



Vennelag Lodge 5-513

Vennelag News

GODT NYTT ÅR



Happy New Year

ORD FRA PRESIDENTEN

Vennelag Lodge has just wrapped up a terrific year, ending with a December lefse fundraiser, which was a hit with the community and beyond. A huge tusen takk is extended to Duane and Nancy Kittleson who organized it and led the charge! Workers surprised themselves by accomplishing an immense amount of work in a mere three days. 140 pounds of potatoes were turned into quality lefse rounds at the hands of skillful members. The best part of this activity was learning more about each other, as we stood side by side at the grills. It was great to have new members join us, too. Mange takk til alle for hjelpen! Du er flott, alle sammen!

Numerous projects are in the works that will move our Lodge forward in the eyes of the Mt. Horeb Community in 2019. Financially, we stand ready to contribute to the Village's lighting project at the Community Center. A \$500.00 Mt. Horeb Utilities Grant, which was recently awarded to the Lodge, will be used for a portion of this project.

We have been approached by the Village Parks and Recreation Department to help provide funding for new dragonheads to adorn the bike trail visitor center in downtown Mt. Horeb. The events we sponsored this year can help to fund this project. At this writing, we are waiting for work bids to be submitted, before making a final commitment.

Vennelag Lodge provided three Christmas gifts for needy individuals: a senior at Ingleside Manor, a child, and a cognitively challenged adult through Village's *The Giving Tree* project. Each February, an annual contribution to the Mt. Horeb Optimist Silent Auction provides us with another opportunity to put Vennelag's name into play among local residents.

I am proud to say that Vennelag Lodge is making Mt. Horeb a better place to learn, work, and live. Sharing the heritage and culture of the Norwegian people is a portion of our mission, and we have become great ambassadors. Please extend a hand of friendship to someone you know. Welcoming them to the "Circle of Friends" ensures the stability of our programming and the continuity of Vennelag Lodge.

Mange takk,

Cheryl

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.

FOUNDATION NIGHT

The Sons of Norway Meeting on Thursday, October 25th, was a huge success for our International Foundation! Foundation committee members, Aldeen Fjelstad, Cheryl Wille-Schlesser and Harley Skjervem announced that the proceeds from our ticket raffle and live auction raised \$679.19! This exceeded our annual goal of \$500! We want to thank all those who donated a Theme Basket and to those who bid or purchased raffle tickets to win the baskets. We also thank everyone for putting your dollars and extra coins into our Foundation's Piggy Bank at every monthly meeting.

The dollars raised will fund scholarships, community need grants, camperships and promote the heritage and culture of Norway for our members, lodges and communities.

Thank you all for making our 2018 International Foundation fundraiser the success it was!

Harley

Tickets were placed in bowls in front of the hoped for basket.



Our auctioneer, Chuck Morkri, led the bids



Harley led the evening festivities



Marlyn was deciding which one to bid on



Earn a Culture Pin for Cooking!

Beginning in the month of February, Vennelag Lodge will begin a cooking segment, Traditional Norwegian Cooking, before it's meeting. Dough will be prepared for two cooking/baking options listed in the course materials. Participants will receive the print materials needed for reporting on their work. Pictures will be taken to satisfy the requirements. If you would like to begin the cooking journey with us, please plan to arrive at 12 Noon, on Sunday, February 17th.

Velkommen to our new members:

| | |
|---------------|----------------|
| David Saether | Teresa Wille |
| Russ Wille | Courtney Wille |
| Jodi Bennetts | Patty Schlafer |
| Eric Wille | |



Baking Workshop

The annual Baking Workshop was held on **Saturday**, Nov. 3 at the Community Center with 27 people in attendance. There was a light breakfast of waffles, fruit, juice, water and coffee (the coffee pot was on the entire time). Our bakers traveled to 7 different centers to have hands-on-learning of: heart waffles, lefse, rosettes, æbelskiver, krumkaker, smørgrøt, and an Orange Cardamom Butter Cream cookie. Members of our lodge were the "teachers" at each sight. Each baker was able to go home with "goodies" they helped make. Next year's baking workshop will be November 2, 2019.



Duane explaining the art of making smørgrøt



Chuck shows how to roll Krumkaker



Rita and Carolyn help the ladies making Sandbakkelser and Orange Cardamom Butter Cookies



Our young lefse rollers



COUSINS! Jane and Mary



Rosetter by Kristen and Krumkaker by Chuck



Our lefse chefs: Carlyce, Harley and Nancy



Tiffany making æbelskiver

GOD JOBB, ALLE SAMMEN!



