



Sons of Norway Fagernes Lodge 5-616 April May June 2024 Newsletter



Upcoming Events

Fagernes Lodge meeting location is now at Blair Lutheran Church, 126 S Peterson Ave, Blair, WI 54616. Unless otherwise stated.

April 20, 9:00-1:00, Frokost and Bake Sale, Blair Lutheran Church. **April 27, 1:00**, Charlene Saxe and Elle Mae Crivitz on their Norway Trip. Servers: Terry Thompson, Byron and Marlys Britten.

May 17, 11:30, Meal at Ettrick Eats and Beats

May 17, 2:00/2:30, Grandview Syttende Mai Program.

June 20, 6:00 Fyrbal with Osseo Lodge in Blair Park. We host, Play Kubb.



The Stamps for the Wounded can use our cancelled stamps. Trim them to a 1/4 inch border. Give to LaVonne Wier at one of our meetings.

Bring your used printer cartridges to meetings and give to LaVonne. She can turn in 10 per month at Office Depot and get a \$2.00 each credit to defray the cost of ink and paper for publishing our newsletters and brochures.

At our Fagernes Lodge February meeting, Edith Kling (pictured left) and her sister Lois Hoff brought their hand-rosemaled items for display (four pictures above) and for purchase. Edith spoke about the art of rosemaling and their history of practicing the art for decades. Edith said Lois originally had to talk her into it. So Lois has a longer history with it than Edith has.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY! Due to privacy concerns, only the month is listed

April Peter Fetsch, Rafael Hanson, Gavin Instenes, Jescey Thompson, Eileen Trim

May Marilyn Bjorge, Laura Dobson, Fran Instenes, Elijah Jacobs, Virginia Ronning, Weston Rowekamp, Leland Wier

June Henry Fetsch, Ryan Fredrickson, Russell Glomstad, Emilee Papenfuss, Krista Rowekamp, Lynn Thompson

President's Message

Greetings from our Lodge President,

Sure has been a strange winter but spring is here. No Barneopet this year. Barnebirke was held in Hayward. LaVonne Wier went and took a lot of cookies along, that were made by members for the skiers.

The Frokost is coming up in April this year so get your baking done for the sale. More plans will be discussed at our March 23 meeting.

We have invites for Norwegian Singers soon at the Grandview Nursing Home, Marinuka Manor Nursing Home, French Creek Lutheran Church (for their Norwegian service), and possibly Pigeon Falls Nursing Home.

It will be a busy spring and summer.

Look forward to it all.

President Roger Instenes

Our Fagernes Lodge March Meeting

Our March meeting included a program presented by Glenn Borreson of Holmen, WI (shown below). He spoke and gave an interesting power point presentation on the topic Farming Like a Viking. The triple stamp below depicts "Viking Age daily life celebrated in a stamp issued by the Faroe Islands." The photo of a horned sheep represents the look of sheep in Scandinavian Countries, most likely Iceland. The sheep's ancestry in the area can be traced to the Viking era. In fact, Iceland has a strict ban on imports of poultry, goats, horses, rabbits, fur-bearing animals, cattle, sheep and pigs because doing so could bring illnesses that the Icelandic breeds do not have immunity to, which could decimate the local population.



Byron Britten, above, presents our Norwegian to English language lesson at our March meeting as he does for every monthly meeting. This month's lesson was words used in shopping.

BARNEBIRKIE 2024 EN, TO, TRE...Gå Ski!

What a momentous event it was! The 2024 Barnebirkie in Hayward, WI, took on a different feel this year with no measurable snow on the ground. How does one ski without snow? They improvise! The children were challenged with a running race. Believe it or not, the running race ended in downtown Hayward, just a few steps away from the Sons of Norway cookie tent! Our members did not disappoint the participants. A total of 601.5 dozen cookies were provided by our members and many lodges contributed money to help with the effort. Our volunteers came out in full force from many area lodges; some driving distances of more than five hours!

See page two for the names of the contributing lodges and the amounts. In addition, those lodges

who sent monetary donations are also listed. Please update me if I am unaware of your donation.

The day began early with District Secretary Darlene Arneson and her husband John setting up the tables and arranging the tents. Cookies were placed on the tables and the kids were encouraged to take a maximum of three cookies. This newly instituted plan was necessary due to the uncertainty of the number of youngsters, and it worked like a charm!

President Cheryl was a member of the registration team and checked in many youth skiers where she has worked for many years. Handing out bib numbers and seeing the excitement on the faces of the children is rewarding. Explaining to the youngest skiers that they have a “lucky” number brings joy to many. As the Birkebeiner Foundation likes to share, “this is the place where Birkebeiner dreams begin.”

I am proud of the unbelievable number of volunteers who reported to help this year from across the district. In addition, several friends of our members also assisted with this endeavor.

To the best of my knowledge the list below is thorough. If I have omitted someone, please let me know.

John and Darlene Arneson-Mandt 314; William Bosak-Dovre 353; Wendy and Kimball Higgins-Valhall 168; Carla Burkhardt-Wergeland 28; Judy Keilholz-Dovre 353; Kathy Nelson-Løven 29; Audrey Parrett-Løven 29; LaVonne Wier-Fagernes 616; Judy Ghastin-Norse Valley 491; Lucy Ghastin-Idun 74; Cheryl Wille-Schlesser-Vennelag 513.

