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Trustee (2021-2023)
Ron Hensler.

Trustee (2020-2022)
Tom Johnson

Vennligfolk Lodge
meets the second
Sunday evening, 5:00 pm
September thru May
at St. Paul's
United Methodist Church
600 Wilshire Blvd Stevens
Point, WI

Vennligblad

Friendly pages for the 'friendly people' of Vennligfolk and their friends
Sons of Norway Lodge #5-627 for Central Wisconsin
Stevens Point, Whiting, and Plover

Volume 29 Issue 2

DISTRICT 5, ZONE 2

MARS OG APRIL 2022

Fra presidenten:



For many years, **Vennligfolk Lodge** met in the small basement of the Plover Library. At the time, the library basement met the needs of our



Saturday, May 13, 2023. The Cultural Festival has always been our lodge's biggest fundraiser, but thankfully, due to the generosity of our members, our treasury has ample funds. No additional fundraisers are needed at this time.

smaller lodge. After a while, finding a better meeting place was often talked about at our officers' meetings. Eight years ago, our lodge did move out of the basement when St. Paul's United Methodist Church agreed to let us meet in their building. That was a major "upgrade" in our lodge's meeting place! Fletcher Hall is larger, has a bigger attached kitchen, lots of storage, no stairs, ample parking, and two restrooms close by. Since we started meeting there, our membership has grown. I also want to add that St. Paul's staff has been absolutely wonderful in working with our lodge's schedule and set up. I can't think of a better place for our lodge to meet.

This month, **Vennligfolk Lodge** has a chance to show St. Paul's UMC our appreciation by contributing to their "Open Door Bistro" meal on Wednesday, March 16th. That happens to be International Night, and the theme is Norwegian/Scandinavian. Honestly, the best Norwegian cooks and bakers just happen to be in **Vennligfolk Lodge**! Please contact Carl or Lynn Rasmussen if you want to sign up to contribute to the meal, help with the set up & serving, or would like to attend the meal. Mange takk.

If you haven't heard yet, the Portage County Cultural Festival is again cancelled for this year due to Covid concerns. The date is now set for

One thing that is not cancelled this year is Midtsommer! Mark your calendars for Tuesday, June 21st (rain date: Thursday June 23rd) where we will be meeting on the beautiful grounds of the South New Hope Church. It will be a potluck dinner with brats & buns provided by the lodge. Everyone enjoyed our three outside "desserts only" gatherings last summer, but it just seems time to do our traditional Midtsommer again.

Now for a confession . . . Just a few days ago, I finally sent my total numbers of hours I spent on Vennligfolk activities for 2021 to our secretary, Tom Johnson. If you haven't sent Tom your total number of hours yet, now is the time to do it because the hours have to be sent in to District-5 shortly. These numbers are important as they help to keep Sons of Norway a non-profit organization. Tom's email is as follows: T2johnso@gmail.com.

Vennligfolk Lodge officers are always looking for new ideas for programs, road trips, and other activities that will enhance our lodge and our meetings. Perhaps *you* have some ideas. If so, please contact any of your officers and let us know your ideas and suggestions.

Vennlig hilsen, Susan Morton

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Gratulerer med dagen

Congratulations on the day!

Mars

Phillip Peterson - 10
Cathy Williamson - 14
Diane Beversdorf - 14
Patti Rous - 17
Jerry Trzebiatowski - 21
Adam Johnson - 25

March						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

April

Don Johnson - 1
Martin Lieber - 2
Charolene Lieber - 7
Jane Gjevne - 10
Tracy Johnson - 12
Daniel Walvig - 12
Charlotte Hensler - 15
Gary Anderson - 27
Mark Hansen - 29

April						
Su	M	Tu	W	Th	F	Sa
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

god påske
Happy Easter
April 17

What's Happening at Vennligfolk???

