



Sons of Norway Fagernes Lodge 5-616

October, November, December 2022

Newsletter



Upcoming Events

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

October 1, 1:00, This is a date change from September 24 due to activities taking place at the Blair Lutheran Church on Sept. 24. Not a location change. **Program:** Glenn Borreson presents: NORWEGIANS IN LOGGING CAMPS: Immigrants in the Wisconsin Pineries; Silent Auction; Servers: Wiers and Chris Hamilton

October 29, 1:00, Program: Ski Jumping Presentation. Servers: Byron and Marlys Britten and Lora Lebakken.

November 26, 1:00, Program: Nordic News Video, Servers: Charlene Saxe and Cindi Anderson.

December 3, 12:00 noon, Program; Juletrefest and Christmas Carol Sing, Potluck.



Our Blair Sons of Norway Fagernes Lodge booth was set up under a tent and ready for visitors in the flea market area of the Blair Cheese Festival beginning on the Friday, September 16. It remained set up and manned throughout the three days of the fest. It featured informational items, door prizes, free items, chances to speak with lodge members and opportunities to sign up to become members of our lodge. Leland Wier mans the booth Friday.



Middle photo: Eileen Trim and LaVonne Wier tend our SON booth Sunday afternoon. Bottom photo: One of the displays at our booth. Above photo: Our SON Fagernes Lodge banner, made by lodge member Charlene Saxe, was also on display in our Fagernes Lodge booth during Blair's Cheese Fest.

The Tubfrim project can use our cancelled stamps. Trim them to a 1/2 inch border. Give to LaVonne 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.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Due to privacy concerns, only the month is listed

October Tami Bagstad

November Byron Britten, Roger Instenes, Nora Iverson

December Verle Austad, Josephine Britten, Rylie Dobson, Isla Fetsch, Mary Herness, Lamoine Jacobs

President's Message

Great summer and activities

Personally, I will have knee surgery on October 4. Maybe toe surgery prior to that!

Meanwhile many of you have pitched in for our activities.

Byron Britten with our float.

LaVonne for booth at Blair Cheese Festival. A good turnout. Good chicken dinner.

Best ridership on our float -16 people at the Blair Cheese Festival parade.

We look forward to the Fall meetings along with our Christmas Festival - Juletreffest. Hopefully we can get more children to that event!

Then the Baneløpet first part of February. Hopefully I will be viable then!

We shall abide!

Hilsen,

Todd Fetsch, your limping president.

How to Behave in Norway: Five Tips


As when traveling anywhere in the world, you may find some of the social norms in Norway are different than what you are used to. Here are some tips that will help you make the most of your trip to Norway:

- 1) Don't get too close! Norwegians really value their personal space. Even when you're standing in line, try to stay at least an arm's length away from others.
- 2) Avoid too much eye contact. Otherwise, you will make your newfound Norwegian friends uncomfortable. A good rule of thumb is to use the same amount of eye contact as the person who you are speaking to does.
- 3) Be punctual. If you are a few minutes late, it's forgivable, especially if you call ahead to let the host/hostess know. To arrive any later than that is considered extremely rude.
- 4) Never compare Norway unfavorably to Sweden—especially when it comes to winter sports! Norway was the country with the most medals in the last Winter Olympics, after all.
- 5) Notice your surroundings. Norwegians are understandably proud of their stunning landscape, and appreciate it when visitors admire it, too.



**Sharing the following information is recommended by our President Todd Fetsch
and provided by Liv Eggen Benschine of Nordic Gift House**


Velkommen to **Nordic Gift House**... Your Premier Source for the best Scandinavian Gifts. As Sons of Norway members ourselves, we love sharing products that remind us of our culture and heritage. At www.nordicgifthouse.com your members will find treasures from Norway and beyond including Jewelry, Knitwear, Socks, Home Decor, Kitchen and Heritage Items. In support of the Sons of Norway goals of promoting Norwegian heritage, we are excited to share that all Sons of Norway members will receive 10% off all orders of any size by entering Discount Code **SON10**. Go to the website above to find many Norwegian treasures absolutely wonderful for gift giving.




Your premier source for Scandinavian themed gift items featuring Jewelry, Runic/Viking, Knitwear, Ozone Socks, Home Decor, Kitchen items, Swedish dishcloths, and Heritage items. We invite you to visit our website, subscribe to our newsletter and enjoy this special offer.

