



SynNor Brevet

Synnøve-Nordkap
Lodge #1 - 008

January 2019
Issue Number 19 - 01



Front Page News

Member Show and Tell

Our January lodge meeting program is about you, our members! A small handful of our generous members will each share a special belonging with the lodge. As always, this meeting is full of food, fun, and fellowship. Come in to get out of the cold on Tuesday, January 8th at 7:00 pm. We hope to see you then!

Our January lodge meeting will also include the installation of officers ceremony for those lodge members who will be serving in official capacities during 2019. This, too, is a fun and important part of our lodge. Member participation = Our Lodge's Success!



Our members made this Julebord and holiday gathering a beautiful and festive December evening.

Fra Presidenten

Godt nytår and greetings to one and all.

This is the first time I have had the opportunity to address you as your new lodge president. I look forward to the next two years and hope I can live up to the expectations that you have of me.

The next year promises to be filled with great programs, wonderful meals together and lots of lodge wide opportunities for member participation. Your board of directors is charged with overseeing the operations and activities of the lodge but it up to the membership to participate in these activities and projects to make them successful. All too often it falls to the board to organize and implement the plans for special events however, we need your help. Please remember that many hands make light work.

The first, really large, lodge activity is Festival of Nations and the Norway Café. It takes many people to make this project a success. Pat Carlson continues to head up this endeavor but she needs many hands to pull it off. This is one of our main sources of funding for the lodge scholarship program. In 2018 the Norway Café generated just over \$3700. Wouldn't it be great if we could surpass this amount!

Instead of posting a photograph of me in each issue of the Brevet (most of you know what I look like) I would like to share a few images of old Norway that are part of a collection of postcards I inherited from my maternal grandmother Helen Olea Winje Jacobson.

Chuck Draheim



The Counselor's Corner

Happy New Year and congratulations our new officers: President - Chuck Draheim, Vice President - Lowell Johnson, Executive Secretary - Jenn Stow, and Recording Secretary - Heidi Walsh. Our Lodge is so blessed to have this dynamic line-up of talent.

If you noticed the title of this snippet, you can see I now am wearing a "new hat." Truth be told, though, is that I still have a seat on the Board, I get to come to meetings and raise my hand before I speak, but hopefully, not very often...

I know this has been stated and written before, but let me give you a formal invitation: all Lodge members can and are encouraged to attend board meetings. It would give you the bird's eye view of what goes on to make our Lodge the vital and active hub that it is!

Thank you all for your kindnesses and support while serving as your president for the past two years. Blessings,
Sharon Amann

Secretary's Report

Board Meeting Minutes, 04 December 2018 (Short version for Brevet)

Attendees: Sharon Amann, Ron and Susan Stow, Dianne Anderson, Chuck and Jean Draheim, Ingrid Bjorum, Lynn Hoffmeyer, Pat Carlson, Dave and Mary Beth Mutchler, and Heidi Walsh.

Sharon began the meeting by noting that Andrea Herkert's rosemary program in November was excellent even without the missing slides. Everyone agreed.

We previewed the upcoming Julebord meeting. We still need more people to sign up for food. The most important items missing are open face sandwiches and sukrål (sweet cabbage). Sharon is still coordinating items. We debated on disposal/compostable dishes versus china, and unanimously passed a motion (Jean/Ron) to use china.

We discussed the upcoming January meeting, at which 2019 officers will be installed, with the program a Member Show and Tell about a family heirloom or heritage piece. We will have a sign-up to allow 3-4 members slots of about 5 minutes to present a piece and discuss its cultural and family background. Signees will send a picture of their item to Chuck, who will prepare a slide to show on the screen while they are presenting. Chuck and Susan will coordinate this event.

Ingrid gave brief reports on the Brevet and the web page. Brevet input is still due on the 20th, and January's edition will include President's letters from both Sharon and Chuck. Her January website will be a beta version for Board members only; Dave will continue until Ingrid's version is ready.

Jean gave a brief Treasurer's Report.

