



Sons of Norway Fagernes Lodge 5-616

April, May, June 2021



Upcoming Events



*Fagernes Lodge meetings
location is presently up in the
air and TBD at a later time*

**One meeting, by Zoom,
is scheduled for April 17
at 4 p.m. Any other
meetings are yet TBD. If
you want to participate,
send me your email
address or phone no.**

**We do have another
activity we have
committed to
participating in: The
Arcadia Broiler Dairy
Days Parade, Saturday
May 29, at 3 P.m.**

**We are waiting to hear if
the Osseo lodge wants
to do the Frybal with us.**



Left and below, on March 13, a number of Wier family members and friends met to play Wii bowling at the home of Marie and Bob Thill's, the couple who has hosted our Wii Bowling Tournaments in the past. We raised funds to benefit District 5's Nordic Legacy Foundation, which was started a couple years ago, to support Masse Moro and D5 scholarships. SON Fagernes Lodge members playing Wii bowling that night included Roger and Fran Instenes, Byron and Marlys Britten, Leland and LaVonne Wier, Eileen Trim and Terry Thompson. Other family members playing included Rosalie and LeRoy Stadtler, Marie and Bob Thill and Mary Tjerstad. We raised \$65 for SON D5 Nordic Legacy Foundation. Pictured left: Roger Instenes, Fran Instenes, Eileen Trim and Terry Thompson.

Save cancelled stamps. The Tubfrim project can use them. Stamps must be trimmed to have at least a 1/4 inch border. Bring them to the meetings and give to LaVonne Wier.

Save your used printer cartridges and bring them to LaVonne or Terry at meetings. We get \$2.00 credit for each cartridge at Office Depot to use toward new cartridges and paper!



Wii bowling participants above are: On the left, Byron Britten plots his strategy while Marlys Britten looks on. Middle photo, Rosalie Stadtler prepares for her turn at bowling while LeRoy Stadtler observes. On the right, Leland Wier throws the virtual ball down the lane. Mary Tjerstad and Terry Thompson visit it the background.

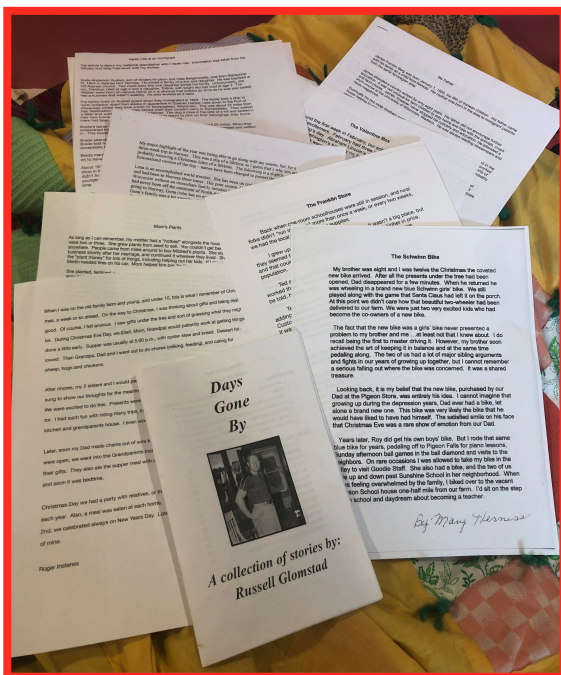
So far for 2021, we have committed to one parade:

The Arcadia Broiler Dairy Days Parade, Saturday May 29, at 3 P.m.

What I did SON-related and otherwise during COVID

From LaVonne Wier: During our time of no meetings, I asked for stories from our members. A story was sent out to lodge members by e-mail on Sundays and Wednesdays. We were able to learn a little more about each other, and enjoy reading the memories. I thoroughly delighted in these submissions. Mange tusen takk to all who answered my request. Namely: Cindi Anderson, Charlotte Dahl, Roger Instenes, Russell Glomstad, Mary Herness, LaVonne Wier, Terry Thompson. Hope I didn't miss anyone! As we will soon meet either virtually or in person, and be in parades again, I decided to end "story time" for now. The "stories during COVID" might make it into a booklet form sometime.