March 13th - "A Norwegian's Battle for Breath" Jedidiah and Kendra Haas will talk about Jedidiah's Cystic Fibrosis diagnosis at an early age, his battle with the disease, receiving a double lung transplant in 2017 and his inspiring message of hope and faith. **Servers:** Elaine Anderson, Karen Trzebiatowski, Lynn Rasmussen; **Marshall:** Arno Morton; **Table Décor:** Charlotte Hensler



Wednesday, March 16th Norwegian Dinner at St. Paul's Methodist Church. A heritage appreciation meal prepared by Vennligfolk for St. Pauls UMC members. **NOTE:** 3 volunteers still needed for: 1-open faced cheese sandwich plater (1 bread loaf); 1-open faced egg-salad sandwich plater; or 1 desert; **call Carl or Lynn Rasmussen at (715-341-7494); or email to crasmuss2@gmail.com or LynnRathome@gmail.com.** Lodge members can also attend; Please RSVP though by March 1 to help give us a count for food planning.



April 10th - "Our 2019 Norwegian Experience" Cindy and Mark Kluck will describe their pre-covid "dream-come-true" 4-week trip to Norway complete with cozy visits with 26 cousins; fun surprises; stops at ancestral homes, and thrilling scenery. **Servers:** Lori Johnson, Louise Lang, Susan Morton; **Marshalls:** Don & Lori Johnson, Louise Lang; **Table Décor:** Susan Morton

Sunday May 1st - "Not Just For Men" Women are engaging more and more in hobby arts previously thought of as "just for men." Vennligfolk member, Jerry Trzebiatowski will share stories and slides showing women working at their crafts at various classes and events he has attended over the years. These crafts include casting iron, welding metal sculpture, and forging knife blades. Many of the crafts have a Nordic connection. **(NOTE:** Our May meeting will be one week earlier than our regular, allowing families to celebrate Mother's Day May 8. **Servers:** Donna Van Dreser, Charlotte Hensler, Lois Hagen; **Marshall:** Mark Hansen; **Table Décor:** Mark Hansen

Cultural Fest May 14 After a two-year hiatus, "Good, Fun, & Music from Around the World" returns again to Portage County Area Senior High. Anticipate a grand celebration. Plan to participate in the celebration and demonstrate our Scandinavian heritage plus raise funds for lodge activities.

CANCELLED UNTIL 2023

Vennligfolk Midtsomer 2021 Tuesday June 21. A potluck and gathering on the beautiful grounds of the South New Hope Church. **(Rain date:** Thurs. June 23)



District 5 Sons of Norway 2022 Convention

The regional District 5 convention will meet at the Madison Marriott West in Middleton, WI for the 45 Lodges of D5 from six states **June 18-19, 2022.** Vennligfolks' three delegates are: Susan & Arno Morton, & Tom Johnson. Alternate delegates are: Carl & Lynn Rasmussen and Rita Johnson. Other Lodge members can attend and enjoy the many planned cultural activities.



Help Spread Some Sunshine!

I enjoy my duties as Sunshine Coordinator sending Happy Birthday cards. There are times I hear about a member who has been ill, had surgery or a death in their family or, even something else to celebrate. I would like to have known to also send a card and note. Please call me or send an email with such news. I'm sure everyone feels good about being remembered, especially when they're not feeling well!

Mange takk, **Bea Berg, Sunshine Coordinator**
(715) 544-4490 beaberg@charter.net

2021 in Photos

Although COVID reduced some activities, our Lodge still stayed active and connected throughout the year!



Pres. Susan Morton & Rosie Poulsen



Lodge officers share knit bunnies at Easter



Lois Alfson



Mid-summer at the Rasmussen's



July pie social at Collins Park



August host Jen Haas



Kathy Clucas & Char Hensler serve "Berries on a Cloud"



**After 18 months,
Programs begin again!**



Norway travel by Butch Pomeroy



August "sundae backyard social" at the home of Jen and Ray Haas



A September Lodge trip to Door County



Fall in Door County



Richard Ruppel presents Scandinavian Happiness in Oct.