We discussed possible programs for 2019. Naomi had provided a fine list of possible future programs, and we are always open to suggestions from lodge members. Ideas include:

- January 8 – 2019 Officer installation; also 3 to 4 Members "Show and Tell" an item of family heritage; 5 minute limit; send picture for screen and bring if practical.
- February 12—Chili Dump + Norwegian Bingo if can replace Naomi's role as organizer/caller.
- March 12—John Moe, "Hilarious World of Depression" and Norwegian Heritage; Q&A with Sasha.
- April 9—Membership Dinner, catered by Magnolias (Mary Beth to contact); show John Nordale's slideshow **or** a slideshow/history of our Junior Lodge.
- May 14—Syttende Mai celebration; kid emphasis with hot dogs and ice cream (Susan & Mary Beth to plan).
- June 18—Lodge picnic at Island Lake, catered by Magnolias; Drone demo by "Air Bears".
- September 10—member Bunad style show.

We discussed whether we should quit doing Salvation Army Bell Ringing. Ron reported that except for a shortage of volunteers, it went quite well. Ruth had it wonderfully organized and we collected lots of money. Tusen takk to Ruth Gibson, Lowell Johnson (10-12), Ron Stow (12-2), and Cathy Reasoner & Doug Peterson (2-4:00 PM).

Susan Stow gave a Junior Lodge report. The dancers gave an outstanding performance at the European Christmas Market at the Saint Paul Depot. There was a good sound technician this year, but still some power problems. 20 dances were performed. Sasha brought leather items for constructing reindeer. Anders Peterson joined the dancers in December. At their baking day, the group made krumkake, Kringla, sandbakkels, and pepperkaker.

Ron addressed our 2019 Slate of Officers. Due to family commitments, Naomi will be taking a 2-year "Sabbatical" from her fine job as our Cultural Secretary; she will be missed. Zone 9 Director Jan Osmonson will officiate at our January 8 Installation of Officers for 2019.

We discussed using disposables vs real plates/cups/flatware from the GA kitchen. The pros of going entirely green are obvious, but at our regular evening meetings the biggest con is the time required to clean things up after a meeting. For now, we decided to go fully green only at our dinners.

Chuck Draheim gave a Membership and Recruiting report. We had 8 new members join in again in November!

The next board of directors meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on **Wednesday, January 2** in the Board Room at the Maplewood Library.

Submitted by: Dave Mutchler, Secretary

(Secretary's Report continued on page 4)

(Secretary's Report, Continued)

Lodge Meeting on December 11, 2018

About 70 members and guests attended our annual December Julebord. As usual, there were many wonderful Scandinavian foods to choose from, and the room looked very festive. Lots of Norwegian sweaters were worn, and the tables looked great. The dinner began about 6:40, with table serving order set by Chuck. The lines went very smoothly, with plenty of food for all.

After eating, Sharon Amann conducted her last (brief) meeting as President by announcing Ron Stow to present the list of 2019 nominees for Board positions. That list was printed in the December Brevet, but needed to be again announced and shown, so that it could be voted on in December. A motion (Sharon/Ron) to approve these nominees passed unanimously. They will be installed by Zone Director Jan Osmonson at our January meeting.

Two door prizes (2019 SON Christmas ornaments) were won by Curt Hogenson and John Skalback and a third (a Paulstad 2019 calendar) was won by Peter Windey. The minutes from October were approved as printed in the Brevet.

We were then entertained by "Toll Free", a local group of 4 bell ringers with 64 bells. They were simply fantastic; everyone seemed to enjoy them. There was a chance to sing some Christmas carols too, and even some dancing around the Christmas tree led by Susan Stow.

We closed the meeting with coffee, juice, and the desserts contributed by our members. Tusen takk to all those who brought Christmas goodies, and especially to Sharon Amann, who again coordinated the Julebord dinner.

Submitted by Dave Mutchler, Secretary



Lodge member Lowell Johnson ringing for Salvation Army (Left). Lodge members Doug Peterson and Cathie Reasoner ringing in donations. (Right)

Ron Stow and Lowell Johnson enjoy ringing that Salvation Army bell! (Left)



Thanks, Ruth Gibson, for organizing this successful community service project for our lodge.

The Varangian Guard

by Don Halvorson

Derived from Old Norse, *væringi*, the Varangian Guard's name, loosely translated, means sworn companion. For over four centuries it was one of the most acclaimed military units of its time, and was given the responsibility of protecting the entire Eastern Roman Empire.

