



Sons of Norway Fagernes Lodge 5-616



January, February, March 2022



Upcoming Events

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

We meet the fourth Saturday each month at our new location, Blair Lutheran Church, 126 S. Peterson Ave. Blair, WI 54616

January 22, Meeting at church, Potluck at noon, Program: installation of Officers and sign up for Barneløpet food/working.

February 5, Barneløpet at Arcadia Park, 1:00 registration. **February 19**, Potluck, 5:00, at Marie and Bob Thill's for Wii Bowling.

February 26, 1:00, meet at Centerville Curling Club to watch curling, Food there for a donation.

March 26, Meeting at the Blair church at 1:00, Program: Leprechaun and Troll Skit. Servers: Terry Thompson and TBD.



The banner for Fagernes Lodge 5-616 created by Charlene Saxe will be displayed at our District 5 conventions and elsewhere. Pictured: Charlene Saxe, Roger Instenes, Todd Fetsch. Below, members circle the Juletre to music by Verle Austad, LaVonne Wier and Danny Toth.



Julenisse helper Russell Glomstad and Julenisse Todd Fetsch shared their comical antics throughout the afternoon of our Dec. meeting.

The Tubfrim project can use our cancelled stamps. Trim them to a 1/4 inch border. Give to LaVonne at on 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.



2022 Recruitment Challenge pin- When you recruit at least one new adult member and provide your member number, you'll receive this limited-edition 2022 Recruiter pin.

Our Float is tentatively scheduled in these 2022 parades

May 29 - Arcadia Broiler Days

July 10 - Trempealeau Catfish Days

August 24 - Ettrick Fun Days

September 18 - Blair Cheese Festival

A letter from our International President Ron Stubbings

To All Lodge Leaders and Members,

As obstacles to lodge activities and meeting restrictions continued in 2021, I want to say “thank you” for your resilience and continued membership. Your positive outlook and willingness to embrace new ideas and stay connected with socially distanced gatherings or events has been extraordinary!

As the saying goes, “a rising tide lifts all boats.” With strong financial product sales, lodge recruitment, social media and e-mail marketing, we added 17,267 new members, reaching a total of 63,027 total members at the end of December 2021. New social members bring fresh ideas & energy to our membership. And more financial members mean more support for all memberships and our mission.

Terry, I'm inspired by your help growing our Sons of Norway family. In 2021 we've seen hundreds of new heritage member sponsorships, like my grandson Jaxon. Jaxon became a heritage member of Varden 7-019 in New Westminster, BC shortly after his birth last January. You've also welcomed back former members, including Lilly Haldorson. At age 104, Lilly rejoined Nortun 1-016 in Duluth, MN—what an amazing zest for life! You've also invited many other new friends and their families to join this year—Thank you!

You can see the complete list of lodge recruitment results by logging into sofn.com and going to the 2021 recruitment page. We will be sending recognition certificates and prize information to lodge presidents in late February and March. Lodges meeting their goal will receive:

- 2021 Founders Award Certificate—To recognize your lodge's achievement in meeting the recruitment goal. Plus, individual achievement certificates to recognize recruiting members.
- A \$125 award (or equivalent funds for lodges in Norway and Canada). Lodges in the US who have set up ACH payments through Sons of Norway will receive funds electronically. The lodge may use these funds as it prefers.

Lodges that did not meet their goal will receive recognition certificates for their recruiting members in a few weeks.

Please be sure to share my appreciation and congratulate all members who receive a Recruitment Certificate. Thank you for welcoming new members to your lodge and sharing the warmth of our Sons of Norway family. I look forward to sharing more good news with you as we grow in 2022 and beyond!

Fraternally, Ron Stubbings, International President

A Note from Editor Terry Thompson

In reference to the above letter from International President Ron Stubbings, I would like to add a breakdown of the 2021 recruitment results and where our lodge stood in that respect.

First of all, recruitment goals were set by our superiors according to the number of members in each lodge. However, there was a comprehensive minimum goal of at least four new members per lodge. So, our lodge's goal was four in 2021.

District Five, of which our lodge is a part, also includes other lodges in Wisconsin and lodges in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio and Tennessee, that is, close to 50 lodges. Of those lodges, 10 met their goal, but two lodges actually disbanded.

Our lodge unfortunately, fell short of the goal of four, but only by one. We actually recruited 3 new members in 2021, which I think, was awesome given the circumstances of COVID and other variables. Let's keep up that momentum and “pour on the coal” in 2022! Get someone to join our membership and earn the beautiful recruitment pin pictured on page one and on page four!

