

Vennelag News

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- March Board Meeting, **Thursday, March 8, 2018:** 6:30 PM, Culver’s Restaurant, Mt. Horeb
- April Board Meeting, **Thursday, April 12, 2018:** 6:30 PM, Culver’s Restaurant, Mt. Horeb
- March Lodge Meeting, **Sunday, March 18, 2018:** 2 PM, MH Community Center
- April Lodge Meeting, **Thursday, April 19, 2018 ONE WEEK EARLIER THAN USUAL** (The seniors are using our normal meeting space for their garage sale.)

LOOKING AHEAD! PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDARS.

- *Kaffe Stue-**Saturday, July 21, 2018**
- *Norsk Høstfest in Minot, ND-**September 25-30, 2018**
- *Høst Frokost-**Saturday, October 6, 2018**

NOTE: Unless indicated otherwise, all lodge meetings are held at the at Mt. Horeb Community Center (MHCC), 107 N. Grove St., Mt. Horeb, WI



March Meeting

Set-up Crew

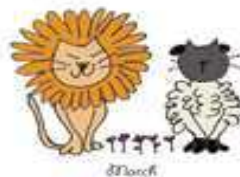
Davi Penne
Karon Quam
Vern Quam
John Ranum
Karen Ranum

April Meeting

Set-up Crew

Janet Robertson
Jasmine Salava
Rita Schraepfer
Teresa Schult or Grant
Tiffany Schwoerer

Ord fra Presidenten-A Word from the President



Will March come in like a lion and go out like a lamb or will that be in reverse order? Only time will tell. As the children of Norwegian-Americans, we know we come from hearty stock, and we are up for any challenge Old Man Winter sends our way! Bring it on!

Vennelag’s new officers have begun their positions and are fulfilling their roles well. All of the directors face a learning curve, but by working together, the Vennelag Board is making plans for an exciting two year run. Watch for different and more engaging activities at our Lodge meetings! I thank Allen Watrud and Tiffany Schwoerer for thinking outside of the box and designing some much needed comic relief for our members.

Vennelag Garage Sale Please bring any items you have to the April meeting. The garage sale will be held Thursday thru Saturday, April 26-28, 2018. Clean-up will follow on Sunday, the 29th, and assistance with all aspects of the sale is welcome!

TUBFRIM

Save used stamps and expired or used phone cards for Tubfrim to help disabled children and youth in Norway. Cut leaving about ¼ inch around each stamp on all sides. Bring them to a lodge meeting.

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.

www.sonsofnorwaymthoreb.org

Like us on Vennelag Lodge Sons of Norway on FB

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“GROWING TO 2020”

Sons of Norway Headquarters was pleased to announce the launch of its’ 2017 recruitment campaign, a revamped and expanded Founders’ Day Award, now in its’ second year. With our 125th anniversary fast approaching, the new campaign reinforces the vision of Sons of Norway’s founders for an organization that provides mutual support for its members and celebrates its’ roots while continuing to look forward to the future. The Growing to 2020 campaign comes from the 2017 goals established by the Sons of Norway International Board of Directors, which are:

Attain	375 new insurance members
Achieve	\$5.5 million in total life insurance premiums
Accomplish	\$20 million in total annuity premiums
Acquire	3,500 new members
Arrive at	\$200,000 Foundation funds raised

To reach our goal of 3,500 new Sons of Norway members, we’re issuing a simple challenge to each lodge:

Recruit a 10% increase in new members.

Have questions about your lodge goal? If so, please contact Vennelag Vice President Carolyn Johnson, who can provide more information based on a letter received from headquarters at the beginning of the campaign. Carolyn’s phone number is: 608-424-3149.

Prizes for Top Recruiting Lodges

Lodges meeting their 10% recruitment goals are encouraged to hold an event to showcase their recruitment efforts and will receive in 2018:

- \$200 cash card the lodge may use toward its celebration
- Exclusive access to a new program for lodge members
- Newly designed Sons of Norway banner
- Certificate of honor
- Recruiter recognition pin

The Sons of Norway will be discussing how to reward its members with a special celebration soon!!!!



THE VENNELAG BOARD OF DIRECTORS FOR THE 2018-2019 BIENNIUM

Supporting Directors

Marshal & Assistant Marshal-Positions will be assigned before any special lodge event such as Installation of Officers.

Trustees/Auditors-Arthur Ness, John Eberhardt, David Andersen

Publicity Director-Mary Gullickson-Krantz

Newsletter Editor-Arlene Watrud-Krueger

Archivist/Historian-Aldeen Fjelstad

Musician-Eric Albrecht (Nathan Albrecht and Brenda Albrecht will assist). Lora Lee will serve as mentor.

Greeters-Those who are on the set-up crew for a monthly meeting will also serve as greeters for the same day.

Frokost and Kaffe Stue Committees-All members of Vennelag Lodge. These events would not be successful without our members' input and support.

