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Trustee (2015-2017) Martin Lieber

Trustee (2016-2018) Carl Rasmussen

Trustee (2017-2019) Kress Williamson

Vennligfolk Lodge meets the second Sunday evening, 7:00 pm **September thru May** at Saint Paul's **United Methodist Church 600 Wilshire Blvd Stevens Point Wisconsin**

Pennligblad

Friendly pages for the 'friendly people' of Vennligfolk and their friends Sons of Norway Lodge #5-627 for Central Wisconsin, **Stevens Point, Whiting and Plover, Wisconsin**

NOVEMBER OG DESEMBER 2017 VOLUME 24 ISSUE 6

Fra presidenten:



cert violinist Lori Trytten join with Rev. Schmit to provide that beautiful music during the October meeting!

I so appreciate the "extras" that our members provide to make our meeting so enjoyable. One of these extras is our monthly table displays. Karen Trzebiatowski started the year with a beautiful rosemaling display for our September meeting, and Rachel Favor displayed her unique Norwegian Tine Boxes for the October meeting. It was also a special treat to have the traveling Viking Chest at our first meeting. These displays add such Scandinavian ambience to Fletcher Hall.

cember? You won't want to miss our No- the installation of our 2018 Vennligfolk vember 12th meeting on "Norwegian Sweat- Officers, and phenomenal Christmas music ers" by Karen Trzebiatowski and Judy Pe- by Stevens Point's own Dekorra Band. sanka. These two gals are master knitters Truly this is an event you will not want to and will be displaying many Norwegian miss! We welcome guests, so please let me sweaters while they share the history and know of family



significance of these colorful and patterned sweaters. I'm predicting cool enough weather by that time so we can comfortably wear our Norwegian sweaters to this meeting.

SONS OF

On November 17th Vennligfolk Lodge will participate in the Stevens Point Holiday Parade. It's

such a fun evening but does require a lot of set-up and take-down. For years Carl Rasmussen, Ron Hensler, and Milo Harpstead have taken the lead in this, and again have volunteered to head it up this year. We will need volunteers to prepare handouts, help with the set-up and take-down, and to walk beside our float. Yes, it is hours of work to be in the parade, but I feel it is very worthwhile to let the community know about Vennligfolk Lodge.

Our Julefest committee has been busy with the planning of this year's Julefest. The date is set for Saturday, December 2nd at Fletcher Hall beginning at 4:30 PM. The evening will include delicious food, elegant So what's coming up in November and De- table settings, festive Scandinavian décor, Continued on page 2

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Gratulerer

med

dagen

November

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December

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What's Happening at Vennligfolk???

REMEMBER: Vennligfolk Lodge meets the second Sunday evening, September through May at Saint Paul's United Methodist Church, 600 Wilshire Blvd, Stevens Point, Wisconsin

Nov 12, 2017 (Sunday): Norwegian Sweaters"

Members Judy Pesanka & Karen Trzebiatowski will discuss many of the salient features of these distinctive Norse apparel. Come to the November meeting wearing your Norwegian sweater. Learn a little about the history of the sweaters, different styles and how they are knit. Maybe some of you even have a story to share about your sweater.



Servers: Jane Gjevre and Bill & Diane Beversdorf

Dec 02, 2017 (Saturday): *"Julefest"* Vennligfolk will celebrate Julefest with a Scandinavian style smørgåsbord consisting of a KALD BORD (pickled herring, fruit



sinisigasoord consisting of a **KALD BORD** (pickled herring, fruit soup, cucumber salad, pickled beets, broccoli salad, fruit salads and cheese & crackers), **VARM BORD** (ham with raisin sauce, Norwegian meatballs, parsley boiled potatoes, rice pudding, scalloped corn, and baked beans), **BRØD BORD** (lefse and cardamom brød) followed by **DESSERTS & BEVERAGES**. Watch for sign-up sheets and volunteer to participate in the wonderful event! Too, the 2018 Installation of Officers will take place and we shall be entertained by

the musical group "*Dekorra Band*" who will provide Christmas music. Again, be reminded that this program is on Saturday, Dec 2 and begins at 4:30 pm.

