

EVENTS TO NOTE

*Unless otherwise indicated, all Vennelag Board meetings will be held at Culver's Restaurant at 6:30 PM.

*Lodge meetings are held at the Mt. Horeb Community Center, 107 N. Grove Street.

*Our schedule at the Mt. Horeb Community Center may be changing. Please be watchful for e-blast updates from President Watrud regarding our upcoming events and their locations.

SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

Board Meeting 6:30 PM, Virtual Link to follow

SEPTEMBER 24, 2020

Lodge meeting-Virtual Presentation by Dana Kelly of the NAGC & NL, Link to follow

OKTOBER 14, 2020

Board meeting 6:30 PM, Virtual, Link to follow

OKTOBER 29, 2020

Lodge meeting-Virtual, S of N Foundation Fundraiser presentation by Harley Skjervem, Link to follow



Gratulerer til President Watrud for his top 10 winning photo submission for District 5 Scandinavian Photo Contest. Cheryl Wille-Schlesser will have two cards in the deck. Her troll photo will serve as one of the four jokers. The cards have been ordered and will be available in approximately two months, just in time for holiday gift-giving.

Ord Fra Presidenten

Once again I paraphrase someone far more eloquent than myself...this time a fellow lodge member who shall remain nameless (but was the best man in my wedding a few years back): "Boy, ever since you became president, things have sure gone to hell!". Truer words were never spoken.

We are now in the 9th month of the year and more than 25% of the way into this term of office. There is not much to show for it other than many cancellations, including our major fundraising initiatives. But we are still actively trying to make something positive out of a difficult situation and ask that you *hang in there* with us.

As we head into the fall season, without trying to sound like a broken record (to use a cliché that also goes back a few years), we continue to hope for the best and see things get turned around. The more that events get cancelled, the more that we miss them and look forward to their eventual return. So PLEASE continue your enthusiasm for all things Norske and SofN-related. Keep an eye on the Board meeting minutes to learn when we will gather as the "Circle of Friends" once again. Doing so promises to offer fun, games, camaraderie, and FOOD!

In the meantime, stay safe, sane, and healthy!
Takk for at du gjør det (thanks for doing so),

Allen

OKTOBER SofN FOUNDATION FUNDRAISER

Foundation Director, Harley Skjervem,
hskjervem@gmail.com

The Sons of Norway Foundation is dedicated to funding activities that preserve and promote Norwegian heritage, positively affect members, help in times of natural disaster, and make Sons of Norway communities more vibrant places to live.

In place of a basket raffle this year, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board has created an opportunity for you to give a donation which will ensure the Foundation's viability. One will be able to donate dollars to the Foundation based on a specific level of support. Members will be recognized for their donations.

Certificates of appreciation will be sent for your support, and we thank you in advance for considering a donation to such a worthy cause. A letter of explanation will arrive soon.

To show how important the International Foundation is to Vennelag Lodge, I'd like to note that Vennelag has received \$5,000 from the Foundation this year in the form of a cultural grant and in the giving of a college scholarship to one of our college students.

I encourage your family to be part of our fundraiser that aims to aid Sons of Norway Lodges, communities, and members.

Harley

Check out the Sons of Norway Blog for the Latest News from Norway (www.sofn.com/blog).



Norway is something of a well-rounded overachiever – the nation routinely ranks at or near the top of a wide range of categories, from public safety and green energy to raising children and general life satisfaction. Here is one more addition to that ever-growing list: birdwatching.

Like many human travelers, birds are drawn to Norway by the allure of the midnight sun, which illuminates the lush landscape around the clock during the summer months. Combined with an abundance of diverse and relatively undisturbed natural habitat, the long daylight hours make Norway a popular destination among migrating birds, which travel from nearby European countries as well as far-flung lands in South America, sub-Saharan Africa and even Antarctica.

UFF-DA...

Lena was hired to clean house for Mrs. Oscar Rømmegrøt. Due to unforeseen delays, Lena arrived nearly two hours late. Mrs. Rømmegrøt was quite put out but tried to restrain her chagrin. Finally, as Lena was putting away her coat and hat, Mrs. Rømmegrøt remarked, "Lena, I am in a state of consternation." "Vell," Lena responded, "Vhy don't you try All Bran?"