REMEMBERING...

Our November meeting was dedicated to the Vennelag Lodge members who passed away in 2018. One yellow rose was presented in honor of each of the following: Lennys Luchsinger, Sigrid Bratrud, Valla Zentner, Marshall Berg, Dorothy Vamstad, Sanford Dahl, and Calvin Olson. Let us remember them for their unique talents and their untold contributions which furthered the health of our Lodge and the ideals of the Sons of Norway.



"**Talent potpourri**" is a good way to describe what took place next at the November Lodge meeting, as music, singing, and instrumental expertise was the order of the evening. Jean Grindle, on her accordian, accompanied Arlene Watrud-Krueger in the "O Lutefisk" Song and Carlyce Skjervem as they performed a family classic of Jean's. Carlyce's performance on two different violins was awesome, as was her accompaniment of Harley and Chuck's Norwegian/English reading. Duane and Nancy Kittleson did a very funny stand-up routine that spoofs customer service and was right on the mark! And as to those other two guys who were there, Ron Goplin and Allen Watrud...words escape us but we enjoyed their entertaining version of the Mountain Dew song, Ghost Chickens in the Sky, Elivra and Allen's "Rindercella".



NEED A SCHOLARSHIP?

The Sons of Norway Foundation is now calling for 2019 Scholarship Applications. The scholarships have varying due dates and are time sensitive. Many of the scholarships provide study opportunities in Norway, but several are applicable for universities and colleges in the U.S. Go to www.sonsofnorway.com Select *Foundation* from the top ribbon on the webpage. A dropdown menu will appear with a listing of all of the scholarships provided. A qualifying quiz will help you to determine your eligibility.

The 5th District of the Sons of Norway, www.sonsofnorway5.com, also offers two book scholarships and a scholarship for study in Norway. Folk High School is another option for our members. Some students opt for this program during a gap year before college enrollment.

Scholarships for attending Masse Moro, District 5's summer heritage and culture camp for youth ages 9-15 can also be found on this website. The dates for Masse Moro in 2019 are July 13-27.

Vennelag Lodge offers one \$1,000.00 scholarship each year. A newly formed scholarship committee consisting of Arlene Watrud-Krueger, Ann Walser, and Linda Erickson-Coughlin are working on our 2019 application. It should be ready for use in early February.

Breakfast with Santa

Vennelag 5-513's first breakfast with Santa event was held on **Saturday, December 1, 2018**, from 8:30 AM-11:30 AM at the Mt. Horeb Community Center. The Vennelag Membership Committee consisting of Carolyn Johnson, Donna Corcoran, Lynn Schwoerer, Karen Eberhardt, and Jean Grindle began planning this event last summer. The committee assembled a group of Santa's helpers and included some of younger members: Lauren Albrecht, Siri Amundsen, and Siri Martin.

Families enjoyed heart waffles, beverages, and a gluten-free muffin option. A special thank you is extended to our waffle chef, Mary Gullickson-Krantz and the goddess of the kitchen, Ann Walser for planning and preparing the meal for our guests. Some people asked for Mary's recipe!

Although the weather was frightful, the guests (80-90) were delightful! The kids (and many parents) were intent on making gingerbread cookies to hang on their **Christmas** tree, as well as a reindeer with googly eyes, snowflakes that sparkled and a special Scandinavian woven heart basket. The atmosphere was enhanced by **Christmas** music and the festive décor set for the occasion. The adults enjoyed a great cup of coffee while conversing with other parents, friends, and neighbors.

There was plenty of space and time for the kids to really enjoy Santa's conversation while their parents listened intently, made a note or two, and took their own photos of the moment. The entrance fee of \$5.00 per ticket will be donated to District 5's Heritage Camp for children, Masse Moro. The proceeds of nearly \$500.00 are a great start for this annual event.

Many thanks are extended to ALL Vennelag members who gave of themselves and their time during this busy holiday season. Your **Christmas** spirit was contagious, which made this *First Annual Breakfast with Santa* such a great success! Many compliments were received by our members who were helping with the event, and plans are already underway for next year's Breakfast with Santa. We hope you will be able to join us!

