



the ASKELADDEN news

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

October 2022

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

10-22

facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge

Meetings:

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

Officers:

President: Gail Thompson-Hadley
(269) 845-2265
glthadley@gmail.com

Vice-President/Acting Membership Secretary/Editor:

Joan O'Bryan
507 Clinton Avenue
Kalamazoo, MI 49001
(269) 383-6802
joan.obryan@wmich.edu

Secretary: Karen Hare
(269) 568-9797
astutekaren@gmail.com

Newsletter Publisher: Judy
Hande-Skutnick
(269) 903-8386
jhandeskutnick@gmail.com

Treasurer: Curtis Cleveland
(269) 381-4531
cacleve82@att.net

Cultural Director:
Elizabeth Kraatz

Affiliation:
Sons of Norway International
1455 West Lake St.
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Cheryl Wille - Schlessler, President,
Sons of Norway District 5

Bill Bultinck
Director, District 5 Zone 6
dist5zone6@gmail.com

Benefits Counselor:
Greg Ragan
(815) 623-8817
gragan51@gmail.com
www.raganfinancialgroup.com

Lodge contact info:
Askeladden.Lodge@gmail.com
(269) 350-3330

Sunday, October 2 (First Sunday) 2 p.m. Fish Boil with Vasa Trinity Lutheran Church

Kalamazoo's VASA Satellite lodge has once again invited Askeladden members to join them for their traditional Fish Boil on Sunday, October 2, at 2 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 504 S. Westnedge in Kalamazoo. Note that the entrance has changed to the West side of the building and there is an elevator to the basement for anyone needing it.

You are invited to bring your family and friends. Askeladden Lodge will cover the cost of the fish but please bring some variety of salad or pie to share. In addition to the fish and potatoes, a traditional Wisconsin fish boil typically features coleslaw and cherry pie.

Dinner will be held in the church basement but if it's not too windy, there will also be a canopy in the parking lot for you if you'd be more comfortable eating outside. You would need to provide your own chairs.

Following the dinner, Askeladden members will move to the lounge for a required business meeting, where the Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers for 2023. Foundation Director Curtis Cleveland will provide a brief presentation on the Sons of Norway Foundation (see article on page 2). You will have the opportunity to sign up to represent our lodge by participating in the November Holiday Parade. And we will hold our annual Norway Trip drawing.

Holiday Parade - we need you!

Kris Spence, Holiday Parade Coordinator

Karn and I volunteered to organize our entry into the Holiday Parade this year. We are excited for this opportunity to showcase our Lodge's spirit.

As many of you know, the parade is on November 19 this year. We welcome any and all volunteers that wish to march with us.

- Volunteers are needed for a Fun Holiday tradition in Kalamazoo.
- The Holiday Parade is Saturday, November 19, with everyone gathered by 10 a.m.
- We need volunteers to walk in costume (we'd provide); especially could use some young children, age 7 and older.
- The parade is only 1 mile long and in downtown Kalamazoo.
- Sign up at the October lodge meeting, or reach out as soon as you can to Kris Spence at kspence7134@yahoo.com or text to (269) 719-0061 to express interest in participating and we will follow up with more details.



Vasa Fish Boil at Trinity Lutheran Church, 2018
photo credit: Gail Thompson-Hadley

ASKELADDEN NEWS

The 2022 International Sons of Norway Convention

Curtis Cleveland, District 5 Delegate to the 2022 International Sons of Norway Convention

On August 31st and September 1st, I attended the 2022 International Sons of Norway Convention. This was a virtual or Zoom conference, lasting about 5 hours over the two days, attended by about 160 delegates.

Our one and only business item was the election of the International Board of Directors, which we did.

The highlight of the convention, for me, was to hear the two main speakers: Mr. Chris Pinkerton, the CEO; and Mr. Ron Stubbings, the International President.

The CEO Mr. Pinkerton spoke about 30 minutes, talking about the 3 Fs: Foundation, Fraternal, and Finances.

The International President Mr. Stubbings spoke for about 3 hours over the two days, covering many topics.

Two weeks after the International Convention, the District 5 delegates had a debriefing Zoom meeting. In general, the D5 delegates were dissatisfied with how the convention was run. Although the International Convention was a Zoom meeting, our microphones were muted. We were permitted to send chat messages. However, the chat messages were not relayed to the speakers for comment. The delegates, me included, felt that the communication was one way.

