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The Coronavirus (and actions being taken to limit its spread) continues to impede our plans. Please watch your email for any changes to upcoming events. If you do not have email, please call Ramona/Adrian at 608-788-7507 to check if an event will happen. Stay well, everyone!

Fra Presidenten



Dear Wergeland Lodge members and friends,

We are marking the end of 2020! During December the winter solstice tips us the farthest distance from the sun--Brrr! and Dec. 21 is the shortest day on the calendar. But, I would rather think about Christmas.

Nowhere in the world is Christmas more thoroughly celebrated and enjoyed than in Norway. I feel fortunate to be from people who enjoy the Scandinavian traditions. Christmas trees are plentiful in Norway, and we certainly enjoy that tradition. Our lodge will decorate a tree at the Rotary Lights again this year, so be sure to look for it as you visit Riverside Park.

We won't be gathering for our annual Heritage Dinner this year, but I'm sure each family and friendship group will enjoy some of our traditional foods. Lefsa, flat bread, krumkaka, rosettes, fruit soup, rommegrøt, fruit soup, just to name a few. AND don't forget the lutefisk!!

One more piece of lodge business. Since we aren't able to meet yet, the news letter is our way to conduct important business. Please read the section in this letter about the by-laws changes. These changes are from the International Board of SON. Contact me, Ramona Johnson as president of our lodge if you don't agree with the by-laws as presented here.

Thank you and have a wonderful Holiday Season.

—God Jul, Ramona

Salvation Army Bell Ringing!

Saturday, Dec 19, we have 3 shifts for Bell-Ringing at the Festival Foods in Onalaska:

2:00-4:00 **NEEDED**
4:00-6:00 Kathi Beane & Dick Marking
6:00-8:00 Shirley Schoenfeld & Carla Burkhardt

Please email Carla if you would like to Ring Bells at 2:00.

carla.burkhardt8696@gmail.com



No December Lodge Meeting

Meetings and Programs have been cancelled for the remainder of 2020.



December Birthdays

- 1 Jerome Smith
- 5 Barbara Friell
- 5 Rita A Johnson
- 5 Heather M Larson
- 5 Tia Louise Ranis
- 6 Bonnie Jean Koglin
- 6 Isaac Stutesman
- 9 Jeanne C Larson
- 12 Wayne M Olson
- 13 Kristin Peri Krug
- 14 Carol L Marking
- 14 Hudson Loper Schmitt
- 15 Rebecca Johnson
- 17 Charlene L Harnish
- 17 Sharon Quackenboss
- 19 Karen M Broadhead
- 20 Lloyd O Hoff
- 20 Marilyn L Romskog
- 21 David J Lokstad
- 22 Adrian C Johnson
- 22 Todd A Trautmann
- 23 Vilda C Olsen
- 24 Charles L Amundson
- 26 Peter H Gullickson
- 27 Logan J Y Curtis
- 30 Arlan W Henderson

Program for January

The decision for a meeting in January is yet to be determined— watch for an announcement in the January Budstikken

Sekretær Notater...

We did not have any regular scheduled meetings in November but your officers kept in touch by email and phone conversations. We sent a greeting and a photo to Sons of Norway headquarters on the occasion of the 125th anniversary of Sons of Norway. Watch for the photo in an upcoming edition of the Viking. We received a nice thank you letter from the SON Foundation for our recent donation to them. We are receiving regular orders for 2020 calendars and playing card decks. More about that in another column.

Thank you for your mail in voting and acceptance of our 2021 officer slate. We will continue to accept the ballots through December and install the officers the first time our lodge meets next year. We are pleased to add David Glomstad's name for lodge Counselor and Mark Dregne for Auditor for 2021. Keep in mind those two names also when you send in your ballot. All ballots received so far have approved the slate of officers as presented.

A note of high importance! We need a **Vice President for 2021!** Ramona Johnson has indicated 2021 will be the final year she will be President so if we want our lodge to continue to exist in 2022 we need someone to accept the Vice President position for 2021 and be willing to be President in 2022.