Servers: Everyone (potluck for Julefest)

Table: The Henslers

Jan 14, 2018 (Sunday): *"Fast Track to Norwegian Heritage"* - This meeting will mark the first experiment of having a light supper preceding the program. Please be available at 5:00 pm. Following the meal, Rich Sommer will share a portion of a recent adventure to Norway with Vennligfolk. He and members of his family spent several weeks in Norway this past summer.

Servers: Rasmussens and Hagens

Table: Susan Morton

Table: Karen Trzebiatowski

Feb 11, 2018 (Sunday): *"Norwegian WWII Double Agent"* - Lodge member **Arno Morton** will be the featured speaker presenting the exciting story of Gunvald Tomstad through images and narration. Again, this **Vennligfolk** meeting will begin at **5:00 pm with a light meal**.

Servers: Henslers & Harpsteads

 Table: Charolette Hensler

Continued on page 2

and friends you are inviting so we can also send them a formal invitation.

When the holidays are over, and the daylight gets shorter, we will have a three month change in when we start our lodge meetings. During the months of January, February, and March our meetings will start with a *supper at 5:00 PM* and our program beginning after we eat. This will get everyone home a bit earlier on those wintry nights.

Before closing, I do want to thank all of our **Vennligfolk** Officers I have been privileged to work with this past year, and those members who have agreed to have their names on the slate for elected office for our upcoming year. All of your positions are important, and all are very much appreciated. *Tusen Takk!* **Vennligfolk Lodge** is better because of your service.

Vennlig hilsen, Susan Morton

a little in English...

This was the start of the adventure

It's been 50 years since the first Norwegian oil was found.

The summer of 1967 was the start of Norway's adventure with oil. That's when the first Norwegian oil was found, on the Norwegian portion of the North Sea continental shelf.

No Norwegian oil platform had been built yet, but the oil came on the deck of the [drilling rig] Ocean Traveler. It was drilling on behalf of the company Esso. They had been allowed to search in area 001, according to the website Sysla. The area that was searched lay about 250 kilometers into the sea, west of Stavanger. The first round of concessions took place in 1965. Then it was decided where and who would be allowed to look for oil. The search started the summer after that. Oil had already been found in other wells. These were owned by the British and the Dutch.

"During the drilling in 1966 it became apparent: There were places with oil in areas where we searched. That was a good Bergslien of ExxonMobil Norway. He is a senior geologist and has been immersed in the company's history in Norway.

In the summer of 1967 it turned. They found oil, but kept it secret. Not far away, other companies kept looking.

"There was no longer just the possibility that there was oil now it was proven. It was very good news," says Bergslien. The Philips company also kept looking. Where they struck Bergslien. oil, platforms were built. Ekofisk was the first field that came into operation on the Norwegian continental shelf, Selskapet Philips' lette også videre. Der de fant olje, ble det Norwegian news agency NTB writes.

litt på norsk...

Dette var starten på eventyret

Det er 50 år siden første norske oljen ble funnet.

Sommeren 1967 var starten på det norske eventyret med oljen. Da ble den første norske oljen funnet. Det var på den norske delen av sokkelen i Nordsjøen.

Fortsatt var det ikke bygget noen egen norsk oljeplattform. Men oljen kom opp på dekket av Ocean Traveler. Den boret på vegne av selskapet Esso. De hadde fått lov til å lete i området 001. Det skriver nettstedet Sysla.

Området det ble lett på, lå rundt 250 kilometer til havs. Det var vest for Stavanger. Den første runden med konsesjon var i 1965. Da ble det bestemt hvor og hvem som skulle få lete etter olje. Sommeren etter startet letingen. Det var allerede funnet olje i andre brønner. Disse var eid av britene og nederlandene.

Under boringen i 1966 ble det klart: Det fantes steder med sign. But they did not strike oil all at once," says Dag olje i områdene vi lette i. Det var et godt tegn. Men de fant ikke selve oljen med en gang, sier Dag Bergslien i ExxonMobil Norway. Han er senior-geolog og har fordypet seg i selskapets historie i Norge.

> Sommeren 1967 snudde det. De fant olje, men holdt det hemmelig. Ikke langt unna holdt andre selskaper på å lete.

> Det var ikke lenger bare en mulighet for at det fantes olje nå var det bevist. Det var veldig gode nyheter, sier

> bygget plattform. Ekofisk var det første feltet som kom i drift på norsk sokkel, skriver nyhetsbyrået NTB.

