



2021 Officers

President Susan K. Morton
(715)341-7248

skaymorton@hotmail.com

Vice Pres. Lois Hagen
(715)344-7460

hagenozzl@gmail.com

Treasurer Judy Pesanka
(715)344-0719

msbrewer2@charter.net

Financial Secretary
Arno Morton
(715)341-7248
mrmorocks@yahoo.com

Secretary Tom Johnson
(715)630-1070
T2johnso@gmail.com

Program Director
Charlotte Hensler
(715)592-4916
chensler@wi-net.com

Newsletter Editor
Carl Rasmussen
(715)341-7494
vennligblad@gmail.com

Newsletter Distributor
Lynn Rasmussen

Webmaster Patricia Serio

Publicity Kathy Clucas

Sunshine Coordinator
Bea Berg

Lodge Musician
Louise Lang

Lodge Librarian
Jane Gjevne

Lodge Historian
Lois Hagen

Language Specialist
Jan Flatoff

Cultural Skills Coord.
Karen Trzebiatowski

Trustee (2021-2023)
Ron Hensler.

Trustee (2020-2022)
Tom Johnson

Trustee (2019-2021)
Milo Harpsted

Vennligfolk Lodge
meets the second
Sunday evening, 5:00 pm
September thru May
at St. Paul's
United Methodist Church
600 Wilshire Blvd Stevens
Point, WI

Vennligblad

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

Volume 28 Issue 3

DISTRICT 5, ZONE 2

MAI OG JUNI 2021

Fra presidenten:



Happy Spring! After a Wisconsin winter, made even more challenging because of Covid, I think we are all ready for warmer weather and some long awaited get-togethers with family

and friends. Most of our members have already received their Covid vaccinations or will be getting them soon. Our officers feel it is now safe to have some outdoor gatherings this summer.

Our first gathering is set for Wednesday, June 23rd (rain date is June 25th) at Carl & Lynn Rasmussen's beautiful backyard from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Lynn has planned a scrumptious summer dessert, and of course there will be coffee too. Your officers are going to do the baking, so members can just come and enjoy the fellowship and dessert. Remember to RSVP Lynn or Carl at 715-341-7494.

On Wednesday, July 14th (rain date July 16th) our gathering will be at Collins Park on County Road I from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Directions to the park will be provided in our next issue of Vennligblad. Those who have been to Collins Park have described the setting as "sweet & lovely." Our refreshments will be ice cream sundaes, bars, and coffee. We will give members an opportunity to sign up to bring the bars. Ice cream will be provided by the lodge.

Our last summer gathering will be hosted by Jen & Ray Haas on Sunday, August 22nd, (rain date August 29th), from 6:00 – 8:00 PM. Jen's backyard has been featured in one of the summer Garden Walks, and I can hardly wait to see it! This gathering will be a pie & ice cream



social. Members will again have a chance to sign up to bake pies for our last summer gathering.

In September, we will start our regular **Vennligfolk Lodge** meetings, and we are getting programs set up for the fall. This has certainly been a very long time

since we have been able to hold lodge meetings! Remember that our meetings are on the second Sunday of the month starting at 5:00 PM at St. Paul's United Methodist Church.

Before I sign off, I want to thank two of our members for going "above and beyond" in the last few months. Tom Johnson, our Lodge Secretary, is also a gifted writer. I have thoroughly enjoyed his featured writings in Vennligblad, the most recent being "Family Ties" in the March & April newsletter. And then there is Karen Trzebiatowski, our Cultural Skills Director. Karen wanted to do something a little bit extra for a few of our lodge members. She knit some Norwegian Easter bunnies that had a hidden surprise in them. Kathy Clucas and Arno & I had the fun job of delivering these little bunnies. You can see pictures of some members receiving these bunnies in this newsletter.

Looking forward to seeing *all* of you soon!

Vennlig hilsen, Susan Morton



Rogaland Rosemaling

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Gratulerer med dagen

Congratulations on the day!

Mai

Ozz Hagen-4
Mother's Day-9
 Kress Williamson-14
syttende mai-17
Memorial Day-31

May						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Juni

Father's Day – 20
 Louise Lang – 24

June						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Morsdag (Mother's Day) is celebrated in Norway each year on the 2nd Sunday in February.



