



the ASKELADDEN news

Sons of Norway • Askeladden Lodge 5-610 • Kalamazoo, Michigan

A Congenial Society of Sons, Daughters, and Friends of Norway

facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge

Aug/Sep 2021

8/9-21

Meetings: *In-person cancelled until further notice due to the pandemic. Monthly meetings will be conducted virtually online.*

Sept - April: 2nd Sundays, 2 p.m.
May only: 3rd Sunday, 2 p.m.

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Joint Meeting with Vasa,
Askeladden, Sonja Henie, & Sognefjord Lodges

Sunday, September 12

2 p.m. (online)

Kaskeland

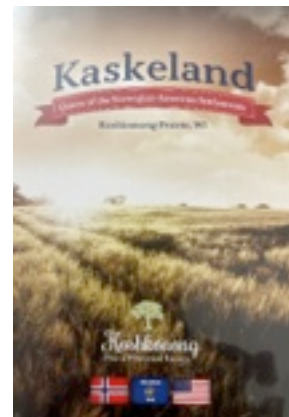
Koshkonong Prairie, WI

Queen of the Norwegian-American Settlements

Please make plans to join us for our next virtual event. Together we will watch a 40-minute documentary film which explores the history of the earliest Norwegian pioneers who arrived on the prairie in 1839. The film focuses on these early pioneers, their life and living conditions for the first decade. The emphasis is on the growth of prairie architecture to the introduction of the Norwegian Lutheran religion, the introduction of commerce, growth of local villages and towns, and the vestiges of Norwegian culture that exist yet today.

This documentary was used as a class resource for week 5 of the Sons of Norway District 5 virtual history course offered earlier this year. The Koshkonong Prairie Historical Society, located in Cambridge, Wisconsin, is dedicated to preserving and sharing the history of the people, churches, businesses, schools and other places on the Koshkonong Prairie.

Following the movie, Askeladden members will stay on line for a brief business meeting. Three main orders of business are to approve the 2022 budget emailed to members with the newsletter, approve clarification in the Lodge Norway Trip policy and approve the Nominating Committee that will identify lodge officers for 2022 -2023 term.



Topic: Askeladden September Meeting

Time: Sep 12, 2021 02:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join our meeting on computers and other devices with audio/video capability:

This is where we normally include the meeting link. For security reasons, the link will be emailed to you the night before the event. Please come back then and check your email for the meeting link.

Or, dial on phone by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

When prompted enter the Meeting ID: Meeting ID: **851 0425 3556** and Passcode: **794041**

ASKELOADDEN NEWS

Tra Presidenten

Joyful July Lodge Picnic & Looking Ahead

After no in-person meetings since March 2020, it was wonderful to see the almost 40 of you who made it to our picnic at beautiful Ketchum Park in Marshall on Sunday, July 11th!

Thank you to our Cultural Director, Astrid Willis, and family for their good work in securing the location and doing set-up preparations along with clean-up afterwards. Special thanks to Astrid's son Kjell Croce for playing wonderful guitar music for us during the picnic. Thanks also to our Secretary and Acting Membership Secretary, Judy Hande-Skutnick, for securing the delicious food from Panera Bread with help from Esther Ann Brown who created the table decorations. Thanks also to Joan O'Bryan for bringing some fun door prizes. And thank you to all the Askeladden members and family who were able to enjoy each other's company at our Sommerfest picnic!

We have managed to keep our lodge going with monthly online programs since last fall with the challenges of COVID-19 preventing in-person meetings. Judy Olson of Sonja Henie Lodge invited us to join them initially online and we have shared virtual programs with each other's members over the past year along with members of the Muskegon Lodge and the local Vasa group. We are hopeful that as more of us become vaccinated, and return to masking and social distancing protocols, we will see the highly transmissible Delta variant decrease.

For now, the prudent course is to continue with virtual on-line meetings, but we look forward to meeting again to enjoy in-person fellowship at Trinity Lutheran Church in Kalamazoo – hopefully by the start of 2022. Until then, stay safe and stay connected to family and friends, including your friends of Askeladden Lodge.

