

# Myravisen



May 2024  
Myrmarken Lodge 5-609  
Marshfield, WI 54449



# SONS of NORWAY



Kjære venner;

Many thanks to Micah Horvath for sharing his experiences as an exchange student. Doug and I were sorry to have missed it. Thank you, Ruth, for performing my secretary duties for that day.

This Saturday, May 11, Roger Krogstad will be our program. Will he be taking us on an African Safari, or will he share information about pet care? Come and find out!

We will also remember 17th of May, often referred to as *Najonsaldagen* or *Syttende Mai*, marking the anniversary of the country's constitution, which was signed in 1814.

We meet this **Saturday, May 11, 9am, at Scotty's Pizza**. Bring a friend!

Sherrie Framness, editor



# Hipp Hipp Hurra

## Fun Fact

The first Children's Parade celebrating Syttende Mai was launched in Christiania (Oslo) in 1864 and consisted only of boys. It was initiated by Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson, author of the Norwegian national anthem, "Ja Vi Elsker". Girls were allowed to join the parade for the first time in 1899.

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.

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## GRATULERER MED DAGEN !



Donald Berg

Doug Framness

Anne Grethe Cook

John Fadness

Sara Kolstad



## *Important Message from Ron Stubbings*

Dear District Leaders,

Thank you for your membership with Sons of Norway. The mission of Sons of Norway is to provide quality insurance and financial products to our members, promote and preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, and celebrate our relationship with other Nordic countries.

We are able to continue this work because of members like you. Thank you.

Like any other business, Sons of Norway has felt the impact of rising costs. Districts and lodges have also felt the impact of rising costs. To meet the increases in inflation, headquarters in all areas of operations has streamlined processes and services. These changes have been made -4- to reflect best practices in both fraternal and insurance operations. The International Board together with the home office is always looking for ways to operate cost efficiently in both fraternal and insurance operations, to sustain the organization's finances and ensure the longevity of our organization.

We all work to contain costs by reducing expenses to the extent possible. However, as you know, you can only cut so much. Recognizing that, it was necessary to examine the current dues structure from both an organizational perspective and a district/lodge/member perspective.

In November 2023, an international board committee was assigned to evaluate dues as we continue to look at the overall budget.

Member dues have not increased since 2018, while inflation has increased 21%. Inflation and the rising cost of doing business have not been reflected in the dues. After numerous meetings and data evaluation, the committee recommended a dues increase which was approved by the International Board of Directors.

- Single member dues will increase by \$2 per month for a total annual increase of \$24. Effective July 1, 2024 single member annual dues will be \$84. One dollar of the annual increase will be given to the local lodge and the district. The district lodge portion of the annual dues will increase from \$14 per individual member to \$15 per individual member. The local lodge portion of the annual dues will increase from \$14 per individual member to \$15 per individual member.
- Family membership will increase by \$4 per month for a total annual increase of \$48. Effective July 1, 2024, the family member dues will be \$144. The district portion of the annual dues increase for family membership will increase from \$25 per family membership to \$27 per family membership. The local lodge portion of the annual dues will increase from \$28 to \$30 per family membership.

(cont. on page 3)

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- Dues for members in Canada and Norway will increase based on the percentage increase for US members. (40% increase for single members, 19% increase for family members)

The dues increase will be effective on July 1, 2024, therefore renewals from that date forward will be at the new rate. If the member's dues were due before July 1, 2024 and payment is received after that date they will still be under the old structure. Likewise, if a renewal is due after July 1 and the member paid it early in June it should be at the new increased rate. A message will be added to the invoices regarding the dues increase starting with the July 2024 invoices.

