held in a virtual format.**

***LODGE MEETINGS ARE CANCELED UNTIL AUGUST 2020** (UPDATES via e-blast).

APRIL 30, 2020 LODGE MEETING **CANCELED**

MAI 13, 2020 BOARD MEETING-VIRTUAL

MAI 17, 2020 GRATULERER MED DAGEN, NORGE!

MAI 21, 2020 LODGE MEETING **CANCELED**

MAI 25, 2020 Memorial Day

JUNI 10, 2020 BOARD MEETING-VIRTUAL

JUNI 20, 2020 Summer Solstice (Midsommer)

JUNI 25, 2020 MIDSOMMER PICNIC AND LODGE MEETING, Brigham Park, (**PENDING**)

JUNI 27, 2020 BRATS ON THE LOT **PENDING**

***ALL LODGE MEETINGS AND EVENTS ARE PENDING DUE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC.**



Image: Public Domain

President Watrud has applied for a grant offered by the Mt. Horeb Rotary. If funded, the money will be used to make safety and aesthetic improvements to the S.S. Vennelag.

***Our parade schedule for late summer 2020 will be in the next edition of the Vennelag News.**

Questions may be directed to Mark Hanson

hanson.mark.ed@gmail.com



Image: Wikipedia.org

Ord fra Presidenten-A Word from the President

Back in February I started thinking about the next newsletter. After all, what is there to write about for May and June when there's still snow on the ground? Naturally, though, Syttende Mai, Norway's Constitution Day, came to mind.

The Constitution of Norway was signed at Eidsvoll on May 17, 1814. It declared Norway to be an independent kingdom in an attempt to avoid being ceded to Sweden after Denmark-Norway's defeat in the Napoleonic Wars. And after 1860, Norwegians began pouring into America. In 2009, there were about as many Norwegian-Americans as there were citizens of Norway.

May 17, 2020 is usually a chance to celebrate that connection to the homeland, and it is a day when nearly everyone wants to be Norwegian. Now, this virus has us rethinking and prioritizing our usual activities and celebrations. It will be over eventually. When we can gather again as a "Circle of Friends", we will appreciate our time together and heritage even more so.

Until then, stay safe, stay home, stay healthy, and stay proud. 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 insurance and financial products to our members.



Image: depositphotos.com

Erika the Red?

Viking warriors are a big part of Scandinavian history, and they are often depicted as fierce, muscular, bearded men. Using facial recognition technology available, British scientists have challenged this view. They recreated the remains of a woman warrior buried in a Viking graveyard in Solør, Norway.

At first discovery, the burial site was not considered a warrior grave, “simply because the occupant was a woman,” according to archaeologist Ella Al-Shamahi. The scientists found that the woman was buried with multiple deadly weapons including an axe, a spear and a sword. Perhaps more shocking, she had suffered a major head injury, most likely caused by a sword.

A similar situation occurred with the Birka Warrior in Sweden. The remains were originally believed to be male, but scientists proved later that they were in fact female. Professor Neil Price, a Viking expert, stated “There are so many other burials in the Viking world...It wouldn’t surprise me at all if we find more [female warriors].”

Sons of Norway News Service

Electric Cars Now Hit with Hefty Fees

The days of enjoying a free ride have gone along the wayside, as owners of electric vehicles began paying parking fees in Oslo just like all the others. The fees, however, are much lower for the electrics than for “fossil fuel” versions.

Electric car sales are climbing on their counterparts, and it should pay off to choose an elbil (electric car) instead of operating the fossil fuel alternative. Electric cars push dust into the air and take up much room on Oslo city streets where Norway’s best public transportation and improved bike lanes exist.

Owners pay about 20 percent what fossil-fueled cars pay, which rose 20 percent at the same time. Electric cars owners will pay NOK 5 an hour in central areas, or NOK 28 per day for commuters parking between five and 24 hours. Monthly fees of NOK convert to USD 65 a month. Electric car owners will also begin paying tolls. These fees, too, are lower than for those who choose to drive fossil fuel alternatives.

newsinenglish.no, March 2020

Celebrating Vennelag's accomplishment are members Kristin Vike-Steinich, and Kari Burkum-Tranel. They joined President Allen Watrud and Past President Cheryl Wille-Schlesser at the Mt. Horeb Chamber of Commerce Awards Banquet which honored our members for the thousands of hours of service you provide to Norwegian-American communities in our area.