Red Stangland's Ole & Lena #5

Norse Press
P.O. Box 1554
Sioux Falls, SD 57101

Also available at Open
House Imports, Mt. Horeb,
WI 608-437-5468

[Dis and Dat with Olivia Cook and Joakim Wichstad Mortveit](#)



Our member spotlight in this edition features Olivia Cook and Joakim Mortveit. Olivia (from Mount Horeb, WI) met Joakim (from Haugesund, Norway) while she was studying abroad in Bø i Telemark, Norway, in 2016. They have since married (2018) and moved to North Carolina where Olivia is a PhD student studying Human Development and Family Studies at the University of North Carolina—Greensboro, and Joakim is a Master's of Exercise Science student at Appalachian State University.

They currently live in Banner Elk, NC, located in the Blue Ridge Mountains. Olivia and Joakim enjoy hiking, going to the gym, cooking, and watching cheesy teen television dramas. For example, sometimes when Olivia and Joakim are missing Norway, they watch *SKAM*, the hit Norwegian drama series about the daily life and times of teenagers in the wealthy Frogner borough of Oslo. Although Olivia and Joakim speak primarily English with one another, they try to maintain their connection to Norway through cooking, keeping up with Norwegian news, and video chatting with their Norwegian family.

IN MEMORIUM

I send my sincere thank you for the lovely hibiscus plant you gave me when our son Eric died. It is planted so I can see it out of my kitchen window. When I see it, I will remember Eric and Vennelag Lodge.

The Walser Family



Vennelag Lodge

On behalf of Marlyn Grinde's family, we would like to present the Sons of Norway with a memorial gift in memory of our mom. She was immensely proud to be an active member. Mom enjoyed the many friendships that were a result of the mutual appreciation for everything wonderful about the Norwegian culture.

Regards,

Lisa Grinde and family



Righteous and Courageous Col. Heg deserved better

WSJ, June 30, 2020

John Sharpless

The destruction of the Hans Christian Heg statue on the Capital Square in Madison troubles me deeply. His life serves as a monument to what our country is at its best.

He was a Norwegian immigrant who took to heart our most precious ideals- liberty and equality and worked to make them manifest in his own time and place. He actively resisted the tyranny of slavocracy by assisting runaway slaves in their quest for freedom.

For Heg, the Civil War was not simply a war for union but a war for emancipation.

HANS CHRISTIAN HEG STATUE TO BE RESTORED

Officials seated on the State Capitol and Executive Residence Board have approved the repair and partial reconstruction of the Colonel Hans Christian Heg statue that once stood on the Capitol grounds in Madison. A new head will be cast for the statue which went missing on June 23rd following protests of police brutality and the state's massive racial disparities. The Wisconsin State Historical Society will set up a restoration fund which will accept donations from private donors. The restoration will be partly funded by the state's fine arts insurance policy which has a \$50,000 deductible.

Heg was born at Haugestad in the community of Lierbyen in Lier, Buskerud, Norway on December 21, 1829. Heg migrated to Waukesha County in Wisconsin from Norway in 1840.

Heg became a rising young politician and a member of the newly formed Republican Party. He was an outspoken anti-slavery activist and a leader of Wisconsin's Wide Awakes, an anti-slave catcher militia. Heg was a major in the 4th Wisconsin Militia and served as Wisconsin State Prison Commissioner. He was the first Norwegian born candidate elected state-wide in Wisconsin.

Heg was appointed by Governor Alexander Randall as colonel of the 15th Wisconsin Volunteer Regiment when the Civil War began. Appealing to all young "Norsemen," he said, "the government of our adopted country is in danger. It is our duty as brave and intelligent citizens to extend our hands in defense of the cause of our Country and of our homes." The 15th Wisconsin was called the Scandinavian Regiment since its soldiers were almost all immigrants from Norway, with some from Denmark and Sweden. It was the only all Scandinavian regiment in the Union Army.

While valiantly serving the Union, Heg fell at the battle of Chickamauga, GA on September 19, 1863. He is buried at Norway Lutheran Church cemetery near Wind Lake, WI.

