



**GRØNNVIK LODGE**  
2844 University Ave  
Green Bay, WI 54311

**Tentative Meeting Dates:**  
**July 21 (Picnic!)**  
**August 18**  
**Stay tuned!**

**PRESIDENT:** Joy Bashara, 920-445-1585  
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**Grønnavik Lodge Meetings** are usually at 6:30 on the third Tuesday of the month at Trinity Lutheran, 330 S. Broadway, Green Bay.

 Like us on Facebook. "Sons of Norway Grønnavik Lodge Green Bay"

The "hiatus" has given us many opportunities to expand our culinary skills (and our waistslines). This was one of the winners at the Below household:

**Canned Fruit Muffins**  
1 c Flour  
1/3 c Whole Wheat Flour  
2 t Baking Powder  
1/2 t Baking Soda  
1/2 t Salt  
1 t Cinnamon  
1/2 c Chopped Nuts  
2/3 c packed Brown Sugar  
2 t Vanilla  
1 Egg  
2 T Oil  
1/2 c Sour Cream  
14-15 oz can Fruit\* in Syrup, well drained  
1 overripe Banana

Sift together dry ingredients. Add nuts and stir until they are covered. In a separate bowl, mix together brown sugar, vanilla, egg, oil and sour

cream. In blender, process well-drained fruit and the banana until the consistency of applesauce. Stir everything together until just moistened, and divide between 12 muffin cups. Bake at 375 degrees for 20 minutes.

\*I've tried canned Pears, Fruit Cocktail, Peaches and Apricots—All worked well.

Lena gets embarrassed every time she and Ole visit antique shops because Ole always asks the clerk "What's new?"

During intermission at the ballet, Ole says, "It seems so silly that they are all dancing around on their tippy-toes ... Why didn't they just hire taller dancers?"

After winning the lottery, Lena asks Ole, "What shall we do with this stack of letters begging for money?" Ole replies, "Let's just keep sending them."

Next newsletter submission deadline is June 20.

# Med Vennlig Hilsen

## With Friendly Greetings

Sons of Norway, Grønnavik Lodge 5-632, Green Bay, Wisconsin

[www.sonsofnorwaygb.blogspot.com](http://www.sonsofnorwaygb.blogspot.com) [gronnaviklodge@gmail.com](mailto:gronnaviklodge@gmail.com) Vol. 26, No. 3 May-June 2020

### President's Message to 5th District

Kjære Venner,

As of now I am sure that most of the members of the District have received word that the 2020 Fifth District Convention/Meeting and the 2020 International Convention/Meeting have been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There was a unanimous vote by the International Board of Directors to cancel the 2020 conventions/meetings. President Ron Stubbings has instructed all sons of Norway Officers, Directors, and Delegates to "continue in service until the regular session lodge meetings of 2022". As members of Sons of Norway we need to follow President Stubbings instruction in order to maintain our cohesiveness as a fraternal in this time of uncertainty.

As your District President, I am requesting that all local lodge Presidents and Officers be prudent, and that they follow all State and Federal government mandates concerning the COVID-19 virus. Be thoughtful and do not put yourself or any of your lodge members in any undue risk. Stay in touch with your other lodge members using the telephone and electronic means (conference calls or Skype).

These are difficult times we are all experiencing. It is my hope that when this pandemic is over, the Sons of Norway will continue to be as strong and vibrant as ever.

It is with sadness that the Fifth District has lost one of its finest members, Gene Steensma, who passed away on March 25, 2020. Gene was a past Fifth District President, an International Director, and a long-time member and President of Samhold 5-473. Gene will always remain in the hearts of those who knew him. Keep Gene's family in your prayers as they go through their time of mourning.

Med beste hilsen,  
Andrew Iver Johnsen  
Sons of Norway Fifth District President

☹ No May Meeting ☹

Happy Syttende Mai!

Tentative  
June 16



Gratulerer med dagen!  
Birthdays

#### May

Mollie Bergsbaken - 2nd  
Robert Olson - 3rd  
Dennis Jensen - 4th  
Lilianna Robshaw - 11th\*  
Jean Severson - 20th  
Nolan Ruotsala - 26th\*  
Scott Naevestad - 29th  
Jill Larson - 31st

#### June

Steven Christenson - 4th  
Barbara Nelson - 13th  
Sharon Rentmeester - 13th  
Bonnie Vastag - 20th  
Scott Brunner - 21st

\*Heritage Member

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## Fra President

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Greetings friends,

We are truly being tested. Our 2020 has gotten off to a rocky start. I have talked to various members who are keeping busy with walking and planning gardens. I myself have been organizing my recipes into four binders and am amazed at the number of duplicates. Frank has been working in the yard. Both of us have been cooking and baking good-and mostly healthy food. I have been reading a lot of historical fiction from biblical, to ancient Chinese to accounts of slavery in America. What have you been up to? There are suggestions on Sons of Norway about cooking, sports, language practice and more. I remind you that our face to face meetings are going to have to wait yet another month. Enjoy reading The Viking and look at some old travel photos to submit for the District 5 photo contest. My best to you all as we continue our wait.

