

## Vennelag News

### Please mark your calendars!

\*The **November** Lodge meeting will be held at the Mt. Horeb Community Center, 107 N. Grove Street.

BOARD Meetings will be virtual in Nov. and Dec.

Wednesday, November 10, 2021, 6:30 PM

Wednesday, December 8, 2021, 6:30 PM

LODGE Meetings at the MHCC

Thursday, October 28, 2021, 6:30 PM with live  
*Foundation Auction*

Thursday, November 18, 2021, 6:30 PM

Sunday, December 5, 2021

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration-Hi Point Steakhouse, Ridgeway, WI 4:00 PM Reservations due to Anna Olson by October 28<sup>th</sup> (608-935-3919.)

Prep

December 15-16, 9 AM until the 100 pounds of potato dough has been rolled!  
Complimentary side dishes are welcome for lunch.  
Kaffe breaks will be provided! Won't you join us?

Holiday Lefse and Pastry Sale

Saturday, December 18 at the MHCC, 9 AM

Looking Ahead: February 6, 2022--Friluftsliv event at the Eberhardt home, rural Verona, WI

### Ord fra Presidenten-A Word from the President

The fall slate of events is off to a great start!

- The Brats-in-the-Lot and Norske Bake Sale saw great weather and customer turnout. Many Lodge members helped and provided an incredible amount of baked goods. Not coincidentally, the event was very successful financially.
- The next day, the *SS Vennelag* was a big hit in the Mazo Wild West Days parade.
- Thirteen members helped make over 300 lefse rounds for the Mt. Horeb Fall Festival.
- It was great to finally convene in the Mt. Horeb Community Center for the September lodge meeting to hear Eric Dregni speak about his search for Norwegian happiness, his family's European travels, and the many books he has authored.
- Participation in the Mt. Horeb Fall Festival as an alternative to Host Frokost was a huge success, as we sold out of everything on the first day!

The point of all of this? Only that it's indeed a pleasure to work with so many people with such a strong work ethic so characteristic of this area. Stuff gets done! Here's looking forward to more such events and meetings...

Takk så mye!

ALLEN

The Vennelag Board wishes you a Spook-tacular Halloween!



The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic countries, and provide quality insurance and financial products to our

## BRATS IN THE LOT



Rita, Orv, Ann, Mary,  
Anna and Tiffany

Led by Rita Schraepfer-Derke, Vennelag bakers, laborers, grillers, servers, and sales staff worked their magic to organize and hold the *Brats on the Lot* fundraiser held at Miller's Market in Mt. Horeb on September 11th. Massive quantities of product were gobbled-up by our interested patrons.

We also appreciated the support that came from our Vennelag members who enjoyed a brat, dog, or meal deal!



Goppo, Al, Mark, Orv, and  
Duane

I want to thank everyone who transported our equipment, set up our canopies, prepared food, helped at the Brat & Bake Sale, donated food, provided money, purchased items, or assisted in any way. Making an event like that happen takes many people, and our members made our success possible. Receipts were more than \$1400, which is was fantastic. That is the most profit we have ever made at this event. Thank you again, Rita

Sons of Norway Blog-([www.sofn.com](http://www.sofn.com)) One can find the blog under the **Membership Resources** tab, following login. to the site. The blog contains current news from Norway and appeals to our younger and veteran members alike.

### **Nøgne Ø Beer Shop**

Founded nearly two decades ago in 2002, this business calls itself Norway's leading craft brewery, and for good reason. It's the largest craft beer supplier in Norway and considered one of the top 100 breweries around the globe, offering 20 distinct beers.

### **Oslo Brewing Co.**

If you're in Oslo, check out this friend-founded brewery, which opened in 2015. Together, the group of founders had a valuable skillset. Their beer is known for its Scandinavian ingredients, like fresh Norwegian water and regionally sourced grains, complemented with one-of-a-kind homespun recipes is fit for success.

### **Ægir BrewPub**

Located in Flåm on the harbor at the end of the world's deepest fjord, this Viking-inspired brewery opened in 2007 and is housed in a stave church-style building. The group set out on a mission to infuse that energy into the beers they create. Editor's note. Some of our members visited the Ægir BrewPub in 2017, and its atmosphere was a welcome step back in time while its brews were steps forward in flavor.

## ***Tusen Takk!***

It was a beautiful fall day in downtown Mt Horeb. Being part of the Fall Village Market was a whole new experience for Vennelag Lodge Sons of Norway.