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Your Editor's Writing

Falling Forward by Terry Thompson (copyrighted)

Fall is here. I can see it in the roadside Goldenrod and brown-eyed susans, in the already beyond mature queen anne's lace and bull thistles gone to seed, in the reddish-colored sumac and the trees turning colors, in overripe elderberries hanging their heads and in yellow bean fields that were once green.

Fall is here. I can hear it in brown cornfields rustling, in crisp leaves scattering, in blackbirds' cawing, in farmers' combines harvesting, in cacophonies of cicadas' and crickets' choruses.

Fall is here. I can feel it in the nippy, night air, in goosebumps on my skin, in damp, dark air and decrease in temperature that prompts pain in my joints and susceptible trigger points.

And, I can feel it in the heart of my soul. I love fall with its beautiful colors and fun festivals, but I'm always so reluctant to let summer go.

So it makes me sad. I love summer's warmth, its activities, its long days and shorter nights, the freedom to go anywhere without the encumbrance of sweaters, coats, gloves, hats, scarves, boots.

I recall how grandson Jacob, when he was about three years old, admired the blossoms first on tulips and daffodils, then on irises, tiger lilies and then on all the other flower blossoms as they bloomed in their seasons.

When each was gone he'd ask, "Why?" "Because its blossoming time is short," I'd say.

And he would ask, "Why?" "That is just the way it is," I'd say.

And he'd ask, "Why?" "They will die over winter and come back again next spring," I'd say.

"But why?" he'd ask.

Why indeed? Maybe just because on a bone-chilling, caustically windy, winter's day, we can recreate in our mind's eye, a summer scene, recall its warmth and be comforted - comforted in knowing that it did exist and it will again.

If it were always winter or always summer, would we really appreciate the positives of either? God in his wisdom gave us variety in the seasons.

And so, I fall forward, reluctantly, whether I want to or not. Spring and summer have been really different, weather-wise, this year. Atypical seasons seem to be in vogue lately.

The older I get, the faster time goes. Fortunately, that means it won't be long until it is summertime once again.

Fagernes Lodge photos, June - September 2022

Top left, Eddie Thompson, Verle Austad and Terry Thompson visit during our lodge's annual picnic at Blair's Riverside Memorial Park on June 24. Top right, As our picnic guests, the Osseo Lodge team challenged us to a game of Kubb. Photo below that pictures our team: Terry Thompson, Danniell Toth, and Leland Wier. Todd Fetsch was also on our team. Middle left photo, Danniell Toth, Terry Thompson, Fran Instenes, Leland Wier, Charlene Saxe, Marlys Britten, Chris Hamilton, Russ Glomstad, Mary Jo Fetsch (those in view) are taking off in the Ettrick Fun Days parade Aug.28. Bottom left photo: Our float with Charlene Saxe, Charlotte Dahl, Betty and Russell Glomstad, Chris Hamilton, Roger Instenes readies for takeoff in the Whitehall parade on Aug. 21. The two bottom right photos picture Eddie Thompson, Roger and Fran Instenes and Lora Lebakken. In these photos, our lodge visited the Tenba Ridge Winery in rural Blair to enjoy good potluck food, camaraderie and a beautiful view from the winery deck.



An interesting fact about Norway:

Norway introduced salmon sushi to Japan.

Focus on a Member, Lora Lebakken

Lora Lebakken of Blair was born to Joe and Myra Lebakken in Galesville. Her siblings are Ann Lebakken Statz, Joann Lebakken Mosier, Calvin, and the late Keith (Leukemia, 1986). She grew up on her parents' farm in Abraham's Coulee. Her father worked nights at Echo and Gale Products. Lora graduated from Gale-Ettrick-Trempealeau High School in 1979. She attended Western Wisconsin Technical College beginning in 1995, graduating with an automotive degree in 1997.

She married and had three children and later divorced. Her children's names and ages now are Janell, 41; Andrew, 39; and Stephanie, 37. Lora has five biological grandchildren: Paige, 19; Emi, 12; Zak, 9; Cedric, 2; and Leo, 1. She also has eight adopted grandchildren. She cares for Cedric every morning so his parents, Andy and Claudia, can milk their herd. She also helps out on their farm wherever needed doing discing, hauling calves to Sparta and running errands. Lora has worked many jobs including Marinuka Manor dietary, Kwik Stop, A-G Co-op, Canning Factory, Northern Engraving, Bob's Auto, Brenengen Chevrolet, VIP Parts, and Holmen Portables. She has been a Girl Scout Leader, has taught Sunday school and pre-confirmation. She's a member of a veteran's auxiliary and now a member of Sons of Norway Fagernes Lodge, Blair. In her free time, Lora loves to cook, bake and sew. She does embroidering, knitting and crocheting. She joined our lodge because she wants to learn more about her Norwegian heritage and become more involved in the Blair community. She added, however, "It hasn't worked this summer but next year is a whole new ball game. I love being a SON member where I know so many from my years at French Creek."