A reminder to all officers and others who have been doing volunteer work for our lodge this year. Please call or email me with the total number of hours you logged in 2020 before the end of the year. Sons of Norway needs this information to insure our non-profit status and Wergeland needs those hours for me to report them for the Lodge of the Year report.

Adrian Johnson, lodge secretary.

Treasurer's Report:

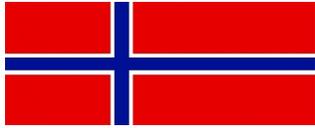
October 31, 2020 checking balance	\$4,404.54
October 31, 2020 scholarship balance	\$1,506.50
October 31, 2020 savings balance	\$18,951.95
October 31, 2020 Wergeland has	\$24,862.99



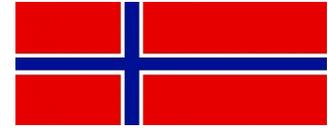
Attention Santa's Helpers!

If you are looking for Norsk items for Christmas presents or stocking stuffers, we have a few items left from last years District 5 Foundation fund raising effort. We have some extra large sweatshirts at \$25 each, some aprons at \$18 each and a few 2020 calendars at \$12 and several card decks at \$10.00. More of most of these items are available so call me if any of this interests you and you can pick them up at our home before Christmas.

The District also has Norge Flag hats for \$15 and as well some 3' X 5' Norway outdoor flags for \$30. They also have the navy sweatshirts in most sizes so let me know if you are interested in any of these products and I will get them for you. Adrian Johnson, 788-7507



Dis og Dat



Condolences til...

...the family of **Phyllis Lorraine Johnson**, 91, who passed away Thursday, Oct. 22, 2020, at Gundersen Health System in La Crosse. Phyllis was born Sept. 17, 1929, to Henry and Edna (Prindle) Harris. Phyllis had many family members in Sons of Norway, and was a member of Norskedalen.



God Bedring til...

...**Cathy Ofte**, who is finally at home to recuperate after being at BethanyRiverside for a few months after her knee surgery.

Tusen takk...

... to **Sally Olson** for the memorial for Phyllis Johnson.

...to **Marilyn Rudser** for writing a gazillion cards for soldiers and veterans (see her message to the right).

Ilene Pavelko shared that she launched the Christmas music season by listening to the *Hei, for en vakker julsang* by Cantus, a Norwegian female ensemble. She purchased the CD (pictured to the right) in March, 2011, when Wergeland Lodge hosted Cantus at the North Presbyterian Church in La Crosse.



From **Marilyn Rudser**: "Hello members of Sons of Norway. I want to thank all of you for the generous donations of new and used Christmas cards. I was able to write a message in 1500 new cards with envelopes and delivered those to Operation Homefront.

Then in my spare time, I used all of the other cards for the veterans. I write a note on the back of the picture (like a postcard). I'm mailing those out because Tomah doesn't want any and won't courier any to Madison.

The following are all veteran homes: 450 go to King, WI; 75 go to Chippewa Falls, WI; 200 go to Union Grove, WI; and go to Green Bay, WI. I still have a box on the front porch at 1016 W. Elm St, West Salem, for new cards/envelopes and used cards to be used in 2021. Merry Christmas from Marilyn Rudser!

Carol and Joe Stekel were spotted "sharing the peace" in the weekly Our Savior's Lutheran (West Salem) church service on YouTube



Looking Back

Fem år siden (5 years ago) 2015

We have filled 24 spots for ushering at the community theater as a group for two shows in December. The volunteers are: Don and Janet Melby, Lee Grippen, Fran Bateman, Ron and Frieda Nowland, Sig and Marilyn Rudser, Carol and Joe Stekel, Mary Sween, Lill Matzacher, Shirley Schoenfeld, Tia Mitchell, Dennis and Ann Sprain, Fred and Dee Johnson, Dick Marking, Kathi Beane, David and Becky Glomstad, Kerry Stokka, and Kristy Stokke Reisch.