Additionally, as a family, we watched the entire series of The Munsters, The Addams Family, Lord of the Rings, and all ten seasons of Smallville.



On the left, a picture of some of the stories submitted to LaVonne when she asked for stories from members to share with other members. On the right, picture of the series that Leland, LaVonne and Jack Wier viewed during the 2020-2021 COVID pandemic.



From Terry Thompson: During the COVID-19 Pandemic, roughly March 2020 to March 2021, I was never at a loss of things to do.

I finally took time to do some things that I would have put off if I had had more time to just move around in public like I normally do. I cleaned, sorted, rearranged, and discarded unnecessary items from several of my drawers and cabinets, including my safe. I made several meals for my son Travis's family and did extra baking for them and others. I wrote a few articles on topics I'm knowledgeable on or passionate about. I ordered groceries online and went to pick them up with no contact. Store employees just loaded them into my car.

A couple of things I did were more significant than the list above. First was: several sisters, a sister-in-law and I set up a schedule taking turns caring for our sister Karmon Everson who was on hospice. She was at home on hospice from July 2020 to February 2021. At first, there were six of us dividing 5 days a week into a schedule. Later, after a homecare nurse was hired, five of us were dividing two days a week between us. It was an extremely difficult rollercoaster ride, but a very worthwhile experience. Karmon passed away February 7, 2021.

Secondly: At my daughter Dawn's request (she lives in Connecticut), she and I, along with Leland and LaVonne Wier, Dawn's uncle and aunt, started a weekly Zoom meeting reading and discussing the Bible. Of course, this way we got to do some visiting as well. All involved are enjoying it and learning from it.

Our President's Message

Bord fra din Fagernes Losje Presidentin,

Spring Greetings to you all. The tree buds are swelling and the tulips, crocuses, and daffodils are emerging from their wintry beds. The dumb Robins are back singing their songs waiting for the next snow storm!

I would hope that the spring activities will hasten the Covid 19 recovery for our nation and our lodge. Vaccinations are making recovery a little faster. However, it doesn't mean that we should forgo our pandemic safety measures.

Wearing a mask, social distancing and hand-washing are still the modus operandi. That's not Norwegian gang, it's Latin for standard procedure.

That means for us, as a SON Lodge, we should still stay safe and follow directions. Which means we don't have a in-person meeting program for this year at this time.

However, there is a parade we can attend in Arcadia on May 29th at 3 p.m. Please, please let me know by replying yes or no at oldscout13@gmail.com or give me a call 608-797-0070. Other parades may be a possibility, but unknown at this time.

There are many virtual meeting activities in which we can take part. But everyone needs to respond to the inquiry sent out to those with email by LaVonne Wier if you wish to do so. How many of you are able to do so via a Zoom meeting? Everyone, please RESPOND to her query so we can proceed. An April 17 date has been set aside for a virtual Zoom meeting by computer (Note from Editor Terry Thompson: A Zoom meeting can also be accessed on your cell phone if you have the Zoom App downloaded).

Programs will have to be virtual until we decide if we want to meet in person. Should we set a date for meeting safely in person? If so we can find a place to meet. We can still do self programming by doing our hobbies as well as tuning in to Sons of Norway website for many online activities. I am working with my model trains, music (guitar and banjo), physical activities at the Wanek Center, Yoga, cleaning out file cabinets, paying bills...it's amazing what a person can do! We must practice our Kubb playing to beat Trygvasson Lodge this year!

By the way, I am in contact with Trygvasson Lodge in Osseo to see if they are interested in a Fybal meeting. No response yet.

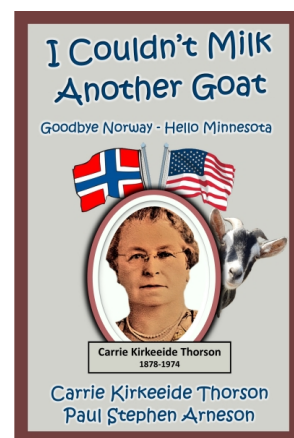
So have a great day,

God Påske,

På gjensyn, Todd

Embrace simple koselig pleasures with a good book!