During the Ninth Century, Swedish Vikings began traveling down the large river system, into what is now modern Russia. In search of profit, they built fortified trading posts and began trading with the local inhabitants. By 850, they had created the principalities of Novgorod and Kiev. To further their power, the small ruling elite who were established there began to intermarry with the Slavic noble families. Called Rus by the Slavs, this name eventually became synonymous with the entire area controlled by the Viking Slavic leadership in Kiev.

In 987 AD, a civil war erupted in the Eastern Roman Empire. Constantinople was under siege from a rebel force commanded by the Byzantine general, Vardhus Phokas. In desperation, Emperor Basil II asked for military help from Vladimir the Great, the Grand Prince of the Rus. Vladimir gladly offered up 6,000 men, all of whom he considered to be totally unruly and undisciplined. Instead, after entering Basil's service, these troops proved to be fiercely competent in battle, and a major factor in turning the tide against the rebel force. After the rebellion was won, Basil was so impressed with the fighting mettle of the Rus, he appointed the unit to become his personal bodyguard. As an elite force, they often took the field when commanded, and fought admirably in many wars, until they were wiped out during the Fourth Crusade in 1204.

For over 100 years, the majority of mercenaries were Rus or of Swedish decent. Then in the 11th Century, there was an influx of Anglo-Saxons joining the ranks, after William of

Normandy won the field in England. With the end of the Viking era, Danes, Norwegians and even Icelanders began to travel east.

One of the most notable Norwegians was Harald Hardrada. The younger half-brother of Olaf II, he and many of his fellow warriors fled Norway after Olaf's defeat at Sticklestad in 1030. Arriving in Kiev, he spent several years in the service of Prince Jaroslav. He arrived in Byzantium in 1034 with 500 men, but was strangely rejected by the Varangian Guard. Instead, he and his men were attached to the Imperial navy fighting Arabian pirates. While fighting in Sicily and Bulgaria, Harald, because of his bravery in battle, was finally admitted into the Guard as an officer. During these years Harald amassed a large sum of money from pillaging and plundering. But his greed was his

undoing. He was caught and imprisoned for embezzlement. When his fellow Guard members strongly objected, the new Emperor, Michael V, disbanded the Guard and replaced it with Scythian slaves. Soon after, Michael fell out of favor with the populace, resulting in a civil

uprising. The ousted Guard took advantage of the situation, aiding in the overthrow of the unpopular potentate. Harald was freed and regained all his wealth and former titles. Eventually, word reached him from Norway that Magnus, the son of his dead brother, had made claim to the Norwegian throne. Wanting the throne for himself, he prepared to return home and challenge his nephew. First he went back to Kiev, where he retrieved his men and married Prince Jaroslav's daughter. Once home, he became king of Norway in 1047. In 1066 he died in the Battle of Stanford Bridge in his attempt to again conquer England.

Harald Hardrada

penelope.uchicago.edu/~grout/encyclopaedia_romana/britannia/anglo.../harald.html

TheVarangianGuard:TheVikingsinByzantium-SoldiersofMisfortune

www.soldiers-of-misfortune.com/history/varangian-guard.htm



Bulletin Board

Tusen Takk

Thank you to Ruth Gibson for organizing an enjoyable bell-ringing experience for our volunteer ringers. Ruth provided them with snacks, cider, cocoa, and stools to sit on.

Thanks to Lowell Johnson, Ron Stow, and Cathy Reasoner & Doug Peterson for helping with this Salvation Army Lodge Community Service Project.

Junior Lodge

Saturday, January 12th, 1- 2:30.

- Sledding, Fish Toss and Lasso the reindeer. Come Early if you want more sledding time. Stillwater Middle School, East field, 523 W. Marsh.
- We will Drive to St. Paul Lutheran at 1:40 to rehearse for our Tusen Takk Performance.

Hardanger Embroidery Class

- Next class - Friday, Jan. 25th at 10:00 am
- Location - 103 E. Burlington, Stillwater
- Bring a sharp embroidery scissorsContact Susan Stow, burle103@aol.com or 651-439-7255 to register.

