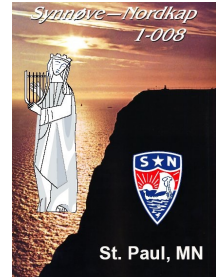




SynNor Brevet

Synnøve-Nordkap
Lodge #1 - 008

June 2020
Issue Number 20 - 06



President's Letter

Hilsen alle sammen.

Jean and I are finally moved into our new digs back in White Bear Lake. We still have a lot of unpacking to do but at least we are moved in. My thanks goes to Lowell for filling in for me last month both for writing an excellent article for the Brevet and for hosting our first ever virtual lodge meeting.

A lot has transpired since I last wrote: COVID-19 continues to ravage the country (and world) and the events unfolding in both Minneapolis and St. Paul surrounding the murder of an unarmed man by four, now former, Minneapolis police officers. I am appalled by the actions of those men. Sons of Norway CEO Chris Pinkerton wrote a relevant letter to members about how our organization and each one of us can learn and contribute to the ongoing struggle of systemic racism. You can find that letter here: <https://www.sofn.com/minneapolis/>

As of this writing I cannot predict when our lodge can go back to regular monthly meetings. Your Board of Directors will continue to monitor the situation and follow the guidelines established by The Center for Disease Control and the Minnesota Department of Health. Given the demographics of our group I personally would be very cautious about resuming "normal" lodge meetings until we can do so safely.

Please everyone stay safe and healthy and enjoy the summer.

President Chuck Draheim



Did You Know?

In these days of "Stay at Home" during the Covid 19 epidemic, we all crave seeing and interacting with others. Checking in with our Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge members via phone, we wanted to know how everyone was doing. We also asked three questions: What hobbies/Norwegian crafts are you doing? Do you have relatives in Norway who have told you about their experiences during the epidemic? Have you been doing anything new? Look for ❤️ ❤️ throughout the newsletter to see how some members have been spending their time. We will continue to share these tidbits during our time at home.

Secretary's Report

Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge #1 – 008, Online via Zoom, 5/5/2020

Members in attendance: Sasha Aslanian, Ingrid Bjorum, Connie Chrissis, Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim, Lynn Hoffmeyer, Lowell Johnson, Dave Mutchler, Mary Beth Mutchler, Ron Stow, and Susan Stow.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Sasha, as Chair, had forwarded to Board members two applications that had been submitted to her. Candidates are Abbi Kneeskern and Lexi Hanson Roe. She suggested we sponsor both as they are both good candidates. Discussion was held about amounts. Lynn made the motion to sponsor each applicant. Connie seconded. The motion was passed unanimously. Sasha will notify the recipients and will check with them to see if they are continuing their enrollment. Funds will be held until we know.

DISTRICT 1

Ron noted that on a District call earlier in the day, the statement was made that the language camps will be held. Concordia Language Villages will have some online courses besides the shortened camps in August.

NORDIC EXPERIENCE

1. We did not receive any Nordic Experience applications once again. A suggestion was made to use the money to purchase a class for any lodge members to take if interested.
2. It was also suggested we keep the Nordic Experience opportunity alive with the thought that someone will be interested in applying in the future.
3. NE is a good engagement opportunity. Maybe if a couple of lodge members would like to attend together, we could pay half of each person's tuition.
4. Lowell made the motion to have the NE scholarship be a rolling open application on a year round basis. Sasha seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.
5. Sasha will revise the application and send it around for lodge member information.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

1. We are covered for our short term response based on the governor's stay at home policy. All interpersonal activities have been cancelled.
2. The picnic was cancelled for June and is tentatively scheduled for August 18 at Island Lake Park in Shoreview.

BREVET

Per Ingrid, there will be a June issue. Be thinking of things to put in it. Send in Sunshine notices.

ZOOM LODGE MEETING

1. Sasha will set up a May zoom meeting for 630p on Tues, May 12 for the entire lodge. It will be casual and Sasha will communicate with Ingrid and Connie for info to place in the Brevet and an e-blast.
2. Tentative plan for the meeting may include the national anthem and announcements.

GENERAL

1. Ron suggested we donate to a food shelf. Susan made the motion to provide funding for the Merrick Community Services food shelf at GA Church in the amount of \$250. Sasha seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
2. There was discussion about the phone outreach by Mary Beth and Susan. The Brevet will have some summaries of what different members have been doing during this time. Does anyone have any information about a phone number for Jacquie Carlone since the one we have doesn't work. Susan and Mary Beth will review the list for more people to call.
3. Ron mentioned holding the membership pins that are usually awarded in April at the membership dinner. It was agreed that we hold off on distributing pins until we have a live meeting. Ron will look at the membership lists for people who have 40 years or higher in membership years for mention in the newsletter.

