



SONS OF NORWAY

Edvard Grieg Lodge 657 District 5

Cincinnati-Dayton, Ohio & Kentucky

- First Lodge in Ohio -

Sons, Daughters and Friends of Norway Newsletter

July 2022

Notes from Lodge President

Greetings to all,

As you know, over the last several months Edvard Grieg Lodge and its Board have been conducting an evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of the lodge, to develop a strategic plan to sustain our current mission and help us grow in the future. At our April Lodge meeting we solicited input from the members present on our SWOT analysis and revised it in accordance with the feedback received. We also produced ideas for plans to move us forward, which were discussed at the June Board meeting. A summary of the SWOT analysis is provided below:

Strengths:

- A cohesive core membership
- A record of continuous recruitment
- An engaged and committed Board
- Good fundraising programs
- Excellent programming offered in our monthly meetings

Weaknesses:

- Lack of a vision for the lodge
- Limited outreach to our existing members
- Limited engagement of our new members
- Limited outreach to the community
- Limited service activities

Opportunities:

- Meeting locations can be broadened across our geographic area
- Consideration of new social and programmatic activities
- Ride-sharing programs to help members get to meetings
- We continue to recruit new members

Threats:

- Aging leadership base may impact sustainability
- Volunteers are mostly older members as well
- Geographic spread (as well as the pandemic) limits meeting attendance, some members cannot or would rather not attend by Zoom

We had a lively discussion at the meeting and after further deliberations, the Board has elected to take the following actions:

1. We will install a Board-level Publicity Director to coordinate activities to broaden our outreach to the Cincinnati-Dayton-Northern Kentucky region and help update the EG website and assure our Webmaster has the latest information to post in the website
2. We will form a committee to discuss the best ways to reach out to our new and existing members to keep them engaged in the life of the Lodge
3. As a cultural enhancement, we have already begun a monthly News of Norway feature as part of our monthly meetings.
4. We will work with Sons of Norway International to obtain the names of new Central Lodge members residing in our area who may wish a local affiliation

I think taking these steps will be important for securing a sustainable and prosperous future for the lodge. I hope you will be willing to help us as we move forward.

Convention Update

Kathy Skinner, Susan Herman and I attended the 2022 Sons of Norway District 5 convention in Middleton, WI. The District leadership voted to form a committee to study methods to increase engagement in district leadership, and representatives from International discussed

changes that have been made to the Sons of Norway governance. One recent change requires all financial product purchasers to join as members, greatly increasing the number of potential members in our region. We will need to work with International to develop a strategy to identify those likely to affiliate with our Lodge. The District was able to fill all elected positions for the next two years, with key positions (vice president, treasurer) occupied by representatives from Zone 6. Jim Herman was elected as a delegate to the virtual International Convention August 31-September 1, 2022. Our new Zone 6 Directors are Wendy Winkelman and Bill Bultinck, both from Shawnee Skogan lodge in Carbondale, IL. Our Lodge was recognized for receipt of Lodge Achievement Awards for 2018 (silver), 2019 (gold) and 2021 (gold) (and we believe our 2020 silver award was somehow missed). This was a very eye-opening and illuminating meeting for me as a first-time attendee, and I think for Kathy and Susan as well. I would recommend it for those interested in the inner workings of the District.

updated job descriptions for these roles and can share them with you if you are willing to consider any of these positions. Please e-mail or call me if you would like more information.

Jim Herman

New Member

We welcome new member Lauren Keyser to our lodge:

“My connection to Norway is through my mother’s side. My great-great-grandparents both came from Norway (we also have relatives from Denmark). I was never interested in my heritage until I attended a class at UC that discussed different countries/world regions and their cultures. Unfortunately, I cannot remember the name of the class as I took it 15 years ago. This class didn't discuss Norway, but Sweden. Thus my obsession with Scandinavian and Nordic culture and heritage began. For the past 15 years I have dreamed of traveling to Norway (and any Nordic country), but still have not had the time or finances to go. I discovered the Scandinavian Society of Cincinnati 4-5 years ago which is where I learned that the Sons of Norway existed! I'm happy to finally have joined!”