43 Attendees at Julefest 2021 plus over 80 nisse! These folks look happy.

Meet: Milo Harpstead

"My Life Recounted" (Part 1)

1. Early Life. I was born on our home farm near Wilmot, SD on Sept 28, 1930. I was delivered by Mrs. Gunhild Stensing, an elderly local midwife lady from Norway. My father was an immigrant from Norway. My mother, from Iowa was of German/Polish decent. My brother, Dale, is four years older than I, and my half-sister, Maxine Ellsworth, passed away from diabetes in 1932 when she was in high school. We farmed with horses until we got our first steel wheeled F-12 tractor in 1937. We continued to have horses for working and riding throughout my youth. Like our neighbors, we did not have an indoor toilet and all of the water was carried from the 270' deep well where the stock tank was located. Electricity and telephone were extended to our area after WWII in about 1947.

I went to a biracial (white and Sioux) one room school, Lee #5, for 8 years and then to Wilmot High School. South Dakota did not offer a driver's license at that time, so we students from the country drove the family car, pooled rides, or in the senior year there was a privately owned school bus. Most of us were used to driving a tractor by about 10 years of age or, even younger. I was never athletic so did not participate in team sports in high school nor later. It was at the start of my senior year that we had a new superintendent named Fred Plachy. He was very progressive and recognized me as a student who might do well in forensics. I joined the debate team and participated in out-of-town contests such as in Watertown SD and at Sioux Falls College in Sioux Falls. At those debate contests I also entered the extemporaneous speaking contests. This involved selecting from one of a few topics and then going to the library for two hours to gather information for a 10-minute speech in defense of your topic. The contestant's ability to speak coherently was ranked by a teacher. This proved to be a valuable experience.

2. The in-between year. After my graduation from high school in 1948 and when the crops were harvested, I and a high school classmate went to Minneapolis and found a job maintaining the tracks



for the street cars and for the railroad where the two crossed. We were known as "section hands" or sometimes as "Gandy dancers" after the Gandy company in Chicago that manufactured most of our tools for replacing ties and rails of the track.

3. Undergraduate education. In fall 1949, I became a freshman at South Dakota State University (SDSU) majoring in agriculture with an emphasis in Soil Science. All males were required to take ROTC for the first two years and I stuck with it for all four years. As a result of my high school experience, I joined the forensics club's debate team. We were a dedicated group and did well in contests in South Dakota and surrounding states. It was a good experience for my career in teaching.

The club that I was most active in was the Lutheran Student Association (LSA). We had a large group and every other Sunday night we had a supper meeting followed by a program at First Lutheran Church in Brookings, South Dakota. We had numerous committees covering all the bases. I was the club president during my senior year. I lived in dormitories during my first two years at SDSU, but then the LSA bought a house near campus to be our headquarters and a place for some male students to rent bedrooms. I lived there my junior and senior years.

Every summer the National LSA held an Ashram (gathering) someplace in the USA. I attended three Ashrams during my program years at Brookings. One was to Traverse City, Michigan, another at Estes Park, Colorado, and the last at Gettysburg, PA.

Meet: Milo Harpstead. . . continued

Upon graduation in 1953, I was also commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Infantry. The Korean War continued through 1953, but it was winding down, so troops were being withdrawn.

4. Military. During my years as an undergraduate at SDSU I was in ROTC for all four years. Upon graduation I was also commissioned as a 2nd Lt in the Infantry. This was in 1953 during the latter period of the Korean War. My location of deployment was to Fort Benning Georgia for honing our skills on an army base. From there I was assigned to help train new draftees at Fort Gordon, Georgia. In spring 1954, my teaching career began when I was assigned to a Quartermaster Unit at Fort Richardson, near Anchorage, Alaska. My assignment was to teach infantry tactics to soldiers who handled the supply and maintenance of equipment. They were expected to be combat ready in the event of an invasion by the Russians via Alaska!

5. Post Graduate Education. After my active duty in the military, I returned to SDSU in 1955 for an MS in Agronomy. During this time, I had an assistantship teaching Soil Science Labs. I received my Master of Science degree in spring 1957.

