



the Askeladden News



February

Sons of Norway • Askeladden Lodge 5-610 • Kalamazoo, Michigan
A Congenial Society of Sons, Daughters, and Friends of Norway
facebook.com/AskeladdenLodge

02-19

Meetings:

Sept - April: 2nd Sundays, 2 p.m.
May only: 3rd Sunday, 2 p.m.
Trinity Lutheran Church
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Kalamazoo, MI

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Sunday, February 10
2 p.m.

Ísland og Norge Travelogue

Trinity Lutheran Church

Please join us on Sunday, February 10 (Mother's Day in Norway) for the monthly lodge meeting. We will meet at Trinity Lutheran Church, downtown Kalamazoo.

Curt Osborn will give the cultural program, presenting a video travelogue of a trip to Iceland and Norway.

Our gathering begins at 2 p.m. with a shared meal. Please bring a dish to pass. Tableware and beverage are provided. The cultural program starts at 3 p.m., followed by a short business session.

All events will be in Fellowship Hall, in the lower level of Trinity Lutheran Church, 504 South Westnedge Ave, downtown Kalamazoo. The meal and cultural program are open to the public. Please invite anyone who may have an interest.

Welcome New Members!

Askeladden Lodge met the 2018 recruitment goal set for us by the corporate office and we will be receiving a prize package as a result! We welcome these newest Sons of Norway members to our lodge:

James Benson
Lynn Benson
Else Christianson
Lars Chistianson
Beverly Osborn
Audrey Renoos
Sandra Santas

ASKELADDEN NEWS

Board of Directors Meetings Summary

Curtis Cleveland, Former President

The Board of Directors met November 11 and December 15. Both meetings, each lasting one hour, were held at Trinity Lutheran Church on the same day as the lodge meeting.

Both meetings were devoted to establishing a program to retain young members in the lodge, previously known as Unge Venner members, ages 16 to 23 inclusively.

Background: At the October 7 Lodge meeting, the members, after discussion, agreed that the Lodge should adapt a program whereby members would be reimbursed a portion of their membership dues in order to retain the young members.

After much discussion, the Board approved a program whereby members who change their Individual membership to a Family membership, in order to retain a young member, will have the opportunity to be reimbursed \$49 of their membership dues.

The Board approved several donations, including: \$100 to the Kalamazoo Gospel Mission, \$100 to the Ministry with Community, \$100 to the Ski for Light, Inc (Minneapolis), and \$100 to the District 5 in support of the Barnebirkie.

Prior to the November and December meetings, the Board met in August, September, and October. At these meetings, several items were discussed, including the 2019 budget, 30th Anniversary Dinner, and the lodge meetings and events for the second half of 2018.

During the calendar year 2018, the Board of Directors met 7 times.

Long-time Lodge Member Passes Away in Iowa

We just learned that long-time Askeladden member Pat (Patricia) Askelson, passed away November 25, 2018, after battling cancer. Originally from Grand Forks, North Dakota, Pat joined the Sons of Norway in 1993. She remained a member of our lodge even after moving to Cedar Rapids, Iowa, many years ago. She only gave up her membership a little more than a year ago after 24 years with the Sons of Norway. While they lived in the Kalamazoo area, the Askelson family housed a foreign exchange high school student, Per Morten Haarr, from Stavanger, Norway, who also attended Lodge events. We hope Per returns to Kalamazoo some day for a visit.



Michigan Nordic Fire Festival February 22-24

The Michigan Nordic Fire Festival in Charlotte is taking place the last weekend of February.

The Festival has expanded with many new events since it first began four years ago. As many as a half dozen family-friendly activities to choose from will happen simultaneously all day Saturday and Sunday. The ceremonial burning of a Viking



long boat, which gives the festival its name, is planned for Friday evening. Visit the website to get event information, ticket information and volunteer opportunities.

Askeladden Lodge is one of many official sponsors of this event. The Festival organizers are looking for volunteers. Visit their Facebook page or their website to get current event details.

<http://www.michigannordicfirefestival.com>

St. Patrick's Day Parade - plan to join us!

Joan Renaas O'Bryan

Once again our lodge has the opportunity to make our presence known to the greater Kalamazoo community in a **fun** and easy way. The annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in Kalamazoo takes place Saturday morning, March 16. We provide the costumes as long as you sign up in advance, making it easy for you to participate. Please help us with planning by signing up at the February meeting. Contact Joan if you can't make the meeting and you want to participate. Staging area will be near to the alley side or rear of the Comerica Building on Rose Street. Everyone should be on site and in costume by 10:30 so we can secure items and move into the official parade staging spot, which we do not know yet. The parade will be a little different from years past as there will be no floats due to lane closures from construction on Michigan Avenue.

If you haven't joined us in the past, this parade is the easiest one we participate in - it's only six blocks long and the street we march on is heated, so there is never any snow to contend with. Participating in this event counts as one of your annual qualifying events for inclusion in the Norway Trip drawing in the fall.

