



SynNor Brevet

Synnøve-Nordkap
Lodge #1 - 008

April 2020
Issue Number 20 - 04



Special Edition

Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge 1-008
Sons of Norway
Saint Paul, Minnesota

Dear Fellow Lodge Members,

Lynn Hoffmeyer sent me a message with an excellent suggestion to send out an e-blast checking on the welfare of all of our members. After consulting with the Brevet editor, we decided to include this with the April Brevet. How are you all doing? Are any of you unlucky enough to have contracted COVID-19 or any other little nasties? Are any of you in need of any kind of assistance? Sons of Norway began as a fraternal organization to assist Norwegian immigrants in their times of need, and this is still true today.

Please reach out if you are in need of assistance, and we will try to find someone who can help you. Nearly all of our members are in the "high risk" category because of age or underlying conditions, so meeting some requests may not be possible. Person to person contacts should be avoided at all cost.

If you need groceries picked up at your local store, we can possibly arrange this but only if you can order and pay online, and we can pick up at your store without having to actually enter the store. Festival Foods is currently not taking any new clients for curbside pick-up or delivery, but Cub Foods is. I haven't checked other grocery chains to find out what their policies are.

If you know of a lodge member who does not have internet access, give them a call and check on them. Sometimes just a friendly voice on the other end of the line is enough to boost someone's spirits.

The International Lodge has cancelled the 2020 International Convention and, by extension, cancelled all district conventions. Sons of Norway is not alone in cancelling these large gatherings. Lions International has cancelled their 2020 convention, and the IOC has postponed the Olympic Games for one year. The International Institute of Minnesota has cancelled the 2020 Festival of Nations. This is the first time since its inception 88 years ago that the Festival has been cancelled.

Governor Tim Walz has ordered/requested that all Minnesotans stay home and only venture out if absolutely necessary. We should all respect this request!

Your lodge board of directors is monitoring the ever-changing situation. Our April board meeting will take place via teleconferencing. We will be making some very tough decisions about future lodge events. We will keep you posted as the need arises. **ALL LODGE EVENTS ARE CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

We are a strong people, and we will get through this health crisis.

Fraternaly,
Chuck Draheim, President Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge 1-008
Sons of Norway

Fra Presidenten

Hilsen alle sammen.

Wow, what a month it has been! The COVID-19 virus has pretty much brought things to a standstill. Meetings, conventions, and all large (and small) gatherings have been cancelled or postponed in an effort to curb the spread of the virus. All lodge activities have been cancelled for the immediate future.

The 2020 Festival of Nations has been cancelled as have the Sons of Norway 2020 District 1 and International conventions.

On a more positive note, spring is here and Easter, with its message of hope and forgiveness, is just a few short weeks away.

Our March program with Mike Lynch was a huge success. Everyone seemed to enjoy Nordic waffles that were served after the program.

To borrow a phrase from our English friends, Vær rolig og fortsett (Keep calm and carry on.).



Fraternally,
President Chuck Draheim

Easter card from 1913.



District 1 News

Hallo Synnove-Nordkap members. As a member of the District 1 Board of Directors I would like to share some information with you about the status of this year's district convention. As you may already know from previous announcements, the 2020 District 1 Convention was scheduled to take place June 4-6 at Cragun's Resort Conference Center at Brainerd MN. Unfortunately, the convention has been cancelled. At this time, the next district convention is scheduled to be held in 2022.

Here is a look, though, at what happens at a district convention. Our lodge sends and pays the registration/hotel for four delegates to the convention. They attend business meetings where resolutions are presented and discussed. Break-out sessions present a variety of topics about Sons of Norway and Norwegian culture to enrich their knowledge of these subjects. One benefit of conventions is that attendees meet members of other lodges throughout the district, which stretches from Minnesota to Texas. They exchange ideas about programs, membership recruitment, and other topics concerning the success of individual lodges. Most of the time, conventioners realize they are all in the same boat, and it is essential that they make a cooperative effort to keep it afloat.

Like everyone else, members of Sons of Norway are being affected in some way or other by the outbreak of COVID-19. Members are urged to follow the recommendations of the medical community to help everyone survive the pandemic. Sons of Norway Foundation is a source of support for members. If you, or someone you know, are in need of financial support, please contact the Foundation.

I have just received a message from District President Dennis Rusinko that the spring meeting of the district board of directors scheduled for April 24-25 is cancelled. It will instead take place in the form of a group teleconference. Please be alert to further announcements about the Sons of Norway schedules.

We pray that everyone can come through this virus situation soon. As previously mentioned, we are all in this boat together and all need to help keep us afloat.

Stay calm. Stay safe.

Ron Stow, lodge liaison to District 1

Secretary's Report

Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge #1-008, Board Meeting–Gustavus Adolphus Church, 3/3/2020

Members in attendance: Chuck Draheim, Lynn Hoffmeyer, Ingrid Bjorum, Susan Stow, Pat Carlson, Dianne Anderson, Sasha Aslanian, Ron Stow, Dave Mutchler, Jean Draheim, and Connie Chrissis.

President Chuck Draheim called the meeting to order.