Our Wergeland Lodge Heritage dinner is December 3, and this year we will meet at Drugan's in Holmen.

Ti år siden (10 years ago) 2010

The December program featured a piano concert by Bobby Lev-

inger. Bobby is the 14 year old son of Richard and Sue Levinger and the grandson of Joyce and Vern Olson. He was honored as the top 12 year old pianist in the state and repeated as a 13 year old. He has performed "Harmony of Haiti" concerts and raised over \$1700 for aid to Haiti.

Femten år siden (15 years ago) 2005

Welcome to Kenneth and Norma Piper of West Salem as new Wergeland members. Kenneth is retired from Trane Company and Norma from teaching.

Heritage Dinner, Juletefest, will be held on Thursday, December 1, 2005 at the American Legion – 711 S. 6th Street in LaCrosse. Guests from Norway will be at the dinner and would like to visit with Norwegian-speaking members.

Bylaws Revisions

The International Board of Directors has revised the Local Lodge Bylaws template to add two items of importance. See Articles VI and VII; these additions come from advice by counsel in order to help lodges protect themselves from a legal standpoint and to provide guidance in the unlikely event of a lodge dissolution. Below are the revised Wergeland Bylaws. Please see President Ramona's article for more information.

Local Lodge Bylaws

Article I

- 1) The name of this lodge shall be: Wergeland, No. 28, Sons of Norway. La Crosse, WI District 5
- 2) Regular meetings shall be held at such time and place as the lodge itself shall determine. Special meetings may be called in accordance with the Charter, Constitution, Policies and Procedures of Sons of Norway.

Article II

Membership, Qualifications and Privileges

- 1) To become a member of Sons of Norway, the applicant must possess requirements outlined in the Constitution. Membership in the lodge is effective immediately upon ONE of the following (check one):
 - payment of dues; or
 - affirmative vote of the Lodge.
- 2) The membership shall consist of financial benefit members and social or non-benefit members either of whom may be Life, Golden, Family, Juvenile, Heritage, Unge Venner or Honorary members in accordance with the Constitution.
- 3) Life membership shall be extended to all members who were 65 years of age or older, and who had been members in good standing in the Society for 30 years or more by Jan. 1, 1999. Years of membership need not be consecutive. Life membership shall be extended to any member who has served as President of the International Lodge.
- 4) Golden membership shall be extended to all members who attained 65 years of age after Jan. 1, 1999, and who have been members in good standing in the Society for 30 years or more. Years of membership need not be consecutive.
- 5) In all respects, Life or Golden members shall enjoy all rights and benefits they previously held in the lodge as full dues paying members. Those transferring to another Local Lodge shall maintain their Life or Golden membership status.
- 6) All members shall enjoy equal privileges, except that only financial benefit members shall have the right to vote on matters concerning financial benefits.
- 7) Affiliate Membership. Members possessing a current membership card of a different lodge may petition for affiliate membership. Affiliate members may not vote within the lodge for, or become, District or International convention delegates from this lodge and are not counted in the member totals for determining representation.

Article III

Fees and Dues

- 1) The International Lodge sets the dues rate for all lodges in the order. All lodges are subject to an identical dues structure within their respective countries. A member's dues will be divided into three parts – one part to International, one part to the District, and one part to the Local Lodge. Only a vote by the International Lodge can change the dues amount.
- 2) The International Lodge sets the dues rate in the local currency (US or Canadian dollars or Norwegian Kroner). Sons of Norway headquarters will not adjust dues based on the exchange rate. Dues paid by credit card from a non-US bank may be subject to an exchange rate and/or servicing fee set by the bank and/or credit card processor.
- 3) In the unlikely event that a Local Lodge does not need its share of the dues collected, it is allowed to refund the local dues income to its paying members.
- 4) Life members are exempt from all dues – International, District, and Local.
- 5) Members of United States lodges who achieved Golden status before January 1, 2018 pay 50 percent of International dues and 100 percent of District dues. U.S. members who achieved Golden status after December 31, 2017 will not receive a discounted dues rate.
- 6) Members of Canadian and Norwegian lodges who achieved Golden status before January 1, 2020 pay 50 percent of International dues and 100 percent of District dues. Canadian and Norwegian members who achieved Golden status after December 31, 2019 will not receive a discounted dues rate.
- 7) Affiliate members. In addition to their primary lodge, some members may wish to join another Local Lodge. Such membership is

Sons of Norway Mission Statement

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 members.

considered an affiliate membership. For each additional lodge joined, the affiliate member will be charged only the Local Lodge portion of dues.

