

Vennelag News

Vennelag Lodge 5-513

Please note:

 *Commencing with the <u>May meeting</u>, all Vennelag Board gatherings will be held at *Skål Pub* beginning at 6:30 PM.
 *Lodge meetings will be held at the Mt.
 Horeb Community Center, 107 N. Grove Street. <u>We hope to resume our regular</u> <u>meeting schedule there in August.</u>

Board Meetings

<u>May 12, 2021</u>- 6:30 PM Skål Pub-Mt. Horeb <u>June 9, 2021</u>-6:30 PM Skål Pub-Mt. Horeb (A virtual option will be provided via Zoom.)

Lodge Meetings

May 17, 2021-Syttende Mai celebration with pølse med lompe og and iskrem! Dress festively. Drive through our parking lot at the Community Center to receive your meal. June 24, 2021-Lodge Picnic-Grundahl Park

Special Events

<u>May 16, 2021</u>-Syttende Mai Reverse Parade (Lunch and water provided by the Lodge.)

THERE WILL BE NO KAFFE STUE IN JULY. HELP

US TO BOUNCE BACK WITH "BRATS ON THE LOT" AND A NORWEGIAN FOODS BAKE SALE AT MILLER'S GROCERY STORE ON<u>September 11th!</u>

LOOKING AHEAD July 22-24, 2021-NORDIC FEST-Decorah, IA July 29, 2021-Mallard's Game-Warner Park

October 2, 2021-Høst Frokost

God vår-Happy Spring!



We are baaaaaaa-ck!

The birds are chirping, grass is turning green, and the light at the end of this pandemic-induced tunnel does not appear to be an oncoming train. To paraphrase the Bard, the "winter of our discontent" is almost over!

Previously noted thoughts from yours truly about our lives and routines returning to normalcy are turning into reality! After a year of shutdown, it is weird to think about activities that do not involve Zoom. We are planning a picnic and a trip to the Mallards over the summer months.

To that end, please find articles within this newsletter that describe how we wish to celebrate Syttende Mai as they do in Norway. What is planned for our first full blown face-to-face gathering will be totally within prescribed safety guidelines.

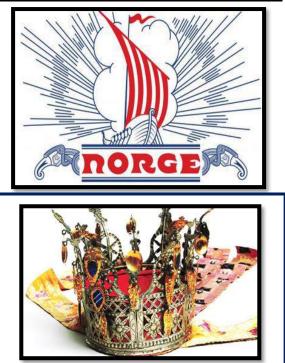
We are hoping that things do not fall apart in the meantime, and that you can join us!

Stay optimistic and stay tuned.

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 insurance and financial products to our members.





Bridal crowns have been worn in Norway since the late 1300s and peaked in popularity during the 1800s.

Wreaths of this distinction were crafted in silver and gold metals by skilled craftsmen for wealthier families. Bridal headwear symbolized purity and chastity and incorporated symbols representing fertility and good luck. Incorporating silver in the design, the bride was supposedly protected against the "evil eye" and from abduction by troll folk, as many folktales describe.

In most cases, a bride could borrow a crown from her local church, though given the crown's symbolism of purity and chastity, the bride needed to be considered highly reputable to wear one.

<u>April 6, 2021</u>

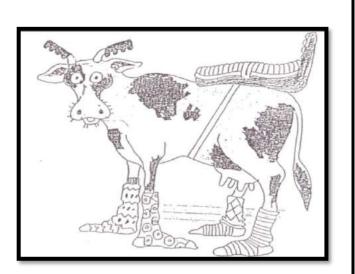
Vennelag News





Vennelag at the Mallards!

Mark your calendars for Thursday, July 29, in anticipation of a night of baseball and socializing at Warner Park. As previously shared with you, the Mallards have advised us of the Covid-prevention steps they have taken to ensure a safe event. Watch for more info in the *July/August newsletter* and via email to make sure you get your ticket.



In Wisconsin, June is Dairy Month! Ole's Norwegian Motorcycle is a "cow-a-socki!" From Red Stangland's Ole & Lena #5



JOIN US FOR A DRIVE-THROUGH SYTTENDE MAI CELBRATION!

Ja, you betcha! We are going to host our own parade to celebrate Norwegian Constitution Day the way the Norwegians do (as Lizbeth Wacker shared with us at our March meeting).