My biggest disappointment was the missed opportunity to introduce and present the staff of the Minneapolis office. Astonishingly, Connie O'Brien, the Director of Fraternal Development and Marketing Foundation Director, was introduced by Mr. Stubbings at the very end of the convention but was not permitted to speak.

In future years, there will be no International Conventions. Under governance changes approved in 2021 the International Conventions will be discontinued and the International Board of Directors will be the supreme governance body of the Sons of Norway. In the future, the International Board of Directors will be elected by all members holding Sons of Norway Insurance.

It was a privilege to serve as a District 5 delegate to the 2022 International Convention.

Sons of Norway Hockey Team October Schedule

Curtis Cleveland

Friday, October 7, 10:45 p.m., Wings West

Friday, October 14, 8:35 p.m., Wings West

Friday, October 21, 8:35 p.m., Wings West

Friday, October 28, 9:05 p.m., Wings West

The games of the Sons of Norway Hockey Team, lasting one hour and free to the public, are played at one of the following venues: Wings West, north of exit 72, off I-94; and Wings Event Center, south of exit 80, off I-94.

The Sons of Norway Foundation

Curtis Cleveland, Sons of Norway Askeladden Foundation Director

The month of October is the Sons of Norway Foundation Month. When you received the October issue of the *Viking* magazine, you probably noticed that there was an envelope giving you the opportunity to make a donation to the Foundation. The same issue of the *Viking* magazine contains an article on the 2022 winners of the Sons of Norway Foundation scholarships. The article gives the names and photos of the 34 winners, who received about \$112,000 in scholarships. The scholarship program is the most publicized mission of the Sons of Norway Foundation. In addition, the Foundation gives grants to lodges, communities, and individuals to promote fraternal support and community service. Annually, about \$31,000 was awarded in grants.

The Sons of Norway Foundation, founded in 1966, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, is the charitable arm of the Sons of Norway. As of December 31, 2021, the Foundation has assets of just under \$12 Million.

For several years, Askeladden Lodge has made an annual gift to the Sons of Norway Foundation. This year we will give the Foundation a \$200 gift.

As individual members of the Sons of Norway, we should give donations to the Sons of Norway Foundation. Hence, the reason for the envelope with the October issue of the *Viking* magazine. The most convenient time to make a donation to the Foundation is when you renew your membership.

At the October 2 Lodge meeting, after a short presentation on the Foundation, we will pass the plate, thereby providing an opportunity to you to make a donation to the Foundation. Please bring a check to support the Foundation. Donations to the Foundation are tax deductible.

September Meeting: Barn Party in Hartford

Nine members and two guests enjoyed the September 11 Barn Party at President Gail Thompson-Hadley's home in rural Hartford. Kris Spence and Karn Erlandson co-hosted the event, with assistance from Karen Hare. Grilled chicken, salads, and desserts were enjoyed prior to our September Lodge meeting. Significant rain and wind blew through the area prior to our gathering, but let up in time for the festivities. We heard our delegates' reports on both the District 5 and International Sons of Norway conventions. We participated in an exercise that will be continued at the October meeting. We had a brief memorial ceremony for members lost. The 2022 scholarship winners were announced by Scholarship Chair Joyce Hare. All winners were invited to the meeting, but only one, Jaidin Smith, attended. Jaidin is the granddaughter of Earnie Best. Many of Jaidin's relatives helped form our lodge, and we were excited to meet both Jaidin and her mother, Jodi.

September 2022 Askeladden Member attendance: Curtis Cleveland, Karn Erlandson, Joyce Hare, Karen Hare, Van Lanier, Joan O'Bryan, Kris Spence, Gail Thompson-Hadley, Astrid Willis. Guests: Jaidin Smith, Jodi Best

ASKELOADDEN NEWS

Fra Presidenten

Rosemaling in Stoughton & Door County Friluftsliv

Greetings from a windy, rain-soaked night in Door County, Wisconsin. I had planned to spend tonight in my tent at a local campground getting some Norwegian friluftsliv but arriving here after dark with high winds, rain, and predicted thunderstorms led me to find a hotel for tonight instead.

I spent the weekend learning some basic techniques of the art of Norwegian rosemaling. Many of our Norwegian ancestors spent long winter hours decorating the dark walls of their homes, furniture, bowls, and other household items with colorful painted flowers and scrolls.

Our instructor was Nancy Odalen who first learned rosemaling some 22 years ago and has gone on to teach at Vesterheim Museum in Decorah, Iowa, and won rosemaling competitions. [Vesterheim Home](#) | [Vesterheim Norwegian-American](#).

