

Vennelag Lodge, 5-513

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Vennelag News

November Lodge Meeting

The November lodge meeting will be held on Thursday, November 17 (one week earlier than normal because of the Thanksgiving Holiday). We will begin serving coffee and food at 6:30 p.m. November is Vennelag's 45th anniversary month, and a busy night of celebration is planned. We will conduct our annual memorial service to honor those members who died in the last year. Jon Grinde, Sons of Norway International Director for District Five plans to be present to assist in this service. Members are asked to bring items for a silent auction. Proceeds will be shared jointly with the Sons of Norway Foundation, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary, and Masse Moro, District 5's youth heritage camp.

Read about the evening's speaker, David Arndahl, on page four of this newsletter. If you plan on traveling to Norway in September 2017 with the Lodge tour, you will get an advance look at sights you might see in Trondheim, Norway.



Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim

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

2016

- Nov 4 – Set up for baking workshop (MHCC), **4:30 PM**
- Nov 5 – Baking workshop 8 AM – Noon
- Nov 10 -Board meeting 6:30 PM Culver's, Mt. Horeb.
- Nov 17- Lodge meeting 7:15 PM, food served 6:30 PM
- Dec 3 – **Jultre Fest. Appetizers 5:30, Dinner 6 PM**

Program and Santa's visit to follow.

- Dec 16 –Lefse baking for sales 1 PM- 8 PM (MHCC)
- Dec 17 -Lefse baking and sales begins 8 AM – Noon.
- Dec 31 –Last day to mail Tubfrim cards to Office.
- Dec 31 –Final day new member applications will be counted in drawing for trip to Norway, "2016 Recruitment Contest"

2017-***No January Lodge Meeting***

- Feb 9 – Board meeting 6:30 PM Culvers, Mt. Horeb
- Feb 19– Lodge meeting 2 PM with lunch following
- Mar 18 – Zone 3 leadership meeting, Mauston, WI

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.

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.

Ord fra presidenten

Kjærer Venner (Dear Friends),

Transition: What does it mean for us?

Vennelag Lodge has been in transition for the past 2.5 years. It has been a time of focusing on the following key points:

Heritage: The Sons of Norway Board, with input from members, has been reviewing how our Lodge was shaped and formed. Acknowledgement has been given to those who took the steps to charter a Sons of Norway Lodge in this area in 1971. We have examined what has gone on before this time and how past practices shaped Vennelag Lodge-*The Circle of Friends*. Our veteran members have a wealth of knowledge to share and they have been the “go to” people when questions arose. The breath of life that new members bring is also energizing and their ideas are very welcome, too! Different kinds of interactions have been added to our meetings. If you have an activity that you would like to see implemented, please contact anyone on the Vennelag Board, and we will do our best to make your ideas become reality!

Leadership: The Board has been reviewing the membership needs of our lodge, and they are examining ways of organizing and developing more leaders. Transition time is a perfect opportunity for imagining new ways of doing things. New leaders arise, and some who have spent a lot of years in leadership roles could work in tandem with the new leaders to ensure success. Tusen takk to all who have served Vennelag Lodge; I value your expertise and suggestions.

Mission: Defining and redefining the Lodge’s sense of purpose keeps us true to the heritage of our families, neighbors, and communities. For those of you who are new to the Sons of Norway, the mission statement includes three core goals:

- to promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway
- to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic Countries, and
- to provide quality insurance and financial products to our members.

We fulfill these goals by providing our members with a number of resources and benefits, the most popular being *Viking* magazine. If you have registered to become a new member in our Lodge, know that your *Viking* magazine will be on its way shortly!

Moving Forward: Focusing on the future requires us to do all of the above.

This will also help us explain ourselves to others who might want to know more about Vennelag Lodge, as we celebrate our Norwegian ancestry and work toward preserving the customs and traditions of the people we hold dear.

Cheryl

A call to all walkers from our lodge Sports Director, Davi Penne!

Everything begins with a step!

Please join other Lodge members for a fellowship walk on the bike trail Sunday afternoon. Meet at the Mt. Horeb train depot parking lot and we will walk west.

It is 1/2 mile to the Premier Coop with benches along the way if you need to take a break. Mileage will count toward earning the Gangmerke (walking sports medal.)

Call lodge president Cheryl 608-219-4464) to confirm the scheduled dates.

***Two Troll Tales from Norway – Nov. 12, 1:00 – 2:00 p.m., Livsreise, Stoughton, WI.***

Award-winning illustrator Ingrid Kallick will present some of the artists folklorists who established the look of trolls as we know them today. Using examples from her forthcoming picture book *Two Troll Tales From Norway*, Kallick will talk about her illustration process.