Bring your family, drive through the parking lot of the Community Center, and receive one lefse wrapped hot dog and an ice cream cup per person in your vehicle. "See" lodge members who will be there to greet you! Wear something festive and join in the fun!

Join us on MONDAY, MAY 17 FROM 4 TO 6 PM.

Norway

Cars will enter from the east. Use the alley behind the Municipal Building by turning left. Turn right into the first parking lot at the base of the water tower. Turn left to pass by the Community Center where individuals will distribute a lefse wrapped hot dog and ice cream. Continue driving west and exit the parking lot to the west. Vennelag Board members are reminded to arrive about 3 PM to help prepare the foods for distribution.

Hurra for Syttende Mai!

The 17th of May celebrates the signing of the Norwegian Constitution in Eidsvoll on May 17, 1814. The Constitution declared Norway as an independent country. At the time, Norway was in a union with Sweden – following a 400-year union with Denmark.

Among Norwegians, the day is referred to as 'Syttende Mai' (May seventeenth), *Nasjonaldagen* (National Day) or less commonly, *Grunnlovsdagen* (Constitution Day). Words that are synonymous with May 17 are flags, parades, hot dogs, and ice cream... lots of ice cream!



This holiday honors children-Norway's future. Schools lift their banners high and join in a parade through their town. People dress festively, wearing bunader and formal attire. Afterward, the children return to their school's playground where activities are organized for their behalf.

High school seniors dress in colors for russefeiring (English: "russ celebration"). A traditional celebration for Norwegian high school pupils in their final spring semester, "russ" is a wild time for youth to spread their wings and embrace adulthood.

and acknowledge publicly their rite of passage. You can follow this year's celebration at <u>www.kongehuset.no.</u>

Vennelag News



What a Great Response! The Masked Vennelag Marauders and guests practicing "friluftsliv!"

Tired of being cooped-up for so long, nearly 30 Vennelag members enjoyed a day of Friluftsliv activities at the home of John and Karen Eberhardt. Member options included: snowshoeing, sledding, winter hiking, and conversing around the bonfire. The lodge purchased sandwiches, sides, and beverages for the enjoyment of all. Numerous guests and potential new members were in attendance. This happy band of enthusiasts knew how to have masse moro (lots of fun)!



Kubb on Ice-That is Nice! Ron and Deb Goplin's son and friends organized a game of kubb on the ice near Memorial Union at UW Madison. There were many on-lookers who were unfamiliar with the game. Could this be a treasure trove for younger members?

Vennelag News

2021 Vennelag 5-513 Challenge Events

Check off the event when you complete it between 01/01/2021 and 10/31/2021.

Friluftsliv Activities

- **Try cross-country or downhill skiing-Go west for late spring snow!**
- **Given Showshoeing, hiking, or biking will help you earn a sports medal.**
- **Enjoy some outdoor camping.**
- **D** Teach someone how to ice skate or do Nordic walking.
- **G** Go fishing, take a swim in a local pond or lake, waterski, canoe, kayak, or try spelunking!
- **D** Play kubb or join a league-Stoughton has some options.
- **D** Tobogganing, sledding, or rolling down a hill on purpose will release your inner child.
- **Walk a total of 20 miles outside in one month-if you need a real challenge double that amount!**
- **U** Help a neighbor to shovel or blow snow, cut the lawn, or trim shrubbery.
- □ Plant spring bulbs, annuals, and clean your gardens.
- **C** Snap pictures of sunrises and/or sunsets. Enjoy an early morning picnic or opt for an afternoon picnic.
- **D** Play tag with your cousins or roll down a hill just for fun!

Literature and Culture

- □ Read 2 books by Norwegian authors.
- **Watch 5 of the Nordic News programs:** <u>http://www.sonsofnorway5.com/programs/speakers_bureau.php</u>
- **Learn** how to rosemaling or kolrosing. Complete level I of a Cultural Skills or Sports Unit.
- □ Make a Norsk craft: julebuk, winter/spring wreath, carving, embroidery, knitting, nålbinding.
- **D** Take a language course via Duolingo, Babbel, Primsleur, or with a local instructor.
- □ Take a class through Vesterheim Norwegian American Museum: <u>https://vesterheim.org/folk-art-school.com</u>
- **D** Perform 3 pieces of Norsk music to share with someone online.
- Listen to Viking music then describe the images this music conjures for you. Learn to folk dance.

