



Hurrah for Syttende Mai!!

Once a year we celebrate Constitution Day with Norway, a day when all of us with some Norwegian heritage can wave that flag.

This is a day, the 17th of May, (or close-enough day) to enjoy the foods, the parades, the arts, and the bunads. Anne Grethe and Sherrie will bring their own bunads and some that are borrowed out of their closets and share a program about their history. Please come and enjoy their presentation. Perhaps your ancestral area’s bunad will be seen.

Is there interest in members of the lodge going to Stoughton for their Syttende Mai celebrations? There was some discussion about car pooling at last month’s meeting. Bring your thoughts on Saturday, May 13, 9am, Scotty’s Pizza.

The merry month of May brings birthday greetings to the following members: Don Berg, Anne-Grethe Cook, John Fadness, Doug Framness, Roberta Johansson, and Sara Kolstad.

Congratulations to Tessa Berg who was awarded the 2nd District 5 (\$500) scholarship. She is a student at (UW- LaCrosse).

See you this Saturday!!



Sherrie, editor



FUN FACT

Norway knighted a King Penguin

King Penguin Sir Nils Olav was officially appointed as the mascot for the Norwegian Guard. He quickly moved through the ranks from corporal in 1982 to being knighted in 2008 before becoming Brigadier in 2016.

The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote and preserve the heritage and culture of Norway and to provide quality insurance and financial products to its members.

In this issue:

- Editor’s message.....1
- Site of 2024 D5 Convention Chosen.....1
- District 5 News.....2
- Memorial Day.....3
- Tomb of the Unknown Soldier...3
- Syttende Mai-Festival Music.....4
- Barnebunader.....4

Message from President Cheryl Wille-Schlesser.....

Site of 2024 District 5 Convention Chosen pending approval by the home office in Minneapolis. It is important for our board to reach out to our lodges in all geographic regions, and I am happy to report that the D5 site review committee provided two options for the 2024 District 5 Convention. After much discussion on location, costs associated with each site, technology concerns, and staffing, a final decision was made. **Ladies and gentlemen, start your engines! The 2024 convention will be held in Indianapolis, IN,** pending approval from headquarters in Minneapolis.





District 5 Board News

Board Meeting of April 14-15, 2023, Anna, IL

President Wille-Schlesser installed Corey Olson as Treasurer, Connie Aiello as District 4 Director, and although absent, Lisa Rove-Williams as the Youth Director.

Bylaw Proposal

- Darlene reported that out of the 101 possible ballots, 78 were returned in favor, 2 opposed so the bylaw proposal passed and approved the bylaws as the proposal indicated.

Par. 4 All Zones shall be entitled to exactly (2) representatives on the Board. The Secretary and Treasurer shall not be counted as a representative against a Zone. An alternate for the Secretary and Treasurer shall also be elected. In the event of a vacancy or resignation, the Board can elect an officer who would be a third representative from a Zone but the said officer would not be a Zone Director.

Par. 6 No District Officer or Director shall be elected to serve more than two consecutive terms in any office except the Secretary and the Treasurer whose term shall not be limited. In the event a caucus cannot find a willing nominee to serve as a Zone Director and the current Zone Director has completed two consecutive terms, the Zone Director can complete a third term. indicated.

District Lodge Assignments- 2022-2024 Updated: January 15, 2023

Zone 2-LaVonne Wier
2nor1rus@gmail.com
Wergeland 28-LaCrosse, WI
Jotunheimen 286-Viroqua, WI
Solvang 457-Westby, WI
Fossen 534-Black River Falls, WI
Fagernes 616-Blair, WI

Zone 2-Tom Boudreau
sjbergh4364@gmail.com
Rib Fjell 496-Wausau, WI
Elvedal 556-Wisconsin Rapids, WI
Norskeland 580-Scandinavia, WI
Myrmarken 609-Marshfield, WI
Vennligfolk 627-Stevens Point, WI

Adult Heritage Weekend- Connie Kross and Darlene Arneson

There was a ZOOM call with lodge members from the Norway, IL area, Norway Museum, and The Sloopers to discuss having an Adult Heritage Camp in October 2023. The general consensus of the group was that they are not able to host the camp along with all their other responsibilities. They would prefer to wait until 2025 when The Sloopers have their big 200th anniversary and hopefully a weekend sometime that summer or fall would work better. Darlene offered to host the 2023 Adult Heritage Camp in the Stoughton/Dane County area on October 27-29, 2023 and will have details soon about the agenda, hotels, and registration.