Please welcome our newest Vennelag Members:

Jackie and Roger Brown

Kristen Clary

Tamiko Clary

Jim and Pat Knudson

**Lutefisk Dinners**

Barneveld Lutheran Church, 505 Swiss Lane, Barneveld Saturday, November 5, 2016. Reservations \$18.00 per adult, Children 5 to 12 \$7.00, Little ones free, WALK-INS welcome after 1:30 PM.

Served family style: lutefisk, meatballs with potatoes and gravy, lefse, green beans, coleslaw, cranberries, rømmegrøt, coffee, milk...All you wish to eat. Send your reservation request, a check made payable to Barneveld Lutheran Church, 505 Swiss Lane, Barneveld, WI 53507. Include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Questions-contact Marcia Thompson-608- 924-8621.

Christ Lutheran Church, 220 S. Main Street, De Forest, Saturday, November 12, 2016.

Reservations accepted through Noon, Friday, November 11th .

Link:www.christlutherandeforest.org to view reservations, Sign-up link or call 608-846- 4718. Adults-\$18.00, Children 4-12 \$9.00, Under 4 Free. Walk-ins welcome, beginning at 10 AM.

Carry-outs available. Also: Bake Sale and Bazaar 9 AM-6 PM.

Join us for this great **November Meeting**. Our guest speaker is David Arndahl from Decorah, Iowa. David says *“I am the son of an immigrant, my father having come from the Stavanger area in 1927, and the father of an emigrant, our daughter, Staci, having married a Norwegian man and moved to the Trondheim area in 2008. With two granddaughters there we have a reason to visit often. My program “St. Olaf and the Cathedral Nidaros” begins with the life and death of this unusual Viking Saint, then moves to the building, destruction, and a reconstruction that would continue for 132 years. We then tour the cathedral and close with a bit on the life of the church today. I answer the questions: Where is Olaf now? And why are there no more coronations of the king in Norway? I hope your lodge finds the program as interesting as it was putting it together.”*



*Sons of Norway Foundation -
50 years!*

Vennelag Lodge - 45 years!

The Vennelag Lodge Board of Directors is making a request for extra helpers for the Lodge’s annual lefse fundraiser that will be held in December.

We need volunteers to assist us with this project on Friday afternoon, December 16th, beginning at 1:30 PM. It is not necessary that you to know how to roll lefse! Runners are needed to move between baking stations to collect the finished lefse, while others are needed for scooping dough into the proper proportions for rolling. Other tasks include turning the lefse, as well as cooling and packaging it. We will train YOU!

We also need people to sell the lefse beginning at 9 AM at the Community Center on *Saturday, December 17th*. One dozen sells for \$18.00, 6 rounds for \$9.00. We expect to sell out. Fresh lefse for the holidays-one can’t beat that!

*Dinner and table service will be provided for he workers on Friday. Bring your favorite nonalcoholic drinks to accompany your meal.

Monies collected from this sale will help to pay for new signage for *The Sons of Norway* to be built along the Village’s east corridor.

If you are able to assist us, please contact Lodge President, Cheryl Wille-Schlessler via e-mail at: rogcher@mhtc.net or by cell: [608-219-4464](tel:608-219-4464). Thank you, The Vennelag Board of Directors





Thanksgiving, 2016

This year I am particularly thankful for...

- **the leadership George Sievers (our past president) provided which has been felt at all levels in Sons of Norway.**
- **a supportive community who believes in, celebrates, and supports our mission.**
- **the Board of Directors and others who help to plan, shape, and implement changes for the betterment of our Lodge.**
- **The lodge members who prepared and served food for the Zone 3 leadership seminar.**
- **the bakers who helped District 5 to meet the goal of 1,000 dozen of cookies for the Barnebirkie (children's) Ski Race each February.**
- **our truck drivers who enable our ship/float the S.S. Vennelag to participate in area parades.**
- **our members and volunteers who actively participate in our fundraisers and events by cooking, baking, purchasing, and serving Norwegian foods.**
- **our youth and their families who place and remove tables and chairs on the dates of our special events.**
- **the individuals who bring new families to join our ranks.**
- **presenters and speakers who provide insight into Norwegian topics of interest.**
- **our benefactors who contribute funds which enable Vennelag to have a positive presence in the greater Mt. Horeb area.**
- **the instructors who have led classes to the delight of the members.**
- **the support provided to one another in times of need.**
- **the positive thinking that has made our Lodge successful.**

**What a great year it has been—Mange takk for alt, alle sammen—
Many thanks for everything, one and all!**

Cheryl

Do you have a change of address?