Lora's motto definitely fits her personality, "Challenge me and I will do it." Welcome to our lodge!



Lora Lebakken

Sunshine News: On June 2, **Lora Lebakken** had five inches of her colon removed and her stomach scraped because of scar tissue and a perforated small colon. At the time, she received a temporary bag. On September 16, the bag was removed, so she could have bowel movements normally. She returned home on September 19.

Leland Wier will have a heart ablation on October 11. It will cauterize the nerves in his heart that are too active and are causing Atrial Fibrillation.

Velkommen, Baby Boom!

A pandemic-related baby boom has sent Norwegian families scrambling to find perfect names for their new additions. 2021 saw over 3,000 more births in Norway than in 2020. Thankfully, help has come from an entity with a long history flaunting imaginative naming skills: IKEA. Employees at the Norwegian branch of the Swedish retail giant combed through its catalogs, curating a "name bank" overflowing with over 800 monikers inspired by over 70 years of flat-pack tables, chairs, chandeliers, desks, and a mish-mash of other household staples.

While many IKEA product labels are inspired by Swedish place names, several others have appellations associated with humans. They range from the more typical, such as Billy, a strikingly modern black and white chair from 1970, to the more exotic such as Ulrika, a dainty side table available in 1958. The names are accompanied on the website by a picture of the item, the year it was introduced, and a description in Norwegian. The descriptions can apply to both the furniture item and to your newest family member.



Sons of Norway's International Board of Directors set Recruitment Goals

Goals set by Sons of Norway's International Board of Directors for 2022 include enrolling **12,000 new social and financial benefits members**. While 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!](#)

All lodges, regardless of size, are asked to recruit 4% more new members this year than in 2021 (rounding up to the next whole number or "whole member"). For lodges that recruited 3 or fewer new members in 2021, their goal this year is 4 new members.

Recognition for Lodges and Members

At the end of the campaign, we will recognize lodges that meet the recruitment challenge. These lodges will receive:

A \$125 award (or equivalent funds for lodges in Norway and Canada). The lodge and its members may use these funds as it prefers.

Achievement certificates for the lodges that meet their goal. Lodges will also have access to an online recruiter achievement certificate to recognize their recruiting members.

Additionally, an exclusive **2022 Recruiter Pin** will be sent directly to members after they recruit their first new member in 2022. The pins will be available while supplies last, so don't wait to invite friends and family members to join!

How do I know what the lodge goal is for 2022?

Lodge leaders can log in to view the goal information. We have published the 2022 goals by district and lodge in a 2022 campaign goal document linked at the bottom of this page. For your reference, the final 2021 recruitment results are also found below.

Examples of recruitment goals:

If your lodge recruited 15 new members in 2021, a 4% increase means we are asking you increase that number by 1 this year (rounding up to the next whole number) for a total of 16 new members in 2022.

If your lodge recruited between 0 and 3 new members in 2021, your goal is 4 new members in 2022.

How can a lodge track its progress?

Regular monthly reports your lodge receives include new members who have joined the prior month. Each quarter, we will update the year-to-date results posted below.

What constitutes a new member?

A new member is a completely new-to-Sons-of-Norway, dues-paid member who joins with either an individual or family membership. Former members count as new members only if they re-join at least 2 years after the exact date their prior membership expired. Heritage members (children under age 16) do not count toward the goal.

Does lodge size factor in when calculating the goal?

No. We are encouraging all lodges to build on their 2021 results by 4%, no matter the size of lodge.

What about members who leave the lodge?

The lodge goal is only concerned with recruitment, so it is not affected by a loss of existing members. Membership retention is vital to a healthy lodge. Sons of Norway encourages you to create a welcoming lodge atmosphere with a wide variety of social, cultural and volunteer activities for all. As changing pandemic conditions may impact your ability to meet in-person, please consider adding virtual and socially distanced activities or other ways to keep in touch with members via phone, email and lodge newsletters and mailings.