We encourage you to remind the members in your districts of the values of a Sons of Norway membership:

- A magazine focused on their interests that is delivered 6 times per year
- Membership and participation in local lodge and district activities
- Access to a website and customer service personnel
- Funding of lodges and districts with a portion of their dues
  
- The lodges and districts get the benefit of the International Lodge collecting and distributing their portion of lodge and district dues, fraternal programs administered, reporting, administration, a governance structure

Future increases and how you can help

Like most other membership/subscription fees, dues could increase annually depending on a variety of factors (e.g. fraternal membership, insurance sales and retention). You can help to hold down future increases. Please keep in mind that:

- Dues do not cover fraternal expenses
- Insurance could over time help mitigate any future dues increases but only 30% of social members currently own insurance
- Dues are embedded in certain insurance products, meaning if a member purchases insurance, there is no additional dues invoice. Membership continues as long as the policy remains in force
- District and lodge operations can help reduce costs at headquarters by being timely in submitting documents such as D63, D17 & D18, LAF and 990's to the IRS
- Purchasing a financial product helps support Sons of Norway
- Encourage members to pay dues monthly similar to a Netflix or similar subscription

Thank you for your leadership in Sons of Norway.

Fraternally,

Ron Stubbings

## Russefeiring

The *russefeiring* is a traditional celebration for Norwegian high school students in their final spring semester. Students that take part in the celebrations are known as *russs*. Students in high school normally prepare for this celebration from the start of the year. *Russ* celebrations normally happen before the final term exam for the high school students before they are off to university or college. *Russ* have different ways of celebrating; some purchase large buses and drive around partying all night, while others may simply buy a van or a car. The *russefeiring* traditionally starts around 20 April (with some starting earlier or later depending on the county) and ends on 17 May, the Norwegian Constitution day. Participants wear coloured overalls (usually red, blue, green, white, or black). Some form groups that name a bus, car or van (often making a name or logo). Some celebrate almost continually during this period. Drunkenness and public disturbances are regularly linked to the celebration.

### Delayed *Russ* Partying Proposed

In Norway, high-school students have a unique tradition in the weeks leading up to graduation. The tradition is known as *russefeiring* and it is essentially a month-long party with costumes, cultural events, pranks, and music. Following the celebration, students sit for their exams. It is said to be rite of passage for Norwegian youth.

Typically, the celebration leads up to May 17th and ends with participation in the Syttende Mai parade. However, there have been recent talks by the Norwegian Board of Education in Oslo to move the *russ* celebration. City Councilor Julie Remen Midtgarden, would like the celebration to be moved after exams and also wants to ban *russ* party buses in some places

Youth proponents of *russ* would rather see exams move earlier instead of moving *russ*, so as not to conflict with summer holidays and students getting ready for the next step of their education. No changes have been made yet; it will likely take year or more. However, there are steps being taken to elect a *russ* government that can be a voice in the negotiations.



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## Sewing Start-up Makes Folk Costumes Accessible and Green

Norwegian bunads are famously a major investment that can run from \$3,000-\$5,000, depending on the region and what extent of silver jewelry is involved.

Thanks to a sewing start-up called Fæbrik, showing your fashion sense and cultural pride just got a lot more accessible. According to flokk.com, the group was born out of necessity- four friends, Jenny Skavlan, Ingrid Bergtun, Mari Norden, and Ingrid Vik Lysne needed a studio space, and once they were in the same room, the ideas started to flow.

The foursome got to work making accessible patterns to help people sew their own festdrakt (or unofficial folk costume) out of recycled fabrics. The beauty of the fæstdrakt is that it is based on re-use, and there are no rules, unlike the stricter requirements of an official bunad. Do you prefer to wear fuchsia? Tassels and pompoms? Your fæstdrakt can be made in any hue, pattern or texture to suit your personal style and shape.

Fæbrik (a wordplay on the English “fabric” and the Norwegian word for “factory”) also makes downloadable patterns, step-by-step videos and offer user-friendly tailoring tips so that each person can create their ideal fit.

Just like that, a pair of lace curtains gain new life as an apron, and a hand-stitched pillowcase is reimagined as a vest. The group has hosted fæstdrakt parades in Oslo’s Frogner Park- see the photos in Aftenposten in the pattern for the myriad ways to express one’s creativity in this modern take on a folk costume. Find examples of patterns here: <https://faebrik.no/products/faestdrakt>