We are happy you joined as well, Lauren, and hope to see you at many of our lodge meetings.

Esther Charlton, Membership Secretary

Birthdays

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 Herman[23], Amy Rone[28], Thomas Varland[29], Kristin Szava[31].

August

Sandy Nelson[12], Austin Scherbarth[13], Eloise Drinan[21], Evelyn Hetzler[29], Alisa Suzanne Jordheim[29].

September

Kjell Evensen[3], Ordell e Hill[4], David Bratten[9], Noel Julnes-Dehner[13], Larry Welin[19], Chris Butterworth[20], JoAnn Krugh[26], James P.Herman[28].



Lodge Delegates Jim Herman, Susan Herman, and Kathy Skinner at Sons of Norway D5 Convention.

Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to serve leadership roles in the Lodge. The terms of the President (Jim Herman) and Vice-President (Adam Sokol) are ending this year (December 31), and we are looking for individuals willing to take on these important positions. In addition, Kathy Skinner (current secretary) has expressed interest in taking on the role of Publicity Director, and Susan Herman has agreed to be a candidate for election as Secretary. This means we will also need someone to fill the Social Director position. We are developing

Upcoming calendar of events:

July 2020

Social Meeting:

Wednesday, July 13 at 11:30am

Brunch/Lunch Social at IKEA

Meet in the cafeteria. Wear a lodge T-shirt or anything Scandinavian, if you wish.

IKEA

9500 Ikea Way

West Chester, OH 45069

August 2020

Board Meeting:

Saturday, August 6 at 2:00pm

Zoom Board Meeting

All members are welcome to attend this meeting.

Lodge Meeting:

Saturday, August 13 at 12:00-4:00pm

Dayton Carillon Historical Park

1000 Carillon Blvd.

Dayton, OH 45409

Ticket price is \$10/Seniors or \$12 for ages 18-59.

Parking is free.

Bring your own picnic or (*Option*) purchase lunch items from the Carillon Brewing Co. (link to menu)

https://www.daytonhistory.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/2021_CBCFoodMenu.pdf

We have reserved a picnic shelter inside the park for our group and restrooms will be available nearby.

This will be a wonderful setting for August and we especially encourage members living in and around the Dayton area to join us at a beautiful and historic location in Dayton!

Option: include a 2 hr guided tour of the park/buildings for additional small fee.

More details to come as well as updated information as we coordinate with the Park.

Link to website:

<https://www.daytonhistory.org/visit/general-info/>

September 2020

Lodge Meeting:

Saturday, September 10 at 2:00pm

Business meeting and presentation by Kathy Skinner on "Ohio Gardens".

Sharonville Library (meeting room)

10980 Thornview Dr., Cincinnati, OH 45241

Bring a dessert to serve 12-15, and enjoy tasting several desserts with coffee, tea and light beverages!

Cooking & Baking Class (by Zoom):

our monthly class will take a two-month summer break and return in September. More information to come as to the date and topic.

Future dates for your calendar:

SoN Foundation Fundraiser!

Saturday, October 8 at 2:00pm

Heart Waffles, Silent Auction & Raffle at Mallards of Mason Community Clubhouse, located at the corner of Cedar Village Drive & Mallard Creek Drive. 4821 Mallard Creek Drive, Mason, OH 45040

Lodge Meeting:

Saturday, November 12 at 2:00pm

TBA

Julefest 2022

Saturday, December 10 at 4:00-7:00pm

Baked Goods, Butikk, Dinner (5pm) and program

Mason United Methodist Church

6315 S. Mason-Montgomery Rd.

Mason, OH 45040

Susan Herman, Social Director

For questions, Zoom link, or more information on any of these events please contact me:

513-227-8790 or susan.herman3501@gmail.com

Past recent events

Syttende mai celebration and potluck was held together with the Scandinavian Society of Cincinnati on May 14. We had a total of around 50 people with an equal number of members from each group.