Next Board of Directors meeting will be Tues, June 2 at 7p via Zoom. (cjc)

Lodge Meeting for Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge #1-008, 5/12/2020

May lodge meeting cancelled

Benefits and Finance

If you have questions or concerns regarding Sons of Norway financial products, please reach out to our lodge Benefits and Finance Officer, Dave Okeson. During this time of uncertainty, financial security is perhaps more important than ever before. Dave can help you determine what Sons of Norway products are right for you or help you feel confident that your existing products are safe and dependable. Dave can be reached at: nlakefinancial@aol.com or 651-260-7399.

Secretary's Report

Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge #1 – 008, Online via Zoom, 6/2/2020

Members in attendance: Sasha Aslanian, Connie Chrissis, Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim, Lynn Hoffmeyer, Dave Mutchler, Mary Beth Mutchler, LaRee Opdahl, Ron Stow, and Susan Stow.

COVID-19

It was agreed to continue Synnøve-Nordkap's stay at home policy for the time being.

PICNIC AT ISLAND LAKE PARK

The picnic will remain on the calendar for August 18 for now. We'll discuss it at the July Board meeting.

ZOOM LODGE MEETING

A virtual midsummer lodge meeting is being planned for June 23 possibly with topics related to St. John's Day (June 24). Ron has an article in this month's Brevet about the celebration of Midsummer. Information will be put in the Brevet and an e-blast sent to members.

GENERAL

1. We received a donation request from Ski for Light. There was discussion about whether we should donate and the amount. Jean will check on what we've sent in the past. There was general agreement that if it was more than \$200 she'll email the Board, otherwise, she'll send them a check for the same amount as last time.
2. The Board was encouraged to think of meeting topics for the upcoming months.
3. Ron received a refund for our payment to participate in the Midsummer Fest in Burnsville in July. Jean said we have also received a refund from our payment to the Festival of Nations.

Next Board of Directors meeting will be Tues, July 7 at 7p via Zoom. (cjc)

2020 Membership Anniversaries

Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge 1-008, St. Paul, MN Sons of Norway

These members have achieved the following membership anniversaries. They are eligible to receive the appropriate anniversary pin. Normally these pins are awarded at the Membership Dinner in April. They will be awarded at the next lodge event. Members must be present at that event to receive their pin. Please contact Ron Stow by July 1 in order to establish communication concerning when that event will be taking place. [651-439-7255](tel:651-439-7255) or stowronald@gmail.com

50 Years: Audrey Huset (presented fall of 2019), Harold Broman, Bruce Benschine, Liv Eggen-Benschine

45 Years: Barbara Swedenburg, Jerry Stanke

40 Years: Meredith Berg

35 Years: Sheryl Hove

30 Years: Harry Thomsen (posthumously)

25 Years: Nancy Johnson, Len Carlson, Clayton Lance

20 Years: LaRee Opdahl, Loren Opdahl, Barbara Johnson, Lisa Mutchler, Roger Bosmoe, Yanina Carlson

15 Years: Clay Keller, Stephanie Storck, Fred Matson

10 Years: Mark Fjestad, Nancy Fjestad, Dave Hegdahl, Connie Chrissis, Sasha Aslanian

5 Years: Ken Bjork, Sharon Folland, Emma Steinmetz, Jennifer Read, Bethany Gladhill

The Legacy of Viking Women

by Don Halvorson

Although there were a number of female deities in the Viking pantheon, and Shield Maidens and Valkyries mentioned in sagas and their mythology, the average woman in Viking society held a more traditional position in life. Like most civilizations of that period, the Viking culture was a male-dominated society. The man hunted for food, tilled the fields and fought the battles. The women cooked the meals, took care of the home and raised the children.

Whether they remained in their homeland or followed their husbands and accompanying families to a new and unknown land, Viking women had considerably more freedom and responsibility than other women in comparative cultures of that day. Generally they were not allowed to accompany men on raiding parties or learn the ways of war or weaponry, but they too had grown up in the hard land and were

as strong and resilient as their male counterparts. When the men were gone on raiding or trading expeditions, their women had total responsibility for their holdings and held the key to their house and home. They were also in charge of the finances. If the husbands farmed and did not return from a voyage as scheduled, his wife and their children were responsible for planting the crop and bringing in the harvest. Much of a

woman's time was also taken up with sewing, weaving and spinning yarn. Archaeologists have also found evidence of textile production in some excavations.

