



Vennelag News

Vennelag Lodge, 5-513

January and February, 2017

*There **will not** be a Lodge meeting held in January, 2017.

Our first meeting of the year is scheduled for Sunday, February 19th. Doors will open for set-up at 1 PM, and the business meeting will begin at 2 PM.

Our speaker that day will be our friend Matt Geiger who will be showcasing his newly released book, The Geiger Counter.

We will be conducting a chili cook-off, which will be judged by Matt, and a cookie contest to be judged by local baker Pam Barnes. Articles in this newsletter have additional details.

Board Meeting

Thursday, February 9, 2017

6:30 PM, Culver's Restaurant , Mt. Horeb

Lodge Meeting

Sunday, February 19, 2017

Set-up 1:00 PM

Business Meeting 2 PM, followed by program
Mt. Horeb Community Center

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Calendar—Lodge Meetings

Regular Lodge meetings are held at the Mt. Horeb Community Center, unless otherwise specified.

January-**NO LODGE MEETING!**

Sunday, February 19, 2017, 2 PM

Sunday, March 19, 2017, 2 PM

Thursday, April 20 (1 Week early), 2017, 6:30 PM

Thursday, May 25, 2017, 6:30 PM (Syttende Mai Celebration)

Thursday, June 22, 2017, Midsommer Event at Donald Park

Friday, July 14, 2017, Set-up FOR KAFFE STUE

August-**NO LODGE MEETING!**

If you are looking for Vennelag Lodge on the internet, you will need to go to the new addresses:

New website address is www.sonsofnorwaymthoreb.org

New Facebook page is [Vennelag Lodge Sons of Norway](#)

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



Godt Nytt År, alle sammen!

2017, a New Year to celebrate all

things Norsk! In Vennelag Lodge, our blessings have been many and our troubles few. It is my hope that we will have a tremendous 2017, and from all indications, there is no reason why we shouldn't. Fifteen new members joined our lodge last year; that's something to celebrate! Young families were among them, a particularly energizing occurrence. Some of them have invited their friends to join our ranks, too, and it has become more important than ever to create offerings that reflect the change these younger families need. If YOUR family is new to our Lodge, please speak with your children and discover what they would enjoy doing. Please communicate that to me, so we plan activities accordingly.

As our Board looks forward to planning events for the upcoming year, we have identified one area that needs assistance, the floor preparation. Our current greeter, who has helped with tables and chairs, has been hospitalized and can no longer do the lifting required. Thus, I am calling on all able members to help. The Lodge space is open 1 hour prior to our meetings. Getting this piece of the puzzle in place helps the remainder of meeting to run smoothly. I will be compiling a work crew for each monthly meeting to help with this task. I have included the February "work crew" list in this newsletter. If one cannot work his or her shift, it will become necessary to find a replacement. This policy works well at my church and should also be beneficial to our Lodge. Duane Kittleson and I are updating our Lodge directory, and we will have it ready for the Sunday, February 19th meeting. For those of you with e-mail access, your directory will be sent electronically. If you do not wish to have your name included in the directory, please call Duane (608- 229-6738) or me.

Mange takk,

Cheryl Wille-Schlessner, Lodge President

rogcher@mhtc.net, 608-219-4464

2016 LODGE VOLUNTEER HOURS ARE DUE JANUARY 15

There is no meeting in January, 2017, but please find some time to determine how many hours of service that you, as a member, have given to the Lodge over the course of the last year. Our Lodge Secretaries, Lana Dyreson and Tiffany Schwoerer, need this information to file proper documentation with the International Office.

This task is extremely important, as it helps all Sons of Norway Lodges keep their tax exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service. The reports must be filed by February 1st, so timeliness is crucial. Thank you in advance for these efforts and for the many hours of community service you have given on behalf of Vennelag Lodge in 2016.



Cookie Call!