Have you wondered what the immigrant experience was like for those who left Norway to make a new life in North America? Here are three authors who've written books to satisfy your curiosity. You can find them at retailers such as Bookshop.org, Scandinavian specialty stores or your local library. Pick one—or more! Then light a candle, pour a mug of coffee or tea and settle in your favorite spot for a cozy read.



***I Couldn't Milk Another Goat: Goodbye Norway – Hello Minnesota** by Sons of Norway Member by Paul Stephen Arneson and Carrie Kirkeeide Thorson. This book shares the stories of Paul Arneson's Norwegian immigrant grandmother. One reader said "Of particular interest to me were the descriptions and personal stories of Carrie Kirkeeide's early years in her small Norwegian farm home. Putting her descriptions of her childhood and adolescent years together with the photos I have of my ancestors' farm, I can better imagine my own family history."*

*Norwegian immigrant, historian, and Sons of Norway member Odd Lovoll has written several books on the Norwegian immigrant experience. **Across the Deep Blue Sea: The Saga of Early Norwegian Immigrants** tells the story of Norwegians who came to North America through Canadian ports from 1850 until the late 1860s. And in Lovoll's 2018 memoir **Two Homelands: A Historian Considers His Life and Work**, he writes about his life with compelling insights into the reasons for staying in Norway and for choosing emigration.*

*If you'd prefer a novel about the immigrant experience, consider a work of historical fiction. Based on the author's family and real Norwegian immigrants who homesteaded in California, **Norske Fields: A Novel of Southern California's Norwegian Colony** was published in 2020 by award-winning author Anne Schroeder.*

List of Returning Fagernes Lodge Officers for 2021 (as of now)

President: Todd Fetsch; **Vice-President:** Roger Instenes; **Secretary:** LaVonne Wier; **Assistant Secretary:** Terry Thompson; **Treasurer:** Marlys Britten; **Program Committee:** Mary Jo Fetsch (Chairman), Eileen Trim, Marleen Berg, and Leland Wier; **Social Committee:** Fran Instenes (Chairman), Virginia Ronning, and Virgieann Stecha; **Float Committee:** Roger Instenes (Chairman), Todd Fetsch, Danniell Toth, and Byron Britten; **Sports Director:** Charlene Saxe; **Language Director:** Byron Britten; **Editor:** Terry Thompson; **Publicity:** LaVonne Wier; **Cultural Directors:** Virgieann Stecha, Charlotte Dahl; **Historian:** Cindi Anderson; **Sunshine:** Fern Galstad, and Charlotte Dahl; **Adopt-a-School:** LaVonne Wier; **Auditors:** Roger Instenes, and Eddie Thompson; **Financial/Membership Secretary:** Terry Thompson; **Nominating Committee:** Fran Instenes, and Mary Jo Fetsch.

Focus on a Member, Danniell Toth

Danniell Toth was born January 8, 1978 to Joseph and Lucile Toth.

He attended elementary school in Whitehall and later in Blair. He went to Blair-Taylor Middle School. His high school years were spent, two years in Independence and two years at Blair-Taylor. He graduated there in 1997.

After high school, he worked at the Trempealeau County Health Care Center Recycling Plant and then for Blair Webster Lumber. Later he worked at the Majestic Pines Casino for seven years and still later at Denny's Restaurant in the Hixton Travel Plaza for six years.

His mom loved to play the organ and sing in Norwegian. She taught him how to polka dance. His Grandma Bernice Wilson loved Ove Bergerson and the Notes of Norway and she took delight in making lefse and baking cookies. Danniell brought her many times to the Fagernes Lodge meetings with him.

Some of Danniell's favorite things are playing his guitar, entertaining people singing country music. He is a member of a pool team at a Blair bar. He enjoys being on the lodge's float committee and the lodge has challenged him to ride his bicycle more so he can earn sports medals.