President's Message

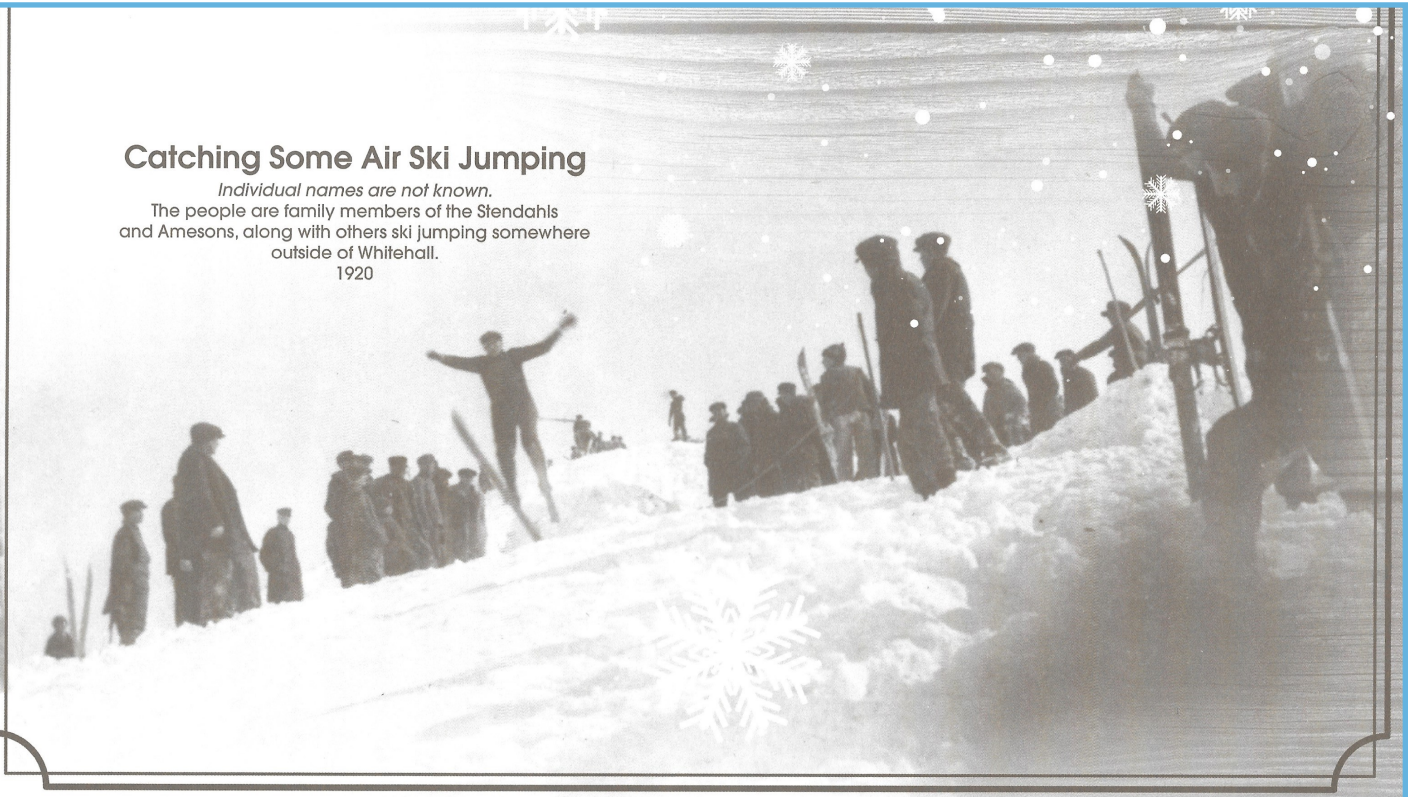
Ord Fra Din Fagernes Losje Presidentin,

*Hello to you all at the start of a New Year! And might it be a good one!
So many things have happened in the past but now it's time to look to the future.
Our Lodge has developed a mighty fine program for 2022. Lots of good fun activities, says the
program committee. That means " fire up and be there". Right? Ya!
I see its ski jumping time (at Westby 21,22 Jan, this weekend!! A Photo somewhere outside of
Whitehall, so says the Calendar photo. Any one recognize people?
Our Barneløpet is in two weeks. I hope we will have a good turnout. Come and help and have a
Lømpe, hot chocolate and cookies!!
The COVID pandemic surely has curtailed activities. We hope our program ideas don't get
canceled because of COVID.
Thank you to all our members who participate and make these activities work.
So "Fire up" to make things warm and "Fire up" to make our activities work!
Keep in mind the possibility for an adult Masse Morro (Adult Camp) this Fall in Spring Grove
Minnesota the first weekend in October! Fun Times! Language and genealogical activities plus
other folk art activities!*

*Ve se U den!!
Presidentin Todd*

Catching Some Air Ski Jumping

*Individual names are not known.
The people are family members of the Stendahls
and Amesons, along with others ski jumping somewhere
outside of Whitehall.
1920*



From a calendar courtesy of Todd. Photo comment may be hard to read, but it states, "Catching Some Air Ski Jumping. Individual names are not known. People are family members of the Stendahls and Arnesons, along with others ski jumping somewhere outside of Whitehall. 1920."