Farsdag (Father's Day) is celebrated on the 2nd Sunday in November.

VENNLIGBLAD

What's Happening at Vennligfolk???

"Vennligfolk Summer 2021 Outdoor Gatherings" June, July, and August. Similar to last year's Midtsommer event held at the Rasmussen's, let's get together outdoors and catch-up with early evening dessert socials.



Rasmussen's June 23 2021, 6PM–8PM – Our first Lodge gathering in a year will be an outdoor event at **Carl & Lynn Rasmussen's** at 3136 Dans Drive Stevens Point. Join us for a "dessert only" social on the traditional Norwegian Midtsommer Eve. Lodge Officers will provide baked meringue with a variety of berry toppings and whipped cream along with coffee and water. Catch up with fellow Lodge members around a traditional birch-log fire or maybe a game of Kubb. Please bring lawn chairs. Rain date: Friday June 25 same 6PM-8PM times. Please RSVP Lynn or Carl at 715-341-7494 so we can get a count and plan.

Collins Park July 14, 6PM–8PM – Our second summer Lodge gathering will at **Collins Park** located about 13 miles east of Stevens Point on Hwy 66 and then a mile south on County Road I. We will repeat a "dessert only" social only this time with ice cream and the toppings. Lodge Officers will arrange for ice cream and a variety of toppings. Coffee and bottled water will be available. Please bring a lawn chair. Rain date: Friday June 25 same 6PM-8PM times

August 22 6PM–8PM - Our third summer Lodge gathering will at the home of **Jen Haas** located at 3532 Regent Street, Stevens Point. Our third "dessert only" social will feature pie with ice cream. Volunteer Pie bakers will be arranged. Coffee and bottled water will be available. Please bring a lawn chair. Rain date: TBD. Watch for details in the July-August Vennligblad.



Regular monthly meetings to begin again!!! Our Lodge officers have decided to start holding regular monthly meetings with programs again beginning Sunday September 12 at 5 p.m. at St. Pauls United Methodist Church, Stevens Point. Check our next Vennligblad newsletter for program topics and speaker details. Consider presenting a program yourself this upcoming year. Discuss your idea with Char Hensler.

Hurra, Hurra, Hurra – Happy Syttende Mai!

Celebrate Syttende Mai in grand style with a free lunchtime gathering sponsored through **Vesterheim**.



Norwegian storyteller Anne Elisebeth Skogen will join the webinar from Ryfylkemuseet at Sand, Norway to tell the story, **'Schoolgirl and My Very First May 17th Parade in 1962.'** (that's Anne in the photo). Anne Elisebeth grew up in the little town of Egersund, Norway, south of Stavanger. With an education in drama and storytelling, Anne Elisebeth runs her own storytelling business, telling stories for schools, organizations, festivals, and companies.

Next, Decorah musicians Beth and Jon Rotto (playing fiddle and rhythm guitar, respectively) will offer Norwegian and Norwegian-American tunes from the Bethania Church in Vesterheim's Heritage Park. Beth and Jon are founding members of the dance band "Foot-Notes," who have been playing for old-time dances in the Decorah area for over three decades.

You need to pre-register to participate. Go to Vesterheim.org, use the "calendar and programs" dropdown tab and select "Annual Events" to find the registration information for this definitely special May 17 experience!



Beth and Jon Rotto

Norsk Bunnies Delivered by Lodge Officers

Easter week some Lodge members received a special delivery Norsk bunny surprise knit by Karen Trzebiatowski. Each bunny came with a fresh laid Cadbury egg and a message from the Lodge



Pres. Susan Morton delivers to Rosie Poulsen



Lois Alfsen



Some bunny loves you



Arno Morton presents Birdie Granum with her bunny



Basket of fresh Norsk Bunnies



Francis Polsen



Milo Harpstead



Arno delivers to Jane Gjevre



Nancy Schroeder



Bea Berg



Lynn Rasmussen loves her Norsk bunny

Be Entertained and Learn Norwegian

By Carl Rasmussen, Editor

Want to learn Norwegian? Watch more TV! Here's how.