We look forward to seeing you on September 12th when Judy Hande-Skutnick will share one of the Norwegian-American history episodes from the District 5 history class she participated in over the past year.

Gail Thompson-Hadley

September Business Meeting

It is important you remain online after our cultural program ends and the members of the other lodges sign off on Sunday, September 12, so we can take care of a few items that only the membership can approve. The agenda includes discussion and approval of the 2022 Budget (sent separately), the Nominating Committee that will select the slate of officers for the next 2 years*, and consideration of adopting a minor modification clarifying the wording in the Norway Trip policy. We will also remember the members we have lost since our last remembrance, which we couldn't do with last year's September meeting format.

*We changed our bylaws last year to elect officers every other year, primarily to maintain continuity. So this is an officer nomination/election year as the current officers have served for the past two years.



Our entire group with special welcome sign from Astrid and her family



Sandra Santas with granddaughter Alice and daughter Elizabeth Kraatz



Holly Jensen and Esther Ann Brown



Astrid Willis and Jean Willinger



Astrid's granddaughter, Gabbie, talks to her mom, Michelle

ASKELADDEN NEWS

The Sons of Norway 2020 Financial Report

Curtis A. Cleveland, Lodge Treasurer

For most of us, the Sons of Norway is a social organization, connected with Norwegian culture. Legally, according to the Charter, the Sons of Norway is a “fraternal benefit society,” in short, a life insurance company.

As a business, in 2020 the Sons of Norway operated with a net loss just as it did in 2017 and 2019. In three out of the last four years, the Sons of Norway has operated at a net loss. The financial statements, published in the June 2021 issue of the *Viking*, show the following:

1. As of December 31, 2020, the Sons of Norway had assets of \$338 Million.
2. For the 12 months ending December 31, 2020, the Sons of Norway had income of \$34.6 Million and a net loss of \$3.6 Million.

Despite the unprofitable operations in recent years, CEO Christopher Pinkerton remains confident in the current business plan and in the future, citing the following:

1. In 2020, the number of insurance agents increased from 473 to 2,294; an increase of 385%.
2. In 2020, the income from the sale of insurance premiums increased from \$14.3 Million to \$19.4 Million, an increase of 35%.

As a lodge, members need to take the following actions:

First, become knowledgeable about the Sons of Norway financial products.

Second, invite the Sons of Norway Insurance Agent to a monthly lodge meeting, at least once a year.

Third, if feasible, purchase a Sons of Norway life insurance policy or an annuity policy.

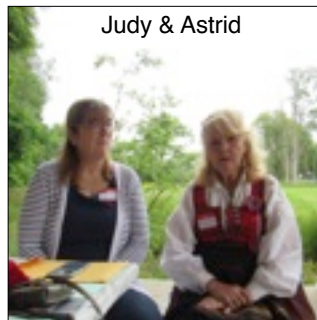
Sommerfest: together again, finally!

Astrid Willis and Judy Hande-Skutnick planned a wonderful Norwegian summer festival for our lodge. Every table was filled, with 25 Askeladden members and 11 guests attending. Due to space considerations, only Askeladden Lodge members and their guests were invited, much as we would have loved to have included the other Michigan lodges we have been meeting with virtually for the past year.

The predicted rain held off, but the wind was too strong to fly our Norwegian flag or our Sons of Norway banner. Both Astrid and her granddaughter, Gabbie, wore beautiful bunads. We had fun with door prizes, including decks of District 5 playing cards and several Danish Kringle from Trader Joe’s. We had live music and good food and good friends!

July 2021 Askeladden Member attendance: Diane Andert, Jeffrey Andert, Esther Ann Brown, Curtis Cleveland, Dennis & Jean Darling, Carolyn Hande, Judy Hande-Skutnick, Karen Hare, Barbara Heffner, Holly Jensen, Alice Kraatz, Elizabeth Kraatz, Vanier Lander, Bev & Curt Osborn, Joan O'Bryan, Audrey Renoos, Sandra Santas, David Sherman, Terese Sherman, Larry Skutnick, Gail Thompson-Hadley, Jean Willinger, and Astrid Willis.

