

Vennelag Lodge, 5-513

Dates to Remember

Board meetings:

Thursday, **January 11**, 2018, Culvers, **6:30 PM**

Thursday, **February 8**, 2018, Culvers, **6:30 PM**

Lodge meetings:

Sunday, **January 21**, 2018, MHCC, Movie-*The King's Choice* at **12 Noon**, Mtg. **2 PM**

Installation of Officers, Election of Delegates to the District 5 Convention in La Crosse

Sunday, **February 18**, 2018, MHCC, Mtg. **2 PM**

Zone 3 Officer Seminar: Saturday, **January 27**, 2018, Nordland Lodge, Janesville, WI, **8:30 AM - 3 PM**

All are welcome! Notify Cheryl of your willingness to attend. We will carpool to Janesville and enjoy some fellowship along the way!

Velkommen!

*Beginning in January our **set-up crew** will also serve as greeters at the meetings. Your task is to welcome veteran and new members alike to the meeting. If you meet someone you don't know, introduce yourself and make a new friend. There are several new members on both the January and February crews. After all, our name **Vennelag** means, "**Circle of Friends**"! If someone is a guest, please write down their name(s) and give the list to Cheryl prior to the start of the business meeting. She will use this list to extend a warm welcome to all visitors. *Mange takk for hjelpen!*

SET-UP CREW

Set-up at 1:00 PM Meeting begins at 2:00 PM

Note: At the January meeting, we will be showing the movie, *The King's Choice*, beginning at 12:00 Noon. Some chairs will be arranged for this activity. Additional tables and chairs will need to be placed for the business meeting.

JANUARY 21, 2018

- *Marion Leonard
- *Brenda Martin
- *Colton Martin
- *Guy Martin
- *Martha Martin
- *Siri Martin



FEBRUARY 18, 2018

- *Cara Mavis
- *Donald Mueller
- *Arthur Ness
- *Jon Nygaard
- *Kathryn Nygaard
- *David Oimoen

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 its members.

Ord fra presidenten

Godt Nytt År, Alle Sammen! Happy New Year, Everyone!

As the calendar turns to January, we sit poised at the precipice for some exciting changes in our Lodge. Numerous members will be sworn into service at our January meeting. With them comes a plethora of ideas and strategies for keeping Vennelag Lodge vibrant. Your support for the newly elected officers will not only help them to grow in their role, but it will keep Vennelag on a forward trajectory. If you are asked by a new officer to join one of their committees, please do so willingly! **Growing to 2020** is a goal of the International Office. Mange takk!

NEW DUES STRUCTURE TO BEGIN IN JANUARY 2018

Membership dues changes will be instituted in January for all lodges in the United States. Lodges have now been placed on an even playing field in regard to the cost of local dues. Another positive aspect of the new dues structure is that it allows all individuals living at the same residence, whether related or not, to become members together. Multiple generations of families qualify, as do friends or couples who share a living space. If you have any questions about the new dues structure, please contact Sherry Gorse at the International Office. Phone: 612-821-4643 or email: 2018dues@sofn.com



We will be conducting a **Chili Cook-off** at our **February meeting**. The entries will be blind for judging purposes. Please bring your best chili recipe for the Cook-off. The winner from last year has chosen to not compete in this category! A food specialist will serve as the judge.

We will also hold a **cookie contest** that day to be judged by local baker Pam Barnes. She is anxiously awaiting your entries! We encourage all members to submit a cookie for the contest. Please bring your recipes — both the chili recipe and/or the cookie recipe — on 3x 5 recipe cards for sharing after the contest. The winners from the contests will be published in the next edition of the *Vennelag News*.



The Chili Cook-off is promoted by District 5 and all lodges are encouraged to participate. The cookie contest was instituted locally last year. Following the judging, the cookies will be transported to Hayward for the enjoyment of skier families. Thank you in advance for participating in this fun midwinter activity!



District 5 of the Sons of Norway has supported the **Barnebirke**, the children's cross-country ski race in Hayward, WI, for many years. Cookies are sent from local lodges as treats for these small skiers and their families to enjoy. Our yearly goal is 1,000 dozen cookies from the District's six state area! We have met this goal in years past and hope to do so again! If you need help getting the cookies to the Barnebirke, please contact either Cheryl Wille-Schlessler or District 5's Sports Director, Michaela Decker (michaeladecker@wi.rr.com or 262-498-2085) to arrange a pick up. ** Due to allergies, we ask that your cookies DO NOT contain peanuts or tree nuts of any kind. Thank you in advance for helping us to meet our District goal for the Feb 22 event.