As Lynn and I traveled to different countries and chat up the locals, many times we would ask, "how did you learn to speak English so well?" Most times, the response was, "by watching American movies and television shows!"

In the United States though getting access to foreign language films and television is difficult. Now these days with many streaming video services, it is not as challenging.

For example, with the Disney+ streaming service many movies are available in up to 12 different languages. According to the travel and language blog, "Intrepid Guide," (theintrepidguide.com) "the best part of watching movies you're already familiar with is that you already know the plot and can instead focus on the language being used. If you're a parent/grandparent, Disney+ is a great way to teach children a new language too." Think of movies like Frozen, Little Mermaid, Finding Nemo, Winnie the Pooh, etc., they all come with the ability to change the language.

As a quick guide how to change languages on Disney+: First sign in to your account and play any TV show or movie. When the video begins, look for a little box in the top-right corner of the screen. Clicking on it will bring up the language selection menu. The menu will give options to choose your audio and subtitle preferences in various languages. Select "Norwegian," or, if interested, Swedish, Danish, Finnish, and others.

The following titles are available in Norwegian (Norsk) in Audio form or just Norwegian Subtitles:

Alice in Wonderland (Audio, Subtitles)
Aladdin (Audio, Subtitles)
Bambi (Audio, Subtitles)
A Bug's Life (Audio, Subtitles)
Cinderella (Audio, Subtitles)
Finding Nemo (Audio, Subtitles)
Frozen (Audio, Subtitles)
Ice Age (Audio, Subtitles)
The Jungle Book (Audio, Subtitles)



The Lion King (Audio, Subtitles)
The Little Mermaid (Audio, Subtitles)
The Adventures of Winnie the Pooh (Audio, Subtitles)
Mulan (Audio, Subtitles)
The Nightmare Before Christmas (Subtitles only)
Peter Pan (Audio, Subtitles)
Pinocchio (Audio, Subtitles)
Pocahontas (Audio, Subtitles)

The Rescuers Down Under (Audio, Subtitles)
Sleeping Beauty (Audio, Subtitles)
Tarzan (Audio, Subtitles)
Toy Story (Audio, Subtitles)
Lady and the Tramp (Audio, Subtitles)
The Simpsons (All 33 Seasons) (Audio, Subtitles)

(an additional 20 titles come with Norwegian subtitles only)



Portage County Cultural Festival Goes On-line



Though Cultural Fest was cancelled this year due to Covid 19, Festival organizers have put together a virtual experience to provide folks with some of the features that made the event so memorable. Beginning May 1, people will be able to go portagecountyculturalfestival.org to see photos from over 30 years of past festivals.

The website will also contain videos teaching viewers how the food from the cultural festival is made and some recipes from event vendors will be posted. Music and dance videos will be featured and attendees can watch video instruction in various languages. Arts and craft videos will be posted by vendors, showing how they make some of the work featured at the festival.

"Food, Fun & Music from around the world" will return May 14, 2022. Look forward to a grand celebration after missing two years without a gathering of the tribes.

Syttende Mai in Norway



A typical activity on Syttende Mai is saying "Gratulerer med dagen!" (Congratulations on this day!) or "Hurra for Syttende Mai!" (Hooray for May 17th!). Repeat this to everyone you see throughout the day.

Syttende Mai is a banner day for kids in Norway, as they are usually allowed to consume as much soda, hot dogs and ice cream as they want. Some Norwegians make a fancy brunch before heading to the local parade. For the *koldtbord* (smorgasbord), favorites include smoked salmon, trout, cured meats, scrambled eggs, porridge, salads and champagne. Later in the day, enjoy coffee with *bløtkake*, a layered cream cake with fresh fruit- often using blueberries and strawberries to make a flag on top. Heart-shaped waffles and *kranssekake* (a tiered almond ring cake made of ground almonds, sugar and egg whites) may be decorated with Norwegian flag toothpicks. Hurra for Syttende Mai!

