



SynNor Brevet

Synnøve-Nordkap
Lodge #1 - 008

February 2018
Issue Number 18 - 02



Front Page News

Chili + Bingo + Afghans = A Great February Meeting!

Our February 13th lodge meeting will start at 6:30, a half-hour earlier than our normal meeting time, because we're continuing our lodge tradition of a Chili Dump. Members sign up to bring their favorite chili. The concoctions are dumped together, and the result is an always-delicious blend. Come hungry and enjoy this warm and hearty winter meal with your lodge friends!

Bring your good luck charms because we'll also play a few games of BINGO! Whether straight line, postage stamp, or other pattern, prizes will be awarded. The numbers will be called in both English and Norwegian.

Finally, our hygge touch at this meeting will be to bring an afghan or shawl to keep warm and stay cozy.

To make sure we have enough food, we still need people to bring a few things: *one person to bring a pot of chili (to feed 8), one person to bring corn bread, two people to bring 4 cups of shredded cheese, and one person to bring a jar of pickles. We also still need several people to sign up for cleanup.* Please contact Sharon Amann at [651-631-0399](tel:651-631-0399) or slamann@comcast.net to help.

One final note: **If you're bringing a food item, please arrive with it between 6:00 and 6:15** to make sure we have time to get it prepared for serving before the hungry hordes line up at 6:30. Thank you!!

Fra Presidenten

February greetings to you, dear Members.

I am truly optimistic that Spring may come some time in 2018, although it may be a long way down the road. The source of my optimism is the fact that between two of the brutal below-zero stints, we actually had a few delightful 30 and 40 degree days sprinkled in.

February is one of my favorite meeting/meals. I just love our annual Chili Dump dinner. It is not "Stone Soup," but it **IS** so surprisingly tasty and delicious. The brave souls that do come all agree it is wonderful! BUTTTTTTTTT, there are still a few of you who can't quite believe that the chili we serve will not harm even the most sensitive of Scandinavian palates. Please take a step of faith and believe us about how good this dinner is. See you all at our Chili Dump, OK?

We do need a few more items for the Chili Dump, so please contact me via phone (651-631-0399) or by email (slamann@comcast.net) so we can get you on the sign-up sheet.

In addition to having a super meal, we will also be playing Bingo with lots of fun prizes. How can you go wrong with a format like that, huh?

I still have a smile on my face when I think about our January meeting. We have such terrific members who shared about books they read. We have all heard that most people's greatest fear is public speaking, but that certainly does not apply to our Lodge members. Their enthusiasm and synopsis were so infective that I would like to read all the books that were presented. Thanks to each of you who did such great job.

As we each look forward to the newness of Spring, let's also be thinking about inviting friends, family, neighbors, or co-workers to become new members of our Lodge by bringing them to our April Membership Dinner.

Please give serious thought to being an Alternate Delegate to the District 1 Convention in Rochester for 3 days and 2 nights in the middle of June. We need 4 people to make themselves available for this interesting and fun event. If you have any questions, please visit with me or a Board member.

Blessings,

Sharon



Secretary's Report

Board Meeting Minutes, January 2, 2018

Attendees: Sharon Amann, Ron and Susan Stow, Chuck and Jean Draheim, Dianne Anderson, Pat Carlson, Dave and Mary Beth Mutchler.

- We reviewed the Julebord. There were serious problems: too many people do not bring their item. Some don't even pay the \$10; others do but it still leaves us short of food due to no advanced notice. Also, the early people through the appetizer line take more than their share of available food, leaving little to none for those who come later. This results in those in the kitchen (who have contributed the most but are served last) to receive no appetizers at all. We discussed many alternatives, including just cancelling the whole thing or having the Julebord catered with a much higher price, but didn't come to a conclusion, eventually tabling the discussion due to time constraints.
- Dave gave his resignation as Secretary as of the end of the year. He will help his replacement to come up to speed as soon as they are identified; it would be good to have someone not presently on the Board. Ron suggested that we may want two people: one as a Recording Secretary and one as an Executive Secretary. We are all to look for candidates; any of our members are encouraged to indicate their interest in at least learning more about either position.
- Naomi was unable to attend, so we postponed our discussion of future programs except for February. Naomi proposed that we play bingo, and asked for \$50 for prizes. A motion (Chuck/Jean) to do this passed unanimously. We agreed that the bingo squares will be announced in both English and Norwegian, with the language used first to alternate, giving those who now the Norwegian words a slight advantage. We'll ask Sheryl Hove if she can announce squares, with Susan as her backup.
- We again discussed the cost of sending paper copies of our newsletter to members without email addresses. We are going to ask for \$10 to defer costs. Dave will send the mailing list to Ron for evaluation.
- Although absent, Sasha had sent an excellent proposal to redo our post-Secondary scholarship program. Overall, we agreed with what was said, with the stipulation (suggested by Chuck) that the conditional verbs be replaced with definitive alternatives (eg.: "should" becomes "must"). Then it's set to go on our website.
- Jean gave a brief Treasurer's report. The 1090 Forms are filed, and we are back to filing sales tax annually.
- Dianne is going to start a 4-month book club for Feb-May as a follow-up to the January meeting with book reports.
- Susan gave a Junior Lodge report. She will use funds for two fish and six prizes for the annual Fish Toss Contest.
- Chuck continues to contact our members who are more than 45 days late with their dues to see what problems they may be having with their membership in our lodge.
- Gina Pockrandt, the Zone 9 Director, will be the installing officer.
- We still need alternates for the June District 1 Convention from our lodge membership at large. Susan has several candidates ready for resolutions. Jean suggested that we find out the deadline to submit resolutions.
- The next board of directors meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, February 6 in the Board Room at the Maplewood library.