"My family is very close to my heart," he said. "My Aunt Margaret Berg passed away December 2019 and I miss her very much."



Danniell Toth

Sunshine News

Christy Anderson of Boscobel, WI had cancer surgery in December and radiation since. LaVonne Wier says her cousin is now doing well. Karmon Everson, sister to Fran Instenes, Leland Wier and Terry Thompson, passed away Feb. 7. Her funeral was Feb. 12. Dennis Johnson, brother to Virginia Ronning, passed away March 19. A public visitation was March 31 at FCLC.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Due to privacy concerns, only the month is listed

April

Peter Fetsch, Rafael Hanson, Gavin Instenes, Jescey

Thompson, Eileen Trim, Marty Zubke

May

Christy Anderson, Laura Dobson, Fern Galstad, Fran Instenes, Elijah Jacobs,

Virginia Ronning, Leland Wier

June

Henry Fetsch, Russell Glomstad, Laura Hanson, Lynn Thompson

Announcements/FYI

Stoughton will have their Syttende Mai Festival this year from May 14 - 16th. The parade is on Sunday at 1:30. They do Syttende Mai celebration all weekend. You might want to consider attending their events. To see a list, search for "Stoughton Syttende Mai" and there are links to all the events.

If you haven't been watching the Nordic News programs from District 5 on Tuesday nights, you can still see them. There are LOTS of wonderful subjects. Just copy one of these links: http://www.sonsofnorway5.com/programs/nordic_news_radio.php or http://www.sonsofnorway5.com/programs/speakers_bureau.php and paste it into your browser and choose from a whole bunch of programs. District 5 and Mike Palacek have done a real bang-up job of producing these programs and getting guest speakers. If it is easier for you, open the District 5 website, www.sonsofnorway5.com, select "Programs", the "Nordic News Radio", and pick the one you want to watch!

From Ron Stubbings, International SON President

Who would have predicted a year ago the impact of COVID-19 on our lives? It has been unimaginable! While it has been a challenging 12 months, you, your fellow members and lodge leaders have responded in so many positive ways. Our fraternal spirit is going strong.

As we wait for in-person meeting restrictions to ease, I hope you take heart from knowing that even in 2020, new members still flocked to join Sons of Norway. You helped Sons of Norway exceed the new member goal by an impressive 24%—reaching a total of 7,815 new members! Though the pandemic may put restrictions on gathering at times, you can still invite friends and family to join and enjoy the exclusive benefits of Sons of Norway membership.

Please continue to spread the good word about membership as we move forward in 2021. Take a minute to chat with family members about Sons of Norway. Offer a friendly invitation to take part in a fun activity or event, even if it is virtual for now. You never know what a difference your invitation will make for that person.

Here's the information you need to know about our 2021 New Member Campaign...

Our Sons of Norway International Board of Directors has set a goal of 8,200 new social and financial benefits members. That is a 5% increase over the actual number of 7,815 new members recruited in 2020.

While our organization goal is a 5% increase, your lodge is being asked to build on last year's success by recruiting 4% more new members in 2021 than in 2020. For lodges that recruited 3 or fewer new members in 2020, the goal is 4 new members per lodge.

View the recruitment goal listing by district and lodge online, updated quarterly.

Recognition for Lodges and Members... At the end of the campaign, lodges that meet the recruitment goal will be recognized with: A \$125 award (or equivalent funds for lodges in Norway and Canada). The lodge may use these funds as it prefers.

Achievement certificates for the lodge and recruiting lodge members. These certificates will be sent with an attribution list identifying who each member recruited.

A stunning, limited-edition 2021 Recruiter Pin will be sent directly to members after they recruit their first new member in 2021. Picture of the pin is shown on the back page, page 8.

If we each invite at least one friend, neighbor or family member to an upcoming meeting or event, we will reach the 2021 goal well before the end of 2021. That's how we can share our caring, welcoming communities and build a brighter future for all. Thank you for being a Sons of Norway member!