Meet The Johnsons

Born at an early age in Evanston, Illinois, Don grew up on the north side of Chicago. He was adopted on December 18, 1934 exactly one year to the day after a little girl named Grace Lorraine Johnson was born in Pasadena, California. Don never knew he was adopted until his father died and he came across his adoption papers. Donald and Grace would meet in Scottsdale, Arizona courtesy of Sentry Insurance Company, their employer at the time. Common interests for the couple include church, old cars, boating, aviation, and Southern Gospel music. Boating took them to all the Great Lakes, and all the way from Sturgeon Bay to the Hudson River in New York, via the canals, rivers, and lakes of the USA and Canada.

Don's dad was in the Navy in WW1 and was always on land. In WWII as a Chaplain in the Army he was always at sea. After the war he became the director of The Evangelical Alliance Mission - now in Wheaton, Illinois. During Vietnam Don was a battle group surgeon with a jungle warfare training unit in Panama Canal Zone. One day there was a



parade at Panama City, on the other side of the Isthmus. Don was supposed to fly there in a "Beaver" airplane. A visiting Major outranked him and decided to go in Don's place. That plane went down en route, taking the lives of all on board. It was Don's sad job to inform all the family members.

Pasadena, California where Grace Lorraine Johnson (Lori) was born and grew up watching the magic of the Rose Parade usually sitting on a plank between two ladders with two cousins behind the crowd.

The construction was equally fascinating to see. They start building the floats in January right after the parade.

Her house was located on a large piece of land (not acres) with a garden, chicken coop, and peach, apricot and plum trees where she had a tree house (only a floor). We had peach cobbler, peach fried pies and of course peach ice cream. Feeling very fortunate to live here where there are wild animals in the yard and a Go Kart track in the back field.

We have enjoyed the presentations and the fellowship of Sons of Norway. Great group!



Don performs a face plunge while snow-shoeing. He says, "some people are just slow learners!"

From the Editor: I hope you enjoy these Getting to Know articles. We've had good participation from both new and long-term members and hope to continue to carry this series. Lodge members can submit short introduction articles on their own or, kindly respond when asked.

Tusen Takk, Carl R. Editor



Looking for a past "Introducing" article?

You can find these listed individuals by month in your personal back copies of Vennligblad.

Or, you can also access past Vennligblad newsletters at the Sons of Norway District 5 website:

<https://sonsofnorway5.com/lodges/details/46-Vennligfolk-627>

Carl & Lynn Rasmussen	July-Aug 2019
Jan Flatoff	Sept-Oct 2019
Patti Rous	Nov-Dec 2019
Kathy Clucas	Jan-Feb 2020
Jen Haas	Mar-Apr 2020
Sally Prideaux	May-Jun 2020
Karen & Jerry Trzebiatowski	July-Aug 2020
Rita & Tom Johnson	Sept-Oct 2020
Mary & Mark Hansen	Nov-Dec 2020
Carolyn & Rich Sommers	Jan-Feb 2021
Birdie Granum	Mar-Apr 2021
Don & Lori Johnson	May-Jun 2021

MERINGUE – TOPPED RHUBARB CAKE

"If you like rhubarb and soft crunchy meringue, this is the cake for you! I have served it to family and friends for years and it has always spread a lot of joy. Baking is all about love." Trine Hahnemann®, "Scandinavian Baking" Quadrille Publishing 2014

Ingredients: For the cake

7/8 cup butter plus more for pan
1 Tbsp vanilla
7/8 cup sugar
4 eggs
1 cup almonds
1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
2 tsp baking powder
7 Tbsp milk

For the topping

18 oz fresh or frozen and defrosted rhubarb cut into ½ inch pieces
4 egg whites
1 cup sugar



Preheat the oven to 350. Butter a 9 x 13 pan and line the base with parchment paper.

Cream the butter, sugar, and vanilla with electric mixer until light and fluffy. Add the eggs one at a time beating after each addition.

Grind the almonds in a food processor, until fine. Mix them with the flour and baking

powder. Add to the batter alternating with the milk. Pour into the prepared pan, then spread the rhubarb evenly on top. Working quickly, beat the egg whites until stiff, but do not overbeat them. Gradually add the sugar, still beating, then evenly spread the meringue over the rhubarb.

Bake about 30 minutes, then cover the cake with foil to stop it getting too dark and bake another 15 to 20 minutes. Insert a skewer to check if the cake is done.

