



Sons of Norway Fagernes Lodge 5-616

July, August, September 2021



Upcoming Events



**Fagernes Lodge meetings
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. Programs TBD
No meeting in July; too late to
plan a trip**

**August 21, Lodge Picnic, Blair
Park, potluck
August 29, 1:00
Ettrick Days Parade**

**September 19, 1:00 Blair
Cheese Fest Parade
September 25, 1:00
Servers: Charlene Saxe, Cindi
Anderson**

**October 23, 1:00, Servers: Mary
Herness and Eddie Thompson
November 20, 1:00
Servers: Brittens and C. Hamilton
December 5, 12 noon,
Juletreffest, Potluck**



Left and below are photos from our lodge's and the Osseo Trygvasson 220 Lodge's celebration, together, of the Norwegian Fyrbal. Members of the two lodges met at the Pigeon Falls Dam Park on June 19 at 4:30. Hosting the event alternates between the two lodges and this year, the Trygvasson 220 Lodge was the host. What's a Fyrbal? The longest day of the year is celebrated in Scandinavia with a Fyrbal. The traditional summer solstice or midsummer's eve is celebrated on the Saturday between June 20 and June 26. Traditionally a new king and queen of the lodges are crowned. The Fyrbal's traditional king and queen crowning stems from the practice of bringing the bride and groom to their wedding location by boat across some water. Potential royalty are voted for at a prior meeting of each lodge. Only lodge officers know the results until they are revealed by the Fyrbal's bonfire light. In Norwegian wedding celebrations, the bonfire serves as a beacon for the wedding ship. The Scandinavian summer solstice tradition stems from pagan times and represents the defeat of darkness by the power of the sun god. In June, northern Scandinavia is bathed in sunlight (Continued below)

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 them to LaVonne.

Hey, we haven't been together so you can turn in your stamps and ink cartridges. Gather what you have and bring them to a meeting, or give them directly to LaVonne. She will start turning in 10 per month to Office Depot. The \$2.00 credit per cartridge helps with the cost of publishing our newsletters and brochures.



all night long, thus the term "midnight sun." A natural phenomenon, the midnight sun happens in latitudes north of the Arctic Circle and south of the Antarctic Circle. There, the sun is visible for a full 24 hours, if weather conditions permit. In Norway, the length of time one can see the midnight sun varies with location. Longyearbyen sees it the longest, from April 20 to August 20. Bodo sees it only from July 4 to July 8.

Upcoming Parades we will participate in:

Tremp. Catfish Days, July 11, 2 PM; Ettrick Fun Days, Aug. 29, 1 PM;

Blair Cheesefest, Sept. 19, 1PM

Secretary's Report On Our April 17 Zoom Meeting

The Sons of Norway Fagernes Lodge held a virtual Zoom meeting at 4:00 on April 17, 2021. Present at the meeting were President Todd Fetsch, Treasurer Marlys Britten, Secretary LaVonne Wier, Editor Terry Thompson, and program committee member Mary Jo Fetsch. The meeting was hosted by Terry Thompson.

Marlys verified that \$75.00 was sent to each area food pantry. LaVonne said thank you's have been received for those gifts. Marlys reported that \$154.00 has been added as income from dues. These payments are now being automatically deposited in our checking account. The balance in checking is \$1,716.00. The annuity gained \$11.59 and is now at \$3,769.02.

President Todd went over the upcoming possible parade dates for this year. The Arcadia Broiler Days date is "for sure". The others are pending. They are:

Arcadia Broiler Days, May 29, 2021, which is a **SATURDAY**, at 3:00. We will meet the float at the parking lot at Ashley. This is a change, as the parade used to be on Sunday.

Trempealeau Catfish Days, July 11, 2021. **Ettrick Days**, August 22, 2021.
Blair Cheese Festival, September 19, 2021.

We discussed having a Fyrbal picnic on June 19, 2021 at the Blair Park at noon, utilizing picnic tables. **(Since this virtual meeting, the Osseo Lodge invited us to join them in Pigeon Falls. That date is pending and will be announced.)**

We are not allowed to have meetings in a closed facility at this time, per International Sons of Norway guidance. When we do resume meetings, we talked about the location. President Todd proposes that we switch our venue to the Blair church. The pastor there indicated that we are welcome to use that facility. The advantages of using the church are: larger kitchen, we don't have to put up and take down tables and chairs, there is ample parking, it is easier to get from your car to the building than at the Community Center. We would be able to store our supplies at the church and display our plaques and photos. We experienced conflict with the City on meeting dates in the past. Dates that were reserved for us were given to other organizations. The Community Center did provide an area for storage, but will not allow us to display our wall items. In the case of a conflict at the church, such as a wedding or funeral, we could possibly use another room for our meeting. President Todd will explore this option further.

