



SONS OF NORWAY

Edvard Grieg Lodge 657 District 5

Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio & Kentucky

- First Lodge in Ohio -

Sons, Daughters and Friends of Norway Newsletter

May 2021

Notes from Lodge President

Dear Edvard Grieg Lodge members,

I hope you are safe and well! We are passing the one-year mark of virtual lodge events, and I am sure you join me in looking forward to the time we can get together again. We are cautiously optimistic that we can have in person meetings as early as Midsommer, getting together outdoors and taking due caution with respect to distancing and masks. Many of us have been vaccinated, which should help ease anxieties about face-to-face (or mask-to-mask) meetings. This has been a trying year for all of us: we have tried to make the best of our time using Zoom, and indeed have had well-attended and stimulating programs. We have kayaked the fjords of western Norway, biked the North Sea trail, hiked the Appalachian trail, experienced the joys of Friluftsliv, became experts at Norwegian trivia and hunters of Norwegian artifacts (albeit in our own homes), to name a few of our adventures. The virtual programming has allowed us to connect with distant members, as far away as Utah and New York, an unexpected but delightful by-product of the Zoom format. We will continue to offer a Zoom option for meetings as much as is possible, to allow distant members as well as members who have travel concerns to join in and attend.

As noted below, we will be sharing our 17.mai event with the Scandinavian Society of Cincinnati, allowing us to share our celebration with our Swedish, Danish and Finnish 'cousins'. This is a great opportunity for us to develop partnerships that may blossom into future joint programs and events.

We have also taken the time to develop a lodge survey, to help the lodge leadership know how we are doing and receive input on what directions you

would like to see the lodge take in the future. If you have not done so already, I would ask you to access the SurveyMonkey link and fill out the form at your earliest convenience (sent by Mike Palacek of District 5 on April 16). The SurveyMonkey platform is secure, anonymous, and will not generate any e-mails or spam from the company. Please let me know if you need the link re-sent.

Hilsen, Jim

Birthdays

May

Nathaniel Powers[1], Nikki Powers[14], Liv Ramstad[15], Randy Twistol[19], David Bruestle[22], Marilyn Bossman[27].

June

Lance Larsen[2], Shane Russell[4], Clare Williams[7], Pamela Nelson[13], Karl Hoalst[14], Theodore Powers[19], Gail McGinn[22], Dominic Sedler[25], Carol Stone[25], Carol Luiso[28], Marilyn Lau[30].

July

Soren Russell[5], Janice Ohlsen Betscher[7], Angel Shirkey[8], Tim Holmen[9], Benjamin Powers[11], Maria Luiso[13], Roy Solvik[16], Jorgen Jorgensen[17], Lawrence Ethun[20], Katherine Elizabeth Herman[23], Thomas Varland[29], Kristin Szava[31].

Membership

For our May 17th special meeting we need your help. If you have been in Norway on May 17, we would like you to share a memory of what you felt, please contact Esther at esthersofn@aol.com.

Esther Charlton, Membership Secretary

May

Lodge Meeting (Zoom):

Saturday, May 15 at 4:00 pm EDT
‘Celebrating Syttende mai Together’

The Scandinavian Society of Cincinnati will combine with our lodge to celebrate May 17th together. We will hear the Norwegian national anthem sung by lodge member Alisa Jordheim, hear a brief history of 17.mai, memories shared of being in Norway on 17.mai, traditions for 17.mai, and Norwegian folk dancing (Stoughton HS Dancers). Edvard Grieg lodge is in charge of the presentation and we hope you will make every effort to join us in celebrating together!



Stoughton High School Norwegian Dancers

Social Cooking/Baking (Zoom): Friday, May 21 at 1:30pm EDT

Topic will center around summer soufflés. **Ask questions in advance** (preferable) to Elisabeth: epsonoff@gmail.com

June

Lodge Meeting:

Saturday, June 26 at 4:00 pm EDT
‘Summer Solstice’

It is our hope to have an in-person outdoor gathering to celebrate Summer Solstice at the Mikaloff’s home in Springboro, OH. More details will follow on our lodge website and by email.