6. Travel. That summer of 1957, I made my first trip to Europe. I traveled mostly by hitch hiking from England to Italy and up through Western Europe to Scandinavia. My father emigrated from Norway in 1893. He had two older sisters, two younger sisters, and two younger brothers. He never saw any of them again, but they were all living when I got there, so I met all of them. A problem was that I did not speak much Norwegian! Karl Engelsvoll, one of Dad's bothers-in-law, had lived in the US and had worked for Dad on the homestead in North Dakota. He was my interpreter. Betsy Engelsvoll, my cousin, had reestablished contact with us after WW-2 and she continued to host her American relatives until the time of her death in the early 1970s.



7. Graduate study for my PhD. In fall 1957, I began my PhD program at the University of Minnesota in Soil Science. I shared an instructorship with a colleague. We taught the introductory soil science labs on the St Paul campus. Most of the classes that I was taking

were on the Minneapolis campus in Geology and Chemistry. I also took a year of Norwegian as one of my language requirements. There was a city bus between the two campuses. During the summer I mapped soils with the USDA Soil Conservation Service in Wright County Minnesota.

8. Settling in Stevens Point Wisconsin. In December 1960, nearing the completion of my graduate program, I learned that a faculty position to teach Soil Science at what later became the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point was being circulated. I

contacted President Hansen and drove over for an interview. I was offered the position and accepted it that day and began teaching in January 1961. I continued to drive back to the Twin Cities almost every weekend and took one course in Physical Chemistry that summer. I completed my PhD program in January 1962 attended the graduation ceremony in June. That evening it looked like rain was approaching and while the guest speaker was talking the rain started. The President of the University grabbed the microphone from the speaker and said, "I confer upon all of you the appropriate degrees!" The sky opened up. There was a rush to shelter, but we all got soaked.

That summer 1962, I flew to Bogota Colombia, via Jamaica, to visit my brother, Dale, and his family. Dale was working as a plant breeder (corn) for the Rockefeller Foundation. On my return trip I flew from country to country in Central America and Mexico.

To be continued . . .

In our May-June Vennligblad edition, Milo describes meeting his future wife, Ruth, starting a family, his involvement with chartering Vennligfolk Lodge and other pursuits.

Bacalao

Norwegian Salt Cod Stew, or Bacalao, from the Spanish word for *cod*, is a recipe made with salt cod, olive oil, stewed tomatoes, garlic, shallots, and potatoes. Though this recipe hails from the Sons of Norway website, there is more info also about this dish at: theforkedspoon.com

Ingredients:

1½ (1/2 kg) pounds salted and dried cod, bacalao
 2 pounds (1 kg) potatoes, cut into 1/2-inch slices
 3 large yellow onions, cut into 1/2-inch slices
 2 cans tomatoes, chopped, with their juices
 1-pound (1/2 kg) canned pimientos, drained and cut into ½-inch (1 cm) slices
 4 to 6 garlic cloves, sliced or crushed
 2 bay leaves
 1/4 cup (1/2 dl) chopped fresh parsley
 1 to 2 dried hot red chiles, chopped and seeded
 10 black peppercorns
 1½ cups (3 1/2 dl) olive oil

Directions:

Step 1:

Soak the salted cod in a large pot of water for 24 – 36 hours, this will vary depending on how dry the cod is, until the fish is softened.



Make sure that you change the water at least twice during the softening process to help remove some of the salt.

Step 2

Remove/drain the cod from the pot and cut it into 2-inch chunks.

Step 3 Wash and rinse the pot you used for the cod.

Step 4

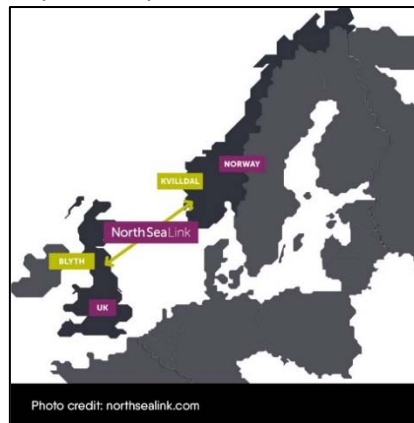
In the large pot, layer the potatoes, onions and chunks of cod. Next add in the garlic, bay leaves, pimientos, tomatoes, chiles, olive oil, peppercorns and two-thirds of the chopped parsley. Place this on the stove to simmer for 30 minutes. Reduce the heat to low and cook for another 45 minutes. Shake the pot every 10-15 minutes. DO NOT STIR, this will make the fish fall apart in the soup.