What is the time frame?

Lodges have from January 1 through Friday, December 16 to recruit new members and return paper forms and dues payments to Sons of Norway headquarters. If you wish to enroll new members online, please act by no later than December 29.

To count toward the lodge recruitment goal, all new member enrollments and dues payments must be received within the timeframes above to guarantee they can be processed by Sons of Norway headquarters in 2022.

How do I get credit for recruiting?

It's up to each member to provide their member number to those they invite to join. Write your name and member number clearly on the paper enrollment form in the "Membership referred by" area provided. For prospective members who want to sign up online, ask them to enter your member number in the "referring member" field at the bottom of the online form.

It is the responsibility of the recruiting member and lodge to provide accurate recruiter information to headquarters at the time of enrollment.

What if I have questions about the campaign or results?

As the year progresses, periodic result updates will appear in our digital newsletters: Leadership Resource (sent to lodge officers) and E-Post (sent to all members). If you have other questions, please email them to membership@sofn.com.

Our Secretary, LaVonne Wier's Report

The SON International convention was held online August 31, 2022 and September 1, 2022. The 168 delegates were not visible to each other and could not vocally join in the meeting. We were able to ask questions via Chat, but questions were not answered so others could hear/see the answers from headquarters staff.

The Memorial Service was very nice. Robin Fossum provided beautiful violin music during the breaks. The only thing the delegates could actively participate in was the election of the International Treasurer. The time allotted for the meeting agenda was more than was needed, so it adjourned early.

I participated in a feedback survey with the District 5 Board. We were not pleased with how the virtual meeting was conducted, and our comments were conveyed by our District 5 President, Cheryl Wille-Schlesser, to the International staff.

There was a nice surprise when the awards for International Lodge of the Year and International Family Lodge of the Year were announced. The winner of the **International Family Lodge of the Year for 2021** was....none other than....**Fagernes Lodge 5-616!** Congratulations to us!!!

As awareness of our lodge has not been as apparent to the general public as it could be, we had a booth at the Blair Cheese Festival flea market to let people know about Sons of Norway and Fagernes Lodge. Information about Sons of Norway scholarships, benefits of membership, insurance and annuity information, and applications for membership were provided.

Fifteen door prizes were awarded to visitors who signed up for the drawing. We may have a few new members for our lodge soon! I signed up people from other areas for membership in their local lodges. As a first-time event, I count it as a success.

Thanks to all workers: Roger and Fran Instenes, Rodney Moen, Charlene Saxe, Byron and Marlys Britten, Charlotte Dahl, Eileen Trim, Leland Wier. Special thanks to Charlene for providing the tent and other items for the booth. Thanks also to those who donated items for the drawing.

I will attend the District 5 fall board meeting in Eau Claire at the end of October. If you have any questions or concerns to be brought before the board, please let me know. One item I did get changed recently was the points in the annual report for the lodge newsletter. The International staff has agreed to change the requirement from six issues a year to four. Now we can get credit on the annual report for the great job our editor, Terry Thompson, does for our lodge!



Sons of Norway Fagernes Lodge 5-616
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Norwegian Cinnamon Thumbs

These delicious shortbread cookies rolled in cinnamon sugar are a perfect little treat with a cup of coffee!

Cookie Ingredients:

5 Tbsp. sugar
1 cup butter
2 cups flour
1 tsp. vanilla

Ingredients for rolling:

1 tsp. cinnamon
¼ cup sugar

Directions:

Preheat the oven to 350°F.

To make the cookies, beat the sugar and butter together until fluffy. Add the flour and vanilla, and beat until the dough comes together.

Take a small amount of dough (about the size of a tennis ball), and roll it gently into a long, skinny rope 1/2" in diameter (about the width of your pinky). Using a sharp knife, cut the dough into 2" pieces, making sure to cut on the diagonal instead of straight across. Place cookies a few inches apart on a lined baking sheet, and bake 8-10 minutes, until just beginning to turn golden on the bottom edges. Remove cookies from oven and allow to cool slightly.

While cookies are cooling, combine the cinnamon and sugar for rolling in a small bowl. When cookies are cool enough to handle, roll each one gently in the cinnamon sugar, and place on a cooling rack to finish cooling.



Photo Credit: Lulu the Baker, luluthebaker.com