



SONS OF NORWAY

Edvard Grieg Lodge 657 District 5

Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio & Kentucky

- First Lodge in Ohio -

Sons, Daughters and Friends of Norway Newsletter

January 2020

Notes from Lodge President

Godt nytt år to all! As we move on to 2020, we look back on a strong year for our Lodge, as we added a number of new members, offered some fascinating (and well attended) programs and ended with a successful and meaningful Julefest celebration in December. Highlights included learning about and sampling Norwegian smørrebrød, hearing about Bryce Carlson's solo row across the north Atlantic, and joining with the Dayton German Genealogy Group to discuss Norwegian-German migration, as well as our annual Midsommer and Julefest events. We were again recognized by SoN International for meeting our goal of increasing membership 10%, and Susan Herman, Liv Ramstad and I represented our Lodge at the District 5 Leadership Conference in October. We also mourn the loss of Bob Charlton, Charlotte Ellingson and Evelyn Rewerts, who passed way during 2019.

I am sure 2020 will be an exciting year for the Lodge. We have a number of exciting programs lined up, including our Syttende mai, Midsommer and Julefest celebrations, as well as the Dayton International Festival. I am delighted to welcome Pam and Konrad Nelson to the board as Foundation co-directors, but we are still looking for a Publicity Director (please consider serving if you have the time). As there has been tremendous interest from the lodge in learning Norwegian, 2020 will begin with us discussing some options at the January meeting. Finally, we are making preparations to celebrate our 20th anniversary in the fall. I wish you all the best for 2020!

Hilsen,
Jim

Recap of Lodge events

Our November meeting making lefse and lompe proved to be 'electric' in a sense! Karl Halvorson explained his lefse recipe and process of making it. Elisabeth Pettersen Sonoff shared about making lompe and demonstrated how she makes it, complete with weighing the dough before rolling it out (we weighed dough when making our Christmas lefse and it worked really well).



It was at about this point we realized our three lefse griddles had blown a circuit and we weren't going to be able to cook lefse. Thankfully, Elisabeth had made enough lompe in advance and we enjoyed eating it with gjetost cheese as well a spread of whipped cream cheese, lemon juice, sugar, plenty of chopped dill topped with smoked salmon pieces.

Yum! Adam Sokol, assisted by Catherine Sokol, presented a great talk of their first trip to Norway, along with pictures of sights and places. There were lots of Qs&As and stimulating conversation.

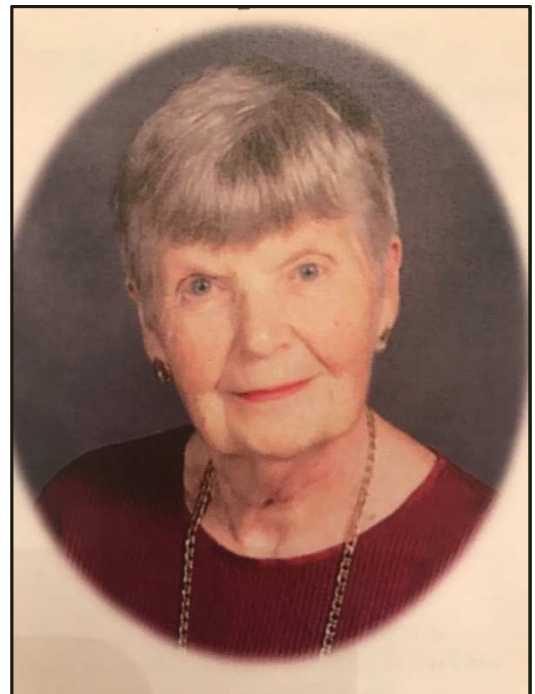
Julefest 2019 was a highlight of the year: as always, the company of friends and family, the amazing variety of food, the conversation, singing, special music by Maria Luiso, who sang “We Light a Thousand Candles Bright” and Adam Sokol who accompanied several songs on guitar and played a solo rendition of “God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen”. It was great fun to have several children attending and they received gift bags from Nisse. We ended with our annual dance around the Christmas tree, singing Silent Night. It was a wonderful evening for our members and guests, and always a special joy of yearly lodge activities! Thanks go to so many of you for your help in setting up, preparations, cooking, serving, greeting, sales booths, cleaning up, and to all who attended and shared by inviting others.....it all goes towards making great memories for one and all.



Membership

Our membership over the last year has stayed very stable at around 92 members. We have met our recruitment goal for the third year in a row. Our hope will be to meet our recruitment goal again in 2020 and maybe reach 100 members. Our sympathy goes out to the families of those that passed during the year: Bob Charlton, Charlotte Ellingson, and Evelyn Rewerts.

Evelyn Rewerts was originally from Michigan (both parents emigrated from Norway) and moved to Ohio to be near family after her husband passed away. She joined our lodge on 1/17/15, along with granddaughter Lyndsey Heatherton, and was 87 and hadn't heard her native language in many, many years. Those of us at that meeting remember how she was moved to tears when we sang the Norwegian National anthem as well as when Trine Wernes spoke to her in Norwegian. Evelyn impacted many members with her beautiful smile and kind demeanor.