Announcements of Interest

Day Light Savings Time Ends: Early Sunday morning, **November 5th**, don't forget to set your clocks BACK one hour to accommodate the "fall back" procedure of the "Day Light Savings Time Act" passed by the US Congress in 1918.



Stevens Point Holiday Parade, is scheduled for Friday, November 17th beginning at 6:15 pm. Can you help out? Sure you can ... just contact Susan Morton and let her know of your availability.

Julefest Request: If you have tiny white/clear lights (battery operated) that can be borrowed for the Julefest Christmas tree, please bring them to the November 12th Vennligfolk meeting. Thank you! Charlotte Hensler

Norwegian Language Class: I'd like to offer a beginning-level Norwegian language class starting in January 2017. The meeting time would depend on our schedules; I'm available Sunday and Monday evenings and during the daytime. If you have interest in a class, or questions, please contact me at either (715)344-7935 or emaj@charter.net. Jan Flatoff

Yust tink ... a guy could have spent twenty-five years

Recently Ole was reading the Portage County Gazette. "Lena," he said, "dis is really interesting.

nvented in 1850 and da telephone vasn't invented until 1875.

in da bathtub vidout da phone ringing VUNCE.

Da bathtub vas

Norwegian Holiday Tradition – The Julenisse

The Christmas season is a perfect time to embrace your Norwegian heritage and share the culture with your loved ones. One way to do this is by incorporating a new or different tradition into your celebrations each year.

This season, why not invite an icon of Norwegian folklore, the *Julenisse*, into your holiday home? Both farm protector and bearer of Christmas cheer, the *nisse* is a charming, yet sly fellow whose legacy lives on in Norway and around the world to this day.

The classic tale declares that small gnome-like *nisser* hide in houses and barns to bring



good luck or make mischief, depending on how well they are treated by the ones who live there. Try having fun with this family-friendly legend and hunt for the *nisse* living in your own home. Simply search for photos of the *nisse* on the internet, print them out and hide them around your home, then send your guests on the *nisse* hunt of the year.

Check out the 2010 November issue of *Viking* for a *nisse* cut-out, along with other Nordic games and activities you can enjoy over the holidays. You can also learn more about the *nisse* and its Norwegian legend in the 2012 December issue of *Viking*. Remember, these back issues are available to members in the archives on the Sons of Norway website at *http://sofn.com*.

Countdown to Implementation of New Dues Structure

Review the facts about the new simplified dues structure by visiting *www.sofn.com*. Click on the Member Resources box on the top of the homepage and navigate to the dues structure information pages. You can check out what lead up to the decision by the Sons of Norway International Board by clicking on the History button. An overview of the dues structure changes are outlined in the Membership Charts and Dues Information section. Still have questions? You may send them to 2018dues@sofn.com. Of course, we are also happy to take your calls at (800) 945-8851.

Mashed Rutabagas (Kålrabistappe) Adapted from *500sandwiches.com*

- 3 medium-sized rutabagas, peeled
- 3 large carrots, peeled
- 2 tablespoons butter
- Pinch freshly ground nutmeg
- ¹/₂ teaspoon freshly ground black pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- ¹/₂ crushed red pepper flakes
- ½ cup grated Pecorino Romano or Parmigiano Reggiano

Chop rutabagas and carrots. For a finer mash, cut vegetables into small pieces. Add chopped vegetables to a pot of salted water and bring to boil. Cook until easily broken apart with fork, then drain. Return to pot and add butter and spices. Mash or whip to desired consistency then fold in the cheese. Serve hot.



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a little in English...

Doubt that we would have managed it today

[It's been] 50 years since Sweden switched to driving on the [Det er] 50 år siden Sverige byttet til å kjøre på høyre side av right side of the road. It was a huge undertaking, says a pro-veien. Det var et enormt prosjekt, forteller professor. fessor.

center line. Switching to right-hand driving is the biggest samfunnet i Sverige, mener professor Claes Tingvall. Han societal change in Sweden, says Professor Claes Tingvall. He jobber ved Chalmers tekniske høyskole. Før jobbet han med works at Chalmers Technical College. Earlier, he worked trafikksikkerhet i Vägverket. with road safety at the Swedish Road Administration.