On behalf of the Committee,
Jean Grindle



JULETREFEST

We had a fabulous turn out even though the weather outside was frightful. The potluck meal was enjoyed by all and so was the company of those we ate with. The Good Luck singers and company lead those present in Christmas carols. Singing was followed with dancing around the Christmas tree. When what to our wondering eyes should appear but Santa and Mrs. Claus. The children, of all ages, sat with Santa and told him what they wanted for Christmas. I hope everyone gets what they wished for!



Proud to show off the Norwegian sweaters



and the traditional bunads



The Good Luch Singers performed many Christmas songs



The Juletre dance



A visit from Santa was enjoyed by young and older alike!



***Next year's Juletrefest will be [Sunday December 1, 2019](#).

OUR LEFSA MAKERS



A LITTLE REMINDER FOR EACH OF US WHEN ON THE SET-UP CREW:

When we are asked to be on the set-up crew, we are to prepare the space for a Lodge meeting by:

- Setting up tables and chairs
- Placing flags outside
- Arranging the sound system
- Placing the 3 inside flags (U.S., Canadian, Lodge) in the front of the room

We are also to:

- Welcome visitors and guests to our lodge
- Help staff the doors as people come into the lodge
- Advise the president of guests or other needs
- Clean up at the conclusion of a meeting



2019 Lodge Happenings: START THE NEW YEAR WITH FUN AT THE LODGE

| FUTURE BOARD MEETING DATES | FUTURE LODGE MEETING DATES |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| January 9, 2019 – 6:30 PM (Wednesday) Culver's | January 20, 2019 2 PM (Sunday) MHCC |
| February 6, 2019 – 6:30 PM (Wednesday) Culver's | February 17, 2019 2 PM (Sunday) MHCC |
| | |

JANUARY

Vennelag's 3d Annual Chili Cook-off!



There are as many different types of chili as there are members in a Lodge! The Vennelag Board invites you to share your best chili in the 3rd annual Vennelag chili cook-off! Our event will be held on Sunday afternoon, January 20, 2019, following our business meeting. **The cookie baking challenge will be part of the February meeting.**

This year the sampling will be held in conjunction with a double-elimination euchre tournament. As a change of pace, the judges will be all the members attending the meeting. Voters will buy a bag of beans (10 for \$1) and then use them to indicate their preferences. In addition to other goodies, the winner will claim "bragging rights" for the year!

In order to have enough chili to serve our entire lodge, I need to know one week in advance of the meeting who will be bringing their special creation. Please e-mail me at: rogcher@mhtc.net. Bring your chili in a Crockpot® or some type of heated device.

***Like the Vikings of old, part of our persona is being adventurous and willing to try something new! If you are not the cook in your family, convince a loved one to do that for you! Do not bring a commercial or purchased chili. We look forward to a tremendous selection of homemade chili to choose from on January 20th!

..... A N D

Euchre!!! As mentioned above, this meeting will include a bodacious euchre tournament, to be held in conjunction with the chili tasting event. It will be a double-elimination event, capped at 16 teams. Team assignments will again be arbitrary to keep it fun and interesting. Prizes will be awarded to the final 2 teams.

BIRKIE FEVER IS CONTAGIOUS!

Before we know it, the 2019, Barnebirkie or Children’s Ski Race will be here. The Sons of Norway 5th District has long supported this fun-filled event in Hayward, WI. One of the most helpful things you can do from afar is to provide homemade cookies for the post-race celebration. Chocolate chip and sugar cookies are popular with the younger set. Lodges in District 5 will be recognized for their efforts, and the lodge who provides the most cookies will win a \$50.00 prize! Participating lodges will be recognized on the District 5 webpage for their efforts.

The classic skiers are often tempted by our cookies and have called for more wholesome cookies such as: ginger, molasses, pumpkin, fruit, cinnamon, or spice cookies. Please let me know if you would like to gather for a baking day. That can be arranged!

CAUTION: Due to the concern of allergic reactions, please do not include any tree nuts or peanuts in your cookies. Thank you!

FEBRUARY

COOKIE Challenge: Bring your cookies for the Barnebirkie. Please join us for a presentation by Dr. Lowell Peterson, Under the Gun and On the Run, the story of John Dillinger

SNOWSHOEING: Are you getting cabin fever yet? Get out in the great outdoors and join us for a couple hours of snowshoeing Saturday February 2. We will meet at the Pheasant Branch Conservancy at 1:00 and conclude the day with some warm libations. A sign-up sheet will be at the board meetings and January Lodge meeting, send an email to awatrud@gmail.com, or a text (or good old-fashioned phone call) to 608-772-1969. Pray for snow!!