Since 1973, Hayward, WI, has hosted the American Birkebeiner Ski Race, the granddaddy of all cross country events in America. Over the course of time, different sponsors have been involved, including the Sons of Norway International. Not seen as a profitable venture, the Sons of Norway discontinued its relationship with the event, but the 5th District of the Sons of Norway stepped forward to continue a time-loved tradition of providing cookies for the Barnebirke, the children's ski race, which is held on Thursday of *Birke Week*, in 2017, February 23rd.

Partnered with Swiss Miss, children and their families enjoy a wonderful cup of hot chocolate and a cookie or two provided by our generous members. Remaining cookies are taken to Hayward High School where the elite skiers gather to pick up their bibs, timing devices, and other supplies. The adults I have met are also thankful for our efforts and some have said, "This is the best part of the Birkebeiner for me!" Coffee is also sold at the high school, contributing some additional funding to the District 5 treasury.

Cookies come to the Barnebirke from lodges throughout District 5 and from as far away as lodges in Indiana via District 5 President Andrew Johnsen. Our cookie goal is 1,000 dozen of cookies, but that total was lacking last year. Some lodges send a monetary donation, instead of cookies, if their numbers are few or if their members are unable to help with this project. Before set out, the cookies are counted by the Recreation Director Michaela Decker, so a proper tally and report can be made.

Cookies from Southern Wisconsin are gathered and taken to the Barnebirke by members from Idun and Vennelag Lodges. There are a few things to keep in mind when preparing cookies for the event. Please do not use nuts or peanut butter in your cookies, due to allergic reactions some children have today. The serious or elite skiers prefer wholesome cookies made from grains such as oatmeal. Spice cookies are a hit, as are the old-fashioned molasses cookies. Traditional varieties are also enjoyed such as chocolate chip and sugar cookies, frosted or not.

Cookies can be brought to our Lodge meeting on Sunday, February 19, 2017. It will be a great way to get many of our members to participate in the Cookie Contest that the Lodge is holding that day. Only one of your cookies will be tasted by the judge, and the rest will move on to the Barnebirke. Tiffany Schwoerer is conducting this contest. Questions about the cookie contest should be directed to Tiffany at: 608-527-2821.

Thank you, Vennelag members, for contributing to this tasty event!

From the Cultural Director, Tiffany Schwoerer

Dust off your rolling pin, wash your baking tools, gather your ingredients, because Vennelag is having a **Cookie Contest** at the next Lodge meeting in February!

Bake and bring 1 dozen of your favorite cookie recipe. We won't limit the entries to just traditional Norwegian cookies like krumkake or sandbakkles, which are recipes you can bake to help you earn a Cultural Pin! So bring a dozen (all the same type) of your favorite home-made cookies to the Cookie Contest.

Our Judges will be judging different things to select the Grand Cookie Champion, who will have bragging rights for the year. Please list the ingredients, for allergy safety.

While you have your oven going, please think about making a few extra dozen for the Barnebirke athletes. You can drop off your donations at our February meeting, for delivery to the race.

VENNELAG Lodge Officers

President:	Cheryl Wille-Schlesser
Vice President:	Carolyn Johnson
Counselor:	Duane Kittleson
Lodge Secretary:	Lana Dyreson
Board Secretary:	Tiffany Schwoerer
Treasurer:	David Andersen
Foundation Director:	Aldeen Fjelstad
Historian:	Rita Schraepfer-Derke
Food Chairman:	Ann Walser
Publicity Director:	Arthur Ness
Recreation Director:	Davi Penne
Social Director:	Martin Amundsen
Music Director:	Eric Albrecht
Newsletter Editor:	Lora Lee
Trustee:	Allen Fjelstad
Trustee:	Arthur Ness

Welcome to our new members!!!