Program Directors

Social Director-Allen Watrud

Food Chairman- Ann Walser (mentoring Mary Gullickson-Krantz)

Cultural Director- Tiffany Schwoerer

Sports and Recreation Director- Davi Penne

Foundation Director-Harley Skjervem

Youth Directors- Michelle and Kelly Skeels

Executive Committee

President- Cheryl Wille-Schlessner

Vice President- Carolyn Johnson (mentoring Jean Grindle)

Counselor -Chuck Mørkri

Secretary- Rita Schraepfer

Treasurer- Tamiko Clary

Membership Secretary- Carolyn Johnson

Vennelag will also welcome Evan Ellis, a new member, who is serving as our next webmaster



A Vennelag objective is to meet Project Framtid's goals of reaching out to youth. These Lodge members spent a day with 7th graders at Mt. Horeb Middle School. 4 presentations were made to nearly 200 students: a Norway power point; a discussion about Norway's mythology, history, geography, Kongehuset (the Royal Palace) and an explanation of bunad and Syttende Mai attire. It was explained to students why Norwegians enjoy fireworks on New Year's Eve versus on May 17, their national day (it's actually dark outside in the winter!). Lora Lee played the Hardanger fiddle, Ann Walser shared

rosemailing, Carolyn Johnson shared Norwegian souvenirs, and Arthur Ness shared information about Norway. Thank you for making this teachable moment into something great!!!!

2018 Membership Breakfast



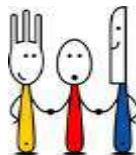
On Saturday, March 24, 2018, Vennelag Lodge will be holding a new member breakfast! Our menu will be simple. Heart waffles, egg dish, fresh fruit, coffee cake, and beverages. It will begin with our breakfast at 8:30 AM, and our information sharing session will begin at 9 AM. We have much to be proud of in our recruitment efforts over the last several years. Increasing membership ensures the continuity of our Lodge and health of The Order. Won't you help me to ensure the future of Vennelag Lodge?

Members are asked to bring a friend, neighbor, or acquaintance to the breakfast. Advertising flyers will be placed around Mt. Horeb and in neighboring communities. Reservations will be taken so our bakers know how much food to prepare.

Volunteers are needed to serve the breakfast and to speak to the assembly about why they chose to become a member of this particular lodge. If some of you have experiences to share from our journey to Norway, I would welcome them at this event. Perhaps there will be guests who also wish to connect with long lost branches of their family tree or who would like to see the home farm or region from which their ancestors came.

One of our newest members has asked us to consider providing more information about Norway today. We do an excellent job of keeping traditions alive, but we are negligent in speaking to younger people and families about what Sons of Norway can offer them. Join me in making the 2018 Membership Recruitment breakfast a roaring success!

Mange takk for hjelpen.
Cheryl



Help me in wishing our favorite leprechaun, **Marlyn Grinde**, a Happy #39+1 on March 17th

Do you have a change of address?

Please inform us of any change in mailing address or email. You may also make a request to discontinue the printed copy and receive an email notification when the newsletter (**available in color**) is posted on the District Five website (www.sonsofnorway5.com.) Contact me at:

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



Join Us in the Woods!



Masse Moro, the Friendly Fifth's Youth Heritage Camp will be held at the Eau Claire County Youth Camp, adjacent to Beaver Creek Reserve this summer. The camp is located near Fall Creek and will be held from **July 15-28, 2018**. Campers from Michigan, Indiana, Ohio, Tennessee, Illinois, and WI are cordially invited to take full advantage of this member perk.

Campers from Minnesota and the states of Arizona, California, Texas, and the District of Columbia also participated last summer. Our camp is open to all who wish to experience a camp of another kind. Campers will partake in a variety of activities from sports to cooking lessons and everything in between! More importantly, campers will learn about themselves, as they explore their family's heritage and network with others who share the bond of Norway in their ancestry.

Consider giving the gift of Camp to a young person you know! Local Lodges may provide supporting grants to their youth, and District 5 will add additional support up to \$150.00 per participant. Deadlines apply. Please note that the number of supported campers may also be restricted. Check with your local lodge for specifics.

Families may obtain registration materials by visiting the Masse Moro website: www.massemoro.org or by choosing: www.sonsofnorway5.com. Dropdown menus will lead you to the correct links. You may also e-mail the District 5 Youth Director, Cheryl Wille-Schlessler at rogcher@mhtc.net to obtain registration materials or to gather more information. She is also available by phone: [608-219-4464](tel:608-219-4464). If there is no answer, please leave a voice message.

Please know that there are scholarships available to District 5 youth, as well. These applications are also on-line. It is especially helpful to know whether a participant is a first-time camper, as some monies have been set aside for that purpose. I encourage our camper families to apply for assistance. Scholarships will be based on need; please be specific in your child's application. The application information is held in highest confidence. This year gifted money has come from numerous lodges in Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, and Wisconsin.

To quote a former camper, "Masse Moro literally opened doors for me. When I was applying for college entry and found myself competing against other worthy students for a place, it was the fact that I attended Masse Moro that mattered. Colleges are looking for well-rounded individuals with a variety of experiences to make their learning environments more unique and diverse. From someone who knows, Masse Moro made the difference!"