- 8) Members of U.S. Lodges will have the option to pay their dues by automatic monthly withdrawal from their U.S. bank account.
- 9) No fee shall be charged to issue a transfer card or to transfer membership.
- 10) Heritage members (under age 16) will be exempt from dues.

Article IV
Good Standing

- 1) A member who is in arrears 120 days in the payment of dues shall not be eligible for any benefits of the lodge and will be subject to suspension in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Constitution.
- 2) A member who pays all back dues will be reinstated effective with their original date of membership.

Article V
Lodge Funds

- 1) Appropriations to defray the operational expenses of the lodge require only a simple majority vote for adoption. Other appropriations from the lodge funds require a two-thirds majority of votes cast for adoption.
- 2) The lodge can maintain one or more funds. The general fund will be used to defray the operational expenses of the lodge.
- 3) The financial officers of the lodge are covered by a blanket position bond, as provided in the Constitution, with a deductible for each claim. A surety bond is maintained by International Headquarters, in accordance with the Constitution.
- 4) The Local Lodge elects (choose one)
 - to retain the positions of Financial Secretary and Treasurer with duties as described in the relevant sections of the Charter and Constitutions of Sons of Norway, or
 - to have a Membership Secretary and a Treasurer with duties as described in the relevant sections of the Charter and Constitutions of Sons of Norway.
- 5) The lodge shall participate in the mandatory liability insurance for District and Local Lodges as secured by the International Headquarters. This insurance does not cover lodge-owned real estate or buildings, or liquor liability claims.

Article VI
Compliance

- 1) The lodge must operate in full compliance with all governmental laws, regulations and applicable requirements and maintain in force all licenses, permits and approvals required for its operation.
- 2) The lodge must operate in full compliance with all laws, regulations and applicable requirements as outlined in the latest edition of the Charter, Constitutions, Policies and Procedures of Sons of Norway, and as otherwise communicated to the lodge by the International Headquarters of Sons of Norway. These include, but are not limited to, the timely annual filing of IRS 990 forms, the D63 and D17 reports for lodges, the D64 and D18 reports for building corporations, if applicable, and the timely payment of the Local Lodge liability insurance assessment.

Article VII
Dissolution and Distribution of Assets

- 1) Dissolution, either voluntary or involuntary, shall be made only in accordance with the procedures as set forth in the Sons of Norway Charter, Constitutions, Policies and Procedures.
- 2) In the event of dissolution of the lodge corporation(s), both lodge and building association, if applicable, it is recommended that the corporation's remaining assets shall be distributed to the Sons of Norway Foundation [an IRC 501(c)(3) organization], if in existence when the distribution occurs or, if not, to a like designated and purposed entity or entities.
- 3) Upon dissolution of the lodge, lodge assets may not be transferred to individual members for personal benefit.
- 4) The plan to distribute lodge assets must be approved in advance by Sons of Norway Headquarters. However, Headquarters shall not oppose any plan of distribution that complies with relevant state and federal laws and regulations.

Article VIII
Changes in and Approval of Bylaws

- 1) These bylaws may be repealed or amended by a two-thirds majority vote of the members present and voting, provided that such bylaw changes were presented in writing and read at the prior meeting of the lodge.
- 2) These bylaws, and any changes thereto, will become effective upon approval by the International Headquarters.
- 3) The bylaws of this lodge are subject to the terms and conditions contained in the Charter and Constitution of the International Lodge of Sons of Norway.