Possible meeting dates for later in the year include November 20, 2021 for a silent auction, December 11, 2021 for a potluck meal and Juletre Fest. LaMoine Jacobs has indicated he can do a program on skiing.

We discussed having Glen Borreson present a program. It may be a problem to have a virtual program, as free Zoom meetings are limited to 40 minutes. We may look into buying a Zoom connection. Glen has programs available right now on the District

5 Nordic News link. Anyone can access these programs at your leisure. To view a program: Type sonsofnorway5.com into your search browser. When the page opens up, select "Programs". From that dropdown menu, select "Nordic News Radio". The list of the past programs, which were live on Tuesdays, is there. Choose one, and click on it to open the program. (Continued page 3)

Zoom Minutes continued from page 2,

When it is time to do so, the Program Committee will meet/talk about future dates and programs. Todd talked to Lance Bagstad, and he is willing to be a member of the program committee. Mary Jo Fetsch does not wish to continue as the chairman. **(Since this meeting, LaVonne talked to Leland Wier, who is a member of the committee. He has agreed to be the chairman of the Program Committee, and will initiate planning meetings, etc. when it is appropriate to do so.)**

LaVonne suggested we have a mailing sent out to potential members we would like to join our group. After discussion, it was decided that a cover letter and a lodge brochure will be sent by mail to these individuals. LaVonne will update the brochure. We may possibly send a sheet with pictures of our activities with the mailing. Members can submit names and addresses of people our members would like to invite to LaVonne, and she will send the mailing. Or, lodge members can receive a copy of the mailing on the computer, print it out themselves, and mail/hand it to recipients. We need to keep track of who the letters go to so we don't duplicate our efforts. Let's think about people you know who could be members, and send them this invitation! At this point, LaVonne requests members submit the names and addresses for this mailing to her on e-mail at 2nor1rus@gmail.com, or send by mail to: **N17625 Hammond Lane, Galesville WI 54630.**

We realize lodge members with computers and phones may have not been able to join this meeting. The application Zoom.US has to be installed on the computer or phone in order to participate. LaVonne will help anyone who needs assistance get that loaded on their device. After Zoom is loaded, the host can send an invitation to join the meeting in an e-mail. Clicking on the link in the e-mail will bring up the Zoom meeting, and then you "join" it.

Upcoming meetings by virtual Zoom or in-person will be announced later. President Todd will look into an activity for the lodge for Syttende Mai.

With no other business, the meeting was adjourned.

A copy of these minutes are being printed and sent to members without e-mail. Respectfully Submitted,

LaVonne Wier Secretary

Sunshine News

On a somber note, we extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of **Maureen O'Brien** and her brother **Todd Fetsch** and wife **Mary Jo Fetsch** and their family. Maureen died June 12, 2021. Many knew Maureen as a nationally recognized artist for her works with acrylic. She mostly painted on canvas, but worked with leather, repurposed objects, and a myriad of other materials. She produced her art in limited edition prints and infusion onto steel. She was commissioned for a significant number of murals throughout Minnesota and the northern states. **Roger Instenes** has been enduring a nasty bout of Shingles. He has had it for 3 weeks so far and doctor says it's possible to last another three weeks. **Christy Anderson**, of Boscobel WI, a member of our lodge, is finally doing well after several complications of her December cancer surgery and radiation. **Cindi Anderson** is home and doing well after her hip surgery.

Photos of Fagernes Lodge Events, more on page 5



After over a years time, our lodge finally got to participate in a parade with our float. Several lodge members participated in the Arcadia Broiler Dairy Days Parade, Saturday May 29. LaVonne Wier, in the back of the second photo, sported for only the second time, the bunad she made a couple of years ago.

Fra Presidentin,

Hurrah, it's summer!! Many of you celebrated Fyrbal to get the season going.

So now let's celebrate summer ...Turn on the Air Conditioning and read a good book!! But that sounds like Winter, reading a good book. That's OK. The AC in winter is not a good idea. Getting out to visit our Parks, working in our gardens and watch the sunsets with a good glass of wine. No, not Aquavit!! Well, maybe a little!