The role of a Viking woman was to marry, and until that time, live at home with her parents. All too often the woman's family was heavily involved in the choice of a suitor, and her opinion was of no consideration. Once married, her reputation and status in life was intertwined with that of her husband. Even in a patriarchal culture, divorce could be granted to a woman for a number

of reasons. The sudden loss of wealth or status in a husband's family, or proof of violence in the marriage were common reasons for divorce. If a husband struck his wife three times, he could be divorced. A husband who had relocated to a new country and had not been to bed with his wife for three years could also be divorced. Conversely, a wife's infidelity was harshly punished, but a husband could bring a mistress into their home at any time he chose. Her only consolation was that she would still remain head of the household.

The sagas sing high praises of the many strong willed and dominant Viking women who exceeded their conformity. Jorunn Skaldmær, a Tenth Century poetess, is remembered for creating the longest skaldic poem ever written by a woman. Gunnblorg, an Eleventh Century female Swedish runes master, is credited for creating the Halsingland Rune Inscription 21 located in Jattendal, Sweden. In the Ninth Century Gudreid Thorbjarnardottir is mentioned in the Greenlanders saga, as a female member of Leif Erikson's crew bound for Vinland in North America. Then there was Lagertha, the mythic spear maiden brought back to life in the History Channel's TV series, *Vikings*. Part legend, part history, she first appears in *Gesta Danorum*, a Thirteenth Century Latin history of Denmark written by the Danish historian, author, and theologian, Saxo Grammaticus. As the first wife of Ragnar Lothbrok, a Viking king of the Ninth Century, she is pictured as having almost Amazon qualities. Tenaciously fighting side by side with her husband, she assures him of victory in at least two recorded battles. The roots of Grammaticus' writings have their beginnings in the Old Norse traditions of Snorri Sturluson's Icelandic literature, where Lagertha appears in more than one of his historic sagas.

[Women in the Viking Age - National Museum of Denmark](https://en.natmus.dk/.../prehistoric-period-until-1050-ad/the-viking-age/th)
[Lagertha - Ancient History Encyclopedia](https://www.ancient.eu/Lagertha)
[10 Important Women Of The Viking Age And Their Historical Legacies](https://www.ancient.eu/Lagertha)



Celebrate Midsummer with Your Family

By Ron Stow

The common question about the Midsummer Festival is: When is Midsummer? The usual answer is: In the middle of summer. That, however, is incorrect. The Midsummer Festival takes place at the start of summer at the time of the summer solstice. This can occur on a day between June 19 and June 25. This year it occurs on June 24th. This may vary from culture to culture.

In the Norwegian tradition, Midsummer's Eve is always celebrated on June 23rd. The evening before St. John's Day, which celebrates John the Baptist on the 24th, is called *Sankthansaften*. Another Norwegian name for this is *jonsok* derived the Norse term for "vigil for Jon".

Stemming from a time when people believed that supernatural elements were especially strong on Midsummer's Eve, due to the solstice, they would make a bonfire to keep witches away. Even nowadays you can see bonfires up and down the coast as well as in inland Norway.

Friends and families often gather for grill parties, especially at the beach. Some will head for the mountains. After eating and drinking, both children and adults play games or simply relax. The next day is not a holiday so they might be careful not to enjoy the celebration "too much".

At twilight, which comes later in the day at this time of year due to this being the longest day of the year, the bonfires are lit. Normally the fire structure is about 40 feet tall. In 2016, a structure was built by fastening wooden pallets together making it a record 155 feet tall. Check out the YouTube video showing the construction and the burning of this *Slinningsbålet* at Ålesund, Norway, where the celebration takes place on the following Saturday, this year on June 27.

You and your family do not need to build a big bonfire. A small version will do just fine in observing *Midtsommer* or *Sankthansaften*. And please, don't forget the strawberries.



Synnøve-Nordkap Congratulates Two Scholarship Winners!

Abbi Kneeskern is a 2020 graduate of Stillwater Area High School and will be attending University of Wisconsin Eau Claire this fall. Abbi is interested in pursuing Elementary Education or Veterinary Sciences.

Abbi is the daughter of Jill and Scott Kneeskern, and she danced with the Peer Gynt Dancers for 11 years, following in the footsteps of her older sister, Ellen.