Sources: Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, July 21, 2020 and military.wikia.org

Photo credit: Aldeen Fjelstad

FRA VÅRT KOKEBOKER- FROM OUR COOKBOOKS

Drømmer Kjeks (dream cookies), Mary Gullickson-Krantz

1 cup flour
1/3 cup powdered sugar
2 Tablespoons cocoa
1/2 cup butter
Salt

15 almonds, blanched

Method:

Cream butter and sugar, add vanilla, then flour and baking powder sifted together. Knead well. Chill. Shape into small balls. Press one half almond in center of each cookie. Bake about 15 minutes at 300 degrees.

Frost or roll in powdered sugar or just sprinkle with powdered sugar.

Melt-Aways, Ann Walser

1 cup flour
1/3 cup powdered sugar
2 Tablespoons cocoa
1/2 cup butter
salt

Mix and then form balls and flatten.

Bake at 350 degrees.

Frost or roll in powdered sugar or just sprinkle with powdered sugar.

Wedge Salad (kilesalat) from the Norwegian American Newspaper

Ingredients

1 head of iceberg lettuce	Creamy blue cheese dressing
Blue cheese crumbles	Bacon crumbles
Chives, chopped	Balsamic vinegar
1 Tomato, seeded and diced	1 Cucumber, seeded, and diced

Method:

Cut the head of lettuce into wedges and plate one wedge per person. Spoon dressing over each wedge and then sprinkle the cheese, bacon, cucumbers, tomatoes, and chives. Drizzle each wedge with balsamic vinegar before serving.

GHOSTS OF THE OLD PERRY CEMETERY

Arthur Ness

Cemeteries are always full of history and memories. In the case of Perry, you can sometimes see some of the past if you know where to look.

The ghosts in the Daleyville Cemetery behind the Perry Church are not the restless spirits of old settlers. They are the traces of the old Perry cemetery itself. Unlike traditional ghosts who appear on dark and stormy nights, these ghosts show up in the heat of late summer days when the grass begins to die and turn brown.

In 1914, the Perry Congregation was going to celebrate its 60th Anniversary. The cemetery had been in use since 1858, and the Anniversary Committee decided it did not look too good. The lots had been set up quite randomly. Some had low stone fences, some had iron fences, some had missing or fallen stones, and some just had sunken graves with no markers at all. Something had to be done.

Starting in 1914 and continuing into 1915, fences were removed. Some markers were reset on new bases, rows were straightened, and some old, broken markers were removed. Grading and filling were also done. A few bodies were moved, but not many. It was all neat and tidy but done at the loss of some early history. One of our former members told me that, back in the 30's, he had seen a lot of old gravestones half-buried in the dump. Another illegible old stone was used as a doorstep outside the back door of one of Daleyville's homes.

The ghosts I spoke of show up in the grass when the ground starts to dry. The grass dies first above places where the ground has been disturbed or above buried foundations where the soil is thin. About halfway back and a little left of center is the old **Hans Valstad** lot. Possibly as early as about 1860, and until 1914, my grandmother's parents, seven of her siblings, three of her grandparents, maybe two of her aunts, and possibly her great-grandfather were buried there. There are two rows of small head stones, an old planter, and the big headstone. The lot used to have a low stone fence, and you can see the outline in the first picture of where that fence once was – at quite an angle to the current rows. The bigger dry spot in front of the main stone is where it stood before 1915. The last burial was in January 1914, and none of the bodies were moved. It was hard enough getting one of my grandmother's brothers to agree to move the rows and re-set the big stone.

My great-grandparents, whose small headstones stand to the left of the big stone, lie between the dried spot where the big stone was and where the old planter is now. The large stone and the small stones to the right and left of it are outside of the old lot.

The other picture shows the front row at the southeast edge of the cemetery. The stone at the far left is for the family of my grandmother's aunt, Andrea Bjerke, her husband, Vilhelm, and their family. You can see the large dry patch on the ground with a smaller rectangle at the western left corner of the large patch. That patch dry is where part of the west end of the mausoleum stood until just a few years before the church burned in 1935. The rest of the building stood under what is now the drive. The Bjerkes had a daughter and a son. Vilhelm's older, unmarried brother also lived with them. In 1917, the unmarried son, Hjalmar, died. Vilhelm put up a *mausoleum* for him. It was a low, stone building, and the little rectangle marks where two steps went down to the big bronze door with a heavily barred window. The building was rectangular, and the ends were roughly Gothic in design, so they matched the lines of the church, but the gables were just for show. The roof between them was flat. Andrea died in 1921, Vilhelm died in 1924, his brother in 1926. Alma, the daughter and the last of the family, died unmarried in 1927. The church was given \$100 for maintenance, and that was that except for Andrea's three nieces. They did not always agree, but they agreed that it was an eyesore and an embarrassment. After a few years of complaining, they had it torn down and the family was "decently" buried. For many years, the family kept the big brass door key, but now all that remains is the dry spot in the grass.