Holly DeWitt, Helen Dicks, Susan Fadness, Karen Justeson, Donald Mueller, Karon Quam, Vern Quam, Michelle Skeels, David Stenseth, Arlene Watrud-Krueger

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. Also, if you have information to be shared with all lodge members, contact:

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

From the Social Director, Martin Amundsen

December is a busy time of the year for most families, but weekends become almost impossible to schedule. A few enthusiastic Vennelag members attended the **bowling outing** at Norsk Golf Bowl on Friday, December 9th. We will send \$5.00 per bowler to the Masse Moro Heritage Camp fund in care of Mike Palecek, District 5 Treasurer. The money will be placed in the first-time camper account where it can be used by youth who are new to the Masse Moro experience. Thank you for your attendance!

BUT WAIT! We can do better, and I am expecting a much larger turnout at our next event! My sister Siri has volunteered to help me with advertising the date of the event. I will ask President Cheryl to help me contact youth members of our Lodge. She will also send out a reminder e-blast to our membership, giving details of the activity. We will be offering some incentives for bowling, and some prizes, too. We will also have snacks available at the bowling alley. I will let you know when the next day of bowling is set!

New Lodge Shirts Are on the Way!

Member Stephen Sopcak has taken the lead to find reasonably priced polo shirts that members can wear for special events in the Lodge, to Zone meetings, District conventions, or to International Lodge venues. Steve has received price quotes and will be reporting his findings to Vennelag members at our February 19th meeting. Thank you, Steve, for doing the research needed on this project.

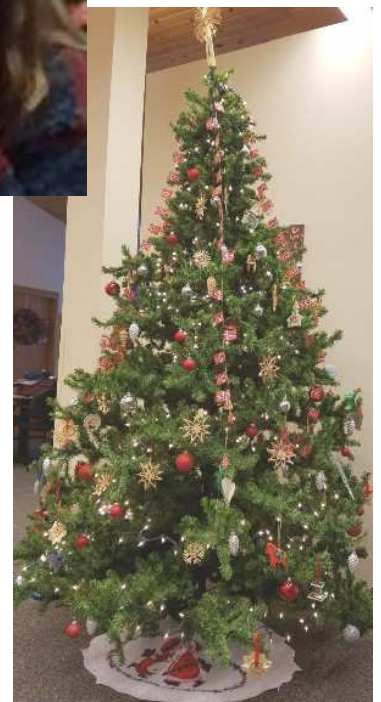
Vennelag Lodge Baking Workshop, November 4 & 5, 2016



Vennelag Jultrefest, December 3, 2016



Ingunn Linnerud and Siri Martin with Santa



Vennelag's First Annual Chili Cook-off!

There are as many different types of chili as there are members in a lodge! The Vennelag Board invites you to share your best chili in the 1st annual Vennelag chili cook-off! Our cook-off event will be held on Sunday afternoon, February 19, 2017, following our business meeting. Bring your chili in a Crockpot® or other heated device. We have enough plug-ins installed now to keep many devices working.



Please make enough chili to serve at least six members.

Matt Geiger will serve as our judge for all chili entries and he will decide on a winner. The winners will get their names (and hopefully a picture) on the District 5 website, and perhaps in the Mt. Horeb Mail, a blue ribbon, a certificate, and most importantly, "bragging rights" for the year!

In order to have enough chili to serve our entire lodge, we need to know one week in advance of the meeting who will be bringing their special creation. Please e-mail Cheryl at: rogrcher@mhtc.net.

Like the Vikings of old, part of our persona is being adventuresome and willing to try something new! If you are not the cook in your family, convince a loved one to do that for you! Do not bring a commercial or purchased chili. We look forward to a tremendous selection of homemade chili to choose from on February 19th. Lykke til-Good Luck!

2017 Vennelag Lodge Meeting and Event Set-up Crews

January-NO LODGE MEETING!

