



**SONS of
NORWAY**

Vennelag Lodge 5-513

Vennelag News

November-Desember
2023

Important dates to remember:

Lodge Meeting Dates: 6:30 pm start

Thursday November 16, 2023 (held 1 week ahead of normal time due to Holiday.)

Lodge Meeting Dates: 2:00 pm start

December 3, 2023 –JultreFest

January 21, 2024

February 18, 2024 - Friluftsliv***

March 17, 2024

All Lodge meetings held at the
Community Center - 107 N Grove St. in Mount
Horeb unless otherwise noticed in the
Newsletter article of a different location.

***Friluftsliv –held at Eberhardt’s house

Board/Business Meeting Dates:

6:30pm -Mt. Horeb Culver’s Location

November 8, 2023

December 13, 2023

January 10, 2024

February 14, 2024

Newsletter deadline - December 1, 2023

Mark your calendar dates –

Lefse Sale –December 16, 2023

National Sami Day - February 6, 2024

February 9 to 12 –Scandihoovian fest

Syttende Mai –May 17, 2024

Kaffe Stue – July 19 & 20 2024

From the President-

As we head into the tail end of 2023, it’s time to reflect. This is my 4th year of the presidency, which includes overseeing the memorial service at the November meeting. Tempus certainly does fugit! Unfortunately, this year will see a record number (for my tenure) of members who passed away in the past year. These members are Carlton Severson, Phyllis Anderson, Roger Schlessler, Hilda Oimoen, Doris Hayes, Richard Rohowetz, and most recently Chuck Morkri. I didn’t know them all, but it’s apparent that many had a significant and long term impact on the success of Vennelag Lodge.

We will be honoring their memories at the November 16 meeting.

I don’t quite know how to summarize 2023. Some things went well, and others didn’t get off the launching pad, like the planned trip to the Norse Festival in Green Bay. So 2024 will be a new year with new opportunities and challenges. It’s been a privilege to serve as your president for these past four years, so let’s see what we can do to keep moving forward and celebrate the work of those who preceded us.

Don’t forget that the January thru March Lodge meetings will be held on the third Sunday of each month. And if anyone needs any help as the weather changes, be it for rides to meetings, shoveling snow, getting groceries, or just wanting someone to talk to, the Board is just a phone call or email away.

Takk så mye

Allen

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

November Meeting will be to honor our members who have passed into their next chapter. A ceremony will be performed during the meeting as a way for our Lodge to say goodbye to those that have gone onto another story. A way to honor our members is to consider taking a position on the Board which will have elections during the meeting which will be held the month of November.

December JultreFest!!!

We will be having a feast fit for a winter night proceeded by a jolly afternoon laced with laughter that games produce. The games and socializing will start at 2 pm on December 3, 2023 please bring a family favorite game if you have it handy to share but games will be provided. Santa has been invited but he has not RSVP'ed yet.

To help plan our JultreFest - RSVP to vennelageditor@gmail.com or 608-527-2821 by Nov 16, 2023 with how many adults and how many children will be attending



Just in case you haven't heard about the scholarship winner Alyssa Bray - left is Alyssa with Lodge members JoDon Anderson, Arlene Watrud-Krueger and Allen Watrud.

VENNELAG

LODGE SUPPORTS BLANCHARDVILLE'S SON LOG CABIN

At the August 31 Lodge meeting, a presentation was given to the lodge members from the Blanchardville Friends of McKellar Park committee members, Kim Marty and Beth Kundert. The presentation highlighted the significance of the log cabin built by the SON in 1933, and its relocation to make way for a new pool in McKellar Park. The decision to move it beside the Historical Society building along the Pecatonica River emphasizes the Lodge's effort to preserve its history. A generous donation of \$1,000.00 from the Vennelag Lodge to support the maintenance and renovation of the log cabin will undoubtedly play a crucial role in ensuring the landmark's continued existence and cultural significance.

The presentation of the check during the Blanchardville Homecoming parade on September 16, 2023, was a wonderful way to celebrate this donation and show solidarity with the Friends of McKellar Park committee members Beth Kundert, Jody Moen and Kim Marty (not pictured).

The presence of Vennelag members aboard the float, Duane and Nancy Kittleson, Rita Schaefer-Derke, Orville Olson, Mark Hanson, Allen Watrud, and Arlene Watrud Krueger added an extra layer of community support and demonstrates the lodge's dedication to its mission.

Overall, this story reflects a strong sense of community and heritage preservation and is clear that the Sons of Norway Vennelag Lodge is actively contributing to the betterment of its local area.



TWENTY YEARS OF FROKOST!!

On October 7 we had another successful Frokost thanks to all of the many people that baked, or made foods; some members prepared lefse, smorgrot, and cookies. Many people helped with prep work, such as washing lettuce or rolling meat, or organizing tables and seating, cutting tablecloths, wrapping silverware, copying flyers, picking up food or other supplies from our vendors, decorating the tables, and many other things. It takes many people to serve food or pour coffee, plate pastries, clear tables, cashier or sell items at the Bake Sale. Many people donated money towards the Frokost as well. Everyone did a great job and I want to thank all of you for all of your hard work! This is always a big fundraiser for the Lodge. Our Lodge will be donating some of our proceeds from this event to worthy community projects. We can all be proud that our Lodge is a vital contributing partner in Mt Horeb and the surrounding area.