There are other spots that show up here and there: Sunken spots that are not near stones, marked graves that are empty, and seemingly empty areas that are straddling older rows of unmarked graves. There are also flowers that have been coming up year after year

since at least the late 19th Century. There is a hot-pink peony that still comes up by some stones that one long-departed lady once marveled at. She could not believe there could be so many plants that came from "... that one cutting from Norway". These are just some of the traces of the past that are still there and are sometimes visible to those who know where to look.



HaikUFF-DA Poetry Contest Winners
Ingebretsen's Nordic Marketplace
Minneapolis, MN

Categories

1. Midsommer/Midtsommer
2. Christmas Traditions and Food
3. Ole and Lena
4. Nordics and Social Distancing
5. Edvard Munch

The extroverted

Norwegian stared at my shoes.

I stared at them too

-John Otstehage, Greenwood MN

"For crying out loud"

Ole yelled before car crash

A true Saab story

Dale Mattson, Bloomington MN

Painting emotions,

Our deepest anxieties,

He (Munch) touches us all.

Tom Lund, Roseville MN

Herring in the brine

Soda cracker waits alone

Twist open the jar

Doug Mattson, Albuquerque NM

Under my pillow

Seven flowers picked at night

Midsommer dreaming

Rebecca Anspach, St. Paul MN

Haiku is a Japanese form of poetry that has a specific syllable count in each line. Many schools teach a 5-7-5 syllable pattern for beginners. In Japan, however, sounds are counted, as opposed to the syllables.

Source: www.newsinenglish.no

HEADLINE NEWS FROM NORWAY,
(written in English)

- *Corona breaks out on Hurtigruten Ship
- *Equinor's high oil prices criticized
- *Too late to fend off oyster invasion
- *Norway's Elvis relishes record
- *Princess chooses public high school
- *Picasso art saved before Y-blokka razed
- *Tom Cruise returns to Norway for film
- *Moose disrupt airport operations
- *Coldest July in nearly 30 years
- *More el-scooters litter the city
- *Norwegians losing confidence in the USA

Norwegian Proverbs

depositphotos.com



Elsk med vett, så varer det lenge.
Love wisely and it will last long.

Gammel vane, vond å vende
Old habit, hard to turn

Alle finner sin overordnede en gang i livet
Everyone finds his superior once in a
lifetime.

Ugler i mossen
There are owls in the moss.
(Something is amiss.)



Tvindefossen i Voss



Source: Sons of Norway News Service

Voss: An Outdoor Sports Hub with History

Nestled in the mountains between Oslo and Bergen is a haven for outdoor sports enthusiasts and history buffs alike: the town of Vossevangen, more commonly known simply as Voss.

This town of roughly 7,000 people hosts an annual Extreme Sports Week, which is one of the largest events of its type in the world. Fittingly, the area also is home to Norway’s largest skydiving club, complete with a skydiving simulation wind tunnel for those who wish to experience the thrill of freefall without the altitude.

The area also draws more casual visitors of all skill levels to enjoy the area’s excellent year-round outdoor offerings: whitewater rafting and kayaking in the spring, hiking the summer and fall (including a trail along the escape route taken by Sverre Sigurdsson in 1177), and skiing—both cross-country and downhill—in the winter.

Voss also offers a range of attractions for those less athletically inclined, including a 13th century medieval stone church, a preserved farmstead dating back to the 1500s, and a cable car ride up the mountainside that offers stunning views of the town in the valley.

VENNELAG’S 50TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

WHO: ALL VENNELAG members, District 5 Board Representatives, and Guests of the Lodge

WHAT: Vennelag’s 50th Anniversary

WHEN: 4 – 7pm Sunday, July 25, 2021

WHERE: Martinson Hall, 108 South 2nd Street, Mt. Horeb, WI

WHY: Come and celebrate the founding of the Lodge 50 years ago. Enjoy good fellowship, a delicious meal, and lift a glass to the Lodge’s success!