Photo by: Lynn Rasmussen, baked and taste tested!

Icelandic Microbrew Packs Big Taste

With a population of 20,000, the fishing port of Akureyri is Iceland's second-largest city after Reykjavik. Located along Iceland's famed Golden Circle, Akureyri has a microbrewery called Einstök Ölgerð known for brewing deliciously refreshing craft ales and lagers using "the purest water on Earth" sourced from a nearby glacier. One such export available locally is Icelandic Wee Heavy.



Wee Heavy is a Scottish ale brewed with locally farmed and smoked barley and spiced with native Icelandic Angelica that delivers a creamy head and a sweet malt aroma.

For those unfamiliar, Angelica grows hearty, strong, and cold resistant in Iceland and other Nordic countries. When the Vikings began trade expeditions to Europe, they brought along the dried parsley-celery



Angelica

like Angelica for currency. Considered a holy plant, legend has it that a 17th English century monk, was visited by an angel during the plague who told him angelica would relieve the people's suffering.

Available in 6-pack metal cans at Trig's in Stevens Point.

Vennligfolk Cultural Skills



Pursue a Norwegian cooking, literature, knitting, language, or other skill project, document your work

and earn a recognition pin! Cultural Skills coordinator Karen Trzebiatowski has all the details. Reach out to Karen at 715-824-7679 or send an email to: Karentrzeb@gmail.com. The Sons of Norway website (sofn.com) also has information and in some cases, links to helpful YouTube videos.



Norwegian: Har du røyka sokka dine?

Translation: Have you smoked your socks?

Meaning: Are you crazy?



Lena was enrolled in cosmetology college, but she missed a test.

Now she needs a makeup exam. Uff-da!



a little in English...Travel Destinations in Norway***litt på norsk...Reisemål i Norge***

Find your travel destination in Norway along the coast, near the fjords, in the big cities or on the high mountains.

South Coast: Flekkefjord can delight those who enjoy shopping. Located downtown are hundreds of shops within a five minute walk, a shopping center and 12 restaurants. Experience Flekkefjord at its best with beautiful nature walks, tricycle riding on the Flekkefjord railway or water sports at Rixen Cable Park. Setesdal stretches over 91 miles through beautiful mountain scenery between Evje in the south and Hovden winter ski resort to the north. Setesdal is known for its rich cultural traditions. We recommend a visit to the silversmith's workshop.

East Coast: Halden is an idyllic town right next to Sweden's border. High above the town sits the Fredriksten Fortress. Halden lies around 12 miles from Oslo and is easily accessible by car, bus, train or plane. Sandefjord has Europe's only whaling museum, clear traces of Viking times and opportunities for you to explore the land and sea. Sandefjord lies 75 miles south of Oslo. There are several domestic and international connections via Sandefjord's Torp Airport.

West Coast: Ålesund is known for its Art Nouveau architecture, its surrounding islands and fjords and the high peaks of the Sunnmøre Alps. The fjord landscape is unique and exceptionally beautiful, precisely why the Geirangerfjord and its surrounding areas are listed on UNESCO's World Heritage List. Voss – built for tough experiences! For nearly 200 years, Voss has welcomed tourists seeking adventures centered on nature and culture. Voss is centrally located between the Hardangerfjord and the Sognefjord "in the heart of fjord Norway", and is an excellent starting point for exploring the region.

Central Norway: Røros is one of the few mining towns in the world that is listed on the UNESCO's World Heritage List. Experience Røros nature by dogsledding, hiking, biking or canoeing. The city's atmosphere is alive with arts, crafts, shops and cafes. Travel to the islands of Hitra and Frøya for a unique opportunity of coastal culture. Here you can fish, bird watch and spend the night in a fishing cabin or a lighthouse. Hitra and Frøya lie 81 miles southwest of Trondheim. Car, boat and bus transport give you the opportunities to enjoy the Trøndelag coast.

Northern Norway: Bodø is the far-reaching hub in the north and the starting point for adventures in throughout Northern Norway. The world's strongest maelstrom (powerful whirlpool), Saltsraumen and the historic trading post, Kjerringøy are just two of the many attractions in the Bodø region. Alta is the largest town in Finnmark, offering the northern lights and the midnight sun, beautiful mountains, Sami culture and reindeer. Adventurous activities wait for you in Alta!