Step 5

Serve the bacalao stew in bowls, garnish with the rest of the parsley and serve with a nice crusty bread.

World's Longest Undersea Power Cable Now Operating

The world's longest undersea electrical cable between Norway and the U.K. is now operational. Known as the North Sea Link, the interconnector was a joint venture between British company National Grid and Norwegian power operator Statnett. The cable spans 450 miles and connects Kvilldal in Norway with Blyth in Northumberland. At full capacity, 1.4 million homes can be supplied by hydro-power. National Grid Ventures president Cordi O'Hara said it was a "remarkable feat of engineering. We had to go through mountains, fjords and across the North Sea."



This project will help the U.K. reduce about 23 million tons of carbon emissions by 2030. It is truly beneficial for both parties as extra renewable power will be exported to Norway when wind generation is high in the U.K. but energy demand is low. This will help Norway conserve water in their reservoirs. All in all, this venture is "a great example of two countries working together to maximize renewable energy resources for mutual benefit."

Norway Tops the 2022 Winter Olympics

NOC	G	S	B	Total	Order by Total
Norway	16	8	13	37	1
ROC	6	12	14	32	2
Germany	12	10	5	27	3
Canada	4	8	14	26	4
United States of America	8	10	7	25	5
Sweden	8	5	5	18	6
Austria	7	7	4	18	6
Japan	3	6	9	18	6
Netherlands	8	5	4	17	9
Italy	2	7	8	17	9
People's Republic of China	9	4	2	15	11
Switzerland	7	2	5	14	12
France	5	7	2	14	12
Republic of Korea	2	5	2	9	14
Finland	2	2	4	8	15



Norway, a country with less population than Wisconsin, finished the 2022 Olympics with more gold medals and more total medals than any other country in the world! Congratulations to Norway.

a little in English... Historical Sámi Document Goes Home

A document from 1751 ensures that Sámi can move reindeer across national borders. Now the Sámi "Magna Carta" has come home to Kautokeino.



King Harald will be present when the "Lappekodisillen" is handed over to the Sámi Archive in Kautokeino. The 270-year-old document has been crucial in determining Sámi rights and is still in effect today.

"It is a symbolic day, and it fits into a tradition of returning both documents and also cultural objects that mean something to indigenous peoples, back to them," law professor Øyvind Ravna said to NTB.

Reduces Disadvantages

The document was created as an addition to the border treaty that was negotiated between Denmark-Norway and Sweden in 1751.

The document is the first international law and bilateral treaty given to protect the Sami as a minority and indigenous peoples in Norway, the professor says.

"The Codisil is a child of the Enlightenment where the Sámi were considered a separate people who had the right to 'future existence,' i.e. that they should not be assimilated into the Norwegian and Swedish state, as the policy would be later," says Ravna.

The King is In The Hall

When the document is officially transferred to the Sámi during a ceremony in Kautokeino on Tuesday, outgoing Sámi Parliament President Aili Keskitalo will receive it.

"It will be a very special event when His Majesty the King himself comes to contribute to this event. I think I put it in a very symbolic context, because at the time the Lapp codicil came into being, there were autocratic rulers in the Nordic countries," says Keskitalo.

litt på norsk... Historisk samedokument flytter hjem

Et dokument fra 1751 sikrer fortsatt at samer kan flytte reinsdyr over landegrensene. Nå kommer samenes «Magna Carta» hjem til Kautokeino.

Kong Harald er til stede når «Lappekodisillen» overleveres til Samisk Arkiv i Kautokeino. Det 270 år gamle dokumentet har vært avgjørende for å fastsette samers rettigheter, og er fortsatt virksomt i dag.

– Det er en symboltung dag, og det føyer seg inn i en tradisjon med å tilbakeføre både dokumenter og også kulturgjenstander som betyr noe for urfolk, tilbake til dem, sier jussprofessor Øyvind Ravna til NTB.