Norwegian Language Classes

- Norwegian Language Lessons, Tuesday, January 8, 6:30-7:00 p.m.at Gustavus Adolphus Church before the meeting in the back corner
- Norsk Nordmenn og Norge & Ny i Norge book, Wednesday, January 9 & 23 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.

For Information:

Chuck Draheim, President 651-433-2008 or cmdraheim@aol.com

Lowell Johnson, Vice President

Ingrid Bjorum, Brevet Editor ingrid@steinmetz.org

Genealogy Group

Our January group meeting is Saturday the 5th at the Shoreview Library, 4570 North Victoria Street, Shoreview, MN from 10 am to noon. Newcomers are always welcome. We will help you get started organizing your information and teach you how to start researching your ancestors. An optional lunch at a nearby restaurant will follow the meeting.

On Saturday, January 26, the group will visit the Minnesota Genealogical Library. Norwegian genealogical help is offered at the library from 10 am - 1 pm. Our group will meet there at 1 pm. If people are interested in receiving research help, they are welcome to arrive earlier. There is a \$10 fee per person to use the library unless you are a member with the Minnesota Genealogical Society or an affiliated group. The yearly fee to belong to the Norwegian American Genealogical Association is \$20 for an individual or \$25 for a household. This includes a quarterly newsletter. It has been suggested that we go out for an early supper after our visit instead of gathering for lunch.

Minnesota Genealogical Library: 1385 Mendota Heights Road Suite 100, Mendota Heights, MN 55120-1367. Phone: (651) 330-9312. Saturday hours: 10 am to 4 pm.

There will be NO meeting in February.



Junior Lodge

How perfect! Two reindeer were featured at the Union Depot European Christmas Market where our Peer Gynt Dancers were performing. Since we have been learning about the Sami culture and reindeer herding in Norway, it was outstanding to get up close to real reindeer. At 4-5 ft. tall, these animals are considerably shorter than regular deer we might see in Minnesota. An adult male may weigh between 350-400 pounds, while the female weighs between 180-260 pounds. What is interesting about reindeer antlers is that both male and female reindeer grow them yearly. Antlers can be up to fifty-one inches. The consistency of the antlers is rather flexible until August, when the antlers harden for digging up plants, grasses or moss. I had never noticed that besides the two prominent antlers, there is one shorter antler that extends from the center of the head across the snout. That middle antler is especially good for digging food in the winter. Reindeer hooves expand in summer when the tundra ground is soft and shrink when the ground freezes in winter. To process all that freezing arctic air, their nose structure is such that the intake of air is warmed before it passes to their lungs. Check out some Youtube videos on reindeer herding in Norway to see reindeer running up to 50 miles per hour in front of Sami herders on snowmobiles.

The hour-long Peer Gynt performance at Union Depot was well received. Our kids wore Norwegian sweaters over their bunader to keep warm, which looked darling and kept them warm. We had two new dancers this year, Anders Peterson and Kaia Velo, who did their enthusiastic best under the tutelage of Kaia Larsen and Freya Haugen. **You can be very proud of your Synnøve-Nordkap ambassadors!**

God Jul! Susan



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, 2017

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
Wednesday, January 2, 7:00 pm	Monthly Board of Directors Meeting	Ramsey County Library - Maplewood 3025 Southlawn Dr Maplewood, MN 55109
Saturday, January 5, 10-Noon	Genealogy Group Meeting	Shoreview Library 4570 North Victoria Street, Shoreview, MN 55126
Tuesday, January 8, 6:30 pm	Norwegian Language Class	Gustavus Adolphus Church 1669 Arcade St., St. Paul, MN 55106
Tuesday, January 8, 7:00 pm	Monthly Lodge Meeting	Gustavus Adolphus Church
Wednesday, January 9, 1-2:30 pm	Norwegian Language Book Group	Sun Ray Library 2105 Wilson Ave., St. Paul 55109
Saturday, January 12, 1:00 pm	Peer Gynt Fish Toss & Dance Rehearsal	Multiple locations. See Bulletin Board notice for details.
Wednesday, January 23, 1-2:30 pm	Norwegian Language Book Group	Sun Ray Library
Friday, January 25, 10:00 am	Hardanger Embroidery Class	103 E. Burlington Stillwater, MN 55082