In addition, several friends of our members also assisted with this endeavor.

A special thank you is extended to Judy and Lucy Ghastin who rose up to organize the cookie table at the Expo Center at Hayward High School. The classic skiers report to this location to pick up their timing chips, packs, and race bibs.

The dreams of the organizers are to return to the normal number of participants for 2025; the youth skiers usually number between 700 to 900!

Takk for hjelpen oss,

Cheryl Wille-Schlesser
D5 President
cwschlesser200bc@gmail.com

Cookie Donations by Lodge

Dovre 353--48 dozen; Løven 029--61 dozen; Ulseth 670--8 dozen; Fagernes 616--52 dozen; Solvang 457—42 dozen; Wergeland 28--10 dozen; Idun 74--72 dozen; Mandt 314--110.5 dozen; Østestaden 642--44 dozen; Vennelag 513--35 dozen; Norse Valley 491--21 dozen; Polar Star 472--67 dozen; Valhall 168--31 dozen.



Captions for page four photos Top left, for our January program, Heritage members Kielyn, 15, and Weston, 12, Rowekamp did a powerpoint presentation and talk on the benefits of attending the SON Masse Moro Norwegian Heritage Camp in Fall Creek. Top right, LaVonne Wier re-installs Roger Instenes as our lodge president for 2024. Left middle and bottom left and middle are photos of the February Barnebirke in Hayward. Our own LaVonne Wier attended and set up a booth extolling the benefits of Mass Moro. Middle bottom photo shows a number of people enjoying the multitude of cookies at the Barnebirke. Cookies were baked by members all over District Five. Middle right photo, Roger Instenes readies himself to toss the Wii Bowling ball down the virtual lane at the home of Bob and Marie Thill's, non-members who have hosted our Fagernes Lodge Wiii Bowling Event for many, many years. Members pay \$5 to play with the money going to the SON Foundation. Then everyone enjoys a potluck meal and visiting together. In the background, Marlys Britten, Marie Thill and Leland Wier watch the goings on. Bottom right photo, Lois Hoff, Edith Kling's sister, adds a few words about their February Rosemaling exhibit at our meeting.

Pizza in Norway

Scandinavian countries are known for many things, but pizza isn't typically one of them. Traveling to Norway, one would expect things like potatoes (and all the dishes made from them), fish, and gjetost. But in Norway, as with the rest of the world, pizza has become a popular staple that can take on local flavors. While pizza didn't start taking off in Norway until the 1970's, today this dish has become a staple in many Norwegian homes. It's become so well-loved in fact, that Norway has earned the top spot for consuming the most pizza per capita in the world – about 11 pizzas per person. Some even joke that it's the unofficial national dish.

While this may come as a surprise to some, it is not shocking, given the history of Norwegian cuisine. Home of flatbread and open-faced sandwiches, it was only a matter of time before pizza took its place beside these other Nordic staples. Ethnologist Astri Riddervold told of how ancient Norwegians prepared something similar called brødtallerken, or "bread dish" more than a thousand years ago. She called it Viking Pizza.

Today, Norwegians primarily enjoy frozen pizza, with the cherished brand Pizza Grandiosa from the town of Stranda on the Storfjorden, being the most popular. Considered the unofficial national dish of Norway, over 25 million pies were consumed by Norway's 5.3 million inhabitants in 2018.

One of the world's most controversial toppings, pineapple may not be traditional to Italy but according to the delivery app Just Eat, every 10th pizza ordered in Norway is a Pizza Hawaii, with Canadian bacon and pineapple. Something about that sweet and salty combination is just appealing to the palate.

Another popular type of pizza is called #lørdagspizza, which translates to "Saturday pizza." This type is hand-made in a rectangular pan and typically has chopped meat, tomato sauce, and cheese. Other popular toppings in Norway include sweet corn, salad and shrimp.



**The Sons of Norway Fagernes Lodge met on February 24, 2024 at Blair Lutheran Church
By Secretary LaVonne Wier**

President Roger Instenes called the meeting to order. The flags were presented, the Pledge of Allegiance recited, and the national anthems were sung.

Our guests today, Lois Hoff and Edith Kling, were welcomed.

The secretary's report was read, amended and approved.

Treasurer's report shows we have \$2,186.10 in checking.

We sang happy birthday to Charlotte Dahl, the only member in attendance with a February birthday.

Membership report from Terry Thompson shows our count is 57.

Byron Britten gave us a Norwegian lesson on shopping in the grocery store and clothing store.

Old Business:

Barnelopet was cancelled due to no snow.

LaVonne Wier thanked all the bakers who provided cookies for the Barnebirke in Hayward. They were very much appreciated.

Convention Issues: Leland Wier volunteered to be a convention delegate. We can have 2 delegates and 1 alternate. After the meeting, Dawn Volkman consented to be our other delegate. No alternate was elected.