July

Board Meeting:

Saturday, July 10 at 2:00 pm EDT

All members are welcome at board meetings. For more information on any of these events, or to receive the meeting link, contact our social director Susan Herman: susan.herman3501@gmail.com

Recap of lodge events

How about a Norwegian Scavenger Hunt via Zoom from the comfort of your own home? Lodge secretary Kathy Skinner shared the idea and organized it for our March meeting. Twenty members attended and joined the hunt from their own homes for the 20 items on the list. At the end (after a tie between Carol Luiso and the Hermans) we had lots of fun sharing items with each other. Definitely a Norwegian show & tell! The scavenger hunt idea was shared with our District 5 (D5) officers and placed in the weekly online Friendly Fifth Friday News(letter). We received requests for the information and list from over 6 other lodges in D5 so they could implement it for a future lodge meeting. Tusen takk Kathy!



Members sharing their Norwegian scavenger hunt items.

“Friluftsliv: Stories of Outdoor Living” was our April get-away to Norway, with Elisabeth Sonoff presenting a wonderful trip thru pictures and stories. We experienced aspects of the outdoor life with children, adults, immigrants, cottages, nature, and clothing. For hiking enthusiasts, Elisabeth shared the 9 rules for outdoor activities (Norwegian Mountain Code). And, does it surprise you that Norway is home to the world’s best public cabin rentals and staffed lodges for hikers, skiers and outdoor enthusiasts? Check it out at The Norwegian Trekking Association: <https://english.dnt.no/about-the-cabins/> Tusen takk Elisabeth!



Public Cabin Rental



Staffed Lodge



Staffed Lodge

During this past year, several members have enjoyed having an extra social meeting each month to discuss cooking, baking, and just to share laughs with one another. I have enjoyed the topics and recipes, as well the feeling of being together in a group setting (thanks to zoom). During March and April we focused on Easter and Syttende mai respectively, and learned more about Norwegian traditions and foods for these holidays. We appreciate all Elisabeth Sonoff has done to select the topic or theme, prepare, research, cook or bake recipes (modify and convert measurements!) and type up to share with us. If you have thought of joining us, please consider our May 21 meeting (see information in May lodge events).



Elisabeth with desserts for 17.mai celebrations
On the left is Dronning Maud Pudding (Queen Maud pudding) and on the right is Grunnlovsdessert (Constitution dessert, not often served anymore on 17.mai, but was commonly served in many years past)

Susan Herman, Social Director

Grunnlovsforsamlingen The Norwegian Constituent Assembly

During the Napoleonic war Denmark-Norway was an ally of France. In early 1814 Denmark-Norway was forced to sign the Treaty of Kiel in which Norway was ceded to Sweden. The Norwegian people objected about never having been consulted about the sell-out. As a reaction to the Norwegian dissatisfaction, the Danish Prince Christian Fredrik the royal representative (stattholder) of the Danish king sent an open letter to the people. In it he told them he had taken over as regent in order to protect the independence of the country. He called for a meeting of elected representatives to meet in April to work on a new constitution for the country. The representatives were to be elected after services in the churches on February 25 or as soon as possible thereafter. The representatives should be elected from all walks of life. In particular, there should be one farmer from each "amt" (fylke).

In all 112 representatives were elected. There were 33 representing the military, 25 from cities and 54 from other parts of the country. The majority of the representatives, 57, were holders of public offices, 37 were farmers, 13 merchants and 5 were owners of large estates. Many representatives were young, the average age being 42.8 years. Because of long distances and lack of time there were no representatives from the northern part of Norway.

On Easter Sunday April 10, 1814, the representatives met for the first time outside the church at Eidsvoll. The Prince addressed them and they all traveled to Eidsvoll Verk where the work on writing the constitution would start the next day. The estate was owned by Carsten Anker, a friend of the Danish prince. It was considered one of the finest buildings in Norway at the time.



Eidsvollsbygningen Estate

On April 11, 1814 the representatives gathered for the first time at the estate, Eidsvollsbygningen. The farmers were dressed in their Sunday best, the rest as for a gala event. The Prince gave a short speech. He then asked them to elect presidents who were to serve for one week at a time, a secretary and a constitution committee.

The next day the work started in earnest. The representatives were divided into two factions; the Union Party led by Wedel-Jarlsberg favored a union with Sweden. The Independence Party supported the Prince who maintained that Norway should be an independent nation. This party held the majority in the assembly.

On April 12 a special committee was appointed to draft the new constitution. It was passed by the representatives on April 16. Most of the provisions were adopted by a large majority. They stated that:

Norway was to be a free, independent and indivisible realm. The Executive Power was to lie with the King, The Legislative Power was to lie with popularly elected National Assembly. The Judicial Power was to lie with Independent Courts. There was to be freedom of Religion and of the Press.