There are several new members to welcome to the lodge. Angel and Harold Shirkey joined when they secured Sons of Norway insurance. We also welcomed Raymond Sonoff as a member (spouse of Elisabeth). Lawrence Ethun, who lives in Dayton, recently joined our lodge as well.

If you have any questions concerning membership, do contact me.

Esther Charlton, Membership Secretary

Birthdays

January

Aimee Russell[4], Connie Holmen[10], Michelle Sutton[16], Anders Russell[26], Kelly Lawson[28].

February

Nancy Johnson[2], Ava Powell[2], Richard Vinnece[7], Lee Luiso[12]. Adam Sokol[14], Ron Thompson[14], Sylvia Casas[15], Mark Kosobud[20], Karl Halverson[21], James D. Herman[22].

March

Nancy Cooper[2], Elisabeth Pettersen Sonoff[12], Larry Bannick[17].

January lodge meeting

Saturday, January 18, 2:00pm

Location: Sharonville Library (meeting room)
10980 Thornview Dr, Cincinnati, OH 45241

RSVP to Susan Herman, Social Director at susan.herman3501@gmail.com or 513-227-8790. There will be 1 or 2 varieties of soup. Bring a salad/snack or dessert to share. Beverages provided by the lodge.

Our program will be comprised of tales of two Norwegian trips in 2019: members JoAnn Krugh and Carol Luiso will share their adventures! Jim Herman will introduce some online options for starting to learn Norwegian, including Duolingo and online resources available to Sons of Norway members.

February

No regular lodge meeting

March lodge meeting

Saturday, March 21, 2:00pm

Details TBA on website prior to March newsletter.

If you have any ideas or potential contacts for future meetings, please email or call me. We hope you enjoyed the meetings in 2019! Tusen takk, Susan Herman, Social Director

The Nordic Knitters

Monday, January 20, 6-8 pm

The Nordic Knitters (organized by The Scandinavian Society) has invited us to join them for an evening of handiwork.

Meetings will now be on the 3rd Monday evening of the month, 6-8p, at The Wyoming Community Coffee Shop. Bring any kind of handiwork. The next meeting is Monday, January 20, 6-8 pm.

Hope to see you there,
Liv Ramstad

Movie Afternoon

Saturday, February 15, Around 3 p.m.?

Movie afternoon –Let’s go see Frozen!

If you are interested in seeing the movie, Contact me to be on the list. I will find where it will be showing and what time. Then let everyone know by February 13, by email. Hopefully there will be a showing around 3 p.m. Depending on what theater we find, we will find someplace, for a snack after the movie.

Email me, Esther Charlton, if interested.
esthersofn@aol.com

Special Winter Concert Event

Sunday, March 1, 3:00p.m.

Music of the Nordic Lands All Scandinavian music.
The Cincinnati Civic Orchestra
Compass Christian Church
6771 Tylersville Road, Mason, Ohio 45040.

Wear your bunads.

If you can bring some cookies for the reception
Contact Esther, esthersofn@aol.com

Norwegian fylker (regions)

As far back as the Viking Age and the Middle Ages, Norway was divided into "fylker". The name comes from the Norse word "folki" which is derived from the word "folk". The regions might be named after the king that established the area, after the people that lived there or after the landscape where it was located. Most of the names for these regions are still used for districts today. Early on there were many smaller regions. However, in 1919 it was decided to combine the smaller units into 20 "fylker". Two cities, Oslo and Bergen, were separate "fylker". In 1972 Bergen was included into Hordaland fylke. Fast forward to 2017 when the Government debated a reform to reduce the number of region to 11, The goal of the Government reform was to create:

- Good, equal services for the inhabitants, today and in the future.
- Comprehensive and coordinated community development, in both larger and smaller municipalities.
- Sustainable and financially solid municipalities.
- Strengthened local democracy, and give municipalities more power.

As of January 1, 2020, the 11 fylker will be:

Viken - Combining three fylker: Akershus, Buskerud and Østfold.

Innlandet - Combining Hedemark and Oppland.

Vestfold og Telemark - Combining Vestfold and Telemark.

Agder - Combining Aust-Agder and Vest-Agder

Rogaland - Unchanged.

Vestland - Combining Hordaland and Sogn og Fjordane.

