



**SONS OF
NORWAY**

Ostestaden News

Ostestaden Lodge 5-642, Monroe, WI 53566

A Congenial Society of Sons, Daughters and Friends of Norway



Vol. 21 No. 2

Founded June 14, 1996

March-April 2016

*Sons of Norway Ostestaden Lodge 5-642 (The Cheese City Lodge)
with news from Norway, Sons of Norway, Ostestaden and area lodges.*

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This description of our Lodge and how it started is on the District 5 web site. It will be an exciting 20th Anniversary year.



Maren, President

Ostestaden Lodge (The Cheese City Lodge), is in Monroe, Wisconsin.

Can a group of Norwegians find happiness in Monroe, home of so many Swiss descendants?

Marion Boynton initiated the formation of the Ostestaden Lodge of Monroe, Wisconsin. She was a member of Vennelag in Mount Horeb, but she did not like driving at night, so she sent a postcard to International Headquarters in Minneapolis, asking why they could not have a Sons of Norway Lodge in Monroe, Wisconsin. Officials in the Fifth District Lodge responded by assisting in the formation of our new lodge.

The "Original Five" (Marion Boynton, Edith and LeRoy Severson, Ancil Norland and Gaylord Swenson) met with Jon Grinde, Fifth District President and Hjalmer (Jolly) Hanson, a member of the Fifth District board, at the Grace Lutheran Church of Monroe to discuss forming a new lodge in Monroe.

A temporary slate of officers was named. Chairperson: Ancil Norland, Secretary: Edith Severson, Co-Treasurers: LeRoy Severson and Gaylord Swenson.

After several planning meetings with Jolly Hanson (Nordland Lodge), the Ostestaden Lodge was formally installed on June 14, 1996 at Grace Lutheran Church in Monroe. "Ostestaden" means "cheese place." After a bountiful potluck supper, Fifth District officers Jon Grinde, Fifth District President and George Sievers, and Jolly Hanson officiated at the installation of the new lodge.

The Ostestaden Lodge Charter Banquet took place in New Glarus on October 26, 1996 with 57 members and friends attending. This date happened to be the one-year anniversary of the first meeting in Monroe on October 26, 1995 of the "Original Five."

Fifth District President, Jon Grinde presented the charter, which included 69 names to Ostestaden President, Paul Nelson. Also officiating were International Director George Sievers and Jolly Hanson of Nordland Lodge 544 in Janesville. New members were initiated in the traditional Sons of Norway ceremony. District 5 Vice President Jostein Bakken was also in attendance.

Ostestaden was instituted on June 14, 1996.

Ancil Norland is the only living member of the "Original five." His personal Sons of Norway history includes several family members. His parents Iola and Don Norland are charter members of Vennelag in Mount Horeb. His brother Gary and his wife Ellen are charter members of Circle City in Indianapolis, IN.





Jan, Elaine, and Marsha talk with Mt Horeb President, and Zone Youth Director, Cheryl Wille-Schlesser.

We Won the Books!

Ten of our members attended the **Zone 3** meeting in Mt. Horeb in January. Our lodge had the largest attendance, so we won a stack of Kathleen Ernst books! Our readers know the author and are sure to read more and share.

We talked about our best programs and other ideas and took home many new ideas.



Our friends Cheryl Wille-Schlesser, Darlene Arneson, Duane Kittleson, and Owen Christianson are great resources.

June Convention

Building Bridges

Marshfield June 22-25, 2016



Nancy Kittleson designed the logo for our 2016 District 5 convention.

March 10

The Junction Jammers are an accordion band. Chris McGinnes, Deb Thompson, Mary Kay Ellefson, and Kathy Whitaker will entertain us with their lively music. They were part of the 100 accordions at Cheese Days 2014. The public is always welcome. Come, bring guests, and join in the fun!

Matt Club April 10

Menu:

Steamed Cod
Quinoa/Rice Pilaf
Rutabaga
Norwegian Salad (Layered vegetable)
Lefse
Rommegrot
Coconut Cardamon Macroons

Signup sheet at the March meeting.

Questions or rsvps to Sheri Novak- 325-3432 or Cathy Smith 325-2697

April 14

Darlene Arneson chairs Relay for Life in Green County. It is June 18 in Brodhead. Check DarleneArneson@cancer.org for team, sponsor, and participant info.



