



SONS OF NORWAY

Edvard Grieg Lodge 657 District 5

Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio & Kentucky

- First Lodge in Ohio -

20th Anniversary

Sons, Daughters and Friends of Norway Newsletter

July 2020

Notes from Lodge President

Kjære Venner:

I hope this finds all of you healthy and virus-free. This has been a challenging few months in the life of the lodge, losing our April meeting, our Syttende mai celebration and most recently, our Midsommer party to social distancing and stay-at-home orders. While these times are trying the Lodge continues to meet, albeit by 'Zoom'. Our events have been well attended and enjoyed by all, and we have had the added bonus of being able to connect (and re-connect!) with members 'socially distanced' as far as Utah, Massachusetts, Chicago, Virginia, and New York. Our programs thus far have been fun, with our members sharing photos and stories, along with some insights from Elisabeth Sonoff on current Norwegian events in Norway and on Syttende mai and Midsommer celebrations in Norway. The Board looks forward to when we will meet again in person but are closely monitoring the COVID situation and following the lead of SoN International, local and state officials and more importantly, our judgement on what is best for the health and well-being of our Lodge members. Meanwhile we continue on with 'Zoom'. The response to the Zoom meetings has been highly positive and all feel the platform works extremely well for getting together in these tough times. We plan to have a Zoom get-together in July, and upcoming programs include a presentation by Karl Halvorson on his Appalachian Trail adventures and a talk on Norwegian emigration. I also encourage you to visit the Sons of Norway District 5 website (<http://www.sonsofnorway5.com>) to participate in activities such as the virtual walk to Norway, the District 5 Scandinavian Photo Contest and perhaps join me in learning a bit of Norwegian. If there is anything the Lodge can do for you during these times, please reach out to us.

Vær trygg og vel,
Jim

Birthdays

July

Soren Russell[5], Janice Ohlsen Betscher[7], Angel Shirkey[8], Tim Holmen[9], Benjamin Powers[11], Monica DuShane[13], Maria Luiso[13], Roy Solvik[16], Jorgen Jorgensen[17], Lawrence Ethun[20], Katherine Herman[23], Connor DuShane[25], Thomas Varland[29], Kristin Szava[31].

August

Sandra Nelson[12], Austin Scherbarth[13], Jean Croker-Lakness[15], Skip Wicklund[18], Benjamin Downs[27], Alisa Suzanne Jordheim[29].

September

Kjell Evensen[3], Ordelle Hill[4], David Bratten[9], Chris Butterworth[20], JoAnn Krugh[26], James P. Herman[28].

Nathaniel Powers[1], Niki Powers[14], Liv Ramstad[15], David Bruestle[22], Marilyn Bossman[27].

Membership

In recognition of our 20th year, some of our charter members will reflect on their favorites of lodge membership. Larry Bannick was the first and his thoughts are here. Other reflections will be in the next two lodge newsletters.

His favorite event is Julefest. Julefest is the coming together with lodge members, and sharing food and trying to sing in Norwegian. Larry comments on our spring festivals as he has been a great volunteer with them. The Asheville Viking Festival, is an event like none other, setting up outside in the rain, wind, cold and sometimes nice weather. See things that are sometimes amazing. It is just good to be seen. The International Festival In Dayton with the indoor

parade marching with others carrying the Norwegian flag with honor, stamping passports and talking with folks as they come by, eating some of the food from other countries. He does give thanks to Nelda and Esther for their leadership with the festivals.

July 2020 virtual lodge meeting

We typically do not hold a meeting in July, but those who joined our virtual June meeting chimed up that we should meet in July!

When: Saturday, July 18, Time to be determined
Topic: Fun Facts, and brainstorming service projects for our lodge.

(No excuses, no cooking, cleaning or driving...just fun social conversation!)

Look for an email in the week prior for the Zoom meeting link and event time.

August 2020 virtual lodge meeting



Karl Halvorson on his 2019 Appalachian Trail Thru-Hike Attempt!

Saturday, August 29 at 2:00 PM

This will be exciting to hear Karl talk about his 867.1 mile hiking trek and share photos and stories with us.