Gratulerer till alle i Vennelag Lodge. Our Lodge was selected as the 2020 Not for Profit Organization of the Year by the selection committee from the Mt. Horeb Area Chamber of Commerce. Many of our projects from the maintenance of the bike trail to numerous scholarships and the seed money we have provided for Village improvements were cited. Our service helps to ensure that Mt. Horeb remains a vibrant community for all to live, work, and play.

Alone, a task may seem insurmountable, but with many members pulling together, great results are possible. For your dedication, service, and membership we thank you!

Winner, Winner White Chicken Chili Dinner!



Jean with the 2020 trophy for White Chicken Chili

WHITE CHICKEN CHILI

- 1 rotisserie chicken cut into chunks
 - 1 yellow onion, diced
 - 2 stalks celery, diced
 - Assorted sweet peppers, diced
 - 1 jalapeno pepper, no seeds, diced
 - 1 small can green chilis
 - 1 small can sweet corn
 - 8 slices fried bacon
 - 1 box chicken stock
 - 1 8 oz. block or container of cream cheese
 - 2 cans cannellini beans
- Add salt, pepper, cumin, and chili powder to taste.
 Sauté veggies until soft. Add stock and veggies to a slow cooker.
 Place the chunks of chicken and small dabs of cream cheese into the pot. Season to taste.

*Slow-cook 6-8 hours on low temperature.

Great to take on a hike or family outing-NRK.no

Muffins with Carrot, Squash, Cheese and Ham

Ingredients:

200 g (1 2/3 cups) all-purpose flour
100 g (about 1 cup) lightly cooked oatmeal
2 tsp baking powder
1/2 tsp salt
1/2 tsp pepper
100 g (2/3 cup) squash
1 carrot
120 g (1 cup) white cheese
110 g (3/4 cup) cooked ham
2 eggs
4 dl (just under 1 3/4 cups) milk

Preheat oven to 200° C (about 390° F). Cut squash, carrot and ham into small, thin pieces. Grate the cheese. Mix all the ingredients in a bowl and stir together. Fill muffin tins 2/3 full and bake for about 25 minutes. Insert a toothpick in the middle of the muffin to make sure it is done.

*Some muffin tins need to be greased before you fill them. Spray pans with oil or grease them with melted butter / margarine.

5 Facts About Norway's King

- **Harald is the first Norwegian king born in Norway in 567 years (due to other unions).**
- **He is a yachting Olympian.**
- **He has affirmed continual confidence in the mission and philanthropy of the Sons of Norway Foundation.**
- **Over 2,500 square miles of eastern Svalbard are named after him, "Harald V Land."**
- **He married commoner, Sonja Haraldsen, after receiving permission from Parliament leaders, the Norwegian government, and King Olav V.**

[Check out the Sons of Norway Blog for the Latest News from Norway.](#)

www.SofN.com Follow the top ribbon!

A new neighbor will soon be joining the Global Seed Vault near Svalbard. Located on the island of Spitsbergen, the Arctic World Archive will store computer code. The location is in one of the most geopolitically stable places in the world.

The code archive is buried deep enough to survive an attack from nuclear radiation or any electromagnetic disturbance. Maintaining a cold Arctic climate ensures that the permafrost will continue to insulate its contents, and the code will be preserved for decades, centuries, or even millennia.

Users of the code archive includes GitHub, a Microsoft-owned code bank, which plans to store its open-source code. In addition, everything from the Linux and Android operating systems to a digitized version of Edvard Munch's painting *The Scream* are protected. Archives from the Vatican, and rumor has it—the recipe for McDonald's secret sauce will be protected here! The Arctic World Archive is housed in a former coal mine that was officially demilitarized in an international treaty signed after WWI.

[Norway Ranked Best Place to Raise Children](#)

The Lancet has just shared that Norway was ranked the best country in the world to raise children. Closely behind were the countries of South Korea, the Netherlands, France, and Ireland. This study was based on numerous criteria including children's education, nutrition, and health. *Source: www.insider.com*

Dis and Dat with
Donna Corcoran



Donna Corcoran has been a Vennelag member since September 2015. She recently answered the Nomination Committee's call and is now serving as Vennelag's Secretary for the 2020-2021 biennium. Takk for hjelpen oss, Donna!