Guests: Jason Andert and his 2 daughters; Kjell & Michelle Croce & daughter Gabbie; Secrete House; Carol and Gerold Lehman; Bev & Curt Osborn’s daughter Felicity Ann; and Jean Willinger’s daughter Joanna Stelloh Phelps.



Judy & Astrid

In Memory of Linda Lou Piper

Our lodge said goodbye to long-time member Linda Lou Piper in July. We had not seen our Linda in a while and were already missing her when she passed. Our hearts go out to Jerry and their four sons for their loss.

We will always remember Linda’s delightful presentation to the lodge after she and Jerry experienced a wonderful trip to Norway. It got a little tense in the confusing Oslo airport, but they managed through and enjoyed first class seats for the flight home!

Linda was always smiling and she took special care to do a beautiful job of decorating the lodge tables for our special Christmas dinner.

Linda’s service was held Wednesday morning, July 28, at Gracespring Bible Church in Richland. Our lodge sent an arrangement of flowers in the colors of Norway’s flag and our past President Curtis Cleveland was in attendance.

Linda, age 79, was born May 18, 1942, to Marjorie Olson and Leo Selby. Marjorie, who passed away a few years ago, was also a Sons of Norway Askeladden Lodge member. Linda is survived by her husband, Jerry Piper to whom she was happily married for 59 years; four sons, Rob (Susie) Piper, Plainwell; Scott Piper, Glendale; Jeff (Karen) Piper, Hudsonville; Mike (Becky) Piper, Marne; 12 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren; five brothers and five sisters.

According to her obituary, Linda loved spending time with her family, quilting, traveling, horseback riding, square dancing, golfing, bowling, painting, antiques, boating, motorcycle touring and watching Michigan State University athletics. And we know that Linda was outgoing, extremely talkative, friendly, loved everyone she met, and loved sharing stories about her family with them.

Gratulerer med dagen August Birthdays

Jean Darling	Daniel Renoos
Joyce Allworth	Abigail Renoos
Curtis A Cleveland	David Code
Svein Thoen	Joyce Hare
Kate Phillips	Catherine Hande

Gratulerer med dagen September Birthdays

Evelyn Iversen	Elizabeth Sherman	Mai Elise Code
Lucie Darling	Elaine Erickson	Astrid Code
Margery Selden	Richard Wesenberg	Earnie Best
Holly Jensen	Brian Timmer	Beverly Osborn
Gwen Meredith	Larry Skutnick	Astrid Willis




SONS of NORWAY

Askeladden Lodge 5-610

507 Clinton Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER KALENDER

Norway Trip Drawing Deadline Reminder: Under our lodge's Norway trip drawing rules, if you want to be considered for the October 2021 drawing, you must submit your request in writing (or e-mail) to the **Membership Secretary** by the September meeting. Amongst other membership requirements, to be eligible for the drawing, you must have attended at least 3 Lodge meetings or other qualifying events (such as the July picnic) in the previous year, up to and including the September 2021 meeting. Acting Membership Secretary Judy Hande-Skutnick's complete contact info is found on page 1 of every newsletter. Attendance rosters have been included in the newsletter for the past year for our virtual meetings for your reference.

-  • august 19 - HRH Crown Princess Mette-Marit birthday (1973)
- september 6 - Labor Day
- **september 12 - Askeladden Monthly Meeting. Joint event with Vasa, Sonja Henie & Sognefjord Lodges 2 p.m.** virtual cultural program and business meeting
- september 22 - Princess Märtha Louise, 1971 (no longer a flag day in Norway)
- october 1 - last day to submit *Askeladden News* articles.

NOTICE: Askeladden events are remaining virtual for the time being in light of the highly contagious Delta variant.

Askeladden Lodge Library

www.librarything.com/catalog/Sonsofnorway

Contact Curtis Cleveland with questions or to reserve resources.



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 to provide quality insurance and financial products to our members.