Memorial Day (originally known as **Decoration Day**) is a federal holiday in the United States for honoring and mourning the U.S. military personnel who have died while serving in the United States armed forces. It is observed on the last Monday of May. From 1868 to 1970, it was observed on May 30. Many people visit cemeteries and memorials on Memorial Day to honor and mourn those who died while serving in the U.S. military. Many volunteers place American flags on the graves of military personnel in national cemeteries.

The first national observance of Memorial Day occurred on May 30, 1868. Then known as Decoration Day, the holiday was proclaimed by Commander in Chief John A. Logan of the Grand Army of the Republic to honor the Union soldiers who had died in the Civil War. This national observance was preceded by many local ones between the end of the Civil War and Logan's declaration. Many cities and people have claimed to be the first to observe it. However, in 2022, the National Cemetery Administration, a division of the Department of Veterans Affairs, credited Mary Ann Williams with originating the "idea of strewing the graves of Civil War soldiers - Union and Confederate" with flowers.

Official recognition as a holiday spread among the states, beginning with New York in 1873. By 1890, every Union state had adopted it. The World Wars turned it into a day of remembrance for all members of the U.S. military who fought and died in service. **In 1971, Congress standardized the holiday as "Memorial Day" and changed its observance to the last Monday in May.**

Two other days celebrate those who have served or are serving in the U.S. military: Armed Forces Day (which is earlier in May), an unofficial U.S. holiday for honoring those currently serving in the armed forces, and Veterans Day (on November 11), which honors all those who have served in the United States Armed Forces.

Source: Wikipedia

The **Tomb of the Unknown Soldier** is dedicated to deceased U.S. service members whose remains have not been identified. The World War I "Unknown" is a recipient of the Medal of Honor, the Victoria Cross, and several other foreign nations' highest service awards. The U.S. Unknowns who were interred are also recipients of the Medal of Honor, presented by U.S. presidents who presided over their funerals. Located in Arlington National Cemetery, the Tomb was placed at the head of the grave of the World War I Unknown. West of this grave are the crypts of Unknowns from World War II (south) and Korea (north). Between the two lies a crypt that once contained an Unknown from Vietnam (middle). His remains were positively identified in 1998 through DNA testing as First Lieutenant Michael Blassie, United States Force, and were removed. Those three graves are marked with white marble slabs flush with the plaza.



Source: Wikipedia

Syttende Mai – Festival of Music

When we think of Norway's national day, Syttende Mai, flags, children, parades and party food may come to mind, but there is another element that plays a huge role in the festivities, that of music. Of course, the national anthem, "Ja, Vi Elsker" will be belted out at some point, but there is much more depth to the day's soundtrack. Starting bright and early on grunnlovsdagen, choirs and glee clubs will assemble to perform patriotic anthems, including "Sønner av Norge" (Sons of Norway), "Norges Skaal" (To Norway), both previously in use as national anthems. "Kongesangen" (The Royal Anthem) may also make an appearance, which shares the same melody as "My Country 'Tis of Thee." In the weeks leading up to the big day, brass bands will march through the streets in preparation, a cacophony of notes and percussion bouncing off buildings. Syttende Mai parades are peppered with the sounds of youth bands performing both patriotic and popular songs. Modern favorites with warm sentiments for Norway include the sedate "Mitt Lille Land," (My Little Country) by Maria Mena and "Fedrelandet" (The Fatherland) by Robin og Bugge- both available on YouTube.



Barnebunader

The Norwegian national costume, known as the bunad, is worn on special occasions such as Syttende Mai or at weddings. There are many different types of bunads that represent different locations in Norway and there are even details that reflect status or age.

It is common to receive or purchase a bunad in your mid-teen years that will last your entire life. So, what do younger children wear on these special occasions? Because children outgrow clothes so quickly, they will often have a festdrakt. These costumes are much less expensive than the traditional bunad and are more generic. They are also more readily available.

Unlike bunads, the festdrakt is not bound by location and is not as strictly tied to traditional bunad practices, though they can look quite similar to bunads. Festdrakter are also worn by some adults as they can be customized to personal preference. Whether in a bunad or festdrakt, Norway is well dressed for special occasions!