CALL FOR DELEGATES

At the January 2018 Lodge meeting, Vennelag Lodge will elect three members who can serve our Lodge in the capacity of a delegate at the District 5 biennial convention. We will also elect three alternates who will be able to serve Vennelag in the event that one or more of our delegates cannot attend.

The 2018 District 5 Convention will be held at the Radisson Hotel in beautiful downtown La Crosse, WI from June 29-30, provided that all District business has been completed. In rare cases, conventions may be extended into Sunday.

Based on the size of Vennelag's membership, our lodge is allotted three delegates. This is a perfect opportunity for every member to learn more about District 5's operations. Delegates will review, propose changes to the Constitution and By-laws, and make other determinations on how District 5 functions.

In addition, President Cheryl Wille-Schlesser, who also serves on the District 5 Board of Directors, will be in attendance. A stipend recently approved by the Vennelag Board of Directors will help our delegates to defray the cost of their attendance.

Consider serving Vennelag Lodge in this capacity and help us to make decisions that will guide our District for the next two years. Please note that it is also from this pool of lodge representatives that delegates will be elected to the International Sons of Norway Convention, which will be held at the beautiful Hyatt Regency Hotel in Bloomington, Minnesota. To learn more about this opportunity, visit SofN.com and select "2018 International Convention".

2018 - 2019 Vennelag Lodge Officers

Counselor -- Chuck Mørkri
Cultural Director -- Tiffany Schwoerer
Food Chairman -- Ann Walser; Assistant Mary Gullickson-Krantz
Foundation Director -- Harley Skjervem
Greeters -- Those who are assigned to the set-up crew will do this task.
Historian / Scrapbook -- Aldeen Fjelstad
Newsletter Editor -- Arlene Watrud-Krueger
President -- Cheryl Wille-Schlesser
Publicity -- Mary Gullickson-Krantz
Recreation / Sports Director -- Davina Penne
Secretary -- Rita Schraepfer
Social Director -- Allen Watrud
Treasurer -- Tamiko Clary
Trustees -- David Andersen, John Eberhardt, Arthur Ness
Vice President / Membership Director -- Carolyn Johnson; Assistant Jean Grindle
Youth Directors -- Kelly and Michelle Skeels
Webmaster -- Evan Ellis (not an elected position)

ADVICE FROM A POLAR BEAR

Live Large
Be thick-skinned
Sniff out opportunities
Learn some good ice breakers
Be fearless
Keep it cool!



From Your Food Chairman

January servers are: Pat and Jim Knudson, Donna Corcoran and Jean Grindle

February servers so far are: Tiffany Schwoerer and Aldeen Fjelstad. We need two more in February.

Thanks for doing this. Happy Holidays! **Ann Walser**

Vennelag celebrated 46 years on November 19th, 2017

Photos: Vennelag's 46th Anniversary cupcakes - *Gratulerer med dagen* - Congratulations on the day!

Speaker: At the Nov 16th Lodge meeting, **Ellen MacDonald**, from Decorah, IA, described her 2017 Hurtigruten Voyage and displayed examples of her work as a carving instructor for the Vesterheim Norwegian American Museum.



Photos: Memory Bouquet in honor of **Kenneth Nyland, Allen Fjelstad, Carol Nyland, and Richard Lornson** (Various presenters).

Membership Director Carolyn Johnson with the final memory bouquet, adding a red rose for all members outside of District 5 who passed away in the last calendar year.



Chicago Outing

Vennelag members Tom and Kathy Wulff, Aldeen Fjelstad, and Cheryl Wille-Schlesser joined members from Idun and Mandt Lodges on a wonderful adventure to the Christkindlmarkt at Daley Plaza in Chicago. In addition to the German vendors on-site, there were also food and beverage stands providing cheese, sausages, brats, chicken, and seafood options to visitors.

Ornaments were popular with the market-goers, but so were clocks, handcrafted embroidery, wooden designs, and chocolate covered macaroons. Some people enjoyed time at Millennium Park while others strolled Michigan Avenue for some fine shopping. A few went to Macy's on State Street where they enjoyed lunch under the massive Christmas tree.

Mange takk to Mandt Lodge for arranging this trip and for the invitation to join you on this great outing! The hospitality of your members is second to none.



Cultural and Social Events

Hei alle!

