

Vennelag Lodge, 5-513

**VENNELAG LODGE CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Vennelag Lodge trip to Norway	Wednesday, September 6, 2017, Departure to Chicago, Flight 7:30 PM
Lefse baking for the Frokost	Saturday, September 23, 2017-MHCC, 8:30 AM arrival
Lefse baking for the Frokost	Monday, September 25, 2017 –ELC, 8:30 AM arrival
Lefse baking for the Frokost	Wednesday, September 27, 2017-ELC, 8:30 AM arrival
LODGE MEETING	Thursday, September 28, 2017, 6:30 PM
Cookie Baking for the Frokost	Saturday, September 30, 2017- MHCC, 8:30 AM
Set-up CC for the Frokost and Prep	Friday, October 6, 2017, Set-up 2 PM
Høst Frokost (fall breakfast)	Saturday, October 7, 2017, 6 AM-All hands on deck!
LODGE MEETING	Thursday, October 26, 2017, 6:30 PM

\* We may not need all of the baking days and will communicate changes via e-mail. Stay tuned!

**VENNELAG BOARD MEETINGS - CULVER'S RESTAURANT-MT. HOREB**

Thursday, September 21, 2017, 6:30 PM  
Thursday, October 12, 2017, 6:30 PM

**Takk for hjelpen meg! ( Meeting Assistants)**

Please help to prepare for our meetings by setting up the tables and chairs. A light supper will be served at 6:30 PM. I would suggest arriving by 5:30 PM to complete set-up in time for the meal.

A list of other duties that accompany the room prep can be found affixed to the inside of the first cupboard door (flags, tables and liners for the serving table, handouts, etc.). Please designate someone on your team to pick up the key to the Community Center at Open House Imports, 437-5468. The keys will unlock the cupboard doors giving you access to supplies!

*\*Use your lodge directory to contact the other members who are assisting.*

*If you cannot assist on your date, it is your responsibility to call another member to take your place.*

**Together we achieve more!**

**September Meeting, Thursday, September 28, 2017**

Eddie Goplin, Susan Frank, Mary Krantz, Jerry Haglund, David Hermanson

**October Meeting, Thursday, October 26, 2017**

Tammy Hermanson, Jim Iverson, Larry Jenkins, Carolyn Johnson, Marge Johnson

## Ord fra presidenten

As the new Vennelag Lodge year begins, I offer, *Advice from a Glacier* by Ilan Shamir...



**CARVE YOUR OWN PATH  
GO SLOW  
CHANNEL YOUR STRENGTHS  
SMOOTH THE WAY FOR OTHERS  
KEEP MOVING FORWARD  
AVOID MELTDOWNS  
BE COOL!**

Excitement has reached a fevered pitch as many Lodge members look forward to a journey to the homeland of their ancestors-Norway. That being said, advanced preparations have been made by Frokost Chairperson Rita Schraepfer and her committees for our annual breakfast event to be held October 7th. In addition, Vennelag Lodge is seeking interested persons who are willing to serve on our Nominations Committee. We especially welcome new members who may have ideas for activities, excursions, or classes that would enhance our Lodge life.

### FIRST MEETING OF THE YEAR - **SEPTEMBER 28<sup>TH</sup>**

Our first meeting of the new year will be held Thursday evening, September 28<sup>th</sup>, beginning with a light meal at 6:30 PM. A serving committee has been secured; all you need to bring is your family and an appetite! Feel welcome to extend a hearty *velkommen* to someone you know who is interested in joining our ranks. The presenter that evening is humorist Bill Amundson from Stoughton. (Synopsis is below.)

### OCTOBER MEETING

On **October 26th** we will listen to an informative presentation by Glenn Borreson who will speak about the Lindisfarne-the Holy Island from which Christianity spread throughout Europe. It was also here that the Viking Age began on June 8, 793 AD. This is best described as a 9-11 Moment in the world's history, as an invasion in North Umbria is first recorded Viking invasion from which all other encounters spread.

#### **THE TRIALS OF BEING NORWEGIAN/AMERICAN — A HUMOROUS INVESTIGATION (With Pictures)**

**Bill Amundson** has been a Norwegian/American his entire life, due largely to his parents and life in his hometown of Stoughton, Wisconsin.

In this presentation, Mr. Amundson will discuss the characteristics of Norwegian/Americans, along with the clichés and preconceived notions that have always dogged their existence.

Examples will be presented, delineated and discussed, and possible solutions and will be examined. (Please note that Mr. Amundson may occasionally stray from the stated topic.) There will be pictures.

