



SynNor Brevet

Synnøve-Nordkap
Lodge #1 - 008

February 2021
Issue Number 21 - 02



Front Page News

February Lodge Meeting: With Restauration through Hell Gate to The Promised Land

Restauration was the name of the Sloop that carried the first Norwegian emigrants from Norway to the United States in 1825. This was a daring journey for those hardy souls on what is considered the first organized emigration from Norway to the United States. *Restauration* set sail from Stavanger on July 4, 1825, with 52 people aboard, many of them Norwegian Quakers and others Haugeans, a Lutheran sect which derived its name from Hans Nielsen Hauge. The group, led by Cleng Peerson, landed in New York City on October 9, 1825, after a three-month voyage. The people who made the voyage are often referred to as "Sloopers". There was a major commemoration event in Minnesota in 1925 and plans are being made for 2025 when it will be the 200 year anniversary.

Vesterheim developed a webinar featuring Norwegian storyteller Anne Elisebeth Skogen, who speaks from Ryfylkemuseet at Sand, Norway. She tells the fascinating story of the first organized group of Norwegian emigrants who sailed to America on the sloop *Restauration*. Thank you to Vesterheim for making the program available.

Join us on **Tuesday, February 9th at 7 PM** via Zoom during the Synnøve-Nordkap monthly lodge meeting to see this captivating program. Door prizes will also make a comeback at this lodge meeting! If you come to the meeting and stay until the end, you could win a beautiful Norway calendar. And, beginning this month, the lodge genealogy group will host a brief "Genealogy Chat" at each meeting to feature the phenomenal work they do. In recent years, we have come together for our February lodge meeting by sharing each other's company and cooking with the annual chili dump. So, we invite you to join in this year from home with a bowl of chili, a cup of hot tea, coffee, or even some aquavit!

President's Letter

Hello Synnove-Nordkap Members!

Thanks to all that joined us in January for another of our "virtual" Lodge meetings. It is not ideal, but I am continually amazed at the fraternity exhibited by our members even when we gather via "Zoom". I leave every meeting feeling good about my Norwegian culture and the friendship with each of you that Sons of Norway provides! The Sons of Norway fraternity was demonstrated recently as our Lodge extended our condolences to the Christiania Lodge 8-004 in Oslo, Norway, after a devastating landslide occurred in their community. On behalf of the Lodge, I wrote:

Ole Hillestad, President
President Hillestad,

Vi i Minnesota kondolerer saa mye paa dere i Norge. Vi tenker paa dere og foeler med dere. (We in Minnesota send condolences to you in Norway. We are thinking of you and sharing feelings with you.)

I am writing to you on behalf of the entire membership of the Synnove-Nordkap Lodge, 1-008, Sons of Norway, in St. Paul, Minnesota, USA. We wish to express our sincere condolences on the recent tragedy that has befallen your community. We have followed the news of the landslide in the community of Ask. We are saddened by the reported deaths of 7 people and the news that other persons are still missing and may never be found. As fellow members of Sons of Norway, and as American citizens that still care for and love the people and nation of Norway, we send this message of our deepest sympathy.

Please share this message with your Christiania Lodge members and extend our greetings and heartfelt wishes. We hope your community will recover fully. Please know we are thinking of you in this difficult time. May our common love of Norway bring strength and uplift your spirits.

Within the next couple of days, we received the following reply:

Many thanks for your email where you express concern in connection with the quick clay landslide in Ask.

So far, 7 people have been found dead, and there are still 3 that have not been found. Search crews are still searching for the last 3, but there is no hope of finding them alive.

Eidsvold Lodge 8-009 has a member who has been evacuated, but she has been doing well.

On behalf of myself and my members, I wish you and your members a happy Covid-19 free new year.

Sincerely,

Ole Hillestad, President
Christiania Lodge 8-004

Let us remember the strength we draw from one another when we gather with a common bond! If you have been "Zooming" with us - Thank you! If you have not, please give it a try! If you need help - shoot me an email and I will provide some instructions to help you.

Mange Takk! - Lowell Johnson, President



Secretary's Report

Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge #1 – 008, Online via Zoom, 1/5/2021

Members in attendance: Sasha Aslanian, Ingrid Bjorum, Pat Carlson, Connie Chrissis, Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim, Lynn Hoffmeyer, Lowell Johnson, Jean Knaak, Dave Mutchler, Mary Beth Mutchler, LaRee Opdahl, Ron Stow, Susan Stow, and Audrey Waage.