"It was a terribly big project. Probably the largest ever in noensinne har vært i Sverige, sier Tingvall. Sweden," says Tingvall.

The change itself was completed quickly. It happened early in the morning on Sunday, September 3rd, 1967. At 4:45 a.m., all traffic was stopped. Then all cars drove carefully to the right side of the road. Here they stopped again. Then they waited until the clock struck five. Then the message came over the radio: Sweden had switched to right-hand driving.

Now the cars could drive. But no faster than 30 kilometers - Det er tvilsomt at vi kunne gjort noe lignende i dag. per hour [18.6 miles per hour].

"It is doubtful that we could have done something like this today. Suddenly, all people were supposed to change what they were very used to? Some researchers warned that it would end in a bloodbath. But it was successful," says Tingvall today. The changeover was carefully planned. All private cars were stopped between 1 a.m. and 6 a.m. for the change. In the cities of Stockholm and Malmö, it was even stricter. There was no private driving between 10 a.m. on Etter endringen ble trafikken overvåket. Flere enn 10.000 September 2nd and 3 p.m. the day after.

After the change, traffic was monitored. More than 10,000 police watched. There were also people from the military in the streets all the time the following week. After the shift, there were fewer who died in traffic. Speed limits also became lower. Most Swedish cars were already built to drive on the right, according to Tingvall. These cars were the same Det var egentlig kjemperart. Det gjorde at det før endringen as today, with the steering wheel on the left.

"It was actually very strange. This meant that before the change it was dangerous to pass. It was most often the pas- Fortsatt har flere land venstrekjøring. Vi kjenner nok best til senger side that was hit hardest in a crash," Tingvall says. Other countries still have left-hand driving. We probably kjører på venstre side av veien. Blant dem er Australia, India, know the United Kingdom best. Also, African and Asian Kypros, Pakistan, Sør-Afrika og Thailand. countries drive on the left side of the road; including Australia, India, Cyprus, Pakistan, South Africa and Thailand.

litt på norsk...

Tviler på at vi ville klart det i dag

Først sto trafikken helt stille. Så svingte bilene over mid-First, traffic was quite quiet. Then the cars swung over the tstripa. Å bytte til høyrekjøring er den største endringen i

- Det var et uhyggelig stort prosjekt. Trolig det største som

Selve byttet var raskt ferdig. Det skjedde tidlig på morgenen søndag 3. september 1967. Klokka 04.45 ble all trafikk stanset. Så kjørte alle biler forsiktig over til høyre side av veien. Her stanset de på nytt. Så ventet de til klokka ble 5. Da kom beskjeden på radio: Sverige hadde gått over til høyrekjøring. Nå kunne bilene kjøre. Men ikke raskere enn 30 kilometer i timen.

Plutselig og samtidig skulle alle mennesker endre det de var veldig vant til? En del forskere advarte om at det ville ende i et blodbad. Men det ble vellykket, sier Tingvall i dag.

Endringen var nøye planlagt. Alle private biler ble stanset mellom klokka 1 og klokke 6 natten for endringen. I byene Stockholm og i Malmö var det enda strengere. Der fikk ingen private kjøre mellom klokka 10 på dagen 2. september og klokka 15 dagen etterpå.

poltifolk passet på. Det var også folk fra militæret i gatene hele tida den neste uka.Etter skiftet var det færre som døde i trafikken. Fartsgrensene ble også lavere. De fleste svenske bilene var allerede laget for å kjøre på høyre side, ifølge Tingvall. Disse bilene var de samme som i dag, med rattet på venstre side.

var farlig å kjøre forbi. Det var som oftest siden med passasjeren som ble truffet hardest i et krasj, sier Tingvall.

Storbritannia. Men også flere afrikanske og asiatiske land

An elderly woman and her little grandson, whose face was sprinkled with freckles spent the day at the Zoo. Lots of children were waiting in line to get their cheeks painted by the local artist who was decorating them with **Tiger Paws**.

"You've got so many freckles, there's no place to paint!" a girl in line said to the little boy. Embarrassed, the little boy dropped his head. His grandmother knelt down next to him. "I love your freckles," she said while tracing her finger across the child's cheek. "Freckles are beautiful." The little boy looked up, "Really?" "Of course," said the grandmother. "Why just name me one thing that's prettier than freckles!"