Allen Watrud and I are hard at work, brain storming and planning our upcoming year.

We are thrilled to announce the **February activity—our chili and cookie cook offs.** (See more information on page 2 of this issue.)

After the tasty meal, be prepared to work it off, laughing and competing in the first ever **Vennelag Olympics!!**

Our Olympics will be loaded with fun and we'll have activities in which everyone can participate, no matter the skill level. Bring your belly laughs and gaffs, then prepare to have a blast, participating or being a spectator for the Vennelag Olympics!

Tiffany & Allen

Fun in the Kitchen

Here are some pictures from the Dec 14 **lefse-making** extravaganza...13 people were present! Tina Havnen Andersen, an exchange student from Trondheim, Norway, joined us. Duane and Nancy Kittleson prepared 80 pounds of potatoes and 40 dozen rounds were rolled (give or take a few that were eaten at break-time). All the lefse made on Thursday was sold in a 10 minute time frame on Saturday!

Tusen takk, alle sammen for helping Vennelag Lodge with another fundraiser.



Julefest

Dec 2, 2017



Marlyn Grinde on Santa's lap!

Scrapbooking

Members of our Lodge will be meeting to organize and scrapbook pictures and mementos from the **Sept 2017 trip to Norway**.

Please bring copies of what you wish to share, and we will work on them together. What you bring will be donated to the Lodge, so be sure they are "extras". Refreshments, but not lunch, will be provided.

We will meet at the Mt Horeb Community Center from 1 to 4 PM on the following days:

Saturday Jan 30
Sunday Feb 11
Saturday Feb 17

Rita Schraepfer-Derke



Vennelag's 2017 Membership

Vennelag 5-513 welcomed **27 new members** during the 2017 calendar year. This includes 2 children, 5 young adults and 20 adults. We welcome them all and are thrilled to include them in our Circle of Friends.

Allen Watrud	Cara Lee Mavis	Charles Spotts	Chelsi Wille
Diane Bartz	Evan Ellis	Ingrid Hirtz	Jillian Holle
Kathleen Wulff	Kimberly Schmit	Kyle Wille	Larry Jenkins
Leonard Werner	Linda Coughlin	Marion Leonard	Marsha Lichte-Crow
Mary Allness Philipps	Mary Thompson	Michelle Krantz	Nancy Barlow
Noah Bray	Patrick Glynn	Patrick Penn	Paula Werner
Sara Holle	Siri Martin	Tamara Schmook	

Carolyn Johnson Membership Chairman

Vennelag 5-513 is one of 56 lodges that have met or exceeded their 10% member recruitment goal! We'll be getting a prize package in early 2018, valued at more than \$300, which includes:

- **\$200 cash card** - Your lodge deserves to celebrate success with a special event.
- **Exclusive access to new membership programs** - Topics include history and travel.
- **Newly designed Sons of Norway banner** - Display this handsome banner at your meetings and events.
- **Certificate of honor** - In recognition for a job well-done.
- **Recruiter recognition pin** - Recruiting members will proudly wear this handsome pin, featuring the updated Sons of Norway logo.



Thank you for everything you do to make Sons of Norway a welcoming, active organization in your community.

What is an affiliate membership?

Affiliate membership allows an individual to belong to two or more lodges at the same time.

Winter may bring snowbirds to your lodge. At the same time as they are enjoying the sunshine and warmth of their temporary location, they may wish to continue experiencing the fellowship of a lodge. Consider inviting these temporary residents to become affiliate members of your lodge.

Please inform Duane Kittleson of any change in mailing address or email so the newsletter will be received by you in a timely manner. You may also make a change from/to receiving a printed mailed copy or to an email notification.

Duane Kittleson
6225 Mineral Point Rd, Apt. D90
Madison, WI 53705
Phone: 608-229-6738
Email: dkittverona@gmail.com



For **knitters** in our Lodge, there is word that Jan 6, 2018, The Cat and Crow in Mt Horeb is holding an **Infant Hat Knit-a-long**. The event is for the American Heart Association's **Little Hats, Big Hearts campaign**. For details, please contact:

The Cat and Crow, 608-437-1771 or thecatandcrow@mhtc.net

Tiffany Schwoerer



Vennelag News

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**Next Newsletter Deadline:
February 22, 2018**



Dear Members of Vennelag Lodge,
I have enjoyed being your Editor of the Vennelag News.

Godt Nytt År
Lora Lee