"I am so honored and appreciative of this award," said Abbi. "I really enjoyed my years in the Norwegian dance group. I learned a lot from watching Ellen and tried to lead by example after she was done. I will miss dancing but have many great memories to carry with me. Thank you again for the scholarship!"



Lexi Hanson Roe is a graduate of Melrose High School in Melrose, Minnesota. Lexi is entering the Nursing program at University of Northwestern in Roseville. She's the granddaughter of Jean Knaak and joined our Lodge when she moved to the Twin Cities. Welcome Lexi and congratulations on your scholarship!

"One of my passions has been participating in Norwegian cultural activities," Lexi wrote. "I attended my first Stevne in Winona, MN in 2010, and I have attended either the 7-Lag Stevne or the Tre-lag Stevne ever since. In 2017 I was privileged to be part of a trip to Norway, which included a visit to Tynset and Kvikne in Hedmark, where we visited and were hosted at four of the original family farms. Through a special school program, I was able to attend Skogfjorden in 2015. Going forward in the future, I want to continue with Norwegian organizations after I complete college."



Len & Kathy Carlson – spent the winter in Arizona, but came home early due to Covid. They are organizing their townhouse after moving from New Brighton to Maple Grove.

Paul & Marge Dormody – have their insurance office out of their home, so except for no personal visits with clients, little has changed day to day.

Sharon Folland – granddaughter is staying with her after college campus shut down. Sharon is excited that her grandson in the Navy traveled to Europe: first stop: Norway. He loved it.

Ruth Gibson – working on husband's family genealogy. She has traced family back to 1600's, leaving London for Ireland.

Bulletin Board

Sunshine News - Harry T. Thomsen

Harry is survived by an ex-wife and 2 children. He was born in Brooklyn, NY on January 1, 1934 but also lived and worked in Norway during his lifetime. He worked as a carpenter by trade and worked on a number of skyscrapers in NY. Harry was active in **Det Norske Folkedanslaget** dance group. He did not dance but attended most meetings and was very supportive. Harry died on November 11, 2019, possibly from kidney failure. Harry will be buried in Norway. You may have seen Harry's name in our anniversaries list earlier in this issue. He was a Sons of Norway member for 30 years.

Sunshine News

Our sympathy to Lynn Hoffmeyer on the passing of his mother. May she rest in peace.



Don & Sue Halvorson – doing yardwork and chatting with neighbors as they walk by.

Marv Hammer – enjoying Norwegian humor, visiting with aunts, and keeping up with Minnesota politics.

Gene Hanson – doing more journaling. Rereading letters to family from his father while in Europe during WWI. He enjoys watching the wildlife outside his patio door at Scandia Shores Senior Living in Shoreview.

Curt and JoAnn Hogenson – walking and spending time in yard; are excited to have daughter and family move here. With Covid19, they hope they will be able to help them get settled.

Lenore Jesness – safe distance walking with friends, helping with food bank at First Lutheran. Very sorry to have her trip to Passion Play in Oberammergau cancelled.

Trudi Johnson-Richards – walks daily with neighbor, feeds wildlife, sees son several times weekly. He is a big help to her.

John and Judy Jourdan – happy for warmer weather so can be outside. Sons are bringing their groceries.

Laura Sherman – She is busy taking care of Frank. He fell and broke his ribs and was in a transitional care facility. Luckily he was released from there before Covid hit the facility. A son lives close to them so is available to help.

Lodge Activities

- Tuesday, June 23 Zoom lodge meeting to celebrate Midsummer. Watch e-mail for more information.
- Tuesday, August 18 summer lodge picnic. Watch e-mail, upcoming Brevet, and website for updates about this event.

Member Directory

Synnøve-Nordkap member directory is available on our website. You can reach the page by clicking on the link below. The directory itself, however, is password protected. If you are an active lodge member, you can request the password by contacting Connie Chrissis at cjchrissis@comcast.net.

<https://synn-nord.org/contact/member-directory/>

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>
<https://peergyntdancers.wordpress.com/about/>
<https://www.facebook.com/SynnoveNordkap/>

Date	Event	More Information
Tuesday, June 23	Midsummer Lodge Meeting	Virtual meeting will be held via Zoom. Check email for more information.
Tuesday, July 7, 7:00 pm	Board of Directors Meeting	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, August 18	Summer Picnic	More info. to come

Synnøve-Nordkap Brevet staff wishes all of our lodge members peace and good health during these challenging times until we can meet in person again.



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