President Lowell Johnson called the meeting to order. Since we have new members, we introduced ourselves and our lodge office.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES-Lowell Johnson: Agenda was approved as mailed and minutes are approved by email before being printed in the Brevet.

TREASURER'S REPORT-Jean Draheim: Profit and Loss Report was presented for 2020. An updated 2020 Profit & Loss Report was requested for the Feb BoD meeting that includes the gain/loss for the year on our investment which was not available at the time of our meeting.

SECRETARY'S REPORT-Connie Chrissis: Connie asked what Lowell would like to hear for this part. He said it should be things like new member info, member letters, member health info, etc. This can include input from the Secretary, Membership Secretary, Sunshine person, and others with info to share.

JR LODGE-Susan Stow

A total of 18 bags for making straw stars were put together and delivered in person by Susan and Ron Stow. A link to a video of the Norwegian Nisse was shared with junior members. Susan contacted the Dock and Paddle at Como Park to see if the dancers could perform in mid-May on the outdoor patio in front of the lake. All members will be invited if the event happens. Lowell said he might be able to help secure a location at Washington County Lake Elmo Park Reserve.

DISTRICT 1-Ron Stow: A You-Tube video for each of the cultural skills is now available from District. Ron will send it to Connie to email the Board.

JANUARY MEETING-Ron Stow: Jan Osmonson has been invited to preside over the installation of officers. This is a duty of the Zone Director. If Jan is not available, Dennis Rosinko is a possibility. Chuck will open the meeting, turn it over to Jan for the installation, then Lowell will officially take it over.

Lowell will continue to work on the revisions to our by-laws and will work with Connie and Ingrid on sending them out for member review. Then, we will put it on the agenda for a lodge vote.

Our scholarship winners have been invited to join us. Lexi Hanson, a nursing student, will update us on how things are going for her. Abbi Kneeskern has a timing conflict, so Sasha asked if she would submit a short video update.

For the program, all members will be invited to share things they have learned or skills they are working on while at home during the pandemic. Ron has located two videos and Jean D will talk about her Nordic Experience classes. Sasha and Ron will write a paragraph for an e-blast with the Zoom link for members.

There will be a moment of silence for victims of the landslide in Norway. Ron will gather the facts and send to Lowell who plans to send our sympathies to a SON lodge near where it happened.

GENEALOGY GROUP REPRESENTATION-It was agreed that we incorporate the Genealogy Group at the end of our meeting on a regular basis. The group will designate a person who will speak on the topic for 3-5 minutes.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER: Ingrid will send the Board an email updating all members of timelines and what she is looking for regarding the Brevet.

FEBRUARY BOARD MEETING: We will all wear our Norwegian sweaters and do a group photo showing our new Board of Directors.

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

Lodge Meeting for Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge #1-008 Tues, Jan 12 at 7 pm via Zoom

- President Chuck called the meeting to order and welcomed our guest, Jan Osmonson.
- **Jan. birthdays and anniversaries:** None were mentioned by members present.
- Chuck turned the meeting over to Jan Osmonson, Zone Director, who completed the installation of new officers.
- President Lowell Johnson took on the leadership of the meeting and thanked Jan for being here for our installation. He also thanked the lodge for entrusting him with the leadership position and gave his thoughts on how he can be reached by all lodge members to help gather information for moving this lodge forward for the future.
- Ron Stow shared a video featuring a New Year's Eve greeting from Bergen, Norway with Hurtigruten ships welcoming in the New Year.

("Secretary's Report continued on next page)

("Secretary's Report" continued from previous page)

• **Scholarship recipients:** Sasha introduced our award recipients. **Lexi Hanson** is a nursing student at Northwestern. Everything is online which makes it difficult to form friendships with classmates. The upcoming semester will also be online, but she will also be participating in clinicals in the area. **Abbi Kneeskern** sent a video. She is studying elementary education at UW Eau Claire which is also online only. She is happy with how the university has been handling the pandemic situation but will be happy to see her professors without masks and is looking forward to when there is a return to the normal college experience.

• **Program:** Our program was about how people have been learning during the pandemic. Ron Stow started it off by presenting 3 videos: One telling about the Vesterheim Museum Folk Art School in Decorah, IA; the second about the North House Folk School in Grand Marais; and the third about the Milan Village Arts School in Milan, MN. Ingrid said that our website has been updated with links to cultural offerings of interest including the ones listed above.

