



Vennelag News

Vennelag Lodge, 5-513

Calendar of Events

Lodge Meetings

Location: Mt. Horeb Community Center

Sunday, **March 19, 2:00 PM**

Business meeting, followed by program

Thursday, **April 20, 6:30 PM**

Business meeting, followed by program

Thursday, **May 25, 6:30 PM**

Special *Syttende Mai* Event with UW Madison
Professor Emeritus James P. Leary

Board Meetings

Location: Culver's Restaurant , Mt. Horeb

Thursday, **March 9, 6:30 PM**

Thursday, **April 6, 6:30 PM**

Thursday, **May 11, 6:30 PM**

Glimpses Inside This Issue:

Calendar of Events (page 1)

Set-up Crew Schedule (page 1)

Ord fra presidenten (page 2)

Upcoming Lodge Meetings (page 3)

Raymond P Knutson obituary (p. 3)

Birkebeiner News (page 4)

Cook-off Recipes (page 5)

Garage Sale (page 6)

Biographies (page 7)

Food Chairman Report

There are still slots for the following months: April 20th needs 2 people, Sept.28th needs 3 people and Oct.26th need 1 person. Thanks to the members that have signed up for the other spots.

Our servers for Sunday, March 19th are Nancy Meyers, Mary Krantz and Marg Johnson.

Ann Walser, Food Chair

Set-up Crews for March and April

March Set-up Crew, Sunday, March 19, 2017, 1 PM

David and Janet Andersen, David Barnes, LeRoy Collins, Jacquelyn Brown, Roger Brown, Kristen Clary, Tamiko Clary

April Set-up Crew, Thursday, April 20 (1 Week early), 2017, 5:30 PM

Jim Cook, Donna Corcoran, Danielle Dyreson, Lana Dyreson, John Eberhardt, Karen Eberhardt, Aldeen Fjelstad, Allen Fjelstad

Takk for å hjelpen oss (Thanks for helping us)!

Looking ahead...

Please bring any items you have for the Vennelag Garage Sale to the April meeting. The garage sale will be held from Thursday thru **Saturday, April 27-29, 2017**. Clean-up will follow on Sunday, the 30th, and assistance with all aspects of the sale is welcome!

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

Hei, alle sammen (Hello everyone)!

After an unusually warm February, one wonders what kind of March is in store for us all. Will there be more unseasonably warm temperatures or a time of turbulent snowstorms? Whatever the weather, we are Norskie-tough and can endure! We know that any snow won't last for long, and Mother Nature is certain to usher in Spring very soon!

As I write this message, I am preparing to leave for the Barnebirke in Hayward, WI. One of my duties as the Youth Director for District 5, is to participate in and represent our District at this event. My role is to meet and register young skiers, ages 3-12 for their ski races. I will be working in tandem with Michaela Decker the District 5 Sports and Recreation Director. Skiers from across the world bring their families to enjoy the American Birkebeiner and all of the events the weekend holds. Thank you to the many members who donated cookies for this event. Cookies that are not eaten at the "Cookie Tent" will be available to the elite skiers at check-in. I will report the total number of cookies sent this year to you at the March meeting.

I will also try to post pictures from the event on the District 5 website: sonsofnorway5.com. If you have not visited this website, it is well worth a few minutes of your time. Some photos will be directed to Vennelag's [Facebook page: Vennelag Lodge Sons of Norway](#), and in addition, Duane Kittleson has redesigned our website: www.sonsofnorwaymthoreb.org, and I will send some photos to Duane for posting, too.

Looking ahead...The Vennelag Board of Directors is in discussions about a new member breakfast and information-sharing day. Anyone new to Vennelag Lodge over the course of the last two years is welcome to attend; we will help you to understand the policies and procedures of the Sons of Norway. Chairmen of our larger events will provide details in a concise manner and let you know how you can get actively involved! Invitations will be sent to our new member families, and Mt. Horeb area citizens are encouraged to attend. Invite a friend to join you!

We have also planned a baking workshop solely for our members, and we will teach anyone interested how to make many of the foods we serve at our events. We ask that youth be a minimum of 9 years old for safety reasons. Stay tuned for further details!

Fraternally,

Cheryl

UPCOMING LODGE MEETINGS

Family Lodge Meeting set for *March*

Our presenter on Sunday, March 19, at 2 PM will be **Ingunn Linnerud**, Mt. Horeb's exchange student from Hadeland, Norway. Ingunn has been staying with the Guy Martin Family and is attending Mt. Horeb High School. She will compare schooling in her hometown to that of Mt. Horeb.

Following Ingunn's presentation, Lodge members will play several rounds of "**Ingenting**", which translates to "nothing" in Norwegian. This game is similar to Bunco and is great for all ages. Prizes will be awarded to the individual(s) with the lowest score and the highest score. One lucky prize will also be awarded. The purpose of the game is to provide lodge members an opportunity to get to know the many new people who have joined our midst over the course of the last year. What a great family day it will be! ***This game is perfect for our youth . Please bring your youngsters to this event!***

April, a time to think about summer camp!