Living during the COVID-19 pandemic has presented many challenges for everyone, but tackling a feat of this magnitude caused much concern with only a few weeks to prepare. However, preparations and a call for all-hands-on-deck ensured a successful event. For the foreseeable future, this may be one way to continue to have a presence in the community.

We found that many people we talked with had a distinct interest in the Norwegian culture and food. They also expressed interest in the Sons of Norway! Many people were curious about the various foods that our members served. The hot dog wrapped in lefse was a big hit, and so was the rømmegrøt!

I want to thank everyone for the hard work to make the Food Stand and Bake Sale a success. Considering this is the first time we have tried this type of event, we did very well. While we initially planned to be open both Saturday and Sunday, we sold out on Saturday by about 3:30. We had nothing left to sell on Sunday. It educates us as to the amount of product needed.

Many people packed up, took items to the storage unit, returned supplies to the community center, and all went home exhausted but satisfied with our venture. Several members went back on Sunday for clean-up.

In hindsight, we could have used Sunday, with a smaller footprint, to display information about the Lodge and encourage new memberships.

Rita



**Tasty and hot, our food hit the spot!**



## Lefse and Holiday Bake Sale – December 18



We will be holding a lefse and bake sale, and I am asking your family to make some items for that purpose. **We are encouraging everyone to provide Norwegian items, so we can share the customs and traditions which are linked to our heritage.**

Please be aware of food allergies, especially with nuts. If there are nuts in your baked items, please indicate that.

**HELP IS NEEDED AT THE ELC CHURCH ON DECEMBER 15 and 16 TO MAKE LEFSE.**

**We will work from 9 AM TO 4 PM; standing for a length of time may be necessary.**

We will be making a lot of lefse, so we need a lot of help. One hundred pounds of potatoes will be used. The more rollers and bakers we have, the quicker this process will be. If you can help make lefse, we encourage you to come and help us. We need people who can roll, flip, cool, package and price the lefse. If you have your equipment: griddles, sticks, or rolling pins, please bring them.

We will take a lunch break partway through the day. Sandwiches, plates, napkins, silverware and beverages will be provided. If you want to bring items for lunch, that would be welcome. There will be plenty of coffee provided.

Please contact Rita Schraepfer at 608-220-7565 or email her at [rsderke@gmail.com](mailto:rsderke@gmail.com) and let her know if you can help. We will be doing this for 2 days and we want to be sure we have enough people to cover the two days.

**I realize this is a lot to ask, but this will be one of our fundraisers for the year. I appreciate any help you can give.**

For the bake sale - We will need help packaging and pricing bake sale items on December 17 in the afternoon at the Community Center. Please contact Mary Krantz at [laffalot@mhtc.net](mailto:laffalot@mhtc.net) or 608-576-5074, and let her know if you can help.

Please drop off your baked items on Friday by 3 PM for the Bake Sale or contact Rita to drop off items before the Sale.

Rita

Public Health Madison and Dane County have extended their public mask mandate until November 5, 2021. As we learn to live with the pandemic, I want to thank our members for embracing the spirit of Norwegian *dugnad*, and helping one another to sail through these turbulent and murky waters together. Protecting your family and Vennelag's members is the safest course of action. When indoors, wear a mask, use social distancing, and practice hand-washing.

President Watrud and the Vennelag Board are working creatively to meet the needs of our members. They welcome your ideas and your willingness to bring them to fruition.

Cheryl Wille-Schlesser, Lodge Counselor

### Meet the La Dow Family!



Brian and Kim La Dow's family includes: Faye, 14, Dyland, 12, and Adalyn 2.

We are in the process of enrolling the children as Heritage members.

The La Dows own Skål Brew Pub in Mt. Horeb.

Velkommen til Vennelag Lodge!

### [Do you have a change of address?](#)

Please inform Duane Kittleson of any change in mailing address or email. You may make a request to discontinue the printed copy to receive an email copy notification when the newsletter is posted on [www.sonsofnorway5.com](http://www.sonsofnorway5.com)

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Your help is requested...One area of concern for our lodge is the *recruitment of new members*. Welcoming others provides us with the lifeblood needed to ensure our lodge continues into the future. Retaining our current membership is also vital. The last membership update from the International Office indicated that we have our work cut out for us.

Invite someone who is interested in the Nordic lifestyle or learning about their heritage to our next meeting! Membership co-chair Karen Eberhardt, assisted by Jean Grindle, and Vice President Harley Skjervem have recently begun their duties in earnest. A meeting will be held soon to chart a course of action. If you know of a good location to post our membership materials, please let a member of the committee know.



Need raffle tickets? Call Steve at 608-575-6627 or 608-575-6786.