Joy

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## Virtual Walk to Ringsaker

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We're in luck! The Virtual Walk to Ringsaker, Norway has been extended until December 15th. This gives everyone an opportunity to participate in this venture. A few lodges have made it to Norway, and they are now somewhere in the Atlantic Ocean on their way back to America! *Gratulerer til deg* (congratulations to you)! Our Sports Director, Matt Agen, is coordinating our efforts toward Grønnevik Lodge's 4,262-mile goal. Keep track of miles walked, run, swam or accumulated through other activities using a pedometer or similar device. Contact Matt (262-290-1122) for a simple tracking sheet to record your efforts, which he will mail or email to you. And don't forget to turn in any miles that you have completed! It's getting warmer outdoors, and there are many outdoor activities to enjoy. All ages are encouraged to participate. An activity guide has been posted to the District 5 website: [www.sonsofnorway5.com](http://www.sonsofnorway5.com) to help you determine mileage for the activities you choose. Get out, get fit, and help the District to

accomplish its goal! While exercising, take pictures of your activities and send them to [rogrcher@mhtc.net](mailto:rogrcher@mhtc.net). These photos will be added to a Power Point slide show to be shown at the 2022 Convention. Any funds raised will be designated for support of the 5th District's heritage camp, *Masse Moro*.

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## New SoN CEO

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The International Board of the Sons of Norway is pleased to announce that Christopher Pinkerton has been named CEO of the organization. The board has evaluated the leadership needs for the growth of the organization and combined the current role of the CEO and the COO into one position, which will report directly to the International Board.

Since 2018, Pinkerton served as COO of Sons of Norway, an insurance organization which holds more than \$365 million in assets in 38 states. During the past two years, he developed new insurance and annuity products that increased certificate sales growth 195%. He is also credited with growing the agent force from 50 representatives to 473 in two years without increasing the marginal cost of acquisition. Pinkerton will replace Eivind Heiberg who has served as CEO since 2009.

Pinkerton brings to the CEO role more than 20 years of experience as a senior leader in executive positions with Nationwide Insurance, Allianz Life of North America, The Independent Order of Foresters and Savings Bank Life Insurance of Massachusetts. He also created and led an independent consulting firm specializing in market strategy and implementation programs for the life insurance industry.

"Chris has successfully led these companies through business challenges and to positive sales growth and profitability," says Ron Stubbings, International President, Sons of Norway. "His leadership and track record in his short time at Sons of Norway have helped elevate all factions of the organization, giving us much to celebrate as we mark 125 years."

Pinkerton earned a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Franklin University in Columbus, Ohio and an MBA from Xavier University in Cincinnati, Ohio. He also holds designations as a Chartered Life Underwriter (CLU), Chartered Financial Consultant (ChFC) and is a Fellow of the Life Management Institute.

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## Sons of Norway Stays Strong

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As we enter into this uncertain time in history, I want to assure you that Sons of Norway remains strong and dedicated to our members and insurance policy holders. From the spread of COVID-19 to unforeseen market volatility and natural disasters, we are living through unique times.

The world is changing at an extraordinary pace, and I want you to know Sons of Norway is well prepared for the current economic environment. Established in 1895 by 18 Norwegian immigrants with the mission to protect each other and their families, that mission has never been truer than it is today.

We have enacted our disaster plan to ensure that we can continue our day-to-day operations, provide service to our clients, and keep our employees safe. We have transitioned most of our employees to work remotely, with limited staff onsite to maintain the day-to-day functions of the home office. We have the systems and safeguards in place to continue to provide you and your families the protection and support you expect from us.

The financial markets have never seen conditions like we are experiencing now, but rest assured your insurance is safe—both life insurance and annuities. We make very conservative long-term investments designed to weather these "perfect storm" conditions. We do not make short-term high-risk bets. As we always have done, we are protecting our members and clients by taking a conservative approach.

Our solvency remains extremely strong, which means our ability to pay claims and annuity income streams remains unchanged amid today's uncertain circumstances. We want to thank you for being part of Sons of Norway and let you know we remain true to our mission of protecting our members, policy holders and employees.

Fraternally,  
Chris Pinkerton, CEO

Want to get the newsletter via email? Contact Eileen at [eglbellow@gmail.com](mailto:eglbellow@gmail.com). Please include "SOFN Newsletter" in the subject line.

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## Culture Corner

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The Nordic education model boasts high social equality, high productivity, and high levels of happiness. When it comes to explaining why, many people believe it's because of Scandinavia's generous welfare states or free market openness. However, David Brooks, a columnist for the New York Times, is convinced it is a result of how education is viewed in these countries.

More specifically, he believes it is their *bildung* approach to learning. Although *bildung* doesn't directly translate to English, it means "the complete moral, emotional, intellectual, and civic transformation of the person."

In the Scandinavian countries, the *bildung* approach helps students gain a deeper understanding of the complex relationships between their inner selves, their communities, and society as a whole. In comparison, schooling in America is primarily focused on teaching specialized skill sets, such as math and reading.

The outcome of the *bildung* approach is an increased sense of shared responsibility in all aspects of a person's life, creating a higher degree of social trust.

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## Photo Contest

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There's plenty of buzz in District 5 about the D5 Scandinavian Photo Contest. Many have been reminiscing about their trip(s) to Norway as they sort through their photos for a chance to have one featured on a deck of Nordic playing cards. District 5 will be making the cards available for purchase in time for Christmas. Each participating lodge will have at least one card in the deck. If every lodge in the district has entries, the deck will be filled with a card from each lodge. To enter, submit up to five of your best photos before July 5, 2020. Contact Eileen, [eglbellow@gmail.com](mailto:eglbellow@gmail.com), and she will email the entry form and official rules to you. The winner's name and lodge will be printed at the bottom of the card. Winners will receive a deck of Nordic cards plus a special certificate. There will also be special "People's Choice" awards.