I am married to my husband John, and we will be celebrating 50 years in May. We had four children, and our sons Edward and Harry live close by in Madison and Brooklyn, WI. Our grandson's name is Kevin William Corcoran, and his son's name is Jaxson. Our youngest child, Catie, passed at age 23 from complications of lupus. Our second daughter Meagan lives with her husband Derek and their two children Catherine and Benjamin in Cheyenne, Wyoming. We are fortunate to be able to visit about 3-4 times a year. When we visit, I have been teaching lefse-making!

In 2006, I flew overseas for the first time with the Dominican Festival Choir to Spain. In 2009, the same group traveled to Ireland, and my husband joined us. After investigating his ancestry, we discovered that he is 87% Irish.

In 2012, the same group toured Italy where the group's leader, Fr. Marchionda's father was born, and we walked past his father's boyhood home. My husband also accompanied me on this trip. I've traveled with the Diocesan Choir of Madison to Austria, Switzerland, Germany, and we also went to New York City. It was wonderful traveling, and in a couple of instances, I had small solo parts in some of the music.

I volunteered for nearly 4 years with Agrace Hospice and have volunteered with Ronald McDonald House for 16 years. Jean Grindle encouraged me to join the Quilt of Valor group in Verona which has been very rewarding. The veterans are especially appreciative of these quilts.

I also have been a choir member at church since the late 70s, one of the ladies there encouraged me to join the church quilt group which has been very rewarding and fun, too.

Since I stopped working a week before my daughter passed, it's been a process to find out what I could do with my life. I made up my mind when my daughter was diagnosed with lupus that I would do whatever I could for her.

In my professional career, I worked as a medical transcriptionist for UW Hospital for 18 years.

Vennelag's BIRKIE contenders



Guy Martin



Siri Martin

Birkie Fever hit Vennelag Lodge when members of the Martin Family hit the open countryside north of Hayward, Wisconsin in search of personal achievement, broken records, and an expression of the Nordic lifestyle. The races were viewed by hundreds of people along the course from Cable to Hayward. Cowbells rang out loud and clear as the skiers entered the homestretch, and a snowmobile could be seen escorting the top finishers. Exhausted by the 50 km freeskate and the 55 km classic course, the racers came into town after crossing Lake Hayward to face the beast that was the International Bridge. Built over Highway 63 in the center of downtown Hayward, the bridge provided yet another challenge of stamina before the racers could begin their final push to the finish line.

In related news, Siri, a Vennelag scholarship recipient, attends college at the University of Northern Michigan and her mother Martha recently shared that she has organized a cross country ski team for her peers. Her newly created club is for those students who are not members of an NCAA sanctioned sport. She is shown here wearing ski gear that displays the school's colors and the Northern Michigan wildcat mascot.

UPDATE...Lydia Martin a scholarship winner in her own right is studying wildlife management at UW-Stevens Point. This coming summer, Lydia will journey to the wilds of Alaska where she will study Emperor Geese. She will take a two hour bush plane ride from Anchorage and then journey an additional two hours by boat to the the Yukon Delta National Wildlife Refuge. The town of Chevak will be her nearest connection to civilization where she will pick up supplies and retrieve her mail. Lydia will live and work with four additional researchers in tents with wooden floors. These two young adults make us Vennelag proud!

American Birkebeiner Statistics

When one thinks of the American Birkebeiner, the only premier cross-country ski race in the U.S., they might not be aware that there are many other events being held during the same week. Below is a listing of activities that makes travel to Hayward so entertaining.

- 1) The Prince Haakon Race, the fastest growing race in numbers, had 665 participants.
- 2) Barkiebirkie racers numbered 95. In this race, competitors are tied to their dogs who pull them along the Main Street course.
- 3) The Junior Birkie included 309 competitors. This course is quite challenging as the participants ski the International Bridge twice!
- 4) The American Birkebeiner-6,249, people raced on Saturday, including our District President Andy Johnsen who came to the Finish Line after a grueling duration of 7.5 hours on the course. Forty-seven states were represented in this race.
- 5) The Kortelopet race had 2,824 skiers.
- 6) In the Giant Ski, 34 teams competed, totaling 204 participants.