The committee went back to revise the proposal. A new proposal was submitted on May 2. Two weeks later on May 16 the final form of the Constitution was finished. The Union Party had wanted to include an article to prohibit the King from accepting a foreign crown. Because Prince Christian was heir to the Danish crown, the party was concerned that Norway could again become part of a dual monarchy. It was rejected.



Grunnlovsforsamlingen Eidsvoll 1814 by Oscar Wergeland



King Christian Frederik

On May 17, 1814 the Constitution was adopted. Prince Christian Fredrik was unanimously elected King of Norway, the first in 500 years. Two copies of the Constitution were dated, signed and sealed by the Constitution Committee. One copy was for the newly elected King, the other for all the representatives to sign and seal. It was not until May 18 that all 112 representatives had signed and sealed their copy. The

representatives departed Eidsvoll May 20. Before they left they swore an oath:

"Enige og tro, intil Dovre faller"

(United and loyal until the mountains of Dovre crumble)

However, the Norway's independence was not to last long. On July 29, 1814 Swedish troupes attacked Norway. Norwegian resistance was easily put down. On August 14 Christian Fredrik had to surrender the Norwegian crown and Norway was entered into a "loose personal" union with Sweden. The two states retained separate government and institutions but had the same King and Foreign Service.

Norwegians felt the union with Sweden had been forced upon them. In 1905 the Union was dissolved and Norway again became the free country it is today.

Elisabeth P. Sonoff, Cultural Chairperson

Norway's witch trials: the woman killed for a fatal storm *by The Guardian,*



The Steilneset Memorial

Else Knutsdatter, one of 91, mainly women, executed, was burned to death in fishing community of Vardø.

400 years ago, a violent storm proved deadly to a woman who did not even witness it. This was the outcome of one of the biggest witch trials in Scandinavian history, in the Norwegian fishing community of Vardø.

A sudden storm in December 1617 sank many boats and drowned 40 men. Previously, a famous trial had been held of people accused of raising a storm to sink King James I's ship, and there was a growing belief that witches could cause storms.

Else Knutsdatter was arrested, having been seen with devils "in the shapes of black cats and dogs". Under torture, Knutsdatter confessed her coven had raised the storm by tying a fishing rope three times and spitting on it, then untying the rope to unleash the winds. This was a traditional magic practice that Knutsdatter either knew of or was supplied with by her interrogators.

Knutsdatter and others identified a foreigner married to a wealthy merchant, Kirsti Sørensdatter, as the head of the coven. Sørensdatter also confessed under torture and was burned to death on 27 April 1621.

Ninety-one people, almost all women, were executed as a result of the witch trials. A memorial to the victims was opened in Vardø in 2011, with artworks by Louise Bourgeois and Peter Zumthor.



The Steilneset Memorial

Sons of Norway Insurance

We would also like to remind all members that Sons of Norway offers a variety of insurance and investment products. The financial offerings are posted on the Sons of Norway website (https://www.sofn.com/financial_products/products_we_offer/), if you are interested in more information or would like to talk with a representative.

Edvard Grieg website:

<http://www.evensens.net/sons/sons.html>

Click on link to calendar of upcoming events for information and updates.

Officers & Chairpersons

President

James P. Herman
513/919-5218
jpherman.edvardgrieg@gmail.com

Vice President

Adam J. Sokol
440/823-3735
sokol.adamj@gmail.com

Secretary

Kathy Skinner
937/667-6897
kathyaskinner@msn.com

Treasurer

Nelda Chandler
513/742-9504
nelda4325@gmail.com

Social Director

Susan Herman
513/227-8790
susan.herman3501@gmail.com

Cultural Chairperson

Elisabeth P. Sonoff
859/261-5903
Epsonoff@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Karl Halvorson
513/340-8338
karl.halvorson@yahoo.com

Membership

Esther Charlton
513/923-3798
Esthersofn@aol.com

Webmaster

Lois A. Evensen
513/281-8408
Lois@Evensens.net

Publicity

Open

Foundation

Konrad & Pam Nelson
513/779-7986
nelsonkap@cinci.rr.com

Tubfrim

Open

Sons of Norway Edvard Grieg Lodge
C/O Esther Charlton
3798 Susanna Dr.
Cincinnati, OH 45251