



# Vennelag News

Vennelag Lodge 5-513



## Hurra for Syttende Mai!

An exciting time of the year approaches for all Norwegians and Norwegian Americans alike...Syttende Mai. We will be celebrating Norwegian Constitution Day on **May 17<sup>th</sup>**, locally. A big thank you is extended to Tiffany Schwoerer and her committee for their efforts in planning this year's

event. I appreciate your flexibility, too, as this makes the second month in a row where changes to our schedule came into play. Tiffany has included other details of our grand celebration in this newsletter.

Following our Syttende Mai party on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May, join your friends and family for all things Norsk in Stoughton! Mandt Lodge, 317 South Page Street, will be serving food all weekend, as well as from Lodge stands located along the street. Exhibits and demonstrations abound, the Stoughton Norwegian dancers will perform and many shopping options may be calling to you!

The annual Syttende Mai Parade will begin on **Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>**, at 1:30 PM, leaving from Mandt Park. This year, I ask those who wish to ride the SS Vennelag float to bring their own sandwich and beverage. A snack to share would be appreciated. Please be aware that Main Street will close prior to the parade start time, and I would suggest arriving no later than 1 PM. Many people find 12:30 PM a perfect time for conversation and relaxation. Please dress for the weather, as we have had everything from extremely warm conditions to downright cold temperatures. Bring a lawn chair and blanket, if you'd like!

Spread the word-let's fill da boat! Bunads, folkdrakt, or other dress wear is encouraged. We welcome members wearing gnome hats, Norwegian t-shirts and caps, Norwegian sweaters, or other attire, as well. Flags will be provided!

The general parade crowd waits for our float to turn the corner onto Main Street and our entry has been featured on both local and Norwegian TV. Smile and wave...YOU might be on camera!

Have a great Syttende Mai!  
Cheryl

## **COME HONOR OUR LODGE MEMBERS...**

*On May 17, 2018*

Vennelag will celebrate Syttende Mai by honoring long standing lodge members with recognition pins and certificates.

**25 years** - Carol Riphan, Beverly Schwierske and Richard Rohowetz

**20 years** - Tamara Schmook

**15 years** - Patricia Putnam, Lary Johan Hansen, Stuart Vamstad, Vergeane Martin  
Heritage member: Kristina Bailey-certificate

**10 years** - David Barnes, Mary Gulickson-Krantz, Roger Schlessler, Jean Bower  
Heritage members: Bailee Bray, Fredrick Hurley and Julius Zilmer-certificates

**5 years** - Karen Eberhardt, David Gustafson, Teresa Schult, Evert Penn, Cameron Penn  
Heritage members: Patrick Penn, Jasmine Salava, Olin Anderson and Vivienne Anderson-certificates

**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.**

District 5 earned the Shellie Milford Spirit of the Birkie Award for over 30 years of service to the American Birkebeiner Ski Foundation. Members from many District 5 Lodges assist with this worthy event each year. Their jobs include: baking thousands of cookies, registering children for the Barnebirke ski event, serving cookies to young skiers and their families, and helping to move materials across Hayward as needed.

In addition, other members meet and greet classic skiers at the Expo Center, and they distribute Sons of Norway materials. Cookies are donated to guests, but being frugal Norwegians, there is a charge for a good cup of coffee! Other members are involved in planning and preparing a luncheon for Birke volunteers and for the Ski Patrol staff.

We are proud to represent District 5 and the Sons of Norway each year as the Nordic lifestyle is celebrated in the Midwest. The American Birkebeiner has had participants from 49 states and 36 countries over the course of its operation.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cheryl Wille-Schlesser  
District 5 Youth Director



Vennelag lodge was awarded the 2018 Lodge Cultural and Heritage Grant per Corrie Maki Knudson, Director of the Sons of Norway Foundation, in the amount of \$800.00. It was presented by Greg Ragan, Financial Investment Counselor, on behalf of Sons of Norway International. This grant will help to expand our cultural classes and allow us to implement additional enhancements to events we currently have in place. Tiffany Schwoerer, Vennelag's Cultural Director, will be considering many options as she makes wise use of this grant.

Thank you Cheryl for applying for this grant.

## **ATTENTION ALL LODGE MEMBERS!!!!**

The Mount Horeb Community Center had a washable floor installed which will promote cleanliness and enable easier care for all groups who use the space.

The round tables CANNOT BE PUSHED across the flooring due to the risk of damage. In the meantime, the tables will either need to be lifted into location or moved with the aid of table movers placed under the legs. The movers can be found in the bottom of the first cupboard, next to the emergency exit.

**DO NOT MOVE THE TABLES UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE WITHOUT ASSISTANCE.** We will be held legally responsible for any damage incurred.