Askeladden Lodge Library

www.librarything.com/catalog/Sonsofnorway

Contact Roger Drong with questions or to reserve resources.

ASKELADDEN NEWS

Askeladden Lodge 2019 scholarships

If you have children or grandchildren starting college next year or continuing as an undergraduate student, they can be considered for a scholarship awarded by Askeladden Lodge. The 2019 budget allows for up to three \$1,000 scholarships.

Applications (and required documents such as letters of recommendation and official transcripts) for the 2019 Askeladden Myrtle Beinhauer Scholarships are due to Joyce Hare *by March 15, 2019*. The application form and guidelines are available online at

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Jqcci7JMT8VeVzq0Oaf_CryZt5IBhoAC/view?usp=sharing

Please contact Joyce Hare at (269) 327-5824 with any inquiries.

Being awarded a Lodge scholarship one year neither precludes a student from winning or guarantees that student will win it in subsequent years.

The application process is not complicated, but it does require a little planning to gather the required information, so begin the process today, including to make sure your Sons of Norway dues are up to date.

Recap of the January 2019 Lodge Meeting

Curtis Cleveland, Cultural Committee Chair

Defying the cold weather outside, many members and guests attended the January 13 Lodge meeting, held at Trinity Lutheran Church.

After a hearty meal, we viewed a video on the Draken Harald Hårfagre, the modern Viking longship. After the video, Joan talked about the financial and legal issues that the vessel faced when traveling on the US waterways and the Sons of Norway's involvement in raising funds for the ship to travel through four of the Great Lakes in 2016.

During the business session, several announcements were made. Joyce Hare of the Scholarship Committee informed members that March 15 is the deadline for submitting applications for the Askeladden Lodge Myrtle Beinhauer Scholarship. Joan O'Bryan discussed the upcoming March 16 St Patrick's Day Parade.

Curtis Cleveland informed members about resolutions discussed at the International Sons of Norway Convention held August 2018 in Minneapolis. The resolutions concerned the following topics: 1) The *Viking for Kids* publication; 2) Golden Member classification; and 3) elimination of Unge Venner members. During the discussion, several members made comments on these topics. The comments will be summarized in a letter to the editor of the *Viking* magazine.

Curtis Cleveland, the outgoing Lodge President, discussed the decline in the cash balance in the lodge's endowment fund, suggesting actions to curtail or slow the decline.

Joyce Hare installed the 2019 Lodge Officers.

Curt Osborn, the newly installed Lodge President, closed the meeting with Remarks for the Good of the Order.

Fra Presidenten

I'm excited to be back in the office of President and want to thank you all for your support. Hopefully I will uphold your expectations.

It's been a few years since I last served in this capacity, and I'm in the process of relearning the duties. I'm finding the Sons of Norway website, www.sofn.com is a valuable asset. The website is packed with many features. Both for officers and for members. If you haven't looked lately, please explore its offerings. Our district, District 5, also has a website: <http://www.sonsofnorway5.com>. It also has many features. Both are fairly easy to navigate and explore.

Our short list of officers has grown yet shorter. Many of us serve in multiple roles. Recently we had a resignation. Which means those of us serving you will have to assume yet another duty on top of the ones we are already pulling. We are in current need of a Secretary. Please give consideration in volunteering for this position.

As I'm writing this article, my iPhone weather app says it is 2 degrees F. The app also predicts it will be -18 F before the Polar Vortex and Jayden retreat to the Arctic. I hope all of you soldier through this weather crisis and when we meet on 10 February it is a balmy 32 F.

Thanks for reading, I hope to see all of you on February 10 at 2 p.m.

Curt

Gratulerer med dagen!

Fødselsdag Hilsener

February Birthdays

Crystal Walvoord

Barbara Heffner

Brent Roble

Karen Kunze

Elizabeth Kraatz

Gail Thompson-Hadley



SONS of NORWAY

Askeladden Lodge 5-610

5749 Stadium Drive # 245
Kalamazoo, MI 49009

FEBRUAR 2019 KALENDER

-  • Februar 6 - *Samefolkets dag* - Sámi People's Day or Sámi National Day
- Februar 10 - **Askeladden Lodge Meeting and program** followed by potluck dinner
2:00 p.m Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church, 504 S. Westnedge
- Februar 10 - *Morsdag* - Mother's Day in Norway
- Februar 12 - HH Princess Astrid, 1932
- Februar 14 - Valentine's Day ♡
-  • Februar 15 - National Flag Day of Canada
-  • Februar 18 - President's Day, United States
-  • Februar 21 - H.M. King Harald V 1937
- Februar 21 - Barnebirkie, Hayward, Wisconsin
- Februar 22-24 Michigan Nordic Fire Festival, Charlotte \$8 person/\$20 family admission fee. Full information at
<http://www.michigannordicfirefestival.com>
- Februar 23 - American Birkebeiner, Telemark Lodge, Hayward, Wisconsin www.birkie.com
- Februar 28 - Last day to submit *Askeladden News* articles



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 to provide quality insurance and financial products to our members.