ATTIRE: Dress up! Wear your “Sunday Best!” Bunads would be wonderful!

*Mark this date on your calendar, and plan to celebrate with us.

Watch your newsletter for further updates.

Our lodge was
instituted on
November 19, 1971.

Arlene Watrud-Krueger and Harley Skjervem, event co-chairs

OLE AND LENA'S TEN COMMANDMENTS

- 1 Der's only one God, ya know.
- 2 Do not make that stuffed walleye on your mantle an idol.
- 3 Cussin' ain't nice.
- 4 Go to church even when you are up nort.
- 5 Honor your far og mor.
- 6 There is only one Lena for every Ole, till death you do part.
- 7 Do not kill. Practice catch and release.
- 8 If it ain't your lutefisk, do not take it.
- 9 Don't be braggin' 'bout how much snow ya shoveled.
- 10 Keep your mind off your neighbor's hot dish.

Velkommen til Vennelag Lodge!

Rick Gullickson is a newly enrolled Lodge member. He is the brother of Marv Gullickson-

From Cultural Director Tiffany Schwoerer

When Norway became a Sovereign Nation in 1821 the Storting (Parliament) adopted a flag with the Nordic Cross, like those of other Scandinavian countries. In the early 1800s, some countries were forming republics to better represent its citizens. The red-white-blue of France and the United States flags influenced Norwegian flag creator, Fredrick Meltzer, to include those colors in the flag design. At the end of World War II, Norwegians flew their national flag that was banned by the Nazis as a celebration.

The Norwegian flag is flown on these holidays:

January 1st New Year's Day

January 21st Princess Ingrid Alexandra's birthday

February 6th Sami National Day

February 21st King Harald V's birthday

Easter

May 1st Labor Day

May 8th Liberation day

May 17th Constitution Day

Whitsunday Sunday or the 8th Sunday after Easter

June 7th Union Dissolution Day

July 4th Queen Sonia's birthday

July 20th Crown Prince Haakon Magnus' birthday

July 29th Olsok (in memory of King Olaf Haraldsson)

August 19th Crown Princess Mette-Marit's birthday

September 2nd Monday (every four years) general election

December 25th Christmas-God Jul!

*According to the Norwegian flag law of 1898, updated in 1927, the Norwegian flag is raised at 8 a.m. between March and October and at 9 a.m. in winter months. The flag is lowered at sunset but no later than 11 p.m. during "Midnight Sun" times. In the far north parts of Norway in the winter the flag is only flown between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. District 5 is selling Norwegian flags, if you need one, the cost is \$25.00.



The Vesterheim staff had thought there would be visitors in their halls by now but along with many other museums and businesses, the buildings remain closed. You are in luck, however, the Internet never sleeps! If you are craving something Norsk check to see if your favorite store has a website, if you are uncomfortable making Internet transactions call your favorite store.



ALT FOR NORGE!

Many people know that the Norwegian currency is the krone (kroner if you have many). This currency translates to Crown in English and is officially written as NOK. When you travel to Norway you will not always see prices written with NOK but rather KR for the amount.

When buying a postcard, you will see KR 10 listed on it or on the carousel rack. When you exchange dollars, you will get coins and paper after the exchange fee. Norway uses coins for smaller kroner denominations so your 1, 5, and 10-dollar amounts. The remainder of the kroner denominations are 50, 100, 500 and 1,000 they might even be different sizes and colors from one another. When you use cash, 1 Kroner is divided into 100 ore. From there your ore is in 10- and 50-kroner denominations.

Please note that Swedish and Norwegian kroner are not interchangeable. If you plan to travel to multiple countries, the easiest and most accepted thing to use is a card, either a debit or credit card. Another positive aspect of using a card is that you will not be left at the end of your travels with coins. Banks do not exchange them.

Please know that many countries have added a service charge on sales receipts that already covers the tip. When dining, look at the bill before you leave a tip. If you are eating at a restaurant where service is less formal, have a small supply of 5- and 10-Kroner coins available to thank your server.



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Please inform Duane Kittleson of any change in mailing address or email. You may make a request to discontinue the printed copy and to receive an email copy. Our newsletters are always available in color on the District 5 website: www.sonsofnorway5.com.

*Find us on the web: www.sonsofnorwaymthoreb.org