Culinary

- □ Cook a meal of Norwegian delights such as open-face shrimp sandwiches, crab chowder, meatballs, lefse, hjerte vafler, or småkaker.
- **D** Bake your favorite Norwegian meat such as, salmon, lamb, pork roast, reindeer, or grouse.
- **D** Prepare a prepackaged Norwegian food such as fiskeboller. Local Nordic shops carry them.
- **L** Enjoy some sjokolade from manufacturers such as Freia, Nidar, or Fjåk.
- **D** Bake a traditional kransekake, kvæfjordkake, or eplekake
- **Eat some lutefisk (extra credit)!**

□ Make two different Scandinavian-inspired cocktails with Linie or a domestic brand of akevitt.

Outreach to Others

- **Call** an elderly member to chat and share the latest news.
- □ Write a letter or send a note to a member who does not receive email: shut-ins, a service person, or to others who live in care facilities. Organize a card shower for someone who needs a pick-me-up.
- **D** Prepare a surprise bag of goodies for someone in your lodge.
- □ Sign-up a new member (multiple credits for multiple members).
- Donate to a charity in need of support or volunteer for their cause.

Dis og Dat med Vennelg nye medlemme (new members)...

Scarlett Feller shares that her Norwegian heritage comes though her maternal great grandparents, Ole and Karolina (Folkestad) Anderson - The Anderson farm name was Einen. They both emigrated from Askvoll, Sogn og Fjordane as teenagers with their families in the early 1880s. Some say their families were neighbors in Norway. Ole and Karolina (Lena) were married in 1886 and settled on a farm on what is now Hwy U, Primrose Township. My grandfather (Albert Anderson) and mother (Valeria Anderson Feller) both grew up in Primrose Township where they attended elementary school in Mt. Vernon. My grandfather's sisters married into Martinson, Shelstad, Sonsteby, and Osmundson families.

Scarlett grew up on the Feller family farm outside of Verona with four brothers. After high school, she studied to become an EEG (brain wave) tech at the 'old' UW Hospital. Since that field is so specialized, she was able to land a job at the children's hospital in Zurich Switzerland where she lived and worked for almost two years. That experience piqued her 'intense' interest in international travel. After leaving Zurich, she attended MATC to become a computer programmer and worked in that field while earning an M.S. and MBA from Edgewood's weekend-degree programs. With work experience and education under her belt, she applied for and was accepted into the U.S. Department of State's Foreign Service. She worked as computer technician and later as a finance officer in U.S. embassies in 8 different countries on three continents over my 22-year career. As with many people who move around a lot during their careers, I moved home to be near life-long friends and family in retirement. My hobbies include knitting and (who would guess?) travel! She volunteers at Gilda's Club of Madison.



lefse on the grill!

En, to, tre...Skål!

Randi Kluesner and President Al Watrud were classmates in grade school and high school. They both chose to attend UW-Platteville, but ultimately chose different majors. Their friendship spans 60+ years.

Their mothers were best friends back in the day, having both grown up in Dodgeville. Later, they settled a block away from each other in the raging metropolis of Blanchardville, WI to raise their families.

Randi was a schoolteacher in Gays Mills and more recently in Prairie du Chien. She is now retired and enjoys skiing, babysitting, quilting, and catching up with high school classmates. She joined Vennelag Lodge to take part in our 2022 trip to Norway, and she plans to visit friends, Kitty and Ingun, who she has kept in touch with since high school. Randi and her husband Mike live in Marquette, lowa and are the proud parents of a daughter and 2 grandchildren.

Vennelag News

Meet Connie O'Brien Director of Fraternal & Foundation Development

Connie is responsible for managing the marketing and growth of the Sons of Norway Fraternal and Foundation efforts. She brings over twenty years of experience working in the insurance industry and has over eight years dedicated to fraternal organizations, like Sons of Norway. The past three years she has been leading the Fraternal department and is intimately involved in supporting the mission of the Sons of Norway Foundation. Serving as a scholarship judge is one of her favorite ways to support the mission of the Foundation.