District 5 President Owen Christianson will give a presentation on the long house he built.

What happens at Convention?

Every other year Sons of Norway plans a convention. In 2016, it is in Marshfield June 22-25. Of course, there is business. There are classes on rosemaling, wire weaving and genealogy. There is a Viking feast of roast wild boar. We can hear Vineland sagas. The sporting can play Kube or golf. We can attend workshops and enjoy the bunad parade.

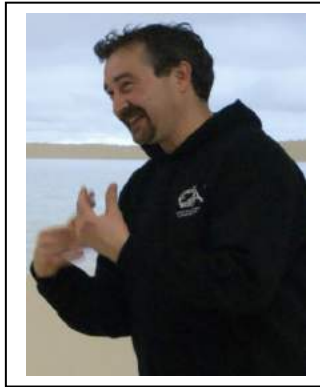
Our delegates are Bill Bethke, Elaine Bethke, and Jean Busker.

January social report

The fisherman was a hit. Members and guests were captivated by Captain Mark McKeown's enthusiasm, stories, and knowledge of worldwide fishing industry concerns.

McKowen captains a fishing vessel in the Bering Sea. Locally, through Bering Bounty LLC, he sells what he considers the finest wild-caught salmon and cod. Contact: 907-359-1798.

We can vouch for the delicious cod he steamed for us.



McKeown's recipe for steamed fish

350 degrees or medium on a stove burner
Olive oil in bottom of pan
Frozen fish skin side down, cover and steam 7 minutes
Season with lemon and pepper or your choice
Steam 5 more minutes

Book club: *Dancing the Cows Home*

Ostestaden Book Club met January 21st at the home of Elaine and Bill Bethke.

The book brings back lots of memories for those growing up on the farm in the 50s and 60s. It follows the family of twin sisters, Sara and Suzie. Mom loves her cows and is the real force behind the success of the farm. Dad is a hard worker and active, but really wishes he could have gone to college and traveled.

We follow the twins who need to be together constantly to play tricks on schoolmates and teachers. They dance the cows home. As teens Susie discovers she has real talent as a pianist and the whole family sacrifices so she can develop her skills. Though frugality is the family virtue, the parents go into debt to buy a piano for Susie and pay for music lessons and trips to competitions. Sister Sara is happy for her twin, but feels neglected and ordinary and jealous. Sara pushes the rules and takes unwise chances to express her independence.

This is a true story and photos throughout are actual family memories which help the reader to relate to the family. We also identify with living in a rural area in a small town. Most have relatives who lived on the farm.

After discussion about our memories and comparisons to the book, everyone enjoyed coffee and cherry pie.

February social report



UW Madison roommates Bobbie Jo Bergum (member) and Amanda from Brazil shared their stories.

Amanda is a biology major .

She had beautiful photos of Amazon flora and fauna in the rain forest. She misses food from home, but Bobbie Jo says, "I can make her some really good Ramen noodles, though."



Amanda is from Brasilia, capitol of Brazil and a planned city designed in the shape of an airplane.

Bobbie Jo is busy with the Wisconsin Equestrian team, FFA, Assoc of Women in Agriculture, and her classes.

Calendar 2016

- Mar 3 5:30 Board meeting
- Mar 10 6:30 Social meeting, Junction Jammers on accordion
- Apr 10 Matt Club
- Apr 14 5:30 Board meeting
- Apr 14 6:30 Social meeting, Relay for Life
- May 5 5:30 Board meeting
- May 12 6:30 Syttende Mai Celebration potluck
- Jun 2 Board meeting
- Jun 9 6:30 Mid Summers Celebration potluck at Sheri Novak's home. Bring your own beverage.
- Jun 5:00 Highway pick up
- Jul 7 Board meeting
- Jul 14 20 year celebration plated meal at Peppercorn
- Aug 4 Board meeting
- Aug 7 District picnic at Arneson's
- Aug 11 6:30 Picnic potluck, bring your own beverage.
- Aug 18 5:00 Highway pick up

New Youth Project



Save can and box labels. Clip the Ostestaden label below and pack with your labels.