Article IX
Miscellaneous

(Items not specifically referenced in the template should be appended here.)



**District 5 Virtual Walk Challenge
to Ringsaker, Norway
in celebration of
the 125th Anniversary for 2020 Convention**

Virtual Walk to Norway

Our Virtual Walk to Norway was completed last month; however, we've added even more miles to our total from some of our most faithful walkers. Our round-trip goal was 8278 miles, and we finished with a grand total of **9392** miles. So, to all who participated or cheered someone on during this activity... **THANK YOU!** Many other lodges in District 5 also participated, and all will be recognized when the 'Walk' officially ends on December 15.

Just a reminder, if you had any sponsors for your activity, or if you'd like to honor someone who participated, donations can still be accepted until December 15. They should be sent to our treasurer Shirley Schoenfeld, with any checks made out to Wergeland Lodge and designated 'Virtual Walk' on the memo line. Donations will be sent to the District 5 Legacy Foundation in support of Masse Moro Camp.

The following greeting was sent to Sons of Norway for the 125th Anniversary Celebration:

"Greetings from Wergeland Lodge, La Crosse, WI

2020 certainly has brought its challenges but we are thankful this November that we can look forward to better days ahead. Donations from our lodge total \$263. this year. We know this will be put to good use where it is needed most.

This picture shows our 2018 Steering Committee when the District 5 Convention was held here.

Best wishes to all.

Ramona Johnson, President"



Sons of Norway Foundation scholarship applications are now open!

Do you know a student heading off to college soon who could use some help with tuition? Do you have a child or grandchild who wants to study abroad in Norway? The Sons of Norway Foundation offers 14 different scholarship opportunities for a variety of students, including international study, adult learners, vocational programs and more. For many recipients, these awards are a life-changing opportunity to explore educational passions in the US, Canada or Norway.

Many opportunities are available to members or their children or grandchildren, and awards range from \$1000 to a full year's tuition. Applications are due **January 15** for international opportunities, and **March 1** for domestic opportunities. To find more information and to apply, visit sofn.com/foundation/scholarships.

Tis the season...

Inviting friends and family to join Sons of Norway is always in season!



Fun Fact #12

In fall of 2017 Sons of Norway signed a purchase agreement with Ryan Companies and Weidner Apartment Homes for the sale of the International Headquarters building and land.

We will be back in time to celebrate our 125th Anniversary in 2020.

A little in English...

The Young Flame

Rikard Nordraak, together with the poet Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson, is responsible for all of us clearing our throats and belting out "and the saga night that lays, lays dreams upon our earth."

Nordraak was born on June 12, 1842 in Christiania. His family has a piano in the living room, and Rikard starts playing early. In 1850, his cousin Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson, who is in town to study, moves in with his family. Bjørnson observes that the young boy has musical talent.

Yes, We Love «Ja, Vi Elsker»

"Ja, Vi Elsker" extends over an abnormally wide tonal range to be a sing-along. It is overambitious. Many have probably experienced starting as deeply as they can, and still ending up with a squeaky voice at the end of the song. The lyrics are written by Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson. When the poem is to be set to music for the Constitutional Jubilee in 1864, Bjørnson of course gives the assignment to his dear cousin.

The first official performance takes place at the constitutional jubilee, May 17, 1864. The men's choir conductor recounted about the first rehearsal that the song "was immediately beloved and that everyone felt: 'Now, this is our national anthem!'"

The timing is perfect. As Bjørnson says, "Ja, Vi Elsker" inhales the breath of an entire people, a few decades prior to Norway becoming independent.

"Ja, Vi Elsker" quickly becomes the national anthem by virtue of its popularity. At 21 years old, Rikard Nordraak has managed something incredible.

On his deathbed

In November 1865 Nordraak contracts pneumonia. After five months of illness, surrounded by doctors and his landlord, Rikard Nordraak dies on March 20, 1866.

Although we can later read all the praise about Nordraak, his funeral goes unnoticed, and is a testament to a lonely young man. Two people show up at the funeral procession: his landlord and a friend.