## ***New Dues Structure to Impact Sons of Norway Lodges in the U.S.***

Beginning in January, 2018, Sons of Norway Lodges throughout the U.S. will begin using a new dues structure which was passed by the International Lodge at the biennial convention in Tacoma, WA, last August. The change will place all lodges on a more equitable playing field. Some lodges will realize an increase in dues, as is Vennelag's case, while others will see their dues remaining more constant.

Our lodge has had a long commitment of promoting and preserving the traditions of our forefathers. Our members enjoy sharing their talents and fellowship with others in a variety of ways whether we are hosting the annual baking workshop, are providing special community events such as the *Kaffe Stue* and the *Høst Frokost*, or as we extend a hearty *velkommen* to community members when they join us for our *Juletre Fest* in December.

Vennelag relies on assistance from the District 5 Board and the International Board for help with a variety of tasks. In turn, those entities give back to our members by providing special offerings such as: access to insurance and investments, help with funding youth attendance at Masse Moro-our District's summer heritage camp, access to college scholarships, lodge grants, funding for attendance at Oslo summer school, and if needed, help is given to member families suffering from a natural disaster. A portion of your membership dues provides funds to these segments of The Order.

The Vennelag Board kindly asks that you read the explanation of the new dues structure as provided on pages 4, 26, and 33 of the August edition of the *Viking magazine*. The United States chart on p. 33 lists the new amounts shown in the columns labeled *Total Dues*. We will discuss the dues change at our upcoming monthly Lodge meetings from September through November.

When you renew your membership in 2018 you will have multiple options for payment: monthly or yearly. In addition, a new "Family" category has been created; this includes *all* persons living at the *same* address whether they are related or not. It also includes college-age adults who use their home address as their permanent address.

Consider what your membership means to you. Do you appreciate learning about Norsk cultural or heritage traditions? Do you want to learn a new skill such as Hardanger embroidery, rosemaling, or carving? Participating in a sports program that improves your health is also a possibility. Is learning the Norwegian language one of your priorities? Would you like to connect with long-lost family members in Norway or learn more about your family's immigration story? Do you appreciate travel opportunities at a reduced rate? Sons of Norway can help you to accomplish all of these things!

For some people the fellowship with other likeminded individuals is important. Recalling fond family memories and holiday traditions is also meaningful. The change in dues will assist local lodges like Vennelag and the Sons of Norway as a whole to continue its mission of promoting and preserving Norsk heritage and culture.

**Cheryl**

**2017 is an election year. We will be selecting a nominating committee in the fall whose purpose it is to seek candidates for office on the Vennelag Board.**

All offices are 2 year terms- Individuals will be elected in November and installed in January, weather permitting.

**Term of Office: January 2018 (Installation) thru December 2019**

**These descriptions are general guidelines from Sons of Norway International**

**President-**

Responsible for coordinating all activities, programming, as needed, scheduling, legal and other required reports and tax filing, and all activities of Vennelag Lodge, with the assistance of the other officers and members of the Vennelag Board of Directors. Act as a promoter of the Lodge, stimulate Nordic cultural awareness in the area, and have a presence at many Lodge events. Represent the lodge at Zone meeting and others, as needed.

**Vice President/Membership Secretary-**

Assists with any duties the President requests, encourages membership and outreach, and conducts the meetings in the absence of the President.

Works to promote and ultimately welcome new members into The Lodge. Distributes or sends memberships materials. Registers and reports new members to the president and the newsletter editor. A presence at lodge meetings and events is crucial in promoting and encouraging membership in The Lodge.

**Secretary-Assistant Secretary-**

Responsibilities include writing and maintaining the minutes of the lodge. If requested, assist with any other correspondence. A crucial piece of this office is to file an end of the year Lodge Report, using the **Fraternal Give.org** website. Other reports required of the lodge are also your task. Cards of condolence, celebration, or acknowledgement are a part of this office.

**Treasurer-Assistant Treasurer-**

Keep accurate accounts of the receipts and disbursements of the lodge, filing 990 forms and other tax related forms, and prepare for the lodge spreadsheets showing the same. Develop a budget for lodge disbursements. Deposit monies as generated by fundraising efforts.

**Counselor-**

Aid, assist, and counsel the other officers in the performance of their duties. This is normally a past lodge President.

**Editor-**

Your task is to notify members of due dates for the newsletter, at least 1.5 weeks prior to the publication date. You will post the lodge newsletter on-line and send hard copies of the newsletter to those who request it. You will work with Lodge President and other officers on publicizing lodge events.

**Foundation Director-**

Gives the lodge complete and updated information about the Sons of Norway Foundation and its outreach programs and organize an October Foundation meeting event. You may work with other fundraising efforts to secure funding for The Foundation (garage sale, brats in the lot, food events, etc.)