1. **SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Approved as printed in the Brevet.
2. **TREASURER'S REPORT - JEAN:** Approved as presented; D17 annual audit has been completed. 990N electronic filing for tax exemption will be completed soon.
3. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
 - a. **Junior Lodge – Susan:** Bunad check; audition program rehearsal; finish rosmaling project
 - b. **Foundation - Susan:** Nothing to report
 - c. **Brevet/Web site – Ingrid:** Lodge calendar is now on the website. The g-mail address forwarding mail directly to the lodge president is active. There is a Festival of Nations link for volunteer sign-ups on the website. Asks for member thoughts on outreach to members in senior living apartments and are no longer able to regularly attend meetings.
 - d. **District 1 - Ron:** The spring Board meeting will be April 24-25. It will decide the script for the district convention.
 - e. **Cultural Director – Ron:** As small groups take turns outside looking through Mike Lynch's telescope, we'll serve Nordic Waffles and socialize.
 - f. **District 1 Convention – Chuck:** The lodge will sponsor a half page ad in the souvenir program. April 16 is the deadline for submission. Ron will contact Leif for design ideas.
 - g. **Fundraising:**
 1. **Midsummer Festival at Buck Hill – Ron:** Leif is willing to help with a banner for our booth.
 2. **Taco Daze Sept 19 in Scandia – Chuck:** Besides our Nordic Waffle stand, there is an opportunity to cover the Lions concession stand where we would earn additional funds. Further discussion to follow.
 3. **Festival of Nations – Chuck:** All paperwork has been submitted, and we have our license. We will continue to ask for volunteers to staff food prep day and the Norway Café.
 - h. **Membership – Connie:** New members in Feb: Jeffrey Hanson and David Peterson
 - i. **Social – Pat and Dianne:** There will be a waffle-making class before the meeting on March 10 starting at 430p. Very easy to learn. We'll serve them as dessert at the meeting. Chuck and Jean will provide a couple of sweet fillings, and Dianne and Sasha will each contribute a savory filling. We'll ask members for feedback on the fillings.
 - j. **Membership Dinner – Chuck and Jean:** April 14 has been confirmed with Magnolia's. Jean will firm up the menu with Chicken Marsala at \$12 cost per serving as our first choice. We will send an e-blast with the info and a link to sign up online. Firm cut-off for reservations is April 10. Dinner will start at 630p, followed by dancing at 715p, and then a short meeting. We need to know how many dancers and parents will be joining us for the dinner. Dianne has frozen lefse from last year's Festival that we'll give away at the meeting.
 - k. **Scholarships – Sasha:** We received one scholarship application. There was discussion before Ron made the motion to grant a scholarship for this student. Dave seconded. Motion passed unanimously. In addition to the lodge's camp scholarship, the camper will receive additional funds from District 1.
4. **OLD BUSINESS:**
 1. **Board of Directors – Lowell:** 'Who is a voting member on the Board' tabled until next month with Lowell being absent.
 2. **Purchase of new/add'l equipment for T&M dinner – Lynn:** Tabled due to lack of time.
5. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Board Member Disclosure Questionnaire – Chuck: Members asked to check out the Conflict of Interest Policy in Member Resources at the Sons of Norway website for future discussion.

For the Good of the Order: Discuss outreach to seniors

Next Board of Directors meeting will be Tue, April 7, 6:30-9p at Maplewood Public Library. (cjc)

Lodge Meeting for Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge #1-008

Tue, March 10 at 7 pm at Gustavus Adolphus Lutheran Church, 1669 Arcade St, St Paul, MN.

- **Attendance:** 52; **Guests:** Ron Stubbings, president Sons of Norway; Katie Haselbauer
- President Chuck Draheim called the meeting to order. Anthems were sung.
- **March birthdays:** Ron Stow, Doug Peterson, Curt Hogenson, Connie Chrissis
- **March anniversary:** Susan and Ron Stow
- Minutes were approved as written in the Brevet.
- **April Membership Dinner:** Jean Draheim – informational e-blast will be sent; dinner is April 14; cost is \$10 per person; reservations can be made to Mary Beth Mutchler by April 9.

(continued on Page 4)

Goings-on

(Lodge Meeting Minutes, continued from Page 3)

- **Festival of Nations:** Chuck Draheim -- signup sheets for volunteers are at the greeting table and also online; no information about cancelling FON at this time due to Covid-19 and until the CDC has that recommendation
- **District 1 Convention:** Ron Stow -- will have more information at the April meeting
- Lowell Johnson talked about a plan for interaction by members during a future meeting using an app on cell phones to receive feedback regarding member interests on future programs and outings
- **Guest speaker:** Ron Stow introduced Mike Lynch, WCCO meteorologist and hobby star gazer, who presented his humorous and entertaining program featuring spotting constellations, the northern lights, and information about telescopes. Due to cloud cover, we were not able to view anything outside, but he had some of his telescopes set up at the meeting and described what they could do.
- Before the meeting ended, Chuck spoke to the group about accepting change within our organization. This is our organization, not our parents or grandparents. He asked that members respect the decisions made by the Board going forward as changes are adopted.
- We ended the evening with Nordic waffle samples with different toppings that are being considered for the Norway Café at the Festival of Nations. Forms will be handed out for member feedback.
- NEXT LODGE MEETING will be on Tue, April 14 at 630pm at Gustavus Adolphus Church.