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

Eric, Lauren, and Nathan Albrecht, Brenda Martin, Martin and Siri Amundsen, Samantha Kienast, Jean Bower

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

David and Janet Andersen, David Barnes, LeRoy Collins, Jacquelyn and 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 & Karen Eberhardt, Aldeen Fjelstad, Allen Fjelstad

May Set-up Crew, Thursday, May 25, 2017, 5:30 PM (Syttende Mai Celebration)

Jane and Steve Frame, Anders Frank, Ingrid Frank, Susan Frank, Cheryle and Eddie Goplin, Jean Grindle

June Set-up Crew, Thursday, June 22nd, Midsommer Event at Donald Park

David Gustafson, Mary Krantz, Jerry Haglund, Ruth Haglund, David Hermanson, Tamara Hermanson, Marilyn Huset, Jane Huset, Jim Iverson, Erik Iverson

July 14, FRIDAY, Set-up FOR KAFFE STUE-All hands on deck @ 2 PM for set-up, THANK YOU!

August-NO LODGE MEETING!

Masse Moro Update

Following the District 5 Convention held at Marshfield, WI in June, 2016, there has been a flurry of activity coming from Kaia Ellis and Sarah Barnes, the administrators who oversee District 5's youth summer heritage camp, Masse Moro. New marketing materials have been written and the website has been redesigned under Sarah's leadership. Fundraising efforts continue to expand led by Kaia.

District 5 Board Treasurer Michael Palecek has begun writing articles of incorporation to establish a 501C3 tax status with the Internal Revenue Service. The breadth of the 501C3 document has yet to be finalized and may include more than Masse Moro alone. In addition, local lodges have begun contributing financial support for Camp, recognizing its importance to our youth and ultimately to our lodges, in general.

These actions will all aid in making our Camp more solvent, by hopefully attracting more campers and providing more accountability to the members of District 5, as Camp generates more revenue. It will allow our administrators more flexibility when applying for grants from Scandinavian heritage organizations, which require a tax exempt status as part of their application process. People who contribute to the 501C3 will be able to realize a tax exemption on their federal income taxes, once our documents are approved.

As contributions are given, listings of the lodge names are posted on the *Masse Moro* Facebook page. Donations may be sent to Cheryl Wille-Schlesser at the following address: 200 Beth Circle, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572. Please indicate whether you have a specific designation such as: the general fund, scholarships, naturalist programs, equipment purchases, or speakers. You may also choose no designation, allowing the staff to use your contribution to help in the best way possible.

If you would like to see the updates that have been made to the website, please search [Masse Moro.org](#). Youth directors in local lodges may also find this information helpful, as youth begin to inquire about life at Camp and ask for Lodge Supporting Grants.

Our Camp CD is available for purchase at the Masse Moro website. It is also listed on the [sonsofnorway5.com](#) website. Kaia is working with Camp families to generate additional funds. Recently, a lefse fundraiser she led brought in over \$600.00!

One goal of the Masse Moro team is to cast a wider net in 2017 to attract campers from all of Sons of Norway's Districts. We will be working with Linda Pederson at the International Office to get our materials posted on the [SofN.com](#) website where youth will be able to access our information.

If you would like to hear more about our plans for Masse Moro, or you would like to become a Masse Moro partner by making a contribution, we welcome you! Kaia, Sarah, and Cheryl are available to speak to members at Lodge meetings. You may contact Cheryl at: rogcher@mhtc.net or by phone, 608-219-4464, to arrange a time. Thank you!

Cheryl Wille-Schlesser, District 5 Youth Director



Vennelag News

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



Cooler Needs A Home

I have a Gott cooler in my garage that was left after the Frokost. Some one said, "Take it, we can't leave it here" and that is how it landed in my garage. It is beige with a dark brown cover. There is a BIG fish on the side. I hope the person who is missing this medium size cooler will claim it. Let me know and I will bring it to a lodge meeting.

Ann Walser

Is one of your **New Year's Resolutions** to **declutter?**

Clean out any unwanted treasures and keep them for the **garage sale** our Lodge is having the last week of April, 2017. Thank you!