**Food Chairman-**

Responsible for coordinating servers for each Lodge meeting or event. Assists the Lodge President in planning the Fall Baking Workshop and Special Event work days, as needed for the Kaffe Stue or Frokost. Takes an inventory of supplies and orders new items, when needed.

### **Cultural Director and Committee –**

As a cultural committee, it is your duty to plan meeting night programs of a nature which would preserve and promote our heritage. Encourage the officers and members to plan activities such as language classes, singing groups, folk-dancing and other arts. You will keep members abreast of the cultural skills pins program, its requirements and encourage Lodge participation.

### **Social Director and Committee-**

This aim of this committee is to plan activities that bring Lodge members together in an enjoyable way. It may involve planning outings, anniversary dinners, the Syttende Mai observance, entertainment options, or Lodge travel. The Cultural Committee and the Social Committee could work in tandem on projects with similar focus.

### **Historian/Archivist-**

Your task is to maintain lodge records which showcase the events of the lodge in chronological order. You will take or obtain photographs of Lodge events and display them in Lodge scrapbooks. It will be critical to identify lodge members in your photos for future reference. Some newsworthy items may be obtained from local newspaper articles. In addition, displays of Lodge events both historical and present-time may be requested.

### **Sports and Recreation Director -**

Planning, supervising, and encouraging a well-rounded program of sports activities and recreation, encourage use of Sports Medals Program, and promote District sport events.

### **Youth Director-**

Assisting with any youth activities including Family Christmas Event and other activities to welcome youth and families to our lodge is your goal. It is also your goal to promote Masse Moro, the District's heritage camp.

### **Publicity Director –**

Your task is to write articles or plan ads for local media outlets that advertise the activities of The Lodge.

### **Marshal–and Assistant Marshal - (Can be appointed before a ceremonial event.)**

Help the President with ceremonial functions of the lodge, making certain they are conducted in the proper manner such as draping the charter in the event of a loss of a member, planning a ceremony in memory in those departed, and making any special room set-up for events.

### **Greeters -**

Welcome visitors and guests to our lodge. Help staff the door entries and when people come into the lodge. Advise the president of guests or other needs. Help with room set-up for meetings and other events.

### **Trustees-**

The trustees of the lodge are the custodians of the personal property of the lodge, its checking, savings, and investments accounts and are the coordinators of projects associated with Vennelag Lodge. A yearly review the financial records of the lodge and an audit of the books are a major responsibilities of this office.

### **Musician-**

Lead the group in singing Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary, and work with the Cultural and Social Directors in offering musical activities for the lodge.

## Vennelag's 16th Annual Høst Frokost (Norwegian Fall Breakfast)

**Serving on October 7, 2017, from 7:30 AM to 11:00 AM at the Mount Horeb Community Center**

This event, held in conjunction with the Mount Horeb Fall Festival, gives us the opportunity to share our Norwegian culture and heritage. Invite your family, friends and neighbors.

The planned menu consists of Norwegian pancakes, heart waffles with lingonberries, soft or hard boiled eggs, rullepølse, lefse, bread, ham, dried beef, salami, cheeses, herring, salmon, fruit salad, coffee, and Norwegian cookies and cakes...and don't forget the smørgrøt!

**The price is \$13 for adults and \$5 for children (ages 12 and under)**

We are looking for volunteers. Set-up begins the day before, Friday, October 6th at 2:00 pm. Help is especially needed early Saturday morning (6:00 am) as well as during the breakfast. Food donations are welcome the afternoon before the breakfast (Friday, Oct 6th, 2:00 - 4:00 PM) or by 7:00 AM on the day of the breakfast (Saturday, Oct. 7)

**We need the following food items: eplekake, fry cakes, kringle, krumkaker, lefse, rosettes, and sandbakkelse.** We will also be having a bake sale, so any goodies, Norwegian or not, would be welcome.

If you are unable to donate any of the items listed above, a **cash donation of \$20 per member** would be appreciated. Those donations are used to buy items such as cheeses, meats and salmon. Mail checks, made payable to **Vennelag 5-513**, to: David Anderson, 132 E Main St, Mt. Horeb 53572.

Rita Schraepfer-Derke is the event chairperson and contact person for the breakfast. You may reach Rita at **608-220-7565** or email at [rsderke@gmail.com](mailto:rsderke@gmail.com)

### Lefse for the Høst Frokost

We will be making lefse for the Høst Frokost on Saturday, September 23, 2017, starting at 8:30 AM at the Mt. Horeb Community Center. We welcome all who can come and help. Those with a lefse grill, board, rolling pin and turning stick are encouraged to bring them. We plan to have three to four grills baking at one time to make the work go faster. If you are available to help during a week day, we have reserved time at the ELC church in Mt. Horeb on Monday September 25 and Wednesday September 27 to make lefse. The times and dates are subject to change depending on the church's priorities, so please call Rita at 608-220-7565 to obtain the schedule. An additional date of Saturday, September 30, 2017, is tentatively reserved to make other items as needed depending on sign-ups by lodge members. If enough members sign up to donate items such as lefse, fry cakes, rosettes, krumkaker or sandbakkelse, we will not meet on Sept 30th.