Submitted by: Dave Mutchler, Secretary

Lodge Meeting on January 9, 2018

- 43 Members and guests attended our lodge meeting, with our only guest being Gina Pockrandt, our Zone 9 Director. Gina was present to install our lodge officers for 2018.
- We sang the anthems and did the pledge of allegiance, with a couple of changes from the past. We welcome our new musician, Norma Erickson, and the song lyrics were shown on the screen rather than by song book.
- Gina installed the officers after giving a plug for the upcoming District 1 Convention in June in Rochester MN.
- The December meeting minutes were approved as printed in the newsletter.
- There was a sign-up sheet for the Chili Dump to be held in February. Susan Stow asked that everyone bring an afghan or shawl to add to the feeling of hygge at this meeting, at which Bingo will also be played.
- Scholarship Director Sasha Aslanian introduced the group to our new scholarships. The College Scholarship has been replaced by a Post-Secondary Scholarship including both college and trade studies, and there is a new Nordic Experiences Fund which is open to adult members for many learning experiences. See the website for the details. Both applications are due March 15 to Sasha.
- Sasha also announced the gift of "The Devil's Wedding Ring" to the library. It was donated by her mother, and is one of the books mentioned in our evening program.
- We celebrated the January birthday of Harry Thomsen, and the January anniversary of Jacqui Carlone. Jen Stow won the door prize.
- Lowell Johnson, our Sports Director, had bronze, silver, and gold walking medals for Cathie Reasoner, who walked more than 630 miles this year (much of it in Europe). Naomi Hagen had a pin for Dianne Anderson for Part 2 of the reading award. Dianne read 5 books and interpreted three poems for this award. Dianne announced the start of a 4-month book club, which will meet during coffee at the end of our meetings during February through May.
- Naomi then introduced the speakers at our program, which featured book reports by members who had recently read Scandinavian books.
 - Axel Torvi spoke on "To Siberia" by Per Petterson (who wrote "Out Stealing Horses"). It is a pre-WWII novel about a brother and sister whose fantasies are recounted through recollections of the sister in her later years.
 - Ken Bjork reported on "The Devil's Wedding Ring" by Vidar Sundstøl, which is a mystery by another of the Swedish Mystery writers. The plot involves two disappearances regarding pagan rituals. Ken liked the book and also mentioned the "Minnesota Trilogy" by the same author, dealing with Lake Superior settings.

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Scandinavian Culture

The Lyngen Line by Don Halvorson

East of the North Norway city of Tromsø, in the fylke of Troms, lie the Lyngen Alps. Following the western shore of the Lyngenfjord in a north-south direction, this alpine mountain range covers an area 56 miles long and 9-12 miles wide.

The mountain range is part of the Lyngen Peninsula, encompassing spectacular alpine scenery of blue glaciers, rushing glacial rivers and high peaks with deep ravines. With mountains rising as high as over 6,000 feet, they are the last natural barrier between Norway and its arctic neighbor, Russia.

During the last days of October 1944, the Lyngenfjord became a battleground between the 200,000 retreating German forces and the pursuing Russian 14th Army. As the Germans fell back, they had orders from Berlin to destroy everything in their path that would aid the approaching Russian troops. In a last desperate line of defense, they made the decision to build hundreds of bunkers in line with the Lyngen Alps. To build these bunkers, they used slave labor, hundreds of captured Russian, Yugoslav and Polish soldiers, to do the majority of the heavy work. Many died of starvation and fatigue while carrying heavy equipment, guns and ammunition up the steep mountainsides. Those who survived were put to work building crude bunkers, constructed of heavy stones and boulders to hold the German guns in place.