New relevance

Beyond the 20th century, Nordraak's ideas gained new relevance when Norway became independent. He is honored with memorials in Berlin, Copenhagen and Oslo, before his urn is moved to The Cemetery of Our Saviour in Oslo in 1925.

In December 2019, "Ja, Vi Elsker" was officially voted Norway's national anthem by the Storting, after having been in use for over 150 years.

Litt på Norsk...

Den unge flammen

Rikard Nordraak er saman med diktaren Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson ansvarleg for at vi alle reinskar halsen og tar sats ved «og den saganatt som senker, senker drømme på vår jord».

Nordraak blir fødd 12. juni 1842 i Christiania. Familien hans har piano i stova, og Rikard byrjar å spele tidleg.

I 1850 flyttar søskenbarnet Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson, som er i byen for å studere, inn hos familien. Bjørnson observerer at den unge guten har musikalsk talent.

Ja, vi elsker «Ja, vi elsker»

«Ja, vi elsker» strekk seg over eit unormalt langt tonesprang til å vere allsong. Han er overambisiøs. Mange har nok opplevd å starte så mørkt dei kan, men likevel ende opp med pipestemme ved slutten av songen.

Teksten er skriven av Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson.

Då diktet skal bli tonesett til Grunnlovsjubileet i 1864, gir Bjørnson sjølv sagt oppdraget til sin kjære fetter.

Første offisielle framføring blir under Grunnlovsjubileet 17. mai 1864.

Dirigenten til mannskor har fortalt om den første øvinga at songen «elskedes straks og alle følte: her er vår nasjonal-sang kommet!»

Tidspunktet er perfekt. Som Bjørnson seier, tar «Ja, vi elsker» opp i seg pusten til eit heilt folk, nokre tiår før Noreg blir sjølvstendig.

«Ja, vi elsker» blir ganske raskt nasjonalsongen i kraft av sin popularitet. 21 år gammal har Rikard Nordraak klart det utrulege.

Dødsleiet

I november 1865 får han lungebetennelse. Etter fem månader med sjukdom, omgitt av legar og husverten, dør Rikard Nordraak 20. mars 1866.

Sjølv om vi i ettertid kan lese alle godorda om Nordraak, glir gravferda hans umerka hen, og vitnar om ein einsam ung mann. To menneske møter opp i gravferda: Husverten og ein ven.

Ny Aktualitet

Utover 1900-talet får Nordraaks idear ny aktualitet når Noreg blir sjølvstendig. Han blir heidra med minnesmerke i Berlin, København og Oslo, før urna hans blir flytta til Vår Frelsers Gravlund i 1925.

I desember 2019 blir «Ja, vi elsker» offisielt stemt fram som Noregs nasjonalsong av Stortinget, etter å ha vore i bruk i over 150 år.

Sons of Norway
Wergeland Lodge #5/028
P.O. Box 3591
La Crosse, WI 54602-
3591

DECEMBER 2020



OFFICERS TO CONTACT BETWEEN MEETINGS

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Vice President-

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*Send notices of deaths or address changes to the
Membership Secretary*

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Norskedalen Activities

Throne Visitors Center
Hours From Oct - Apr:
Monday-Saturday from 9am--4pm
Sunday from 11pm--4pm



Admission rates for all programs with the exception of Heritage classes is \$6.00 for adults, \$3.00 for children, \$15.00 for families, and free for members of "Friends of Norskedalen."

All visitors, including Norskedalen organization members, should check in at the Throne Visitors' Center for your admissions, wristband, maps and information.

Norskedalen Members may use the Norskedalen grounds 365 days a year from sunrise to sunset. Member parking pass must be clearly displayed in front windshield while using Norskedalen grounds.

Non-members may only use Norskedalen grounds during regular business hours and must check-in with office staff to pay admissions and receive a wristband.

Norskedalen phone: 608-452-3424

Web site: www.norskedalen.org

E-mail Address: info@norskedalen.org