### From the Food Chairman

The servers for the **September** meeting are: **Eddie and Cheryle Goplin, Janet Robertson and Ann Walser.**

I need one more server for the **Oct. 26th** meeting. Will someone PLEASE step up to be a server?

In early November there will be another Baking Workshop for the community. I will need members who could teach the participants. Watch for the list of items we'll be making in the next newsletter or in an email. I would like volunteers to come forward so I don't have to call people. I know you are out there!



**Lora Lee's book recommendation: *Between Rocks and Hard Places*, by Ann Urness Gesme**

*Between Rocks and Hard Places* is a book by Ann Urness Gesme, about "Traditions, customs, and conditions in Norway during the 1800s, emigration from Norway, the immigrant community in America." It is in the Mt Horeb Public Library, in the Norwegian Collection, 948.1 GES.

The author has a Mt Horeb connection, so perhaps some of our Lodge members know her. Ann Urness Gesme is a life member of the Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library (NAGC-NL). She is a delightful lady. Her bio follows.

**BIOGRAPHY: Ann Urness Gesme, wife of Dean H. Gesme Sr.**

I was born and grew up on the Urness farm, immediately west of the Vermont Lutheran Church – attended high school in Black Earth and graduated from St. Olaf college in 1949. I taught in Emmons, MN, where I met my husband's parents, Ed and Gena Gesme. His dad wrote Dean at Luther College in Decorah, and said to come home and meet the new teacher in Emmons. We were married the next summer and moved to Decorah where I worked at Luther while Dean finished his studies. We have lived in Cedar Rapids since 1958.

Our children are Dean Jr. an oncologist in Minneapolis; Karen Brunssen, a professional singer and Co-Chair of Music Performance at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL; and Martha Nielsen, Sales Manager with SAS (Scandinavian Airlines Systems) in Chicago. We have five grand children and five great grandchildren.. We have visited Norway many times, most recently in 1999, when we took our children and grandchildren on a pilgrimage to the places where our ancestors once lived.

I was one of those fortunate kids who grew up in a home with a resident grandmother, as well as another grandmother 2 miles down the road. The precious lessons and values they shared with me, as well as the wonderful stories of their childhood in Norwegian immigrant homes, provided me with a priceless heritage that led to a life-long interest in my roots. The end result of this was to write and publish four family histories, as well as BETWEEN ROCKS AND HARD PLACES, a comprehensive account of life in rural Norway during the early and middle 19th century.

My nephew, Jon Urness still lives on the Urness farm, and my mom, Emma Urness, was a member of the SN Lodge in Mount Horeb. I have lots of Brager, Barsness, Urness and Dybdahl relatives still living in Wisconsin.

Also, the Gesme family came to Wisconsin from Norway in the 1850s. When my husband's great grandparents retired they built a house on Main Street in Mount Horeb about 1894 – I think it is an insurance company now. Dean's grandpa moved to Iowa. So we have lots of connections in the Mount Horeb area.

*Velkommen til our new member Nancy Barlow, who is currently living in Mt. Horeb. She travels a lot for her work, but she is calling this area home for the time being.*

**Tiffany Schwoerer and Lennys Luchsinger**—Granddaughter and Grandmother extraordinaire—at the Midsommer Bonfire

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





## Vennelag News

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

[www.sonsofnorwaymthoreb.org](http://www.sonsofnorwaymthoreb.org)

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

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

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

Greg Ragan, Fraternal Benefits  
Counselor  
Phone: (800) 442-4146  
Email: [gregragan@aol.com](mailto:gregragan@aol.com)

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



### A Message to Vennelag from Ingunn Linnerud

Hei Hei!

I'm now safely back with my family and friends, back in Norway!

I wanted to thank the Mt Horeb Sons of Norway group for taking so good care of me the past year. It's been amazing to be able to get to know all the members and spend some time celebrating **and learning** some of the Norwegian traditions.

I also wanted to thank you so much for the troll I got from Vennelag! It will be going to our cabin to remind me of the year. I hope the ones that are going to Norway in September will have an amazing trip! Again, thank you so much, can't wait to see you again soon!

Tusen takk,

*Ingunn Linnerud*