Look for an email in the week prior for the Zoom meeting link and event time.

September 2020 lodge meeting

As of now, we are making plans to meet on September 19 in Tipp City at Kathy Skinner's home. It will be outside on the patio, early afternoon, and we are currently thinking of beverages and dessert only. More information will be forthcoming as we plan, and we will ask for an RSVP a week or so prior to determine if this will stay as an in-person meeting or change to a virtual meeting.

Recaps

Syttende mai, here in the US as well as in Norway, was celebrated much differently this year. Our lodge had a very special virtual celebration with 22 members participating. The fun part was that we had members 'gather together' not only from Ohio and Kentucky, but from from Utah, New York, Illinois, and Virginia! Many members shared pictures of travel or past Syttende mai celebrations in Norway, or special pictures of friends and family celebrating our culture and heritage.

Elisabeth Sonoff, at our June virtual meeting, shared a few photos and memories of celebrating St. Hans or Midsommer in Norway. It was delightful to hear stories from her and others, and it was much fun to share and view pictures from favorite vacations or trips from those who shared with us. Certainly this makes for lively questions, comments and laughter! It was a great way to "travel" since we have pretty much been staying put the past three months.



From Elisabeth: memories of tSt. Hans celebration at Maihaugen (outdoor museum in Lillehammer)



From Kathy S: an alphorn concert just for me in Andermatt, Switzerland



From Liv: Liv during her 3 week trip to China where she taught ESL.



From Kathy S: fly fishing with my son, Sean, in Midway, UT



From Carol L.: northern point signage on a cruise!



From Carol L: Fun with 'King Neptune' marking the crossing of the Arctic Circle

And a reminder of the District 5 Scandinavian Photo Contest for playing cards (submit up to 5 photos by July 5, 2020 deadline).

http://www.sonsofnorway5.com/conventions/convention_contest.php

Susan Herman, Social Director

May 17 Celebration in Oslo 2020

By Elisabeth Sonoff - Cultural Chairperson

As I reported in the last newsletter, May 17 2020, celebration in Oslo was not going to be according to tradition because of the Corona virus epidemic. There would be no children's parade with lots of spectators up and down Karl Johan's gate and the royal family greeting everybody from the balcony of the royal palace. However, all Norwegians were encouraged to sing the national anthem together at 1:00 PM.

This is what happened:

At 1:00 PM a choir and representatives from all the school in Oslo with their school banners were assembled in front of the palace singing the national anthem. Then, to everyone's surprise, the doors to the balcony opened up and the Royal family came out to sing along. The mayor of Oslo gave a speech and a band played. Most thought that would be it for the Royal family for the day. But no, shortly thereafter, here comes the King and Queen driving out from the palace seated in the 1939 Buick Roadster with license plate A1 that they were given by General Motors on their trip to the US that year.



This is the car that was used to drive the King, the Crown Princess and her children from the dock to the Royal Palace when they arrived back in Oslo after the war on June 7, 1945. That car has a special place in the hearts of many older Norwegians. The Crown Prince and Princess followed the King and Queen in a 1966 Lincoln Continental with license A5. This car is called the wedding car since it was used when then Crown Prince Harald married Sonja in 1968 and when the present Crown Prince married Mette Marit in 2003. The royal cortege drove

through many parts of town, stopping at nursing homes and at the Ullevål hospital and waving to people watching from their windows or socially distanced on side-walks. The cars had been test-driven ahead of time to make sure they could make the drive without technical problems. The cars did fine on flatter streets, but stop and start on a hill was not recommended. Anybody as old as A1 can understand that.

As an alternative to the children's parade this year, the Oslo Sail Club had suggested that boats could join the sail ship Christian Radich for a parade on the Oslo Fjord. The club had expected that maybe 40 boats would show up. To everybody's surprise more than 2000 boats joined the parade, many decorated in honor of the day. A video posted on the web showed the parade, a beautiful sight.



So in spite of all the cancellations of many traditional May 17 traditions, a great and memorable day was had in Oslo.

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