May 14 combined celebration potluck



Adam Sokol sharing News from Norway



Liv Ramstad sharing about bunads and showing her mother's bunad vest.



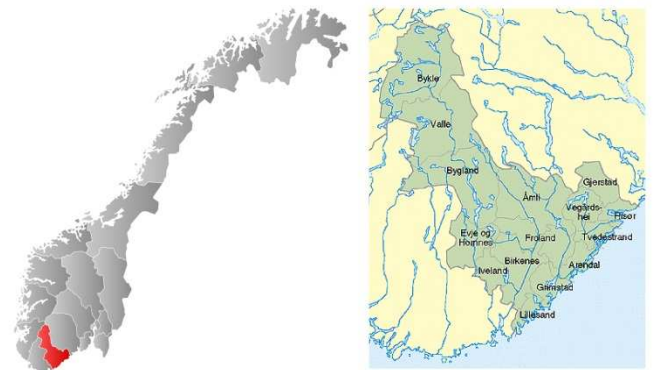
Look at these desserts!

It was a pretty 'picture-perfect afternoon' for our June Summer Solstice gathering in Springboro. Tusen takk to Susie and Glenn for hosting us again!



Summer Solstice party

Aust-Agder



Aust-Agder, East Agder, is a region located along the Skagerak coast from Gjernerstranden by Risør to Kvåsefjorden in Lillesand. To the east it borders on Vestfold, in the south to Vest-Agder, and to the north to Telemark. The inner parts of the county (fylke) include Setesdalen and Austheiene. Until January 2020 Aust-Agder was a separate county. It was then merged with Vest-Agder to form Agder County.

About 78% of the population lives along the coastline in the five municipalities of Arendal, Grimstad, Lillesand, Tvedestrand, and Risør. The inner part of the county is sparsely populated.

Several large islands are located in the county namely Tromøya, Hisøya, Justøya, and Sandøya. The inner part of Aust-Agder is dominated by narrow valleys and steep mountain sides. The highest mountain in the county is Brandsnuten located in the northern region of Bykle. It is 1480 meters (4856 feet) tall.

Early records show that people mainly lived along the coastline. However, around 400-500 people started migrating inland. Around 1300 the region became involved with shipping and trade, and later lumber and mining products. As a result the population increased along the coast and the first cities were founded.

Aust-Agder and Vest-Agder are often referred to as Sørlandet (the Southland) among Norwegians. It is an informal description without governmental function.

Husbandry is the most important form of farming in Aust-Agder. Along the coast the climate is favorable for growing vegetables and berries. Forestry is part of the economy in some inner valleys.

There are relatively few commercial fishermen in Aust-Agder. The largest catches are of mackerel, cod and shrimp. Aquaculture is a growing industry for the production of salmon and mussels.

Industry is mostly concentrated along the coastline. Pusnes Mekaniske Verksted located on Tromøya and Kitron in Kilsund supply highly technological products to the defense industry, shipping and off-shore industry, and medical research facilities.



Farm in Setesdal

Tourism is a very important industry in Aust-Agder, particularly along the coast in the summer months. In the winter, the northern parts of Setesdal are popular with skiers. Popular tourism attractions are

Merdøyaard Skjærgårdsmuseumsetesdalen (archipelago museum) on Merdøy outside Arendal, the old part of town, Tyholmen, in Arendal, and Setesdalen with long traditions in folk music, handicraft and silversmithing. Farms and buildings dating back to the Middle Ages are also located in Setesdal.