***litt på norsk...* «Gravplyndrer» avslørt**

Tidligere uka slo lokale myndigheter, aviser og ildsjeler alarm. Uvedkommende hadde angivelig tatt seg inn i det berømte vikinggravfeltet på Vang i Oppdal og boret dype hull inn i 17 av vikinggravene.

Flere fryktet det verste på vegne av den gresskledd nasjonalskatten i Sør-Trøndelag: Gravplyndring.

- Forferdelig

NTB meldte via lokalavisa [OPP](#), som først omtalte saken, at det var varierende dybde på hullene, som «så ut til å ha blitt gravd med et spesialbor». Videre ble det fortalt at bortsett fra ved ett tilfelle i 2014, har det ikke vært gravplyndring i det store vikinggravfeltet siden 1800-tallet.

- Det er forferdelig! Mange organiske funn går tapt, og gjenstander kan gå tapt når det kommer luft ned i gravene, sa Thora Nyborg, konservator ved Vitenskapsmuseet.

- Det er utrolig at vi skulle få oppleve dette, supplerte fylkesarkeolog Kristin Prestvold.

Mistenker grevling

Fredag formiddag har politiet imidlertid henlagt saken, [ifølge avisa](#). Den antatte forbryteren viser seg nemlig å være vanskelig å få tak i.

- Det ser ut til at det er en grevling som står bak, forteller en flirende kulturkonsulent i Oppdal kommune, Sjur Vammervold, til Dagbladet.

- Det er i det minste bra at det ikke var mennesker. Grevlingen er ganske uskyldig og har nok helt andre formål enn en gravplyndrer, legger han til.

Trolig grevlinghull

Vammervold forteller at det det ikke er 100 prosent bekreftet fra offisielt hold at det er det karakteristisk svarte og hvite mårdyret som har herjet med norsk kulturarv, men mistanken er sterk nok til å gå ut med, samt utelukke at tobeinte syndere står bak.

- Ut fra hvordan grevling graver hull kan dette være en forklaring, sier han.

På kommunens hjemmesider informeres det om at de fleste gravleggingene på Vang er fra yngre jernalder eller vikingtid. Det vil si mellom år 750-1000 etter Kristi fødsel. Det er gjort mange verdifulle funn på området.

***A little in English...* "Grave Looter" Revealed**

Earlier this week, local authorities, newspapers and enthusiasts sounded the alarm. Unauthorized persons had allegedly entered the famous Viking grave field at Vang in Oppdal and drilled deep holes in 17 of the Viking graves.

Several feared the worst on behalf of the grassy national treasure in Sør-Trøndelag: grave looting.

Terrible

NTB [Norsk Telegrambyrå: The Norwegian News Agency] reported via the local newspaper OPP, which first mentioned the case, that there were varying depths in the holes, which "appeared to have been dug with a special drill." Furthermore, it was said that except in one case in 2014, there has been no looting in the large Viking burial ground since the 19th century.

"It's awful! Many organic finds have been lost, and objects can be ruined when air enters the graves," said Thora Nyborg, curator at Vitenskapsmuseet [the Science Museum].

"It is incredible that we should experience this," added county archaeologist Kristin Prestvold.

Badger suspected

On Friday morning, however, the police closed the case, according to the newspaper. The suspected criminal turns out to be difficult to reach.

"It seems to be a badger behind it," said a smiling cultural consultant in Oppdal municipality, Sjur Vammervold, to Dagbladet [newspaper].

"It's good that it wasn't done by people. The badger is quite innocent and probably has completely different purposes than a grave robber," he adds.

Probably badger holes

Vammervold says that it has not been 100 percent confirmed that it is the characteristic black and white marten that has ravaged Norwegian cultural heritage, but the suspicion is strong enough to go ahead and rule out that two-legged miscreants are behind it.

"Based on how badgers dig holes, this may be an explanation," he says. The municipality's website informs that most of the burials in Vang are from the Late Iron Age or Viking Age. That is, between the years 750-1000 A.D. Many valuable discoveries have been made in the area.



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