Eric Dregni will be making a return engagement to our Lodge meeting on April 20. Many members will recall Eric's visit from last year when he presented, "*Let's Go Fishing.*" His presentation this year is entitled, "*You're Sending Me Where? Dispatches from Summer Camp.*" Eric will share funny stories about running one of the Concordia Language Villages. Here's the website of his new book:

<https://www.upress.umn.edu/book-division/books/youare-sending-me-where>

Our meeting will begin with a light dinner at 6:30 PM.

District 5 Board Member Raymond P Knutson



Raymond P. Knutson, 80, of Davis Junction, IL passed away Friday January 20, 2017, at his residence with family by his side. Raymond was born on June 13, 1936 in Dunn County, WI, the son of Harry and Ruth (Peterson) Knutson. He married Sally A. Junck on February 28, 1959. Raymond was of the Lutheran faith. He belonged to the Plumbers & Pipefitters Local 23 for over 50 years and then became a building inspector for the City of Loves Park for 9 years. Raymond taught apprentices the trade at Local 23 for many years. He was a member of the Ellida Lodge where he was Chief for 30 years; he was also a member of the Lithuanian Club, was a lifetime member of the 3 L Club, and Harmony Sportsman's Club. He was Past President and Treasurer for District 5 of the Sons of Norway. Raymond also held offices at the International level of the Sons of Norway, most recently serving as International Treasurer. He was Grand Chief of the IOV where he served 22 years on the Council. Raymond is survived by his wife Sally; daughter Vickie Knutson; son Steven Robert Knutson; 3 grandsons, 1 granddaughter and 5 great-grandchildren; brother Harlen (Lorna) Knutson; sisters Inez Satter, Sandra (Thomas) Werner and Victoria (Stanley) Cronk; several nieces and nephews. Raymond was preceded in death by his parents; brothers Oris, Wesley, Gaylon, Delmer and Richard; sisters Marion and Lorraine Knutson.

It's All About Attitude!

Despite the fact that the **2017 American Birkebeiner** was cancelled, cool heads prevailed, creative minds came together, and alternative activities were planned in hours for all attendees. The participants had a blast, including pet dogs who ran with their owners in the first event...the *Barkie-Birkie!* Woof! Woof!

The **Barnebirke** — children's ski race — was converted from a ski race to a fun run instead and was held in nearby Hatchery Creek Park. The Junior Birke was also held at this location and the bonus part of the change was a quicker arrival at the treat tent. All of the area schools who enrolled their students to race reported true to form. Attitudes were extremely positive and smiles beamed from ear to ear as participants entered the "Cookie Tent" for a few treats to go along with a cup of steaming hot chocolate provided by Swiss Miss.



A large party with music and comradery for 5,000 elite skiers and their families was held at the trail head staging area and a 5K ski loop was made from snow transported to Hayward from the UP of Michigan. Grills were working overtime to cook brats and other tasty sandwich options. Chants and songs about "Birkie Fever" could be heard in the pubs throughout Hayward. This year's unusual weather created a minor setback for skiers on the Worldloppet Tour, but plans are already underway for Birkie 2018.



We also learned that the Sons of Norway had been nominated for the annual Volunteers Award on behalf of the Birkie Committee. Twelve District 5 members were in town to help with a myriad of tasks. Although we were not winners this year, our organization has been recognized! Many people tell us that our presence at the Birkie Expo is something they seriously look forward to each year. We couldn't make such an impact on this event without YOU. Thank you, Vennelag members, for your donation of over 95 dozen cookies this year! Our contribution added to that of other District 5 Lodges took our tally over 1,000 dozen cookies. UFF-Da!



Takk skal du ha, alle sammen!

Results of the Cookie and Chili contests, with their winning recipes. Congratulations, Ann and Roger!

The Winning Cookie Recipe

Meltaway Cookies by Ann Walser

1 c. flour 1/3 c. powdered sugar
 2 T cocoa 1/2 c. butter
 Pinch of salt

Mix all ingredients together until dough is moist. This takes a while but don't give up!

Once the dough is moist form into a small ball, roll in sugar and then press with a glass to flatten it.

Bake at 350 degrees for 8 minutes or so. When cool, frost with powdered sugar frosting. Makes about 2 dozen.

Congratulations, Ann!

The Winning Chili Recipe

Chili Con Carne by Roger Schlessor

Ingredients:

- 2 pounds lean ground beef
- 1 large chopped onion
- 6 cloves garlic, finely chopped
- 1 tablespoon dried ground cumin to taste
- 1 tablespoon dried oregano to taste
- 2 tablespoons chili powder to taste
- Add coarse salt and freshly-ground black pepper to taste
- 1 can tomato sauce (14 1/2 ounce) and
- 1 can whole tomatoes (14 1/2 ounce), coarsely chopped
- 2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 1 teaspoon minced canned chipotle chilies in adobo sauce
- 1 can (14 1/2 ounce) can beef broth
- 1 cup wine (I used Cabernet Sauvignon)
- 1 to 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1 can black beans, rinsed and drained

Slow Cooker (Crock Pot) Method:

In a large frying pan over medium-high heat, cook ground beef until browned; drain off fat and discard. Add onion and garlic and sauté until the onions become soft and translucent, approximately 3 to 4 minutes. Add cumin, oregano, chili powder, salt, and pepper. Stir into beef mixture and cook for a few minutes longer.