Mythical creatures of Scandinavia

Trolls, elves, dwarves and gods. These are just a few of the many fabled creatures that are deeply embedded in our popular culture, from comic books to movies to video games. But where did they originate? Many of them were actually inspired by Norse mythology and folklore. In the April issue of Viking, we dive into the marvelous world of Scandinavia's mythical creatures. In it, you'll read about Odin, Thor, Loki, Draugen, Kraken, Huldra and more. We loved the opportunity to feature the eye-catching illustrations from Irene Rinaldi.

Here's an additional creature to meet—Nisse.

These creatures generally appear more in local legends and Scandinavian culture than folktales. The gnome-like beings are known as the protective spirits of the farms and households in which they reside. Norse tradition says that every family has one.

Identified by their short stature, long white beards (on the males) and conical wool hats, nisser are typically associated with the winter holidays. While some see them as Santa Claus' counterpart, actually not the case. But some families do leave bowls of porridge out for them on Christmas Eve in case their nisse decides to join in the festivities.

Despite being only about three feet tall, they possess immense strength. This power comes in handy around the house, and a nisse is generally helpful and friendly if content. But their mischievous nature—and propensity for flying off the handle—can come out. So be sure their porridge is made how they like it, and don't wake them too early in the morning, actually not the case. But some families do leave bowls of porridge out for them on Christmas Eve in case their nisse decides to join in the festivities.

Want to learn more about Norse mythology and saga literature? Check out our article "Stories for the Ages," which appeared in the February 2019 issue of Viking. Photos of Gnomes below.



2022

Recruitment Pin

Fagernes Lodge 5-616 Photos

At our November 2021 Sons of Norway Fagernes Lodge meeting we learned about the counties of Norway, past and present. On the right, Charlotte Dahl marks the areas of Norway that her ancestors came from. At our October 2021 meeting, below the Dahl photo, Pam Knutson of LaCrosse gave a presentation about Mons Anderson, a Norwegian founding father of LaCrosse during our October meeting. Below her photo is a memento from the Mons Anderson Company. At nearly every if not all meetings of our lodge, Byron Britten presents a lesson in the Norwegian language for us. He is pictured below on the left along with our Lodge President Todd Fetsch at our October meeting. Bottom photos, left, Todd Fetsch, MaryJo Fetsch and Bryon Britten, and on the right, Chris Hamilton, Fran Instenes, Eddie Thompson and Roger Instenes all enjoy our Christmas Potluck at our December meeting.



Focus on a Member, Verle Austad

Verle Austad was born December 31, 1932 to Omar and Alice Austad. He grew up on a farm in Tappen Coulee and when old enough, he walked through pastures to a country grade school. He attended Blair High School graduating in 1951. He stayed on the farm after high school.

When young, belonged to 4-H where he became interested in building and handicrafts.

The farm was sold and he retired in 1990. He moved to Mindoro.

On June 30, 1990, he “married a lady I met,” he said.



Verle Austad is pictured here on the left

Being retired, he had a lot of time on his hands and always having been interested in violins and fiddles, he did a lot of repair work on violins and other instruments. He also got into building violins and Hardanger fiddles.

Later, he went to the Yankton SD Fiddle contest and got inducted in to the Old-Time Music Hall of Fame. He entered a fiddle contest with ten fiddlers and won second place. “I’ve enjoyed the years I could build fiddles,” he said. “So, for 88 years, I have been busy.”

Verle said he enjoys belonging to Sons of Norway because he gets to meet new people.

Sunshine News

Mary Herness reports that she is a first-time great grandmother. Holly Louise Hanson was born in September 2021 to her granddaughter, Heidi Louise Herness Hanson and her husband Corey Hanson who live in Duluth, MN. Mary has had the pleasure of seeing and holding Holly twice. Mary is Holly’s only great grandparent, as there are no other grandparents living. “I sewed three quilts for this precious new baby,” Mary said.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Due to privacy concerns, only the month is listed

January

Jillian Bagstad, Donald Ronning, Danniell Toth,

February

Lance Bagstad, Charlotte Dahl, Christian Fetsch, Sierra Instenes, Isla Kettinger, Jacob Thompson

March

Izabella Britten, Zacharie Dobson, Gage Instenes, Vanya Rivero, Charlene Saxe, Shirley Stanford

A Little in Norwegian. . .