***No numbers were available for the Adaptive Ski race.**



Guy and Siri Martin following their races at the American Birkebeiner in Hayward, WI.

Lodge members have reached Ringsaker, Norway on their virtual walk and are now headed back to America across the Atlantic! Members, you have done a fantastic job and are healthier for it. Gratulerer til Alle!

KAFFE STUE CANCELED

As the COVID-19 virus continues to evolve, we cannot risk the safety of our members nor our guests. We invite you to have a cup of coffee and connect with a friend via Zoom, Go to Meeting, or simply by phone. Keeping the lines of communication open between our members is now more important than ever.



Ta vare på hverandre.
(Take care of each other.)

Do you have a change of address?

Please inform Duane Kittleson of any change in mailing address or email. You may make a request to discontinue the printed copy to receive an email copy notification when the newsletter is posted on www.sonsofnorway5.com.

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Little Ole and the Stork

Little Ole was sitting at the kitchen table doing his school homework. He had a puzzled look on his face as he considered the assignment that was due--writing an essay about his origin. He turned to question his mor. "Mor, hvor did Bestemor come from?" he asked.

"Da stork brought her," answered moren han Lena. "Og hvor kommer du fra?" asked Little Ole. "Da stork brought meg," his mor answered. "Og hvor jeg kommer fra?" Little Ole inquired. "Vell, sonnen min, da stork brought deg, også," mor Lena replied. With a scowl on his face, Little Ole picked up his tablet, and began to write his essay: "Der have been no natural births in our family for tre generations."

TEAMWORK WORKS!

Your membership dues are lower because the Financial side of the Sons of Norway subsidizes local lodges from the \$1.3 million in profits that are raised each year.

The profits from insurance and other investments are used to publish the *Viking* magazine and to pay for informational packets that are sent to Lodges. In addition, Vennelag Lodge receives a small stipend from the Financial Division when someone purchases a product.

*Greg Ragan's contact information is on the last page of this newsletter.

Vesterheim Offers New Intergenerational Programs in 2020

“The intergenerational camp experience is designed for adult/child duos to come together for screen-free, hands-on activities,” says Lea Lovelace, director of folk-art education. The classes are geared for adult and child pairs from age 8 and up.

One Saturday workshop was held on February 8th before COVID-19 warnings caused a change to the schedule. A folk-art family camp is tentatively scheduled at Vesterheim from August 7-9.

Pre-registration for the summer camp is required. Sign up at www.vesterheim.org, or by calling Vesterheim at (563) 382-9681.

Intergenerational programming at Vesterheim offers families a unique opportunity to share creative and hands-on experiences with one another. Our friend Rebecca Hanna led the February workshop and taught the skill of kroting, a Norwegian technique of decorating painted wood surfaces. By offering these classes, Vesterheim helps to ensure that Norwegian artforms will be practiced in successive generations.

Source: *Vesterheim Norwegian American Museum, February 2020, Fun with Family Folk Art, The Norwegian American*

Norway #1 in Streaming Services...from NewsinEnglish.no

The international music industry is looking to Norway to learn the secrets of streaming, a technology that lets the user listen to music directly from online libraries. According to recent research, Norwegian consumers stream music more eagerly than anyone else.

A playlist created by Views and News on Spotify, a large Sweden-based streaming service which features numerous Norwegian acts and is also wildly popular with Norwegian listeners.

A new report found that 48 percent of Norwegians and 43 percent of Swedes have started using music streaming services such as Spotify and Wimp. Both services are growing rapidly both in terms of customers and in music on offer.

Streaming is different from downloading music in that no files are transferred to the user's computer. Instead, the user selects a song or a playlist from an online database, which is then played directly over the internet.

Spotify is one of the streaming services that can be used to listen to current songs in Norway. You can select the top song of 2019 to discover what is popular.

Go to www.Spotify.com to learn more!

***Vennelag Lodge has been awarded a 2020 cultural grant in the amount of \$1,000.00 from the Sons of Norway Foundation for upcoming projects. Look for opportunities to come!**

Wisconsin, the Promise of a Better Life

Only a small amount of tillable land was available to Norway's agrarian society 200 years ago. After 1815, Norway's rising birthrate exceeded the nation's capacity. Norway was imprisoned by its geography, and it did not transition to an industrial mercantile society, unlike much of mainland Europe. No new opportunities were available and young people could not find work. Other things that changed Norway's society involved transportation, land ownership, and the social class structure.