Connie graduated with honors from Cornell College with a degree in Business Administration and Economics. She also holds her masters in Orgainzational Leadership from St. Ambrose University.

When not at work, you can find her running the hills near her home in Burnsville, MN or in her art studio creating abstract art for friends and family. Connie and her husband Bill have three adult daughters who all enjoy traditional Norwegian foods served at holiday gatherings.



For those who are curious, Connie has 99% Norwegian ancestry and has 1% unidentified Scandinavian inheritance! She married an Irishman, thus, "O'Brien!" SONS of NORWAY FOUNDATION

Great News from the Foundation!

Connie O'Brien shared the following news...2 grants have been awarded to Vennelag Lodge! Woot-wooooo!

The first grant, written by President Allen Watrud, will be used to help offset the costs of Vennelag's 50th Anniversary party in December.

The second grant, "Bring on da Fisk," will help with overall costs associated with the Høst Frokost in October and was written by Cheryl Wille-Schlesser.

**Scholarships will be awarded at the end of May. Lykke til, Vennelag members!

Foundation support in 2020:

- A. \$391,615 in total donations
- B. 143 lodges across the Order donated \$43,046.
- C. In District 5, 24 lodges participated. *\$264,000 is the fundraising goal for 2021 (excluding major gifts)

Vennelag News

mai-juni 2021

Volunteerism... The greatest gift you can give someone is your time; because when you give to others your time, you are giving a portion of your life that you will never get back. The Vennelag Board thanks all members for their service.

Under Threat?

Two animals have been identified for placement on the Norwegian Red List of Species. The wild salmon and the wild reindeer have been upgraded to "near threatened" status. There has been a decline in the general population of reindeer, and the herd has recently been culled due to the deadly disease scrapie. Overgrazing and opening land to development are other threats to this species.

Wild salmon is also in decline due to fish farms where salmon lice affect the fish. Salmon that escape from their farms affect the wild population in general. Wild salmon spawn in 450 rivers along the coast of the country. Between 1983 and 2019, the number of adult salmon returning from the sea to spawn has halved.

Several committees and a group of 91 experts jointly identify those species who are "red-listed."

Source: Norway Today, Norway Today Travel NTB Scanpix, POSTED BY: BRIAN KERR 8. APRIL 2021



Let us Catch-up!

The Social Cultural Committee (SoCul) has proposed what we sincerely hope will be the First and Last Annual

HappySt.Patrick'sDayEasterArborDayCincodeMayoMemorialDayFlagDay4thofJulyandLaborDay Picnic! That is right! Plan to celebrate them all in the finest style when Vennelag Lodge provides to its members a **GRAND LODGE REOPENING EVENT**! It will be held on Thursday, June 24th, beginning at 5:00 PM at Grundahl Park in Mt. Horeb.

Additional details will follow in an e-blast, but the event will closely follow the prescribed protocols required by the Dane County Health Department. Mark your calendar and plan to join us.

*<u>The usual picnic fare will be provided by the Lodge. We will ask for an RSVP in June.</u> <u>Should your diet require something specific in food or drink, please bring that item with</u> <u>you. The important thing is we are back together, and it is time to celebrate!</u>

Vennelag News



Prep: 10 min Bake: 30 min. + standing Makes: 8 servings

Mix

2 tsp. butter
16 oz. fresh or frozen unsweetened blueberries
3 large eggs, room temperature
3/4 cup all-purpose flour
3/4 cup whole milk
1/2 cup sugar1 tsp vanilla extract
1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon

1. Preheat oven to 400 degrees. Place butter in a 12-in. cast-iron or other ovenproof skillet. Place skillet in oven until butter is melted, 1-2 minutes. Carefully tilt pan to coat bottom and sides with butter. Spread blueberries in bottom of pan. In a bowl, whisk eggs, flour, milk, sugar, vanilla, and cinnamon. Pour egg mixture over blueberries.

2. Bake until center is puffed, and edges are brown, 30-35 minutes. Sprinkle with additional cinnamon if desired. Let stand for 15 minutes before cutting.

1 PIECE 188 cal., 4g fat (2g sat. fat), 75 mg chol, 46mg sod., 34g carb (20g sugars, 3g fiber), 5g pro

DIABETIC EXCHANGES 2 starch, 1 fat

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from the kitchen of Mary Gullickson- Krantz

VERY BLUEBERRY CLAFOUTIS- Taste of Home

A clafoutis (klah-FOO-tea) is somewhat between a fruit-filled pancake and a fruity egg custard.