Donated by

Ostestaden (cheese city)

Sons of Norway

Monroe, WI

Donate to the school of your choice or bring to Sons of Norway meeting. We want to track donations.

Gratulerer med Dagen! (Happy birthday)

- | | |
|-------------------|---------------|
| MARCH | APRIL |
| Brenda Bergum | Max Forrester |
| Jean Busker | Helen Johnson |
| Mary Everson | Jan Johnson |
| Amber Ingvaldstad | Tracy Wild |
| Patricia Johnson | |
| Charles Moen | |
| Ancil Norland | |
| Mavis Robertson | |
| Cathy Smith | |
- Don't forget to drop a dollar in the Birthday/Anniversary can for your Birthday or Anniversary. This pays for supplies—plates, cups, coffee, juice.**

Treat schedule

- MAR Grace and Eben Robertson 325-9312 (ejrger@tds.net)
Beverly Blumer 325-2625
- APR Mary McCauley 608-465-3332
Elaine Bethke 325-4842 (wdbethke@tds.net)
- MAY Syttende Mai Celebration pot luck, Marsha beverages
- JUN Mid Summers Celebration, pot luck at Sheri Novak's, bring your own beverage.
- JUL 20 year celebration at Peppercorn, plated meal
- AUG Picnic potluck, bring your own beverage.
- SEP Cathy Smith 325-2697 (clynnrd@yahoo.com)
Jan Johnson 329-5925 (janetjohnson@charter.net)
- OCT Marsha for treats and beverages
- NOV Helen Miller 325-4777 (hlmiller@wekz.net)
Pat Johnson 329-6392 (quiltjohnson@tds.net)
- DEC Christmas Celebration committee

Lefse

Lefse is also called lompa and potatokake. There are many recipes including one with no potatoes and an egg wash.

Today at church a tenor sang a Grieg song, *Varen*, a lovely ode to spring. He sang in Norwegian, but there was a translation and the words were lovely.

Elaine Bethke



***Varen*, Ode to Spring**

Once again I was able to see that Winter was going, Spring was appearing, blossoms of trees and hedges were growing, Ice floes were leaving, mountains of melting snow rushing free, hillsides re-leafing. The grass was green once again and bursting with flowers;

Once more I heard the song of the wren filling the bowers.



Yet one day, here, in the Spring I am experiencing, I'll find my last home in the harmony of nature's expanses.

Each blessing that is a gift, each flower that I cherish, Is a remembrance of my forbearers' souls which shall never perish.

And so it is amid the birches and bowers that I ponder Spring's mysteries. With the sound of the flute I have carved, my soul weeps in wonder.

from Norway

Doughnut in space

Two Swedish brothers launched the first doughnut (a sprinkle one) into the stratosphere above Norway in April 2015.

Alexander and Benjamin Jönsson launched their sprinkled spaceship from Askim, Norway, in a weather balloon. It crash-landed in Sweden's Lake Vättern.

Popular Science, 8/2015

Cat

The **Norwegian Forest Cat** originated in Norway. Known as Skogkatter, Norwegian Forest Cats accompanied the Vikings in their travels throughout Europe. The breed developed on its own in the cold climate of Northern Europe, which led to its profuse, double coat.



Our insurance

Sons of Norway was founded in 1895 by 18 Norwegian immigrants with thoughts of survival for their families. They modeled it after group assistance in Trondheim, Norway. Each member contributed a small amount each week in return for medical care and financial assistance during times of need. The foundation and insurance resources make Sons of Norway stronger than other local cultural groups.

Contact Greg Ragan, Financial Benefits Counselor
1-800-442-4146, gregragan@aol.com,

“Sons of Norway is the largest Norwegian/American organization in the world. It is a \$350 million financial institution.”

Jon Grinde from our district is running for SON International Vice President





SONS OF NORWAY

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Our Mission Statement:

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.

Newsletter

Jean Busker, Editor

Bradley Goplen, Photographer

Jamie Larson, Facebook

Sons of Norway Ostestaden Socials
the 2nd Thursday of each month

with a light lunch at 6:30 PM and program at 7:00 PM
UPC, 2707 5th St., Monroe, WI 53566



How did Sons of Norway
begin in Monroe?

The answer is on page 1.