Arendal is the largest city in Aust-Agder. It was established as a municipality in 1838. The Old Norse form of the name was probably Arnardalr which means "Valley of the Eagle". At the end of the 19th century, Arendal was recognized as a major shipping center and many wealthy ship-owners lived in town. However, in 1886 Axel Nicolai Herlofson defrauded many bank customers in the city leading to bankruptcies and massive unemployment. Around the turn of the century many people from Arendal immigrated to the United States to seek a more stable economy. Many settled in areas of New York City and northern areas of New Jersey.

Grimstad is the second largest city in Aust-Agder. It also became a municipality in 1883. Already in 1622 it was a recognized harbor under Arendal. It was identified as a sailing community and a recognized haunt of smugglers. Among the attractions in town are the Maritime Museum, the City Museum, and the Norwegian Horticultural Museum. During the summer it is host to the Norwegian Short Film Festival. Notable residents of Grimstad include Henrik Ibsen who wrote his first drama here in 1848/49 and Knut Hamsun, the Nobel laureate author who lived here from 1918 until he died in 1952.

Risør is one of the oldest towns in Southern Norway. It was designated as a "ladested", loading point, in 1630 and a kjøpstad (Market town) in 1723.



Risør

In 1861 the town was almost completely destroyed by fire. Afterwards, the town was rebuilt with broader

streets and white, wooden houses. White was chosen because white paint was expensive and the town wanted to be known as prosperous. The town is known as "the white town by the Skagerak" because of the many well-preserved white, wooden houses in town. Today many of the houses have white fronts, but colors on the side and back. The town attracts visitors to the Chamber Music Festival which takes place in the old church in town, and in August it is host to a wooden boat festival.

In the nineteenth century Lillesand was home to nine shipyards. By 1895 the merchant fleet counted 95 vessels. However, the death of sailing ships caused severe economic difficulties for the residents. Many immigrated to the United States.

Tvedestrand is another "White City". It is a popular tourist designation and many families have summer homes in the area. It is also popular with boaters. As a result, the population of the town easily doubles during the summer holiday.

Food traditions in Aust-Agder varied from the coast to the inland valleys. Along the coast fish caught in the ocean was an important part of the daily diet. Ships from the coastal region were involved with export of local products to the Continent. They brought home exotic products like pepper, allspice, nutmeg and cinnamon which were added to flavor local foods. Many young women from this region would hire on as domestic help in Holland and northern parts of Germany. When they returned home they would bring with them recipes for many new foods. A yeast coffee cake, still very popular in the region, is "Søsterkake." It is believed the recipe comes from Soest in Germany. Over the years the name was changed from Soest Cake to the Norwegian name which means Sister Cake. Pickled mackerel is another popular dish, particularly in the summer. Pieces of mackerel are poached in water with pickling spices. It is cooled in the water and served cold with sour cream, often flavored with grated horseradish. Inland people depended on foods they produced at the farm or hunted and gathered in the wild. Fresh meat was only served on special occasions. Most was preserved by salting, smoking and drying.



bunad of Setesdal, East Agder

The region has a rich tradition in folk costumes. bunader. The costumes from Valle in Setesdal can trace their roots back to the middle ages. It has been worn both for everyday use and celebrations until recently. There is also a bunad called Aust-Agder bunad or Åmli bunad. It is based on clothing found in the area of Åmli dating back to late 1700 and first part of 1800.

Elisabeth P. Sonoff, Cultural Chairperson

The Sørlandet



Sørlandet is a Norwegian heritage tall ship and one of very few full-rigged ships in the world. She was given the name Sørlandet after the Norwegian region from where she originates. She is the senior of the existing Norwegian built square riggers, and for more than 50 years she held a central position in the education and training of young people. She is the second oldest of three Norwegian tall ships, the "Great Trio of Norway", which besides her includes Statsraad Lehmkuhl and Christian Radich. The ship was built in 1927 and was, after a royal inspection of the Norwegian king Haakon and crown prince Olav, put into service as a trainee ship for future sailors that same year. The Norwegian Department of Culture acknowledges the importance of this sailing heritage. The Sørlandet still crosses the Atlantic Ocean on a regular basis.

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