Wrong season for fresh berries?

Use frozen berries thawed in a colander and discard the juice.

Wordsearch Puzzle-submitted by Tiffany Schwoerer

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D	Puzzle Solution found on n. 12																			

Puzzle Solution found on p. 12

Fish-Fiske	Bonus Words						
Mous -Mus Moose-Elg	Wodensdag-Wednesday						
Puffin-Lunde	SofN						
Sheep-Sau Dragon-Drake	Thor-Norse god of might						
Squirrel-Ekorn Seal-Segl	Freya-Norse goddess of love and fertility						
Badger-Grevling Bat-Flaggermus	Cod						

THE purposes and goals of the Sons of Norway Founders were to <u>protect members</u> of Sons of Norway and their families from the <u>financial hardships</u> experienced during times of sickness or loss of the family's breadwinner. Over time, the mission of Sons of Norway has expanded to include the <u>preservation of Norwegian heritage and culture</u> in our Society. We have grown since our beginning and are now the largest Norwegian organization outside Norway. Locally, Vennelag Lodge has expanded its assistance to Village projects and has offered financial support to other groups such as the Mt. Horeb Area Historical Society, the Mt. Horeb Optimists, the Mt. Horeb Area Giving Tree, and Second Harvest Food Bank. As we go forward to recruit new members, use the Mission Statement to frame your discussions with perspective members. We were recognized as an *International Lodge of the Year* by making a difference!



Vennelag News

mai-juni 2021

Walrus in Hammerfest, Becomes Local Celebrity

Recently, a walrus has made his home outside of Hammerfest, and the walrus was observed in Repparfjorden in late April, and a visit by such a guest is extremely rare. The locals have taken a keen interest in the walrus who has chosen to remain. Residents are asked to keep a good distance from the visitor and be prepared to move quickly if the animal begins to lumber in one's direction or makes guttural sounds.

The walrus is one of the most dangerous Arctic animals one can meet in the water. Normally, walruses prefer to stay on floating ice in quiet areas near the coastal areas in Arctic regions. Males can weigh over 1,200 kilos-2,645 pounds. Females are lighter tipping the scale at 850-kilos-1,800 pounds.

"On land, they are clumsier. It is not the case that he will come running after you, but people should keep their distance and show respect for the animal," biologist Audun Rikardsen at the University of Tromsø said.



Source: Norway Today, Norway Today Travel NTB Scanpix, Screenshot NRK

Why Join a Sons of Norway Lodge?

Connect with friends and form lasting relationships.

Learn to lead.

Increase your confidence by engaging in self-discovery and increasing your knowledge or skills.

Model leadership and teach others about their Norwegian heritage.

Be inspired in knowing that life's struggles can transform into successes.

Vennelag News

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DECEMBER 5, 2021



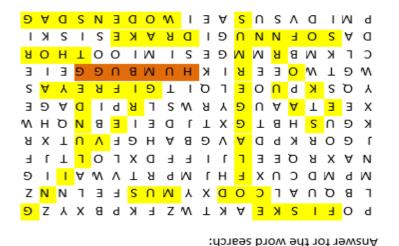
Come and join in the festivities celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Vennelag Lodge.

Our celebration will be at the Hí Point Steak House, Rídgeway

4 to 7 pm Leif Erickson Hall

The contract is ready, the room fee is paid, and our menu is being finalized. The table and room decoration ideas are being discussed, program ideas are being planned, and ideas for fun and merriment are being considered.

Put December 5th on your calendar for a night of bunads, Norwegian apparel, or your finest dress to celebrate our Norwegian heritage together.



Share in the conversation, camaraderie, and celebration.



HELP NEEDED! It is that time of the year when all thoughts turn toward beautifying our outdoor spaces and that includes the Military Ridge State Recreation Trail! Members will meet on Thursday, May 27th at 9:00 in the Trail parking lot near the Grumpy Troll Brew Pub. Teams will walk in opposite directions to cover both ends of the trail through Mt. Horeb. Bring gloves and a mask. Garbage bags and trash spears will be provided. Enjoying a late breakfast and Lodge Fellowship is one option after our work is done!