MARCH- VAFFEL DAG! A day to share your favorite waffle recipes.

SERVERS FOR OUR MEETINGS:



| | | | | | |
|----------|----------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Sunday | Jan. 20 | Cara Mavis | Jane Heibel | Nancy Kittleson | Ann Walser |
| Sunday | Feb. 17 | Allen Watrud | Carlyce Skjervem | Harley Skjervem | Needed |
| Sunday | March 17 | Tiffany Schwoerer | Jean Grindle | Ron and Deb Goplin | Lynn Schwoerer |
| Thursday | April 25 | Ann Marie Spott | JoDon Anderson | Arlene Watrud-Krueger | Chery Wille-Schlesser |

The lunches are of a "light fare." When planning your menu, please keep this in mind. Your group will decide what to serve. Each month a reminder with the duties will be sent out. If you have questions, email Mary Gullickson-Krantz at laffalot@mhtc.net or Ann Walser at anncwalsen@gmail.com

Need a tasty Jell-O recipe?

- 2 cups boiling water
- 2 packages cherry Jell-O-sugar-free
- Dissolve the Jell-O in the boiling water.
- Add-
- 1 cup cold water
- 1 cup Mogen David wine
- 1 can crushed pineapple-drained
- 1 can sweet, dark, pitted Bing cherries



Put in the refrigerator to chill. After 15-20 minutes, stir the fruit to move it to a higher level in your bowl. Return to the refrigerator to set.



2019 VENNELAG CALENDAR

| | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Sunday, January 20, 2019 | 12:00 noon to 6 PM | BAKING EVENT AND LODGE MEETING |
| Sunday, February 17, 2019 | 12:00 noon to 6 PM | CULTURAL PIN COOKING AND MEETING |
| Sunday, March 17, 2019 | 12:00 noon to 6 PM | LODGE MEETING |
| Thursday, April 18, 2019 | 5:30 PM-9:00 PM | LODGE MEETING WITH MUSICIANS |
| Thursday, May 30, 2019 | 5:30 PM-9:00 PM | ANNUAL SYTTENDE MAI CELEBRATION |
| Saturday, June 15, 2019 | 8:00 AM-3:00 PM | BAKING DAY FOR THE KAFFE STUE |
| Saturday, June 22, 2019 | 8:00 AM-3:00 PM | BAKING DAY FOR THE KAFFE STUE |
| Thursday, June 27, 2019 | 5:30 PM-9:00 PM | LODGE MEETING |
| Friday, July 19, 2019 | 12:30 PM-10:00 PM | PREP FOR THE ANNUAL KAFFE STUE |
| Saturday, July 20, 2019 | 6:00 AM-6:00 PM | KAFFE STUE AND CLEAN-UP |
| Thursday, August 29, 2019 | 5:30 PM-9:00 PM | LODGE MEETING |
| Saturday, September 14, 2019 | 8:00 AM-3:00 PM | BAKING DAY FOR THE FROKOST |
| Thursday, September 26, 2019 | 5:30 PM-9:00 PM | LODGE MEETING |
| Saturday, September 28, 2019 | 8:00 AM-3:00 PM | BAKING DAY FOR THE FROKOST |
| Friday, October 4, 2019 | 12:30 PM-10:00 PM | PREP FOR THE FROKOST |
| Saturday, October 5, 2019 | 6:00 AM-6:00 PM | HØST FROKOST-FALL BREAKFAST |
| Thursday, October 24, 2019 | 5:30 PM-9:00 PM | LODGE MEETING |
| Friday, November 1, 2019 | 5:30 PM-9:00 PM | PREP FOR BAKING WORKSHOP |
| Saturday, November 2, 2019 | 7:00 AM-12:30 PM | BAKING WORKSHOP |
| Thursday, November 21, 2019 | 5:30 PM-9:00 PM | LODGE MEETING |
| Saturday, November 30, 2019 | 9:00 AM-11:00 AM | BREAKFAST WITH SANTA |
| Sunday, December 1, 2019 | 5:30 AM-9:00 PM | JULETREFEST |
| Saturday, December 21, 2019 | 9:00 AM-12:00 Noon | LEFSA/BAKE SALE |



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