Our class of 13 met at the Sons of Norway Mandt Lodge in Stoughton, Wisconsin, so we enjoyed the lodge's many colorful wall paintings, model Viking ships, their original framed charter from 1925, and photographs of the Norwegian royal family. I believe Mandt Lodge is the largest in District 5 with more than 200 members.

I knew I was in the right place when I drove down Stoughton's Main Street lined with waving flags of both the United States and Norway. I will go back again for a longer than one-hour tour of the [Livsreise - Norwegian Heritage Center](#) | [Stoughton, WI](#) with its wonderful displays of the Norwegian-American immigrant experience. Stoughton's Per Lysne was instrumental in growing an interest in rosemaling in America. [The Story of Norwegian Rosemaling - Daily Scandinavian](#).

We spent much of our first day practicing the basic rosemaling "C" and "S" strokes and learning to have the patience to go slowly and control the varied pressure we applied to our fine brushes. We learned to mix our palette of traditional rosemaling colors from tubes of oil paint, to trace a pattern, and add our own designs. We painted the basic shapes and then added delicate outlining, tear drops, swirls and dots. In two concentrated days, we learned about the history and basic techniques of rosemaling and completed our first lovely paintings.

It wouldn't be Friday night in Wisconsin without the traditional fish fry. I had asked Darlene Arneson, District 5 Secretary and Mandt Lodge President, for her advice for a Friday night fish fry in Stoughton. I found my way to one of her recommendations, The Viking Brew Pub, and enjoyed the most delicious Walleye I've ever eaten.

I am looking forward to exploring Door County tomorrow in the daylight and plan to hike some of the many trails and shoreline.

I hope you will join us at the Vasa-sponsored fish boil on Sunday, October 2nd. Askeladden members are requested to stay for a business meeting after our meal for our exciting annual Norway Trip Drawing as well as the initial presentation of our slate of officers for 2023.

Gail Thompson-Hadley

Myrtle Beinbauer Askeladden 2022 Scholarship Winners

Joyce Hare, Scholarship Chairperson

I had the privilege to announce this year's scholarship winners at our September event. The very worthy 2022 recipients are:

Astrid Code, daughter of Karin and David Code

Mai Elise Code, daughter of Karin and David Code

Daniel Phillips, son of Sondra Phillips and grandson of Karen Jaegersen Kunze

Andrew Sherman, son of Terese and David Sherman

Jaidin Smith, granddaughter of Earnie Best

Helen Spence, daughter of Karn Erlandson and Kris Spence

Kaeler Stafne, son of Jamie Stafne

November Board Meeting

The Askeladden Board of Directors will meet in the evening via Zoom on Tuesday, November 1, 2022. One topic will be updates to the scholarship policy. Contact Gail at glthadley@gmail.com if you are interested in listening in to the meeting. *Meeting time is yet to be determined.*



Gail's Rosemaling

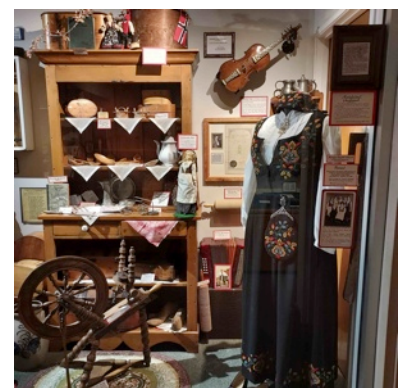


Lunch box rosemaled by Nancy Odalen

Editor's note: All photos in this issue courtesy of Gail Thompson-Hadley



Stoughton Opera House



Sturgeon Bay Historical Museum.
Norwegian bunad, carvings, Hardanger lace



SONS of NORWAY

October
2022

Askeladden Lodge 5-610

507 Clinton Ave
Kalamazoo, MI 49001

OKTOBER KALENDER

- oktober 2 - **Fish Boil with Vasa - Askeladden Monthly Meeting (in-person) with Norway trip drawing. Festivities begin in Trinity parking lot at 2 p.m.**
- oktober 9 - Leif Erikson Day
- oktober 10 - Columbus Day/Canadian Thanksgiving Day
- oktober 24 - United Nations Day – *FN-dagen*
- oktober 31 - Halloween
- november 1 - Board of Directors evening virtual (Zoom) meeting (time TBD) - contact Gail Hadley for information and meeting link.
- november 1 - Last day to submit articles for Askeladden News
- november 8 - Election Day in Kalamazoo and other localities

Gratulerer med dagen **Oktober Birthdays**

James Moe

James John Kraatz

Haakon Selden

Clifford Davidson

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.