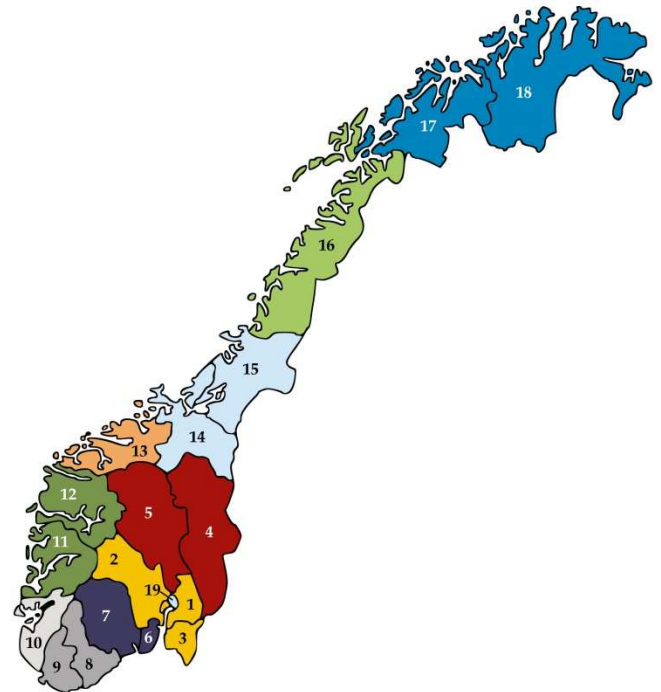
Møre og Romsdal - Unchanged.

Trøndelag - Combining Sør-Trøndelag and Nord-Trøndelag

Nordland - Unchanged.

Troms og Finnmark - Combining Troms and Finnmark.

Oslo - Unchanged.



| | Before | After |
|----|------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 | Akershus | Viken |
| 2 | Buskerud | |
| 3 | Østfold | |
| 4 | Hedemark | Innlandet |
| 5 | Oppland | |
| 6 | Vestfold | Vestfold og Telemark |
| 7 | Telemark | |
| 8 | Aust-Agder | Agder |
| 9 | Vest-Agder | |
| 10 | Rogaland | Rogaland (unchanged) |
| 11 | Hordaland | Vestland |
| 12 | Sogn og Fjordane | |
| 13 | Møre og Romsdal | Møre og Romsdal (unchanged) |
| 14 | Sør-Trøndelag | Trøndelag |
| 15 | Nord-Trøndelag | |
| 16 | Nordland | Nordland (unchanged) |
| 17 | Troms | Troms og Finnmark |
| 18 | Finnmark | |
| 19 | Oslo (unchanged) | Oslo |

Not everybody is happy about the upcoming changes. Particularly, the formation of **Viken** has generated a lot of discussion in Norwegian papers. It starts by the Swedish border on the east side of the Oslo fjord and goes all the way west to Hallingskarvet, the mountainous region from Geilo to Finse on Bergensbanen. Stretching over such a long part of Norway, it will be difficult to build a

fylke identity. There are already grumblings about making changes to this fylke. Expect heated discussions about this in the upcoming 2021 elections.

What are the inhabitants of the new fylker going to be called? I come from Oppland and have, till now, been known as an "opplending". Should I now be called an "innlanding"?

Would the people in Viken be known as Viking?
Wait and see....

Elisabeth P. Sonoff, Cultural Chairperson

What do Norwegians do on New Year's Eve?

Excerpt from The Local no



Fireworks in Bergen. Photo: Violin/Depositphotos

New Year wouldn't be New Year in Norway without the King's speech, fireworks or the clinking of glasses and best wishes for the year to come. What are the customs that make New Year in Norway... Norwegian?

Food

According to figures from a 2013 survey, the by-far most commonly-eaten New Year's Eve meal in Norway consists of turkey. 34 percent of people asked said they had eaten turkey on the most recent New Year's Eve.

In second place is pinnekjøtt ('stick meat'), a dish – more commonly associated with Christmas -- in which salted meat, mostly sheep, is dried and salted, then served with boiled potatoes and mashed turnip.

The King's New Year speech

Generations of Norwegians have settled in front of the television at 7:30pm on New Year's Eve to see King Harald V's New Year speech.

National broadcaster NRK has televised the King's speech every year since 1960, and TV2 now concurrently broadcasts the monarch's address from the Royal Palace.

Viewing figures for the speech are generally between 700,000 and 800,000.

"In a time when the world is increasingly changeable and demanding with regards to war and politics, I don't think it's any less important to be able to get behind national symbols. The King's speech is such a symbol," NRK head analyst Kristian Tolonen told Aftenposten in 2016.

Fireworks

The spectacular lights and ear-splitting din of fireworks on New Year's Eve is a staple of the occasion for many.

Laws introduced in the late 2000s have prohibited firecracker type fireworks with stabilizers. Private individuals may only set off smaller fireworks between 6pm and 2am on New Year's Eve, and some cities have forbidden them completely within certain areas.

That has been reported to reduce the number of firework-related injuries, but municipal displays remain. Animal welfare groups continue to raise concern over the volume of fireworks set off as the new year chimes in.

Wiener Musikverein

The Vienna concert hall and home to the Vienna Philharmonic orchestra is a staple of Norwegian New Year. The Viennese New Year's Day concert is watched in many countries, and hits viewing figures of up to 600,000 on NRK, according to the broadcaster's figures.

Time with friends and family

While everyone celebrates in their own way, it's common for family and friends to gather at a home or cabin, eat and drink together and head out into the cold as the clock nears midnight. Children may be given sparklers, neighbours wish each other 'Godt nytt år, takk for det gamle' (Happy New Year, thank you for the past one), champagne is popped and the celebrations continue into the night.

Godt nyttår!

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