## March Madness Euchre tournament.....we started with 20 players...



and played to the last 4. **CONGRATULATIONS** go to the top team: John Clary and Lynn Schwoerer (on the left) and second place finishers: Guy and Siri Martin.



### WE NEED YOUR HELP.....

Our boat needs to be detailed prior to her voyage! Please bring cleaning supplies-pails, soap, polish, and old cloths for wiping down the shields and the inside of the boat. We will also be vacuuming the carpet. The date of [Wednesday, May 16<sup>th</sup>](#), (5:00 pm) has been chosen. Supper will be provided. Bring your beverage of choice. In the event of inclement weather on Wednesday, our clean-up day will be [Friday, May 18<sup>th</sup>](#).

The float is stored at Marlyn Grinde's farm, 2085 State Road 92, south of Mt. Horeb. Please know that your help is needed and appreciated.

New float fringe has arrived, but we will wait to affix that in Stoughton, just prior to departure. Please bring a staple gun to help with that purpose.

## GRATULERER TIL CAMERON! Ha en god tur til Norge!



Torild Homstad has announced that Cameron Penne, a former recipient of the Vennelag's High School Scholarship and now a UW-Platteville engineering student, has been awarded an International Summer School Scholarship. Penne will study at the University of Oslo, where he is required to take six hours of classes each day. Penne will study Norwegian history and Norwegian language. The course will cover migrations to Norway, social, political, and mythical traditions of the Viking period, the formation of the medieval Christian kingdom, the Black Death, the Kalmar Union, the Lutheran Reformation and wars of the Dano-Norwegian kingdom.

The second half of the course covers folk culture, economy, economic and political crises of the Interwar years, WWII, the welfare state, and Norway's relationships with Europe and the world.

\*Make the most of your membership! Ask your children or grandchildren to apply for the many offerings the Sons of Norway Foundation provides each year!

[www.sonsofnorwaymthoreb.org](http://www.sonsofnorwaymthoreb.org)

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The International Headquarters of the Sons of Norway has relocated and will be relocated for approximately two years.

**New physical location:**

**11100 Bren Road West  
Minnetonka, MN. 55343**

THERE IS NO CHANGE TO MAILING ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBERS:

**Sons of Norway**

**800-945-8851**

**1455 W. Lake St.**

**612-827-3611**

**Minneapolis, MN. 55408**



## **Troll Mountain Project Manager**

Tim Killinger met with Ryan Czyzewski (of the Village Board) and Craig Kittleson (local landscaper) earlier this week about the Troll Mountain project. Tim has also been in contact with the new Chamber Executive Director, Tiffany King. The Chamber spearheaded this project and was the recipient of donations from many sources.

It was decided to generate a letter from the Chamber which will be sent to all donors and interested parties about the current status of the project. Craig and Tim will be going to the quarry to pick out the main rocks/boulders for the face and fingers as soon as the weather provides us the opportunity. We will then get them into position at the quarry to get a better understanding for moving logistics, machinery needed, etc.

Look for the troll to rise from the soil later this year! The troll will greet visitors to Mt. Horeb at the first roundabout adjacent to Symdon Motors on the eastside of the Village. In memory of former Vennelag President George Sievers, a sizable donation was made to this project. If you have not made a personal donation to the project and desire to do so, please send it to the Mt. Horeb Chamber at: 300 East Main Street, Mt. Horeb, WI 53572. Thank you!

## ***WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS:***

Lynn Schwoerer (mother of Tiffany Schwoerer)

Anna and Orville Olson (sister and brother-in-law of Arlene Watrud-Krueger and Allen Watrud)



### **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.

# LET'S GO..... This could be a Lodge trip. Please make your wishes known!

The Viking Ship Opens for the Season [April 21, 2018](#)  
The ship is dry docked at Good Templar Park, Geneva, IL.  
More info: [www.vikingship.us](http://www.vikingship.us)



You can support The Friends of the Viking Ship and visit one of the 10 most endangered landmarks in Illinois. The Viking is an important, irreplaceable piece of our nation's and region's history.