Krigshelten Norman Edward Midthun er død

Amerikaneren Norman Edward Midthun var piloten til kronprins Olav etter krigen. Han ble 96 år.

I august markeres slutten på et begivenhetsrikt liv. 14. august stedes nemlig Midthun til hvile. Midthun tilbrakte store deler av sin karriere innenfor luftfarten, men det er kanskje krigsårene som satte dypest spor hos amerikaneren der begge besteforeldrene ble født i Norge.

Da han var 17 år ønsket Midthun å verve seg til den amerikanske marines luftvåpen, men han ble avvist på grunn av alderen.

I stedet falt valget på Det norske luftforsvaret (daværende Marinens og Hærens flyvåpen, journ.anm.) som hadde etablert seg utenfor Toronto i «Little Norway».

Til tross for at få forventet at han skulle klare det, blant annet på grunn av at han knapt snakket norsk, ble Midthun den første amerikaneren til å tilegne seg «norske vinger» under 2. verdenskrig, ifølge en nekrolog publisert i Star Tribune.

Da fløy han blant annet rekognoseringsoppdrag samt at han fraktet sabotører til kysten av Norge under okkupasjonen. Da krigen var over ble han utvalgt til å være daværende kronprins Olavs pilot under et etterkrigsoppdrag, blant annet for å vurdere skadene som var påført Norge i løpet av krigen.

A Little in English. . .

War Hero Norman Edward Midthun Has Died

American Norman Edward Midthun was the pilot for Crown Prince Olav after the war. He was 96 years old.

August marked the end of an eventful life. Midthun was laid to rest on August 14. Midthun spent large parts of his career in aviation, but it was perhaps the war years that left the deepest mark on the American whose grandparents were born in Norway.

When he was 17, Midthun wanted to enlist in the US Navy Air Force, but was rejected because of his age.

Instead, the choice fell on the Norwegian Air Force (then the Navy and Army Air Force, -Ed.) Which had established itself outside Toronto in "Little Norway."

Despite few expecting him to do so, partly because he barely spoke Norwegian, Midthun became the first American to receive "Norwegian wings" during World War II, according to an obituary published in Star Tribune.

Then he flew, among other things, reconnaissance missions and he transported saboteurs to the coast of Norway during the occupation. When the war was over, he was selected to be the then-Crown Prince Olav's pilot during a post-war mission, among other things to assess the damage inflicted on Norway during the war.



Barnelopet



(Children's Ski Event)

Saturday, February 5, 2022

Arcadia Memorial Park

Registration at 1:00 p.m.

\$2.00 fee per child

**Prizes and snacks. Skis available.
Bring your skis if you have them.
Masks recommended.**

Sponsored by
Sons of Norway
Fagernes Lodge



Sons of Norway Fagernes Lodge 5-616
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Sons of Norway Fagernes Lodge 2022 Activities

January 22, 2022, Pottluck at 12:00 noon Installation of officers.

Feb 5, 2022, 1:00 Barnelopet at the Arcadia Park

Feb 8, 2022, 5:00 Wii bowling, Bob/Marie Thill's; **Pottluck.**

Feb 26, 2022, 1:00 - Visit the Centerville Curling Club to watch a Bonspiel

March 26, 2022, 1:00 p.m. Program: The Leprechaun and the Troll

Servers:

April 23, 2022, 1:00 p.m. Glenn Borreson presents "NORWEGIANS IN LOGGING CAMPS: Immigrants in the Wisconsin Pineries"

Servers:

May 14, 2022 from 9 - 12, Frokost and Bake Sale Blair Lutheran Church

May 20 2022, 11:20. Syttende Mai lunch at Rainbow

May 20, 2022, 1:30. Grand View Syttende Mai Program

May 29, 2022, 1:00. Fagernes float in the Arcadia Broiler Days Parade

June 21, 2022, 6:00 p.m. Fyrbal at Blair Park with Osseo Lodge

July 10, 2022, 1:00 p.m. Fagernes float in the Trempealeau Catfish Days Parade

July 23, 2022, 1:00 p.m. Visit Temba Ridge Winery

August 27, 2022 at noon Pottluck Picnic in the Blair Park and we will play Kubb

August 28, 2022, 1:00 p.m. Fagernes float in the Etrick Fun Days Parade

September 18, 2022, 1:00 p.m. Fagernes float in the Blair Cheese Festival Parade

September 24, 2022, 1:00 p.m. Program: Silent auction for the Foundation, Verle Austad will show his homemade instruments.

Servers: Leland and LaVonne Wier, Christopher Hamilton

October 29, 2022, 1:00 p.m. Program: Ski jumping presentation.

Servers:

November 26, 2022 1:00 p.m. Program: Nordic News video

Servers:

December 3, 2022, 12:00 Program: Pottluck & Carol Sing, Juletreffest