With the rise of industrialization elsewhere, Norway's natural resources were in high demand. Norway responded with increasing its merchant marine which increased trade. Some of these ships also provided transport for emigrants who wished to move to America.

Radical changes came to the agriculture sector, with the old system of privately held rigidly controlled land and a shared common land becoming obsolete. Landowners were no longer able to employ hired men whose numbers nearly doubled in the first half of the 19th century. With two-thirds of the population engaged in farming, in 1865 emigration became inevitable.

The system whereby the oldest son inherited the family farm (primogeniture), increasing population, lack of new farmland and fluctuating grain prices on the world market brought financial ruin to many families. With each passing year, more Norwegians looked favorably toward America.

Fapso, Richard J. *Norwegians in Wisconsin*. Madison. Wisconsin Historical Society Press, 2001. Print.

JUST FOR KIDS...

Did you know that there is a special place on the International website where you can find activities for the little ones in your life? Visit www.SofN.com and follow the top ribbon to *Member Benefits*. The drop-down choices will appear. One says, *Just for Kids*.

The Norwegian American Newspaper also features monthly activities for children. In the March 2020 issue, there are ideas for making daffodils from egg carton cups and tissue paper. Cupcake papers are another option.



Photo: John Erik Twedt & Max Stevenson

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Kingdom of Norway

Kongeriket Norge (Bokmål)

Kongeriket Noreg (Nynorsk)

Norgga gonagasriika (Northern Sami)

Vuona gånågisriikka (Lule Sami)

Nöörjen gånkarijhke (Southern Sami)



Flag



Coat of arms

Motto:

Enige og tro inntil Dovre faller (Bokmål)

Einige og tru inntil Dovre fell (Nynorsk)

"United and loyal until Dovre falls"

The coat of arms of Norway displays a standing golden lion on a background of red, wearing a golden crown and holding an axe with a silver blade.

The coat of arms is used by the King, including the King's Council, the Parliament, and the Supreme Court, which are the three powers according to the Norwegian Constitution.

Since 1905, two parallel versions exist: the more elaborate version being used by the King and the simpler version used by the State.

The arms in banner form serve as the monarch's flag or Royal Standard.

en.wikipedia.org

The National flag of Norway tricolor of blue, red, and white denotes the country's liberty and independence. The concept was borrowed from the colors of the French, American, and British flags. The blue cross represents Norway's union with Sweden and its past association with Denmark.

Source: www.graphicmaps.com

Concerts on the Square Postponed

Each summer, Vennelag members meet at the base of the Colonel Heg statue near the WI Capitol to enjoy an evening of Concerts on the Square.

The Wisconsin Chamber Orchestra (WCO) is delaying the start of its free summer series, Concerts on the Square, by five weeks given the expected need to continue to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

The first Concerts on the Square performance is now scheduled for 6 p.m., Tuesday, July 28. All Concerts on the Square this summer will start at 6 p.m. Tuesday rather than 7 p.m., Wednesday. Bring your meal or buy one from a participating vendor. Du er velkommen!

BRATS ON THE LOT-~~PENDING~~

Saturday, June 27, 2020

10:30 AM-1:30 PM

Ten to 12 members are needed for the set-up and working of the event.

- *8:00 AM-Two people are needed to pick up the tables and coolers from storage.
- *8:15-Four additional workers are needed to help set-up the canopy, and the tables. Goods will need to be labeled and priced, after tables are covered.
- *Four people will work the bake sale from 8 AM-1:30 PM
- *Six-8 people are needed for brat sales and for grilling.
(This will require standing.)
- *1:30 PM-Help is needed with the take-down and to return equipment to storage.
Contact Rita Schraepfer, Chair, at 608-220-7565 or rsderke@gmail.com to volunteer!

Scandinavian Proverbs

Worry often gives a small thing a big shadow. (Sweden)

He who lies on the floor cannot fall. (Norway)

The light and the serious go well together. (Denmark)

One sits best on one's own bench. (Norway)

www.sonsofnorwaymthoreb.org

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