We are starting to gear up for this year as will be coming from the Program Committee as well as meeting at our new meeting place the Zion Blair Lutheran Church.

The schedule of events will be listed in this Newsletter.

Recruit new members!!

Presidentin Todd

List of Fagernes Lodge Officers and Committees for 2021

President: Todd Fetsch; **Vice-President:** Roger Instenes; **Secretary:** LaVonne Wier; **Assistant Secretary:** Terry Thompson; **Treasurer:** Marlys Britten; **Program Committee:** Leland Wier (Chairman), Eileen Trim, Marleen Berg, Lance Bagstad. **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.

Photos of Fagernes Lodge Events



First three photos, after not meeting for over a year due to COVID, Fagernes Lodge members met at Rainbow Restaurant, Blair, to celebrate Syttende Mai with a meal. Afterwards, they traveled to Fagernes Church, Blair, to have a picture taken (fourth photo).

Two photos on the left, members of the Osseo Trygvasson 220 Lodge hosted the Frybal for their lodge and our Fagernes Lodge at the Dam Park in Pigeon Falls on Saturday June 19.

Have a super day!

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Due to privacy concerns,
only the month is listed

July

Bailey Anderson, Mary Jo
Fetsch, Todd Fetsch, Shauna

Jacobs, Eddie Thompson,
Jack Wier

August

Marlys Britten, Olin Fimreite,
Mary Iverson, Anja Kettinger,
Virgieann Stecha, Terry
Thompson, LaVonne Wier

September

Cynthia Aderson, Marleen
Berg, Betty Glomstad,
Christopher Hamilton, Vivian
Rivero

Bicentennial for Norway's Flag

Last month the Norwegian flag turned 200 and a historical installation was erected on Storting Square in Oslo. President of the Storting Tone Wilhelmsen Trøen and historian Marthe Hommerstad spoke at the opening of the exhibit, commemorating the beloved emblem and celebrating the democratic process that led to its choosing.

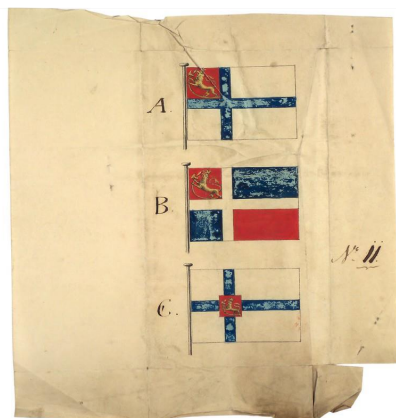
Oddly enough, the flag that flies over Norway today was designed and adopted while Norway shared Sweden's King, Karl XIII, known in Norway as Karl III Johan. This union spanned 91 years and five monarchs between 1814 until 1905, when it was dissolved and Norway became truly independent.

In 1820 Gabriel S. Kielland, a Stavanger merchant turned legislator, suggested that Norway create an original flag to use for trade purposes. The Storting formed a committee and received several proposals. It was clear that they wanted Norway to have a flag distinguishable from the union flag and unrelated to any external power. Kielland had used his influence in the realm of coastal commerce to garner support for the campaign, but would not live to see the results, as he died two months before the votes were counted.

Norway's previous flag had been the same as Denmark's with the addition of the Norwegian lion in the upper left quadrant. According to historian Marthe Hommerstad, the legislators wanted the new design to be both simple and symbolic. Various parties submitted designs for review- 18 in all. Each of the flags incorporated red and white, and some added blue (a nod to Sweden), yellow or green. A few included the lion and others featured diagonal bars. Use of the lion proved unrealistic, as it had to be hand-drawn and would look different on every flag.

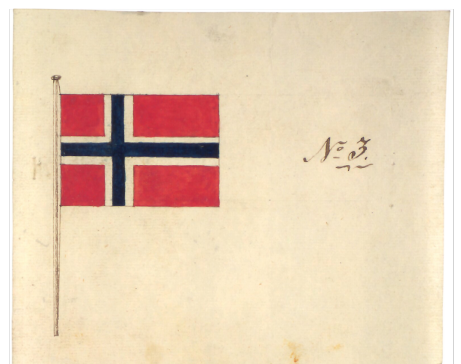
After much deliberation and a vote, the winning flag was "No. 3," designed by representative Fredrik Meltzer from Bergen. Meltzer's proposal maintained some tradition by preserving the cross to represent Christianity, while the red, white and blue symbolized revolution and freedom, inspired by the flags of France and the United States. In an extremely practical move, Meltzer noted that leftover Danish flags from their 400 years of rule over Norway could be repurposed into his design with the simple addition of a thinner blue cross.