Vennelag News

WITH DEEPEST SYMPATHY



Vennelag Lodge extends its deepest sympathies to the family of Jo Don Anderson. Young family members Frederick and Barbara Hurley, ages 12 and 14, perished due to a housefire at the end of January.

Frederick and Barbara were Vennelag heritage members and had been insured through the Sons of Norway.

Member Gayle Anderson from Fennimore, WI is struggling with some health challenges. To brighten her day, you may consider sending her a card. To protect her identifying information, please contact Allen or myself to obtain her home address. Tusen takk.

NEWS in ENGLISH.no

Prime Minister Erna Solberg, following state health authorities' recommendations will begin reopening Norway beginning on April 16, 2021.

Many areas will likely remain subject to local regulations that are stricter than the national rules. The highest number of infections and hospitalizations are found in Oslo. The city will remain in lockdown until April 29th. Oslo has been shuttered since November 9, 2020.

Norway's total number of confirmed cases of Covid-19 rose to 107,369 on Sunday April 18, 2021. More than 3,500 cases were registered nationwide during the past seven days. The number of patients needing hospitalization declined to 209, while the death toll remained at 708. A total of 1,025,429 residents have been vaccinated with at least their first shot, approximately 24% of the country's population.

Vennelag News



Syttende Mai 2019 in Oslo Deposit Photos.com

The COVID-19 pandemic and implemented mitigation standards have affected much of the activity of the Royal House of Norway and the Royal Court. The official schedules for the members of the Royal Family and many of the activities of the Royal Court were greatly reduced in 2020. The constitutional duties of the King were for the most part carried out as normal.

On Tuesday, April 20, 2021 the U.S. Department of State raised the Norway travel advisory to Level 4 status. Travel to Norway is not recommended. Use the website listed here to read more specifics.



Travel.State.Gov

U.S. DEPARTMENT of STATE - BUREAU of CONSULAR AFFAIRS



The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has issued a Level 4 Travel Health Notice for Norway due to COVID-19, indicating an extremely high level of COVID-19 in the country.

Assistance is available for U.S. citizens in Norway. One may contact the U.S. Embassy by selecting from one of the options provided at left.

Vennelag News

mai-juni 2021



Vennelag Lodge will be electing delegates to the District 5 Convention in January. In the past, we have met the requirements for four delegates. The delegate number is based on the total number of members on the lodge roster at the end of December 2020.

From that group of individuals, delegates are elected to the International Convention. Other members are welcome to attend the International Convention and observe proceedings. See further information below. In addition, Karen Eberhardt and Cheryl Wille-Schlesser will attend as delegates, due to their service on the District 5 Board of Directors.



Dear Lodge Leaders,

I am pleased to announce that the International Board has approved the dates and location for the 2022 Sons of Norway International Convention.

The convention will be held August 31 - September 1, 2022. First-time delegates arrive for training on August 30. Delegates will depart September 2.

Here is the information about the venue—be sure and take the virtual tour of the site!

(Virtual Site Tour)

Omni Viking Lakes Hotel 2611 Nordic Way Eagan, MN 55121

More information will be forthcoming.

Sincerely,

Ron Stubbings President, International Board

Vennelag News

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Arlene Watrud-Krueger Vice President (Events) Phone: (608) 836-7450 Email: <u>akrueger@chorus.net</u>

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Cheryl Wille-Schlesser, Lodge Counselor, Editor Phone: (608) 219-4464 E-mail: **rogrcher@mhtc.net**

Greg Ragan, Financial Benefits Counselor Phone: (815) 623-8817 Change of number E-mail: <u>www.gregragan.com</u>

Do you have a change of address?

Please inform Duane Kittleson of any change in mailing address or email. You may also request to change the version of the newsletter you receive.



Duane Kittleson Phone: 608-229-6738 email: <u>dkittverona@gmail.com</u>

Our newsletters are always available *in color* on the District 5 website: <u>www.sonsofnorway5.com</u>. Follow the top ribbon to *NEWS* and scroll down to *Lodge Newsletters*.

*Find us on the web: <u>www.sonsofnorwaymthoreb.org</u> Our webpage will be undergoing some reconstruction, but we hope to have most changes made this summer, prior to our first event in September.

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