Finn ditt reisemål i Norge langs kysten, ved fjordene, i en storby eller på høyfjellet.

Sørlandet: Flekkefjord kan glede deg som liker shopping med hundre butikker innenfor fem minutters gange, kjøpesenter sentralt i byen og 12 spisesteder. Opplev Flekkefjord på sitt beste, vandreturer i vakker natur, dresinsykling på Flekkefjordbanen eller heftig vannsport på Rixen kabelbane. Setesdal strekker seg 147 kilometer gjennom vakkert fjellandskap mellom Evje i syd til vintersportsstedet Hovden, i nord. Setesdal er kjent for sine rike kulturtradisjoner. Vi anbefaler en tur innom verkstedet til en av sølvsmedene.

Østlandet: Halden er en idyllisk by rett ved grensen til Sverige. Høyt over byen troner Fredriksten Festning. Halden ligger cirka 19 kilometer fra Oslo og er lett tilgjengelig med bil, buss, tog eller fly. Sandefjord byr på Europas eneste hvalfangermuseum, tydelige spor etter vikingtiden og gode muligheter til å bolte seg i sjøen og på land. Sandefjord ligger 75 mil sør for Oslo. Det er flere innenlandske og utenlandske forbindelser via Sandefjord Lufthavn Torp

Vestlandet: Ålesund er kjent for Jugendstilarkitektur, omkringliggende øyer og fjorder, samt de høye tindene i Sunnmørsalpene. Fjordlandskapet er unikt og eksepsjonelt vakkert. Nettopp derfor står Geirangerfjorden med omland på UNESCO si liste over verdens naturarv. Voss - bygd for sterke opplevingar! I nesten 200 år har Voss teke imot turistar som søker aktivitetar basert på natur og kultur. Voss ligg sentralt plassert mellom Hardangerfjorden og Sognefjorden "i hjarta av Fjord Noreg", og er eit utmerka utgangspunkt for å utforske regionen.

Midt-Norge: Røros er en av de få gruvebyene i verden som er oppført på UNESCOs liste over verdens kulturarv. Opplev naturen på Røros med hundekjøring, fotturer, sykkel- eller kanotur. I byen er det levende kunst- og kunsthåndverksmiljø, butikker og cafeer. Reis til øyene Hitra og Frøya for en unik opplevelse av kystkultur. Her kan du fiske, se sjøfugl og overnatte på rorbu eller fyr. Hitra og Frøya ligger 130 kilometer sørvest for Trondheim. Bil, båt og buss gir deg muligheten til å få med deg den spennende Trøndelagskysten.

Nord-Norge: Bodø er det komplette knutepunktet i nord og er en base for opplevelser i Nordland og hele Nord-Norge. Verdens sterkeste malstrøm Saltstraumen og det historiske handelsstedet Kjerringøy er to av mange attraksjoner i Bodø regionen. Alta er den største byen i Finnmark og byr på nordlys og midnattsol, vakre fjell, samisk kultur og reindrift. Eventyrlige aktiviteter venter på deg i Alta!



Vennligfolk Lodge #5-627
Carl Rasmussen, Editor
3136 Dans Ave
Stevens Point, WI 54481 USA



June 23
Midtsommer at the
Rasmussen's

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.



Support Tubfrim. As you receive mail with unique stamps cut the postage off leaving a ¼ inch boarder of paper. Bring your stamps to the next Vennligfolk meeting.

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 Carl Rasmussen at 3136 Dans Dr., Stevens Point, WI 54481 or by e-mail addressed to: **Vennligblad@gmail.com**

Mange Tusen Takk , Carl Rasmussen, Editor



May 31 2021

Keep our Sons of Norway Family Growing

Sons of Norway's 2021 new member campaign is underway! Invite a friend or family member to join our lodge today! Invite new members to explore Nordic heritage & culture by joining our Sons of Norway family. In addition to the pride of sharing your culture you'll also with nifty recruiter appreciation pin from Sons of Norway.

Tusen takk for being a Sons of Norway member!