On May 4, 1821, 40 of 59 members of the Storting voted in favor of Meltzer's design. Due to power struggles between the legislature and the king throughout the 19th Century, the flag didn't become the civilian flag until 1899. However, the symbolic, gradual transition opened the gates for Norway's eventual independence and the flag's official status in 1905.



Norway's flag proposals on the left and their official (since 1905) flag on the right.

Photo Credit: Stortinget



A Little in English. . .

Viking men also had kitchen equipment in their graves

What were the gender roles like in the Viking Age? A Norwegian archaeologist believes that we often misinterpret the past.

"I think we must move away from a clear division between men and women in the Viking Age. There were not as many differences as we like to believe," says Marianne Moen of the University of Oslo. She has earned a doctorate in Archeology on gender in the Viking Age and found that women and men in the upper class were largely buried with similar things.

Moen has reviewed the contents of 218 graves in Vestfold and sorted them by type of objects.

Not just housewives

In the tombs in Vestfold, both common tools and objects related to the home are fairly evenly distributed between the sexes. Men are buried with kitchen equipment as often as women. Ten graves with cookware belong to men, eight are women. Moen thinks this is fun. Because that could mean that men also cooked, she believes.

Genderless graves

More than 40 percent of men's tombs contain personal ornamentation such as brooches or beads. Researchers in Norway are having trouble determining the gender of tombs that lack a clear distinction in weapons, jewelry and textile tools. Every fourth grave in Vestfold is genderless. "Archaeologists should lift their gaze and avoid focusing on buckles and swords as if they were the most important objects," Moen writes in her dissertation.

"Generally within Viking Age studies, grave goods are interpreted as associated with the deceased. So this should not change in those cases where the grave goods do not fit with modern expectations of what a man or woman should have in the grave."

Excerpted from: <https://forskning.no/arkeologi-historie-kjonn-og-samfunn/ogsa-vikingmenn-hadde-kjokkenutstyr-med-seg-i-graven/1338668>

litt på norsk...

Også vikingmenn hadde kjøkkenutstyr med seg i graven

Hvordan var kjønnsrollene i vikingtida? En norsk arkeolog mener vi ofte feiltolker fortida.

– Jeg mener vi må bevege oss bort fra en tydelig deling mellom menn og kvinner i vikingtida. Det var ikke så mange forskjeller som vi liker å tro, sier Marianne Moen ved Universitetet i Oslo.

Hun har tatt doktorgraden i arkeologi om kjønn i vikingtida og funnet ut at kvinner og menn i overklassen stort sett er begravd med lignende ting. Moen har gått gjennom innholdet fra 218 graver i Vestfold og sortert det etter type gjenstander.

Ikke bare husfruer

I gravene i Vestfold er både vanlige verktøy og gjenstander knyttet til hjemmet ganske jevnt fordelt mellom kjønnene.

Menn er begravd med kjøkkenutstyr like ofte som kvinner. Ti graver med kokekar tilhører menn, åtte er kvinners.

Det synes Moen er gøy. For det kan bety at også menn laget mat, tror hun.

Kjønnsløse graver

Mer enn 40 prosent av mannsgravene inneholder personlig pynt som brosjer eller perler.

Forskerne i Norge får problemer med å kjønnsbestemme gravene som mangler et tydelig skille i våpen, smykker og tekstilredskaper. Hver fjerde grav i Vestfold er kjønnsløs.

Arkeologene bør løfte blikket og unngå å fokusere på spenner og sverd som om det var de aller viktigste gjenstandene, skriver Moen i doktoravhandlingen sin.

– Generelt innenfor vikingtidsstudier blir gravgods tolket som tilknyttet den avdøde. Da bør ikke dette endres i de tilfellene hvor gravgodset ikke passer med moderne forventninger til hva en mann eller kvinne burde ha med seg i graven.



A stunning, limited-edition 2021 Recruiter Pin will be sent directly to members after they recruit their first new member in 2021. *(I, Terry, already have one).*



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