

Vennelag News

Vennelag Lodge, 5-513

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Upcoming Events

NOTE: Unless indicated otherwise, all lodge meetings are held at the at Mt. Horeb Community Center (MHCC), 107 N. Grove St., Mt. Horeb, WI, 53572

2016

Mar 10 - Board meeting 6:30 PM, Culvers, Mt. Horeb

Mar 20 - Lodge meeting 2:00 PM

April (all Saturdays) - rosemaling classes 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM, **ELC** (registration and fee required)

Apr 14 - Board meeting 6:30 PM, Culvers, Mt. Horeb

Apr 28 - Lodge meeting 6:30 PM **State Bank of Cross Plains, Mt. Horeb, upstairs meeting room**

April 28-30 - Vennelag's annual garage sale

May 12 - Board meeting 6:30 PM, Culvers, Mt. Horeb

May 15 - Parade in Stoughton

May 26 - Lodge meeting 7:00 PM

March 20th Meeting:

In March we will be testing our language skills by playing Bingo in Norwegian. Please bring a wrapped gift of no more than \$10. For example you could box up a couple artisan soap bars from a local shop in an empty butter carton, or a few chocolate bars in a shoe box. This will be in the Traveling Bingo style where we will not open the gifts until all are distributed.

Barnebirkie Photos



See the full article on Page 6.

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

As Vennelag members look ahead to the months of March and April, we are reminded that Old Man Winter will soon lose his grip. Mother Nature will usher in the new tendrils of Spring bringing with Her the sun's warmth to aid in new life. Within our lodge new life has also come forth! We have installed young officers, a first for our lodge, who will serve Vennelag in unique capacities. I am especially energized by their enthusiasm and the line-up of events that they have planned for Vennelag Lodge members. These high school students will serve as our Lodge musician and social director. Both young men are full of ideas that will help our lodge to grow in new ways and will potentially open the door to younger families.

The first is our musician, Eric Albrecht, who in addition to playing the three national anthems each month, will also be practicing some additional music, suggested by our Board, that we can sing at upcoming meetings. Our new social director, Martin Amundsen, would like us to look at our membership roll and reach out to younger and veteran members alike by scheduling differing kinds of activities in the Lodge and around the area. Stay tuned to learn more about what Martin has planned!

District 5 Convention

On Sunday afternoon February 21, 2016, members of Vennelag Lodge nominated three people as delegates for the June 2016, District 5 Convention to be held in Marshfield, WI, on June 24-25, 2016. They also nominated 3 alternates to serve in the event that any delegate cannot attend. The delegates are as follows: Nancy Kittleson, Rita Schraepfer-Derke, and Ann Walser. Those who are ready to serve, if needed are: Tiffany Schwoerer, Carolyn Johnson, and Jo Don Anderson. Thanks to all for your willingness to serve.

Whether you are a delegate or not, all Sons of Norway members are welcome to attend the 2016 District 5 Convention in Marshfield. Seating is provided in the rear of the delegate assembly floor to view the proceedings. Typically, side trips are offered to non-delegate attendees. Evening activities will offer a Viking feast, a retelling of the Viking sagas, a trip to Owen Christianson's longhouse and more! Lodging can be arranged by contacting Hotel Marshfield: hotelmashfield.com or by dialing: 715-387-2700. Amenities include: free Wi-Fi, pool, fitness center, and on-site restaurant. Registration materials will be available on-line, by accessing the District 5 website: sonsofnorway5.com

In addition this year, Vennelag will also be represented by Duane Kittleson, District 5 Treasurer and Cheryl Schlessner as District 5 Youth Director. This is the first time that our lodge has seated 5 delegates. From this pool will come the delegates to the 2016 Sons of Norway International Convention in Tacoma, Washington. Participation from all members in the Innovative Leadership Conference, held before the International Convention on August 24, 2016, is encouraged. Hotel Murano is the Convention hotel. If your family is considering a trip to Tacoma, I would encourage you to *make your reservations early*. You may do so on the SofN International website, sofn.com where a link with a booking agency will help you to complete your reservation.