Bulletin Board

Sunshine News

Our sympathy to Leslie Oliver on the death of her father.

Lodge Activities

All upcoming lodge meetings, events, and activities are cancelled until further notice. Please watch for updated information in the May edition of the *SynNor Brevet*, email notifications, <https://synn-nord.org>. You may also reach out to any board member for additional information.

Festival of Nations

The 2020 Festival of Nations has been cancelled. All related activities have also been cancelled. For those of you who volunteered to be part of our biggest fundraiser of the year, thank-you for your interest in helping. Hopefully, the Festival of Nations will be back in 2021, bigger and better than ever.

For Information:

Chuck Draheim, President 651-433-2008 or
pres.synn.nord@gmail.com

Lowell Johnson, Vice President
Ingrid Bjorum, Brevet Editor ingrid@steinmetz.org

Bjørn West

by Don Halvorson

In late 1944, with the war turning against the Germans on both fronts, the British and Norwegian High Command in London encountered new concerns. German troops in Norway, ordered back to the continent, would likely destroy essential Norwegian installations. Some military planners also considered Norway another possible Allied invasion site. The number of resistance fighters in Norway was far too small to be effective. A decision was made to create a new fighting force. Small groups of well-trained, well-supplied troops could be dropped into remote areas of Norway, and stay hidden until needed. Their mission was to protect those installations and be ready to help invading allied forces when that time arrived. Once established, supplies would reach them from the sea or by air. If they were to come under attack, they were to retreat deeper into the mountains or await evacuation by sea.

Bjørn (Bear) West, one of six SOE trained bases set up by Milorg, was located in the Matre mountains 40 miles northeast of Bergen. Bjørn East base was set up in the Voss-Hardanger area. Elg (Elk) base was located in Buskerud, northwest of Oslo. Varg (Wolf) base was in Vest-Agder west of Stavanger. Orm (Snake) base was located near the



Swedish border in Hamar. Hjort (Stag) base, also on the Swedish border, was east of Trondheim.

Of those six bases, only Bjørn West was documented in *Inside Fortress Norway*, by Thomas Nielsen, a resistance fighter and member of Bjørn West. The base was only in operation for the last six months of the war. Its initial plan was to assemble and train 1,200 men. That number dwindled to 500, then because of further



issues with the war, was reduced to 255 men. Commanded by former Linge Company officer, Captain Harald Risnes, some of the troops had fought the Germans before the Norwegian surrender. Others were recruits, fleeing the latest roundup of young people destined for the German army or a labor camp in Germany.

Life at Bjørn West was a repetitive routine: training followed by more training and ski patrols, constantly watching the mountains for Germans. Meanwhile they waited for new instructions from London. Retrieving new supplies was difficult. Airdrops were often hampered by changing winter weather conditions in western Norway. Troops fighting the German counter-offensive in France and Belgium had first priority. Supplies arriving from the boats in Shetland became more reliable but were more challenging to retrieve. Timed to arrive in the dead of night, the Shetland supplies would arrive by boat off the mouth of the Fensfjord. They were then transferred to fishing boats and carried to the village of Andvik. Again at night, they were taken by horse and cart to the isolated Matinus farm in Nordlandsdalen. Finally they were slowly carried on the backs of soldiers up a grueling mountain trail to the base camp.

Then, on April 27th, 1945 the war came to Bjørn West. German forces, accompanied by warships, landed at Metre. On the 28th a small German force attacked the Bjørn West base at Fossestøllen and was repelled by a larger force of Norwegians dug in here. Between April 29th and May 1st, hard fighting continued at Kringelbotn, Litlematrestølen and Krokavatnet north of Stordalen. In all these battles, Norwegian losses were far fewer than the Germans. At the same time these battles were being fought, negotiations had begun transpiring between London and German occupation

forces in Norway. On May 2nd, Bjørn West was ordered to stand down. On May 3rd, 3 German troops were also ordered to stand down. Once they were evacuated from the Bjørn West base, these troops were shipped to Bergen to control the German troop evacuation from Norway.

Thomas Nielsen *Inside Fortress Norway Bjørn West-Norwegian Guerrilla Base 1944-1945* Sunflower University Press 2000



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: <https://synn-nord.org>
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/synnor/albums>
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Date and Time	Event	Location
Saturday, April 4, 10 - Noon	Genealogy Group Meeting	Meeting Cancelled
Tuesday, April 7, 7:00 pm	Board of Directors Meeting	Teleconference
Wednesday, April 8, 1-2:30	Norwegian Language Book Group	Meeting Cancelled
Tuesday, April 14, 6:30 pm	Monthly Lodge Meeting Membership Dinner	Meeting Cancelled
Friday, April 17, 10:00 am	Hardanger Huldras	Meeting Cancelled
Wednesday, April 22, 1-2:30pm	Norwegian Language Book Group	Meeting Cancelled