The little boy thought for a moment, peered into his grandma's face and whispered, "Wrinkles."

Did you hear about the Norwegian lad who was a private in the army? He's the one who kept saluting the refrigerator because he heard it was General Electric!

Rice Pudding (Riskrem)

Adapted from arcticgrub.wordpress.com

Makes about 4 portions

- 2 cups rice porridge*
- 2 tbsp confectioners sugar or to taste
- 2 tsp vanilla sugar or vanilla extract
- $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups heavy cream or coconut cream
- 50 grams or ¹/₄ cup toasted almonds, chopped (optional)



Whisk coconut cream or heavy cream with the confectioners sugar and vanilla sugar/extract in a stand mixer until fluffy. Fold the whipped cream with the rice porridge and sprinkle in the chopped almonds.

- *Rice Porridge (*Risengrynsgrøt*)
- 1 cup short grain rice, such as Arborio
- 2 cups water
- 4 cups almond milk (or coconut milk)
- 1 vanilla bean pod, split in half
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup granulated sugar
- $\frac{1}{2}$ tsp salt

Drain rinsed rice in a colander. Add water and rice to a pot and bring to boil. Lower temperature to a simmer and cook until all water has been absorbed. Add milk, insides of vanilla pod as well as shell, sugar and salt. Bring to boil while whisking constantly, do not allow milk to burn at the bottom. Lower temperature to simmer for 45 minutes or until porridge consistency. Pour into a bowl to cool for rice pudding or keep warm and serve with butter, sugar and cinnamon.

Election Time

Vennligfolk selects officers and various leaders at the regularly scheduled November meeting each year. Terms begin at the subsequent January meeting. For 2018, the following slate is proposed and will be presented to the Lodge at the November 12th meeting.

2018 Vennligfolk Nominations

President:	Susan Morton
Vice -President:	Lois Hagen
Secretary:	Bea Berg
Treasurer:	Judy Pesanka
Financial Secretary:	Arno Morton
Program Director:	Joyce Polson
Newsletter Editor/Publicity:	Marv Lang
Newsletter Distributor:	Louise Lang
Librarian:	Jane Gjevre
Musician:	Louise Lang
Sunshine Coordinator:	Rachel Favor
Historian:	Lois Hagen
Language Specialist:	Jan Flatoff
Cultural Skills: Karen Trezbiatowski	
Trustee (2018-2020): N	lark Hansen
Continuing Trustees	
Trustee (2017-2019): Kress Williamson	
Trustee (2016 - 2018): Carl Rasmussen	

Each of the above named individuals have agreed to serve the office to which they will be elected. Nominations from the floor will also be accepted.

A Cultural Skills Message

As your Cultural Skills director, I am hoping to start a needlework group. I had a request, so will try. I can teach knitting, Hardanger and wool embroidery. It would be a group that meets in homes. We will wait until after the Holidays to start but would like you to think about joining us for fun, fellow-ship and food. Some of you can work towards or completion of Cultural Skills Units in Knitting and Hardanger.

I would also be willing to start groups in Reading and Music if there is interest. Will pass around a sign up sheet at November meeting. For you snow birds I can get you started and you can read while relaxing in the sun, rest of us can read by the fire on snowy days. Music is just listening to required music that we get from main office. Folk part one, Classical part two, and Modern for part three. Both of these Skills are very enjoyable and enlightening.

I am also working on doing another cooking group. If interested sign up for that also. Hope this will make winter pass quickly by keeping you busy.