Vennelag Marks the Passing of George Sievers

Please see the District 5 webpage: sonsofnorway5.com for a memorial tribute to **George Sievers**, past president of Vennelag Lodge and an active Sons of Norway member since 1978. An obituary was printed in the *Mt. Horeb Mail* recently and copies are available, if you so desire.

Garage Sale to Benefit Vennelag Lodge

On Thursday, Friday, and Saturday **April 28-30**, Rita Schraepfer-Derke will be hosting Vennelag’s annual garage sale. Please deliver any items you are willing to donate to Rita at her home address: 205 N. 3rd Street, Mt. Horeb. Rita’s phone number is: 608-220-7565 and her e-mail: rsderke1@yahoo.com. You may place **priced items** on her front porch beginning April 17th. Household items of all kinds are welcome. Children’s items, luggage, vases, cooking, and storage systems have also been popular. Thank you in advance for your donation. Volunteers will be needed to work the event all three days and for clean-up on Sunday, May 1st. Hours of the sale are: 8:00 AM-4:00 PM each day or until our items are sold. The receipts from the sales will be used for Lodge projects, such as scholarships, and for donations, as the Board so determines. As a point of information, we have a remaining commitment to the Mt. Horeb Historical Society, and donations to the Sons of Norway Foundation are encouraged each year.

Cheryl



Rosemaling Class Offered Saturdays in April

Are you interested in painting in the **Hallingdal style** of the Norwegian folk art of rosemaling? Take the class being offered by the Sons of Norway Vennelag Lodge with the Vesterheim gold medalist Lois Mueller. No experience is needed; we will teach you as time progresses. Classes will meet at the Evangelical Lutheran Church, 315 Main Street in Mount Horeb all Saturdays in April, 2016. Please park behind the Church. Classes will start at 9:30 am and will run until 3:30 pm. Lunch will be provided at the first class, and we will discuss lunch options for the next class. The cost for the class of five Saturdays will be \$125 per person.

Deadline for registration and payment is March 23, 2016. Supplies of paints, brushes and woodenware will be available to purchase during the classes and are not included in the price of registration.

Questions may be left for Tiffany Schwoerer as voicemails at: 608-214-4786.

Please return this part to Tiffany Schwoerer, 220 Durst Road, New Glarus, WI 53574

Name(s) of Attendee(s): _____

E-mail: _____ **Phone:** _____

Please circle below.

Have you rosemaled before? YES NO

PREFERRED MEDIUM OF PAINT: OIL PAINTS ACRYLIC PAINTS

Do you need to purchase paints from instructor? Yes No If yes circle one of the above, purchases will be settled with instructor and are separate from class registration.

PLEASE ENCLOSE A CHECK FOR \$125 (per person) MADE PAYABLE TO: VENNELAG 5-513: YES

Two of Vennelag's New Leaders

Vennelag is pleased to welcome these two young men in leadership positions for Vennelag 5-513.



Martin D. Amundsen



Eric Albrecht

Martin D. Amundsen - Social Director

I am a junior at Mount Horeb High School. I am the son of Vennelag member Jean Bower, and brother to Siri (19) and Samantha (13). We live in Mount Horeb.

I am excited to have an opportunity serve as Vennelag's Social Director and as a leader in youth activities. I plan to promote the Sons of Norway to other young people.

Eric Albrecht - Musician

I am a sophomore at Mount Horeb High School. I am very interested in music, as I am involved in the Fiddle Band, Jazz Band (I play alto saxophone.), orchestra, band, sing with the Chordsmen and also play in the Community Band. I also study privately in piano and violin. I started violin at age 6, and that is also when I started to have an interest in music. In addition to playing violin, piano, and saxophone, I also play guitar (and sing) for our Sunday School music time and play hand bells in my church's bell choir.

Besides music, I am very involved in the community. I have over 150 hours of community service by helping the schools in Mount Horeb, our community, our residents and various non-profit organizations in Madison.

Overall, I am very excited to be a member and official Musician of the Sons of Norway.