Tusen Takk & Well Done

Rita Schraepfer-Derke



The Lefse Rolling crew!



Discussions about how to eat the lefse.

Sons of Norway District 5

Convention Indianapolis Crowne Plaza Airport Hotel 2501 S
High School Rd, Indianapolis, IN 46241

June 19-22, 2024

Cultural Arts Display -Calling all members of Sons of Norway
District 5!

Prepare your cultural arts projects for display at the District
5 Convention in June, 2024 in Indianapolis. Any cultural arts
project completed since June of 2022 is eligible for display.

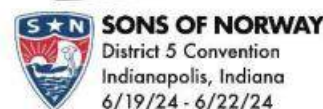
An important part of the convention is the presentation of
folk art projects completed by members. Your work will be
appreciated by members from throughout the district.

What a wonderful opportunity to display your skill and show others your contribution to
carrying on traditional skills. This year our display space is somewhat limited, so it is
more important than usual to register your pieces as soon as they are completed. The
judging will be people's choice; there is no fee; preregistration is needed; work must
have been finished after the last convention; SofN members only may enter; work must
be completed by the person registered as the artist; each item must have appropriate
identification attached; items will be kept in a locked room overnight; volunteers will
monitor the display during the day.

Cultural Skills Categories include: rosemaling, Norwegian weaving, Nordic or Sami-
influenced knitting, Norwegian needlework (Hardainger embroidery, Klostersøm,
Diamantsom, Nålbinding), crocheting, tatting, wood carving (figure, relief, chip carving),
bent wood construction, photography, painting, knife-making, stained glass, kolrosing.
Cultural arts items may be checked in at the display area Thursday, June 20th between 1
pm and 3 pm. Items may be sent with someone if the artist is not attending the
convention.

Send questions to Judy Ghastin District 5 Cultural Director at judy62ghastin@gmail.com

RACING TO THE FUTURE





October was the Sons of Norway Foundation Month!

It is my privilege as the Vennelag Lodge Foundation director to share that our Sons of Norway Foundation had set a goal of reaching \$900 for 2023. Over the last few campaign years, thanks to you our members, we have not only reached our financial goal, but been the recipient of a number of grants towards our Lodge programs.

At the Sons of Norway Foundation, we are driven by a sense of purpose: To celebrate Nordic culture and heritage through scholarships and grants to our members and communities, and cultural exchange opportunities, providing disaster relief to members in need, and funding community programs that celebrate Norwegian heritage and culture.

In 2022, the Sons of Norway Foundation distributed over \$218,000 in awards.

\$133,000 In **Scholarships** for students to study in the United States, Canada, and Norway

\$75,895 In **Grants** for Norwegian culture and heritage programs

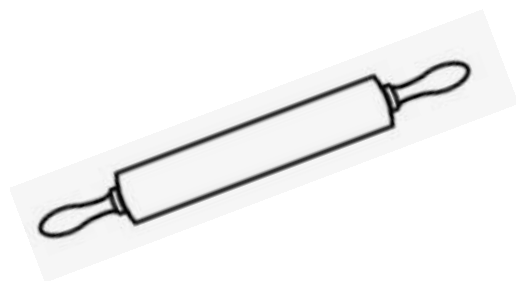
\$9,296 In **Camperships** for kids across the United States to attend Norwegian cultural camps

The Sons of Norway Foundation is approaching 60 years of making positive impact on our communities. It has been a joy to see how the Foundation supports our members, our communities, our youth, as well as educational opportunities and cultural projects.

Before we go, we say thank you to all who have supported the Foundation in the past, and now into the future! **Tusen takk!**

Harley Skjervem

Tusen Takk!



Allen Watrud, President

Phone: (608) 836-3550

Email: awatrud@gmail.com

Anna Olson, Treasurer

Phone: (608) 935-3915

Email: oranno@frontier.com

Arlene Watrud-Krueger Vice President

(Events)

Phone: (608) 836-7450

Email: akrueger@chorus.net

Tiffany Schwoerer Lodge Editor

Phone: (608) 527-2821

E-mail: Vennelageditor@gmail.com

Harley Skjervem, Vice President

(Youth, Communications, Events)

Phone: (608) 829-1728

Email: hskjervem@gmail.com

Greg Ragan, Financial Benefits Counselor

Phone: (815) 988-5975

E-mail: gragan51@gmail.com

Do you have a change of address?

Please inform International Headquarters of any change in mailing address or email.



You may make a request to discontinue the printed copy of the Newsletter 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

*If you know someone who is interested in membership in Vennelag Lodge, please direct them to this site. It will give them a better idea of our organization.