IN MEMORIAM



The story of Harold and Sigrid Bratrud, of Blanchardville, WI, true heroes during WWII in Nazi-occupied Norway, was written in the book, *The Hero Next Door*. It is with deep sadness that their story ended this past January when Sigrid left this world to be with Harold. She passed away on Tuesday, January 2 at age 96. Her daughter Ann Marie, also a Vennelag charter member, survives. *Those who would like to read the Bratrud story can purchase a book from President Cheryl. Proceeds from the sale of the book benefit the efforts of District 5.



When a veteran member leaves our fraternal bond-years of history, knowledge of Lodge operations, and friendships are lost. Lennys Luchsinger offered so much more. Her winning smile, positive attitude, skill in the kitchen, and optimism will be greatly missed. Lennys was not afraid to tackle new things, and when asked, responded in any way she could help. She enjoyed dressing in costume for our parties. Lennys left the company of her loving family and Vennelag Lodge members on January 10.



REMEMBER: A NEW DUES STRUCTURE BEGAN IN JANUARY 2018

A change in membership dues was instituted in January for all lodges in the United States. Lodges are now 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

Tiffany says...Time to finish up those Cultural medals if you are in the middle of one or it's time to start a Cultural medal! I will be at the community center from 1 to 4 on **April 8, 15, 22, 29** and **May 6** to help those who are stuck, need help figuring out what needs to go where and/or to get you started on any Cultural medal that Sons of Norway awards.

See you there!
Tiffany



Zone 3 Member Training in Janesville, January 27

The Vennelag members who attended the Zone 3 training in Janesville on January 27 included: John and Karen Eberhardt (speaking), Harley Skjervem, Rita Schraepfer-Derke, Mary Krantz, and Tamiko Clary.

Invited speakers included: Greg Ragan SofN Financial Counselor-Roscoe, IL, District 5 President Andrew Johnsen-Chesterton, IN. and District 5 Treasurer Michael Palecek from Racine, WI. Those who attended commented that this event helped them to learn more about the offerings at varying levels of The Order : Some of the items covered included best practices for lodges, preparation for the election of delegates, information for lodge leaders and introductions from the International

webpage: www.SofN.com. You can learn more about resources available to lodge leaders or discover the perks offered through your membership by spending some time on this website!

The event was organized by your Zone 3 Directors Lucy Ghastin of Idun Lodge, Madison and Cheryl Wille-Schlesser, Vennelag Lodge. We thank you for your interest in moving Vennelag forward!



March: March Madness theme, but instead of basketball, we're planning a multi-table euchre tournament. If anyone wants, we'll also offer instructional euchre to help those who've had a lifelong desire to learn how to play. For those that don't want to participate, Tiffany will be offering a painting/rosemaking session.

April: We will have a speaker to discuss that notorious 1930's most wanted criminal **John Dillinger**. As you may know, there is a pretty strong connection between Dillinger and other career criminals and northern Wisconsin. This meeting will be back at the usual fourth Thursday night time slot.

Come hear Dr. Lowell Peterson...



Attached is the picture of the April speaker, Dr. Lowell Peterson, from Appleton. Dr. Peterson earned a B.A. from Luther College in Decorah, IA, and he is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin Medical College. He was a practicing cardiologist in Appleton for 39 years, retiring in 2009. He has authored five books. Dr. Peterson and his wife, Mary, live at their homes in Appleton and Waupaca, WI. They have four children and eleven grandchildren.

Dr. Peterson will be speaking about his latest book, *Dillinger: Under the Gun & On the Run*, a story about two men and a car. Dr. Peterson offers this synopsis of his book: "It was an odd time in history when citizens glorified criminals who robbed banks. This book focuses on two men; one an innocent law-abiding man, and the other, a lawless thief and cold-blooded killer, crossing paths in the most terrifying ride of their lives."

LET'S DRESS THE PART!

Much of the Dillinger crime spree took place in the 1930's. Google or use the library to investigate the attire of the 1930's. Plan an outfit and arrive in style! Prizes will be offered to those deemed "best dressed"!



Advice from a Sea Turtle

Swim with the current
Be a good navigator
Stay calm under pressure
Be well-traveled
Think long term
Age gracefully
Spend time at the beach!

*Wishing those of you who are
headed to warmer climates,
an awesome Spring Break.

Give your child a Norwegian summer and memories for life!

You can now register your child or grandchild for **Norgesskolen 2018**. Children and youth from all over the world meet for an epic summer in the beautiful cultural and historical heart of Telemark, Norway.

This year's topic is Norwegian popular culture. Students will improve their Norwegian language skills, participate in a wide range of sports and outdoors activities, hear more about Norway's culture and society, and take an excursion to the coast of Norway, as well as make life-long friendships.

96 students from 28 countries participated last year. Many students choose to come back year after year.

WHO: Children and youth aged 9-18

WHEN: July 14-31, 2018

WHERE: Sagavoll Folkehøgskole in Gvarv, Telemark

Read more on [our webpage](#) or register your child by following this link: [Sign up Norgesskolen](#)
Questions? Contact us at skolen@nww.no or call us at +47 41 57 21 08.