Upcoming Lodge Meetings

Author **Eric Dregni** will present his new book, *Let's Go Fishing*, on April 28. The book is a cultural history of angling in the North Woods with a healthy dose of Scandinavian influence on the sport. This meeting will be at the State Bank of Cross Plains (Mount Horeb) upstairs meeting room.

The lodge meeting scheduled for January 17, 2016, was cancelled, due to the bitterly cold temperatures and wind chill. The program by the *Ladies of the Fjord* has been rescheduled for May 26.

A Message from the Food Chairman

Food Servers for lodge meetings:

March servers are Carol Nyland, Tiffany Schwoerer and Janet Robertson.

April servers are Duane and Nancy Kittleson and Martha Phillips.

May is a potluck, where all members bring food to share.

September servers are Aldeen Fjelstad, Jean Grindle and Ann Walser

October servers are Carolyn Johnson and Martha Martin We need one more server for this month.

A sincere thank you to all the people that helped to make the Zone 3 meeting a huge success. There were over 50 people in attendance. Thanks to the members who helped set up on Friday night. There were many members who brought food and helped serve the crowd on Saturday.

A Guideline for members serving at the Lodge meetings is now available. Members who are serving will receive the Guidelines two weeks before the meeting. The Guidelines state what is to be done and where things are found. In other words, it tells what the servers are responsible for.

The serving time for the light lunch will be after the March meeting. In the months of April, May, September and October the light lunch will be served starting at 6:30, before the 7:00 meeting.

Thanks for all your help with the food for our Lodge. We all know Norwegians LIKE to eat.

Ann Walser

Scholarship Information

A reminder to high school seniors and college students, deadlines for scholarships are approaching. If you are a Mt. Horeb senior, visit with Mr. Clark in the Guidance Office to learn more about the Vennelag scholarship. Students attending other school districts may contact Philip Johnson via e-mail at: grobugs@chorus.net or by phone: 608-424-3149 for scholarship information.

Sons of Norway offers additional scholarships beyond the local lodge. A number of scholarships are available through the Sons of Norway Foundation for those enrolling in institutes of higher learning (post high school). Many deadlines have already passed, but several are still open. For more information on scholarships, send an email to foundation@sofn.com or call (800) 945-8851.

Check out the District 5 webpage sonsofnorway5.com where additional funding options can be found. Likewise, the Sons of Norway International sofn.com website offers scholarships for youth and for any member who wishes to participate in Oslo Summer School. Select the tab *Foundation* to see the many offerings. Read the requirements carefully! If the scholarship requires holding a benefit policy, that is an easy thing to obtain and it is affordable! Contact our Financial Benefits Counselor, Greg Ragan at gregragan@aol.com to qualify! Phone him toll free: 800-442-4146.

Upcoming Deadlines and Events

May 17 - Application for **Masse Moro**, District 5's heritage and culture camp for children ages 9-15.

July 16 – **Kaffe Stue**, one of our largest fundraisers of the year. Put it on your calendar and invite friends!

Birkebeiner News

Birkie Fever was alive and well in Hayward, WI, when over 500 children stopped by the registration tent to get their number assignments, race bibs, and ties. They checked in with Birkie volunteers Aldeen Fjelstad and Cheryl Wille-Schlessler, representing Vennelag Lodge and District 5 Sons of Norway. Later, they strapped into their skis and set off across Lake Hayward for the downtown finish line. The Barnebirkie (Children’s Ski Race) was held on February 19th. The entrance fee of \$10.00 brought with it bragging rights and the reward of cookies available in the Swiss Miss tent at the end of the race! Despite the drizzle and cold temperatures, the children left the starting area at 12:30 PM to the chants of *Let us, go! Let us go!* The official count on the number of skiers this year at the Barnebirkie is 850!

Children who were participating in the Bitty Birkie, ages 2.5 to 5 or youngest skiing division, were accompanied by their parents who walked by their side. Those who were older had the option of skiing a 1.2K or 3K race. Parents were required to ski behind these children. A challenge for all this year was crossing a huge bridge built over Hwy. 63 in downtown Hayward. Students from Birnamwood High School were on hand to assist the little ones with this last leg of the race.