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In an issue of **Vennligblad** last year (Sep-Oct 2016, #23.5), the following was announced: "On Wednesday, April 27, 2016, the County Councils of Nord-Trøndelag and Sør-Trøndelag voted to merge into one Region. The meetings and votes took place during parallel sessions at historic Stikklestad. The merger will be the first in the modern era and is the result of the Government's plans to replace the current 17 Norwegian counties with 10 regions. The new Trøndelag Region will be established on January 1, 2018, after approval by the Parliament (Storting). The historic decisions to merge were made after extended, thoughtful debates. The Sør-Trøndelag County Council approved the recommendation to merge by a 41 to 2 vote. The vote in the Nord-Trøndelag County Council was not quite as overwhelmingly in favor. It was 21 to 14." And now comes the rest of the story …

The Changing Map of Norway

The map of Norway is changing, including the map of Oppland, of which Gudbrandsdal is a part. This is starting as early as 2018, when Nord-Trøndelag and Sør-Trøndelag merge into one fylke region under the name Trøndelag. Other regions are following suit as of January 1, 2020. The regions of Oslo, Rogaland, and Møre og Romsdal each stand alone and continue as before.

Under current (and controversial) plans, which are not final and subject to change, it is hoped to merge the following fylker and assign these proposed new region names:

Buskerud, Akershus and Østfold –>Viken or Vika Oppland and Hedmark –>Innlandet Vestfold and Telemark –>Skagerrak Aust-Agder and Vest-Agder –>Agder Hordaland and Sogn og Fjordane –>Vestlandet Nordland and South & Central Troms –> Hålogaland North Troms and Finnmark –>Finnmark

Currently there are 428 kommuner municipalities. The plan is to reduce this number through merging, either voluntarily or forced, to 354. Most are doing this on a voluntary basis, but there is some resistance. The entire reform will be completed as of 1/1/2020. Norway will then have 11 regions, counting Oslo, compared to 19 fylker before the reform.

The reason for this change: The Storting (the Norwegian Parliament) is looking to lay the foundation for stronger kommuner and regions who can safeguard the welfare of their inhabitants and create good local communities now and in the future.

Oslo 2 Østfold Viken 3 Akershus 4 Buskerud 5 **Oppland** Innlandet 6 Hedmark 7 Vestfold Skagerrak 8 Telemark 9 Aust-Agder Agder 10 Vest-Agder 11 Rogaland 12 Hordaland Vestlandet 13 Sogn og Fjordane 6 Møre og Romsdal 14 15 Sør-Trøndelag Trøndelag 16 Nord-Trøndelag Nordland+S/C Troms 17 Hålogaland 18 N. Troms Finnmark 19 Finnmark

Source: *Regjeringen.no*, forwarded by Brit Eddy, *Vestlandet Co-Editor* Map by Nancy Pickering, *Gudbrandsdalslaget Brev Editor*





Vennligfolk Lodge #5-627 Marv Lang, *Editor* 3015 Cherry Street Stevens Point, WI 54481 U.S.A.





Miscellaneous Items and Random Thoughts

There's a Reason It's Called Disaster Relief

A campaign is underway to bring relief to our Sons of Norway brothers and sisters who have endured painful disruption to their lives due to recent natural disasters, including hurricanes



Harvey and Irma, and wildfires that have blanketed other areas of the country.

Sons of Norway members have generously given to the Foundation's campaign to help their fellow members put their lives back together, but more assistance is needed. Help us to shore up the Foundation's Helping Hands grants program so that even more members in need can know the comfort and care of their Sons of Norway community.

To donate, go to *www.sonsofnorway.com/harvey* - and know that you're making a difference in the lives of our Sons of Norway members and their families who need your help today The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote and preserve the heritage and culture of Norway and to provide quality insurance and financial products to its members.

Vennligfolk Charter Member Passes



Sadly, Vennligfolk Lodge has lost one of it members, Wayne C. Schroeder. He passed away Thursday, Oct 26th from cancer at age 81. As this issue of *Vennligbad* was going "to press" the Editor learned of his passing. Funeral services are scheduled for Good Shep-

herd Lutheran Church, Monday Oct 30th 11:00 am. Wayne and his wife Nancy were charter members of Vennligfolk. Sincere condolences go to Nancy and their three children. Our thoughts and prayers are with this family; Wayne will be sorely missed.

Vennligblad, the official newsletter of **Sons of Norway's Vennligfolk Lodge (#5-627)**, is published at the beginning of the odd-numbered months of the year. If you have an item of interest to **Vennligfolk** members, please submit it to the Editor by the 15th of the even-numbered months. You may send it to Marv Lang at 3015 Cherry Street, Stevens Point, WI 54481 or by e-mail to *cmlang@charter.net*.

Mange Tusen Takk, Marv Lang, Editor