## *Are you investigating your family's ancestry?*



### Genealogy Websites

Digital Archives of Norway	<a href="https://digitalarkivet.no/en">https://digitalarkivet.no/en</a>
Norwegian Farm Names	<a href="http://www.dokpro.uio.no/rygh_ng/form.html">http://www.dokpro.uio.no/rygh_ng/form.html</a>
Norway Heritage	<a href="http://www.norwayheritage.com/">http://www.norwayheritage.com/</a>
Family Search	<a href="https://familysearch.org/">https://familysearch.org/</a>

### And locally-

The Norwegian American Genealogical Center (NAGCNL) and Naeseth Library in Madison is a resource with vast holdings to aid in your search. Specialists are available for hire. Prices vary, and a membership at NAGC will reduce your costs. [Norwegian American Genealogical Center - Naeseth Library \(NAGCNL\)](#)

### Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library

415 West Main Street, Madison, WI 53703-3116

(608) 255-2224 | [www.genealogy@nagcnl.org](mailto:www.genealogy@nagcnl.org)

In addition, Livsreise in Stoughton has computers linked to NAGC and can assist you in beginning your search. There is no charge for their service.

277 W. Main Street

Stoughton, WI 53589

(608) 873-7567

[Livsreise@norwegianheritagecenter.org](mailto:Livsreise@norwegianheritagecenter.org)



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*Known as Syttende Mai, **May 17** marks Norwegian National Day, the day Norway's Constitution was signed in 1814, in effect declaring the country an independent kingdom.*

Here are a few facts about Syttende Mai, according to [Aftenposten](#):

1. For a long time, The Constitution Day was celebrated on the 4<sup>th</sup> of November. After parting ways with Sweden in 1905, Norway resumed its' celebrations on 17<sup>th</sup> of May.
2. For the first decades, only boys were allowed to participate in the children's parade.
3. The first recorded 17. Mai celebrations were in... Denmark.
4. "Ja, vi elsker" is not the official national hymn.
5. Norway is not the only country celebrating **17.Mai**. Nauru, a tiny Pacific island state also celebrates its Constitution Day.
6. Booming ice cream sales! Syttende Mai is undoubtedly the best day for ice cream sellers in Norway.
7. The weather on 17. May varies – a lot!
8. Peak-hour to watch the celebrations on TV is at 10.42 am.
9. A total sausage fest. Sausage sales jump almost 120 percent. While grilled sausage is preferred by most, many are very fond of [Wienerpølser](#) (Wiener sausages)

# AND THE WINNERS ARE..

## Karen Eberhardt – Chili Cookoff



### Tequilla-limeTurkey Chili

- |                           |                                    |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 1 tbsp. vegetable oil     | 2 lbs. ground turkey (93% lean)    |
| 2 onions, chopped fine    | 2 – 15 oz. can kidney beans-rinsed |
| 1 red bell pepper-chopped | 1 – 28 oz. can diced tomatoes      |
| ¼ C. chili powder         | 1 – 28 oz. can crushed tomatoes    |
| 6 garlic cloves, minced   | 2 cups chicken broth               |
| 1 tbsp. ground cumin      | ¼ C. tequilla                      |
| 2 tsp. ground coriander   | 1 tbsp. honey                      |
| 1 tsp. dried oregano      | water as needed                    |
|                           | salt to taste                      |

1. Heat oil in Dutch oven over medium heat until shimmering. Add onions, bell pepper, chili powder, garlic, cumin, coriander, oregano. Cook, stirring often until vegetables are softened, about 10 minutes. I added some water to help cook.
2. Add turkey and break into pieces with spatula, increase heat to medium-high. Cook until no longer pink, about 4 minutes.
3. Stir in beans, tomatoes with juice and broth. Bring to a simmer. Reduce heat to medium low and simmer until it starts to thicken, about 1 hour.
4. Add tequilla and honey. Continue to simmer until turkey is tender and chili is slightly thickened, about 40 minutes.
5. Season with salt to taste. SERVE!

\*Can be refrigerated for up to 3 days or frozen for up to 1 month. If frozen, thaw completely in refrigerator.

\*To reheat, bring chili, covered, to gentle simmer, stirring often; adjust consistency with hot water as needed.

\*\*From The Complete Make Ahead Cookbook, page 76. Omitted: 1 tsp red pepper flakes and ½ tsp. cayenne pepper

## Carolyn Johnson – Cookie contest




### SUGAR AND SPICE COOKIES

- |                  |                                      |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|
| ¾ cup shortening | 2 cups flour                         |
| 1 cup sugar      | 2 tsp. baking soda                   |
| ¼ cup molasses   | ½ tsp. salt                          |
| 1 egg            | ½ tsp. each cinnamon, cloves, ginger |

Mix well in order. Roll into small balls. Then roll balls in a small dish of sugar. Place 2 inches apart on a greased pan and bake for about 12 minutes at 350 degrees.

These cookies flatten out and bake with cracks or furrows on the top. Easy and good!

Carolyn made dozens and dozens of SUGAR AND SPICE cookies that pleased many at the Barnebirke.