Sons of Norway Lodges from across District 5 sent cookies of many kinds and workers who helped to distribute them. The last count was over 800 dozen, but my guess is there were many more. Final totals are forthcoming. Once all had their fill, extra cookies were taken to the Ski Expo being held at Hayward High School. Former District 5 President Mary Bennett and her sister Asta of Idun Lodge, Madison, were on hand to greet skiers and to offer a treat or a hot cup of Norwegian coffee. Aldeen and Cheryl joined them later in the afternoon and assisted with clean-up. Remaining packaged cookies were given to the Hayward Food Pantry where they will be distributed to needy families.

Thank you one and all for your cookie donations and support of this worthy event. If you would like to witness the Birkie for yourself next year, the dates of the 2017 Birkie are February 24th and 25th. The children’s ski race will return to its regular Thursday timeslot. You can follow updates on the Birkebeiner at: www.birkie.com.

Here are the standings of our own Vennelag members Siri and Guy Martin:

Name	Overall Place	Gender Place	Age Group Place	Finish Time	Event
Siri Martin	173	55	11 F 15-16	1:59:52.8	24k Kortelopet Classic
Guy Martin	2529	2139	243 M 45-49	4:09:16.4	51k Birkebeiner Skate

Vennelag Lodge congratulates both Siri and Guy on their personal accomplishments.



We are proud to have you in our Lodge!

TUBFRIM

Save used stamps and expired or used phone cards for Tubfrim to help disabled children and youth in Norway. Cut leaving about ¼ inch around each stamp on all sides. Bring them to a lodge meeting.

Tubfrim Winner Announced

For the past 30 years, members have been clipping canceled postage stamps and sending them to Tubfrim, who then sells them to dealers and collectors.

Originally the money raised went to help children afflicted by tuberculosis. Since tuberculosis is no longer the threat to health that it once was, today the proceeds from the resale of stamps helps improve the quality of life for children and youth with disabilities and special needs. Sons of Norway members are the largest contributor outside of Norway to Tubfrim's efforts, sending nearly 30% of all stamps collected.

While helping children is a great motivation for our members to participate, there is a special incentive to say "thank you". For every pound of stamps collected, the member or lodge can enter a drawing, held in mid-January every year, to win a round trip ticket to Norway, worth up to \$1,000.

Thursday, January 14, 2016 was a lucky day for Vegas Viking Lodge 6-152. The lodge was the winner of the Tubfrim drawing. Their postcard was drawn from among 1,331 other cards. With one card for every pound sent to Norway that means that Sons of Norway sent at least 1,332 pounds of stamps to Tubfrim in 2015. Vegas Vikings contributed 220 pounds to that total.

For more information or questions about Tubfrim, contact Sons of Norway Tubfrim chairperson, Gene Brandvold, at 952-831-4361 or genegbrand@aol.com.

Corrie Knudson, New Director of the Foundation at Sons of Norway International

Corrie Maki Knudson has been hired to direct the Foundation Department at Sons of Norway International, replacing Cindy Olson. Knudson has expertise in various areas of development as well as experience in finance and operations. Most recently she served as the chief operations officer for LIFE Prep, a charter school in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Knudson is a native of Eveleth, Minnesota. She earned her B.A. from Wartburg College in Waverly, Iowa and a Master of Management in Nonprofit Administration from North Park University in Chicago, Illinois. She is the proud mother of two children, Maija and Finn, with her husband of fifteen years, Kyle.

Corrie Maki Knudson, Director, Sons of Norway Foundation
612-821-4632 www.sonsofnorway.com/foundation

Foundation Funding

As your new Foundation Director, I'd like to find out if any of you have ideas for fundraisers. We've done the Mt. Horeb Village-Wide Garage Sale the past couple years and have done well with that. Plans are underway to do this event again this year--mark your calendars for April 28-30 and be thinking of items you would be able to donate for sale. Again, we will be using Rita Derke's garage and driveway area which worked so well last year. We could also use volunteers to work the event in shifts. Let me know how you can help!

Please let me know if you have any other ideas for consideration. Thank you!



Aldeen Fjelstad

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**Next Newsletter Deadline:
April 22, 2016**



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:

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