Once the British heard of the Russian offensive, they immediately ordered the deployment of Norwegian Free Forces to the area to cut off the retreat.

Soon after the liberation of Norway, with the beginning of the cold war, the dynamic of Europe changed dramatically. Norway, with the Soviet Union on its northern border, chose to cast her fate with



the new NATO alliance in 1949. By 1951, Norwegian Defense Forces had a strategic plan in mind. Ironically, their plan was much the same as the German bunker system erected in 1944. A series of nearly 300 bunkers were created in a line running south of the Lyngenfjord and north to the Swedish border. Dozens of coastal forts were also built, from Harstad on the west coast, to the eastern side of the Lyngen Alps. Protecting the eastern face of the Alps, the Norwegians constructed Arøybukt Fort on the coast, between 1953 and 1957. On the western side near Tromsø, they built nine forts, the largest, Breiviknes, was finished in 1954. Both fortifications were equipped with long-range 75 millimeter guns, meant to stop any sea born assaults attempting to reach the fjords on either side of the Alps.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, and the development of new warfare technology, many of the installations became obsolete. Breiviknes and Arøybukt near Tromsø were decommissioned and sold in 2000. Some were retained and are now used for training purposes. Even though the Russian threat is currently less apparent, the geographic reality continues to remain in the collective Norwegian mind.

Dark Secrets and death camps in the foothills of the doomed at the Lyngen Line

<https://scorchedearthstories.wordpress.com/2013/08/29/dark-secretand-death-camps-in-the-footsteps-of-the-doomed-at-the-lyngen-line/>

The Lyngen Line: the last barrier against the Soviet Union | Bivrost www.bivrost.com/the-lyngen-line-the-last-barrier-against-the-soviet-union/

Lyngen Alps https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lyngen_Alps.



Benefits and Finances

Sons of Norway – New Product Excitement

by Paul Dormody

It has already been a year since Sons of Norway asked me to be the lodge Financial Benefits Counselor (FBC). And, during the past year, I have been privileged to meet and get to know many of you.

Most of you know that Sons of Norway's home office in Minneapolis directly supports your lodge in many ways through the Viking Magazine, the Sons of Norway Foundation that offers scholarships and grants, Norwegian culture resources, member discounts, and various events throughout the year. [If you would like to learn more, visit the Sons of Norway website at <https://www.sofn.com/>.]

With all the ways that Sons of Norway participates with lodges, sometimes it's easy to forget that at its core, Sons of Norway is a fraternal life insurance company. It is devoted to supporting you through every stage of your life while providing a vibrant social experience oriented around the Norwegian culture.

Because Sons of Norway is a fraternal life insurance company, they contract with the Financial Benefits Counselors (FBC's). They ask (and expect) FBC's to contact members, present information about their products at lodge meetings, and help members design custom financial strategies. And finally, Sons of Norway expects FBC's to offer members the Sons of Norway financial products; products that are designed to help members reach their goals and secure their futures. You may already be aware of all of this, and if so here is some ... (wait for it...) **Great News!**

Sons of Norway has designed a new product that can potentially help each member, each member's family, or friends and acquaintances solve a problem that until now has been out of reach.

This product is in the process of being approved by the insurance department of the State of Minnesota. Sons of Norway hopes (and expects) final approval by March.

I am looking forward bringing more information to you about this new product at the next lodge meeting.

Hope to see you there!

Paul Dormody, CPCU
Sons of Norway Financial Benefits Counselor
651-731-5358; pdormody@mwisa.com



(Meeting minutes, continued from page 3)

- Harry Thomsen reported on "The Road to the World's End" by Sigurd Hoel, a tale of a small town in Norway in the early 1930's. He recommends this novel for its insights into the people and life in small town Norway.
- Maureen Austinson spoke on "Tori and the Sleigh of Midnight Blue" by Margo Sorenson, which is a book for young adults set in Depression-era North Dakota. She also reviewed "The Norwegian Home Companion," a book containing many, many Norwegian jokes.
- Kristin Burge reviewed "Jul: Swedish American Holiday Traditions" by Patrice Johnson, which is a cook book but much more. It has lots of stories of traditions and folklore of families in Southern Minnesota. Kristin enjoyed this book and highly recommends it.
- We ended with some great treats from Susan & Jen Stow and Pam & Ingrid Bjorum. Tusen takk!

Submitted by Dave Mutchler, Secretary

Sunshine News

Our sympathy to Dona Peterson on the death of her husband, Bob. May she find peace after this long and difficult time.

More Sunshine News

Our sympathy to Shirley Brekke on the death of her husband, Don. He attended many of our meetings and helped at Festival of Nations for many years.