Our Servers:	May	June
	All members – potluck	All members – picnic potluck



Did you know that there are a variety of perks that are included with your Sons of Norway membership? "Perkspot" opens up a world of exclusive discounts from a wide range of categories." Automotive, beauty and fragrance, books and media, electronics, home furnishings, health and wellness, financial services, sports and recreation, entertainment, and travel are some of the categories included with your membership. Discounts are tailored to the area in which you reside. You can learn more by this company by visiting their Facebook page. Enroll in Perkspot by going to the Sons of Norway website and log on with your user name and password. Select Member Resources from the first page; then scroll down to Member Discounts.

Other discounts available with your membership include: airfare via Icelandair®, Radisson Hotels®, Best Western Hotels®, Carlson Inns and Suites®, rent a car with Avis® or Budget®, live stream films of Norway, or use Borton Overseas for travel! Take full advantage of your membership and use these discounts provided through Sons of Norway to enrich your life today!

### **Edvard Grieg Chorus at Syttende Mai**



Among the activities during the Stoughton Syttende Mai week-end, will be a concert by The Edvard Grieg Chorus. The performance will be at the Stoughton Opera House on Saturday, May 19 at 11:30 am. Admission is with the Booster Button that is sold at various locations. Two members of our lodge sing with the chorus: Harley Skjervem and Chuck Morkri.

### *Foundation news.....*

It is never too early to begin thinking about the Sons of Norway Foundation Month in October! The Sons of Norway Foundation was started in 1966 to help fund scholarships and education, to give humanitarian and community aid for Sons of Norway members, who are victims of natural disasters, and for the promotion of Norwegian heritage and cultural exchange. The ultimate goal of the Foundation is to showcase our unique Norwegian heritage to wider audiences and make Sons of Norway communities more vibrant places to live. The Foundation would not exist without our member support. In the coming months we will be communicating how you can be part of this great work!

*Harley Skjervem*

#### **Do you have a change of address?**

Please inform Duane Kittleson of any change in mailing address or email. You may make a request to discontinue the printed copy to receive an email copy notification when the newsletter is posted on:

[www.sonsofnorway5.com](http://www.sonsofnorway5.com)

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## **LODGE DATES**

May 8, 2018: The Meatball Mavens meet at Jean Grindle's house at 11:30

May 9, 2018: Venneleg Board Meeting 6:30 pm Culver's

May 17, 2018: Syttende Mai Party

A special party will be held for the Lodge members to celebrate Norwegian Constitution Day. Entertainment will be the Ladies of the Fjord, playing traditional Hardanger fiddle music.

May 20, 2018: Stoughton Syttende Mai Parade!

Meet at Mandt Park in Stoughton by 12:30 PM. The Parade will roll at 1:30 PM. Dress for the weather. Bring a water bottle and your food of choice. A snack to share would be welcome! Please wear bunads, Norwegian sweaters or gnome hats. Our goal is to have FUN while celebrating our heritage! Alle er velkommen.

May 23, 2018: Mt. Horeb High School Scholarship Program

Venneleg will present a Senior award at 7 pm at Mt. Horeb High School, 305 S. 8th Street.

If you wish to be present, Venneleg's presentation will be near the end of the program that evening.

May 30-31: Lefse making

Lefse making at the Evangelical Lutheran Church, Mt. Horeb. Your assistance would be appreciated.

June 10, 2018: 50th Mt. Horeb Summer Frolic Parade.

Line-up behind the MH Middle School on Lincoln Street. The parade begins at 12 Noon. Wear your bunads or other Norwegian attire.

June 13, 2018: Venneleg Board meeting 6:30 pm Culver's

June 28, 2018: Venneleg Lodge will celebrate Midsommer at Stewart Lake Park

The picnic begins at 5 pm. Kayaks will be available for use. Kubb pitches will be set up for play. A picnic with potluck dishes to share will tempt the taste buds of all attendees. The Lodge will supply meats and veggie burgers, buns, and condiments, water, coffee and soft drinks. Night sky viewing will occur after dark. Bring your telescope! Bug repellent is also highly suggested!

June 28-30: District 5 Convention La Crosse

July 15-28, 2018: Masse Moro camp

July 20, 2018: Kaffe Stue

1 PM Kitchen Crew arrives to prep foods for the annual Kaffe Stue.

2 PM Table and Chair Crew arrives for event preparation.

July 21, 2018: ANNUAL KAFFE STUE-SUMMER LUNCH WITH NORSK SPECIALTY FOODS

Held in conjunction with the Mt. Horeb Art Fair

SERVING BEGINS at 9 AM. Velkommen!

Aug. 8, 2018: Board meeting 6:30 pm Culver's

Aug. 16-18, 2018: International Sons of Norway Meeting and Convention

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