Add the cooked beef mixture to the slow cooker along with tomato sauce, chilies, beef broth, sugar, and beans. Combine ingredients and cover.

Cook on low heat for 8 to 10 hours or high heat for 4 to 5 hours.

Serve in bowls and garnish with your favorite toppings.

Congratulations, Roger!



Roger receiving his Chili award from the District 5 Recreation and Sports Director, Michaela Decker.



Sons of Norway Garage Sale

Are you planning on doing some spring house cleaning? Vennelag would like to get your used items for our Spring Garage Sale. Our lodge will once again be sponsoring a garage sale in conjunction with Mt. Horeb's Village Wide Garage Sale the last week of April.

Once again, we'll be headquartered at the home of Rita Schraepfer-Derke at 205 N. 3rd Street, just a couple blocks off Main Street. Set-up will begin on Wednesday, April 26th. We'll be open for business Thursday, April 27th, Friday, April 28th and Saturday April 29th. Clean-up will occur on Sunday, April 30th.

Please price your items in advance of the sale. Items not sold will be donated to a charity at the end of the weekend. Rita will provide chili and barbeque, buns, paper plates, napkins, cups, coffee. If anyone would like to bring other snack items, such as desserts, or salads, feel free to do so.

We will need people to cashier and bag items, move and arrange things, and help customers carry their purchases. More information will be available at the March and April lodge meetings. You can sign-up for work times and to bring food items.

Last year, one of our hottest items was plants! If you are thinning your flower beds, please bring some of your plants to the sale.

Thanks to all of you who contribute in so many ways to make this fundraiser such a big success!

Vennelag Lodge has received congratulations from the International Office of Sons of Norway!

February 8, 2017

Dear Cheryl,

I would like to congratulate you and the members of Vennelag for your outstanding growth last year. The hard work of your lodge helped it achieve an impressive 14.8% growth last year.

As a result, Vennelag won the top Large lodge prize for District 5 for the 2016 Recruitment Challenge.

In recognition of your achievement, I am happy to present you with a check for \$250. It is my hope that this money will help your lodge continue to grow and that your work will be an inspiration for other lodges across the organization.

Again, thank you for all your work on behalf of Sons of Norway, and congratulations on your success in 2016.

Fraternally,

Linda Pederson, Fraternal Director, Sons of Norway



Photo from our February meeting:

Tiffany Schwoerer presents rosemailing pins to **Karen Eberhardt** and **Jean Grindle**. Tiffany also earned a pin for her efforts!

Congratulations, ladies!

Keep up the good work!

Biographies for upcoming presenters

Ingunn Linnerud is an 18-year-old Junior at Mt Horeb High School. Following in her mother's footsteps, she is an exchange student from Hadeland, Norway. She is staying with the Guy and Martha Martin Family. Her mom stayed with the Voldens of Daleyville 25 years ago. When Ingunn goes back to Norway she will finish her training in travel and tourism.

Eric Dregni is the author of 17 books including *Vikings in the Attic: In Search of Nordic America*, *Weird Minnesota*, *Never Trust a Thin Cook*, *Let's Go Fishing!*, and most recently *You're Sending Me Where? Dispatches from Summer Camp*. As a Fulbright fellow to Norway, he survived a dinner of *rakfisk* (fermented fish) thanks to 80-proof aquavit, took the "meat bus" to Sweden for cheap salami with a busload of knitting pensioners, and compiled the stories in *In Cod We Trust: Living the Norwegian Dream*. He is a freelance journalist for the *Lake Minnetonka Magazine*, *StarTribune*, and the *Norwegian-American Weekly*.

Eric is Assoc. Prof. of English at Concordia St. Paul and, in the summer, dean of the Italian Concordia Language Village, *Lago del Bosco*. He lives in Minneapolis with his wife, three kids, and a dog named Bacco.

(photo below)



Greg Ragan is the local Financial Benefits Counselor for the Sons of Norway. Greg is 25% Norwegian and is married with three children. He lives in Roscoe, Illinois, which is just south of Beloit, Wisconsin, and he is assigned to our lodge. He has been in the insurance and investment industry since 1983 and has been associated with the Sons of Norway since 1990.

Greg is well-trained in the areas of social security, long term care, Medicare, Medicaid, taxes, retirement planning, and insurance & investment products. He is here for the lodge members to use as a valuable resource, *free of charge* and will gladly come to visit with you at your house. He only charges a cup of coffee and a couple of cookies.

He will be at our March meeting. Feel free to give him a call anytime.

Greg Ragan - Insurance / Investment Broker

Sons of Norway

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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.

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**Next Newsletter Deadline:
April 22, 2017**



Note: We will be doing the Brats on the Lot on August 19, 2017, so please add that to your calendar!

Matt Geiger at the February meeting, with his new book, *The Geiger Counter*.