Steve Frame attracted a lot of attention at the Market! He was a live model for visitor photos! Steve sold raffle tickets for the trip to Norway, and he enrolled a couple of new members to our lodge! Takk, Steve, for a job well done.



Chuck, Audrey, Arlene, and Martin taking a break from business.

Onion's skin very thin, Mild winter coming in: Onion's skin thick and tough, Coming winter cold and rough. - ~Gardner's Rhyme



The District 5 Board of Directors met at the Madison West Marriott Hotel in Middleton the weekend of October 8-9, 2021. A joint meeting with the D5 2022 Convention Committee from Idun Lodge and the Director of the Edvard Grieg Chorus of Madison, was held. This hotel will be the site of both gatherings from June 16-22, 2022. Our delegates and guests will have the opportunity to attend the Sangerfest Grand Concert.

In business news, several approved grants to local lodges were passed by the D5 Board. Grants for the shipping costs of membership (anniversary), cultural, and sports pins will now be subsidized. Lodges will need to provide proof of purchase. The grants are limited.

In addition, several matching grants will also be available to local lodges for small and large cultural projects. A budget for the projects must be submitted with the application. I encourage the Vennelag cultural, sports, and membership chairs to use these windfalls to offset costs. Local leaders need to watch the Friendly Fifth Friday Newsletter for further details and the application posting.

A long requested adult heritage camp weekend has been confirmed for October 2022 with the Giants of the Earth Center in Spring Grove, MN. It will be held in conjunction with UffDa Fest! An event will be held in association with Valheim Lodge of Spring Grove. This will be a perfect way to celebrate our heritage with others who share our bond.

Cheryl Wille-Schlessler, District 5 Vice President

Ole who hailed from Minnesota was in need of a bank loan so he walked into a bank in New York City and spoke to the loan officer. He told her that he was going to Oslo for the All-Scandinavian Summer Festival for two weeks and needed to borrow \$5,000, even tho he was not a depositor of the bank.

The bank officer indicated that she would need some form of security for the loan, so Ole handed over the keys to his new Ferrari. The car was parked on the street in front of the bank. Ole produced the title and all seemed in order. The loan officer agreed to hold the car as collateral for the loan and apologized for having to charge 12% interest.

The loan papers were signed and an employee of the bank then drove the Ferrari into the secure parking garage below the bank and parked it.

Later, the bank's president and all its officers enjoyed a good laugh at Ole for using his Ferrari as collateral for a \$5,000 loan. Two weeks later, Ole returned, repaid the \$5,000 and the interest fee.

The loan officer said, "Sir, we are very happy to have had your business, and this transaction has worked out very nicely, but we are a bit puzzled. While you were away, we checked your history at Dunn & Bradstreet and found that you are a distinguished alumni from the University of Minnesota. You are a highly sophisticated investor and multimillionaire with real estate and financial interests all over the world. Your investments include oil wells around Williston, ND. What puzzles us is why you would borrow \$5,000.

Ole replied, "Where else in New York City can I park my card for two weeks for a nominal fee and expect it to be there when I return?" UFF-da!

## NAGC CLASS IS A GO!

For all members who registered an interest in the NAGC class on geno-researching in 2019, it has been scheduled!

Please mark your calendar for Nov 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 starting at 10:00 AM. This all-day class will end at 3:00 PM. Lunch will be ordered for the day, so please call the Norwegian American Genealogical Center and ask for Diane to get further information.

Also, if you cannot attend that day please contact the NAGC to get details on receiving reimbursement.

Note: Should you wish to join the class and you haven't previously made a reservation, please call for availability. Due to a variety of circumstances, they are limiting the class size.

Please plan to carpool to the NAGC; parking is limited. I will be going to the class that day so please let me know if you need a ride.

Tiffany

## THE DAYS ARE COUNTING DOWN TO...

**Vennelag's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration on December 5<sup>th</sup>!**

### Important information for you:

- \*The celebration will take place in Leif Erickson Hall at Hi Point Steak House Ridgeway, WI
- \*Social hour will begin at 4:00 PM (Assorted cheese and vegetable trays) Ron Stubbings, International SofN President will be attending.
- \* The program will start at 5:00 PM, followed by dinner
- \*Dinner entrees will include:  
Oven Roasted Chicken Breast/Roasted Pork Loin/Almond Crusted Tilapia
- \*We will toast to 50 years and celebrate with cake!
- \*Come dressed in your Norwegian attire, bunad, or finest outfit-no jeans, please.

[www.sonsofnorwaymthoreb.org](http://www.sonsofnorwaymthoreb.org)

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