Please inform us of any change in mailing address or email. You may also make a request to discontinue the printed copy and receive an email notification when the newsletter (*available in color*) is posted on the District Five website (www.sonsofnorway5.com.) Contact me at:

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News on *Draken Harald Hårfagre* the Viking ship. After sailing through the Great Lakes it docked at a marina in Manhattan, NY. It then sailed to Nantucket and on to Mystic, Connecticut where it will spend the winter.



What: Join the members of Vennelag Lodge for their annual Jultre Fest!

When: Saturday, December 3, 2016

Time: Punch and Appetizers, beginning at 5:30 PM, Potluck Dinner served at approximately 6:15 PM

Where: Mt. Horeb Community Center, 107 N. Grove St., Mt. Horeb, WI

Why: To celebrate the customs and traditions of our families

Who: Anyone interested in joining others in celebrating the holiday season. Santa will join us!

Please provide your group's complete table service, any specific nonalcoholic drinks they require, and a dish to pass.

We encourage everyone to dress festively (bunads, Norwegian sweaters, or other holiday wear).

The Lodge will provide gifts for the younger ones. Please send your reservations to

Lodge President **Cheryl Wille-Schlesser no later than December 1st.**

Please indicate the total number of people in your party **AND** more importantly, **the number of children.**

E-mail: rogcher@mhtc.net

Snail mail: 200 Beth Circle, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572

Cell: 608-219-4464



Takk skal du ha og God jul!

As we approach the holidays, some members have asked us to identify the traditional cookies of Christmas found on most Norwegian tables. Darlene Fossum-Martin, Norwegian food specialist at Vesterheim Norwegian American Museum in Decorah, IA, offers this list of Julen's Beste Kaker-the best cookies of Christmas for your baking enjoyment.

She offers these words of advice to bakers new to these recipes...These Norwegian cookies have unique and precise forms that can only be achieved with great patience and practice. The oldest cookies on this list are krumkaker and goro. Don't give up...keep trying. God jul!

Småbakst-Baked Goods

- 1) Sandbakkkel (Sand cake or sand tart)
- 2) Berlinerkranser

Smultbakst-Lard baking

- 3) Fattigmann
- 4) Rosetter

Kaker Bakt I Jern-Cookies baked in iron

- 5) Strull
- 6) Krumkaker
- 7) Goro

Pepperbakst-Pepper Baked

- 8) Sirupsnipper

We remember the following lodge members who recently died.

Carroll Iverson – Died September 2, 2016. Charter member of Vennelag, joined March 1972.

Roland Hustad – Died August 30, 2016. Golden member of Vennelag, joined June 1972.

Howard Severson - Died September 17, 2016. Joined the lodge March 1993.

On November 17 we will conduct a memorial service to honor the memory of all lodge members who died in the past year. Those included are:

- Delores Jelle
- George Sievers
- Gordie Martinson
- Connie Goderstad
- Roland Hustad, Doris Rear-Hustad

- Carroll Iverson
- Howard Severson
- Philip Johnson
- Sylvia Hankel
- Janice Fredrickson

We had a wonderful turn out for the Frokost, and it was a great fundraiser for the lodge. A big thank you is extended to all who helped. It takes many members working together to make our event successful. You made a difference!

Thank you for:

- All the calls made lining-up the donations and workers,
- Advance lefse baking,
- Greeting hungry eaters and welcoming them to our breakfast,
- Setting up the Community Center on Friday and for helping with the tear down on Saturday,
- Putting up and taking down the signs,
- Rolling meat, arranging cheese, checking off the food donations, and arranging the bake sale items,
- Working in the “Cookie Room”, pouring the milk and juice,
- Setting up the coffee pots, making and pouring the coffee,
- Making foods at home ahead of time,
- Working at the bake sale table or cashiering at the door,
- Frying pancakes or baking waffles,
- Cutting the salmon, organizing serving trays, and washing dishes,
- Serving foods to our guests,
- Donating food or cash and for all the others who worked so hard and did so much,
- Picking up additional food at Miller’s store during the breakfast hours,
- Your smiles...we greeted and served well over 400 guests during the breakfast and our lodge gained new members, as well!

***Never underestimate what your contributions have accomplished. Vennelag is proud to call you a member and values your participation.**

A special thank you is sent to **Ingunn Linnerud** from Roa, Norway, who is an honorary member of Vennelag Lodge. Ingunn is studying in Mt. Horeb this year and is residing with the Guy Martin Family.

Tusen takk! Rita Schraepfer – Event Chair

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Next Newsletter Deadline December 27, 2016



Frokost – October 1, 2016