LaVonne reminded members that if they have an item to display at the convention, a form needs to be completed. LaVonne can take it to the convention. Roger Instenes contacted Countryside Lefse to see if they wanted to sponsor an ad in the convention booklet. They chose not to do so.

New Business: The Fagernes Lodge Singers have been asked to sing at the 1:30 Norwegian service at French Creek on March 27. We have also been asked to sing at Marinuka Manor again. Old Main would also like us to sing a couple songs during Syttende Mai week at their program. They have requested we provide Norwegian treats for the intermission, and we agreed to do that. Marlys Britten will coordinate with Cynda Solberg and the singers to arrange practice dates. We will plan on those events. We voted not to participate in the Spring Thaw event at Old Main. We were reminded that our Frokøst and Bake Sale will be on April 20, 2024, instead of in May this year. Craft items also may be brought for sale. More discussion on this will be at the March meeting.

LaVonne Wier reported on the Barnebirke that happened on February 22, 2024. The children's events had to be foot races due to the lack of snow. Hayward brought in and made snow for the adult races. We had about half the number of children as a normal year. Cookies from all over District 5 were brought to give out at the Cookie Tent at the end of the race, and at the Expo. They were very much appreciated by young and old. LaVonne manned the booth for Masse Moro and talked to a lot of families about the camp. She also talked to several people about joining Sons of Norway in their area and provided them with an application. Hopefully, there will be some children who were there that sign up for camp. LaVonne gave out copies of a magazine that was free at the convention. It is Silent Sports, and focuses on human interest stories associated with sports such as skiing.

After the meeting was adjourned, sisters Lois Hoff of Galesville and Edith Kling of Taylor told us about rosemaling. They brought many rosemaled items which we could view and purchase. They told how they started rosemaling, the history of the craft, and about the different styles of painting. Both Lois and Edith conduct classes in this art.

A delicious lunch was provided by Roger and Fran Instenes and Betty Glomstad.

Next meeting is on March 23, 2024 at 1:00. Our guest **speaker will be Glenn Borreson.** His program will be "Farm Like a Viking". Servers are the Rowekamp family and Nancy Anderegg.

**The Sons of Norway Fagernes Lodge met on March 23, 20234 at Blair Lutheran Church
By Secretary LaVonne Wier**

Meeting was called to order by President Roger Instenes. The flags were presented and we sang the national anthems.

Our guest speaker, Glenn Borreson was welcomed and introduced.

Secretary's report was read and approved.

Treasurer's report was read and approved. We have \$2,215.00 in checking. We sang happy birthday to the March members present with March birthdays. They were Charlene Saxe and Dawn Volkman. Charlotte Dahl told us that her grandson, Zachary Dobson, whose birthday is in March, is at a music festival in Tomah. He plays the trumpet and goes to school in Black River Falls.

Terry Thompson reported our membership number is still at 57. Some members are overdue with their dues.

Byron Britten gave us a Norwegian to English language review of shopping lessons.

Old Business:

The Fagernes Lodge Singers will sing at several places in March, April and May.

Convention Issues:

Delegates for the June 2024 convention are Dawn Volkman and Leland Wier. Last call for anyone who wishes to sign up and pay \$2.00 to be a "well-wisher" in the convention booklet. Last call to get a form from LaVonne to display a craft item at the convention. LaVonne can transport your item. Convention pins are for sale for \$5.00. They have a person in a race car on the pin, with checkered flags (for the Indianapolis 500 reference). Sign up and LaVonne will get the pins at the convention. Payment will be made when you receive them. LaVonne has a board meeting April 5 - 6 in Stoughton. If anyone has questions or comments to bring to the board, let her know.

New Business:

Sign up sheets went around for people to list whether they can work and what supplies they will donate for the Frokøst. We will need a lot of items. We decided to do egg bakes again. LaVonne appealed to those who can bake to do what you usually do...and a little more...so we have ample items available for the bake sale. We do not have as many bakers as in the past. LaVonne will coordinate the "volunteered to donate" items with what is needed and purchase the remainder. Eileen Trim will assist Marlys Britten with the cashier duties.

Leland and LaVonne bought new Canadian and Norwegian flags at Nelson Flag and Display with the extra money from our Lodge Vitality Grant. We will look at them and discuss whether or not to keep them at our April meeting.

Meeting adjourned.

We enjoyed a delicious lunch provided by the Rowekamp family and Eileen Trim.

Then, Glenn Borreson gave a very interesting presentation on "How to Farm Like a Viking."

More News from LaVonne

Our delegates to the 2024 convention are Leland Wier and Dawn Volkman. Thank you to them for representing our lodge! Convention pins are available for purchase. Either I can take your name and the number of pins you would like, or you can go to the D5 website and order them yourself. \$5.00 each. Pay me when I give you the pin(s). They are cute. Call me and I'll add your name to the list.

If you have suggestions/comments/questions for the district board, talk to me. I have a board meeting coming up on April 5-6th.

LaVonne Wier, Zone 2 Director and Publicity





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Looking Forward to Summer Parades

Arcadia Broiler Dairy Days - May 26, 2024

Whitehall Beef and Dairy Days - August 18, 2024

Etrick Fun Days - August 25, 2024

Blair Cheese Festival - September 15, 2024