Peer Gynt Dancers

Saturday, Feb. 10th, 1 - 2:30 at Bayport Library, 582 N. 4th St. This is a combined rehearsal with Fjell og Fjord Dancers of Mpls. in preparation for the Festival of Nations audition.

For Information:

Sharon Amann, President 651-631-0399 or slamann@comcast.net
Chuck Draheim, Vice President 651-433-2008
Ingrid Bjorum, Brevet Editor
ingrid@steinmetz.org

Norwegian Language Classes

- No lesson in February
- Norsk Nordmenn og Norge & Ny i Norge book, Wednesday, February 7 & 28, 1:00-2:30 p.m. at SunRay Library
- WELCOME to new members!
- Please contact Sheryl Hove at 651-738-4908 or sherylhove@netzero.net for information.

Genealogy Group

Need some help finding your roots? Plan to attend the Genealogy Group meeting on Saturday, February 3rd at 10am at Shoreview Library, 4560 North Victoria Street, Shoreview, MN 55126.

People from all Zone 9 lodges, in addition to Synnøve-Nordkap lodge members, are welcome to attend the meetings. We work as a group to help each other, whether it be starting from the beginning or working to break through "brick walls". We also share our successes and family stories with one another. Topics at meetings are based on the needs and interests of those at the meetings.

The March 3 Genealogy Group meeting will be at the White Bear Lake Library. Thanks. Sue

Hardanger Embroidery Class

If you are interested in joining this fabulous group, please contact Susan Stow for more information: burle103@aol.com or 651-439-7255

Next date and time TBD



Past & Future

January Lodge Meeting

Installation of Officers, Medal & Pin Awards, and Book Reviews



Jenn Hovland is the mother of one of our Peer Gynt Dancers, Nola. Her daughter Mae was the recipient of the Lund Scholarship to study in Japan this year. Jean has a floral blog, www.fleurdelouise.com/blog.html, and creates marvelous gardens and floral arrangements. In fact, she is designing the flowers for the International S/N convention. Jenn was featured on Kare 11 News Saturday with Belinda Jensen in a "Grow with Kare" segment! Here's a link to watch: <http://www.kare11.com/video/life/home-garden/grow-with-kare/grow-with-kare-succulent-make-take-class/89-2878785> She will also be on Friday, Feb. 9th at 6 p.m. and Sat., Feb. 10 at 9 a.m., just before Valentine's Day. ❤️



The mission of the 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.



Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge #1-008:
District 1 Lodge of the Year in 2013, Family Lodge of the Year in 2006, 2008, 2013, 2016
Visit Synnøve-Nordkap online: <http://synnove1.com/>
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/synnor/albums>
<https://peergyntdancers.wordpress.com/about/>
<https://www.facebook.com/SynnoveNordkap/>

Date and Time	Event	Location
Saturday, February 3, 10 am	Genealogy Group Meeting	Shoreview Library, 4560 North Victoria Street, Shoreview, MN 55126
Tuesday, February 6, 7:00 pm	Monthly Board of Directors Meeting	Ramsey County Library - Maplewood 3025 Southlawn Dr Maplewood, MN 55109
Wednesday, February 7, 1-2:30 pm	Norwegian Language Book Group	Sun Ray Library 2105 Wilson Ave., St. Paul 55109
Saturday, February 10th, 1:00 pm	Peer Gynt Rehearsal	Bayport Library, 582 N. 4th St. Bayport, MN 55003
Tuesday, February 13, 6:30 pm	Norwegian Language Class No Meeting Tonight	N/A
Tuesday, February 13, 6:30 pm	Monthly Lodge Meeting	Gustavus Adolphus Church 1669 Arcade St., St. Paul, MN 55106
Wednesday, February 28, 1-2:30pm	Norwegian Language Book Group	Sun Ray Library

January Fish Toss and Sledding Event

Norwegians are fond of saying, "There is no such thing as bad weather, only bad clothing." Despite the low temperatures on Saturday afternoon, there wasn't much wind and with all our layers, it was quite pleasant for the Peer Gynt kids sledding party and fish toss.

Twenty-four, twenty-three, twenty-two, twenty-one, twenty and seventeen were the winning fish toss distances this year. Awesome throwing by Nora Yocum, Claudia Stow, Anna Kneeskern, Maggie Landis, Abbi Kneeskern, and Josie Haugen. Prizes were a variety of goldfish cracker flavors and some Swedish fish candy.

The sledding was fast on the icy part of the hill, but there was also a patch with new snow that worked well too.

Everyone was very appreciative of the hot cocoa and biscotti that Nola Hovland had baked. Veldig lekker; det smakker så godt!

Once we got inside and shed many layers of wraps, we were able to work on two well known figure dances and one new reinlender.