Reduserer ulemper

Dokumentet ble til som et tillegg til grensetraktaten som ble forhandlet fram mellom Danmark-Norge og Sverige i 1751.



Homeland of the Sámi people at present - Wikipedia

Dokumentet er den første folkerettslige og bilaterale traktaten som er gitt for å beskytte samene som minoritet og urfolk i Norge, forteller professoren.

– Kodisillen er et barn av opplysningstiden hvor man betraktet samene som et eget folk som hadde rett til «fremtidig eksistens», altså at de ikke skulle assimileres inn i den norske og svenske staten, slik politikken skulle bli senere, sier Ravna.

Kongen er til stede i salen

Når dokumentet offisielt skal overføres til samene under en seremoni i Kautokeino på tirsdag, er det avtroppende sametingspresident Aili Keskitalo som tar imot det.

– Det blir jo en veldig spesiell hendelse når hans majestet kongen selv kommer for å bidra til dette arrangementet. Det synes jeg setter det inn i en veldig symbolsk kontekst, for på den tiden Lappekodisillen kom til, da var det eneveldige herskere i Norden, sier Keskitalo.

Å gjøre noen en bjørnetjeneste

Translation: Do someone a "bear favor."

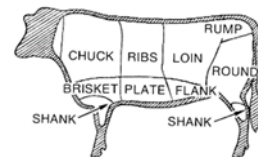
Meaning: Despite trying to do the right thing, you do more harm than good. This analogy comes from a French fable where a bear accidentally kills his master after swatting a fly on his head.



Saken er biff

Translation: The matter is beef.

Meaning: When a matter is settled, "it is beef." All sorted and agreed on. This expression dates to the unification of Norway and Sweden. When the military approved something, the officer would sign "bif" which in Swedish was short for "approved". As a joke, Norwegians called it "biff".





Vennligfolk Lodge #5-627
Carl Rasmussen, Editor
3136 Dans Ave
Stevens Point, WI 54481 USA

Sunday, March 13, 2022
**A Norwegian's Battle
for Breath**
By Jedidiah & Kendra Haas

Sunday, April 10, 2022
**Our 2019 Norwegian
Experience**
By Cindy and Mark Kluck



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.



Support Tubfrim. As you receive mail with unique stamps cut the postage off leaving a ¼ inch boarder of paper. Bring your stamps to the next Vennligfolk meeting.

Vennligblad, the official newsletter of **Sons of Norway's Vennligfolk Lodge (#5-627)**, is published at the beginning of the odd-numbered months of the year. If you have an item of interest to **Vennligfolk** members, please submit it to the Editor by the 15th of the even-numbered months. Send it to Carl Rasmussen at 3136 Dans Dr., Stevens Point, WI 54481 or by e-mail addressed to: **Vennligblad@gmail.com**

Mange Tusen Takk, Carl Rasmussen, Editor

Share your love of Norwegian heritage and culture



Make 2022 a year to share Nordic heritage & culture with others. Teach a young child how to make a favorite Norwegian cookie. Pass along a book by your favorite Scandinavian author (tuck in a membership form as a bookmark!). Invite a friend to attend a meeting or lodge activity.

In 2022 our recruitment theme is "Share Nordic Culture & Heritage." Please keep our Sons of Norway family strong by sharing your enthusiasm for all things Norwegian! Invite a friend to join today! Recruit a new member, include your member number when they enroll and receive a 2022 Recruiter pin.

Tusen takk for being a Sons of Norway and Vennligfolk member!



International Meeting of SONS OF NORWAY

Held in Minneapolis, MN - August 31 to September 1, 2022

The convention will gather lodges and districts from the United States, Canada, and Norway. The event will be located at the new Omni Viking Lakes Hotel,

Eagan, MN. This conference will also provide opportunities for cultural events, entertainment and presentations plus an opportunity to tour the new SON headquarters in Minneapolis. Proximity to Minneapolis provides Vennligfolk members a chance to take in all the non-delegate activities!