Jean Draheim showed and spoke of the needle felting and Sami bracelet courses that she attended online at the Marine Mills Folk School with the help of one of our scholarships. She urged all members to check these opportunities out. Following Jean's presentation members shared what they have been doing: wood and chip carving, Nålebinding (a yarn technique predating knitting and crochet), crochet, hardanger, and reading.

• **February program:** Features a Vesterheim movie "With Restauration Through Hell Gate to the Promised Land" about the start of modern Norwegian immigration to the USA.

• Meeting was adjourned. (cjc)

Sports and Recreation News

New Year's greetings to you all. For the most part, 2021 is starting out like the old year finished. The pandemic is still with us. However, the Covid vaccine is now available to more and more of us. This should eventually allow us to get more and more involved in sport and recreation activities.

Until then, there are activities which we can do to continue working on the sports medals in the Sons of Norway sports and recreation program. Perhaps you are doing yoga or chair exercises with a TV program. Simple stretching or calisthenics can be beneficial as a general fitness routine. Do you have a stationary bicycle? Keep track of how many miles you ride. If there is a YMCA or fitness club open in your area, you can consider a membership. Many of them are free through your health insurance.

Individual outdoor activities are usually not limited during the pandemic. Set up a walking routine or, if conditions are right, a jogging schedule. Winter activities such as cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are popular in the areas that have sufficient snow. Do you go ice skating or glide across the ice with a kick sled? During outdoor activities, please wear your mask and maintain social distances. It will protect you during the pandemic even if you have gotten your Covid vaccination. In the cold weather, your mask will also keep your face warm.

This was written when I was the temporary Director for Sports and Recreation for our lodge. I am happy to announce that Gene Hanson is now the Sports/Recreation Director for Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge. In the future, he will be contributing to the *Brevet*.

Ha det bra! Ron Stow

Junior Lodge Update - Mark your calendars!

Saturday, May 15 from 2:00 - 3:00.
Washington Park on the corner of Greeley and Churchill, Stillwater, Mn.
Bring your own folding chair, and wear your mask please.

The Peer Gynt Dancers will be performing an impromptu open air event. We have not been able to rehearse since last February, but we are hoping to be together, wearing masks and rubber gloves.

Our favorite activities have all been cancelled - European Christmas Market, Winter Carnival Grande Day Parade, and Festival of Nations. So we would like to be together to just enjoy dancing.

We do hope you will come to this event!

*** See "Bulletin Board" on page 7 for a Junior Lodge fundraiser**

Synnøve-Nordkap Scholarship Applications Available

Information about and applications for both the 2021 Language Camp Scholarship and the 2021-2022 Postsecondary Scholarship are available on the lodge website. <https://synn-nord.org/scholarships/> Application deadline for the Language Camp Scholarship is February 15, 2021. Application deadline for the Postsecondary Scholarship is March 15, 2021. Please visit the site for details or contact Sasha Aslanian, Synnøve-Nordkap Scholarship Director, with additional questions via email: sasha.aslanian@gmail.com.

Stay Engaged

At the January lodge meeting, we discussed activities to keep us all engaged with Scandinavian culture from home. There are classes, webinars, museum exhibits, films, music, both free and priced, that can be enjoyed virtually.

Here are some February offerings:

- At North House Folk School in Grand Marais, MN, it's Fiber February! They offer classes and webinars. "There will be something for everyone as we explore craft traditions from skinfell to knitting, felting to sprang!" <https://northhouse.org/events/fiber-week#knitalongs>
- Marine Mills Folk School offers a wide variety of online classes, including spoon carving and chip carving but also classes on dessert & wine pairing, tea, and writing. <https://marinemillsfolkschool.org>

Stay active, stay engaged, and stay healthy!

Scandinavian Culture

The NOREX Alliance

by Don Halvorson

During a normal year at Camp Ripley, near Little Falls, the winter season would be the setting for the Norwegian-American Reciprocal Troop Exchange (NOREX). This time every year a large contingent of Army and Air National Guardsmen from Minnesota would swap places with equal numbers of Norwegian Home Guardsmen for a scheduled training period in each other's country. Before the pandemic cancelled this year's exercises, NOREX was the longest standing troop exchange between two allied countries in the history of the U.S. Department of Defense.

Friendly cooperation between the Norwegian and American military began during the last year of WWII. Soldiers of the 1st Special Service Forces and the Norwegian-American 99th Battalion were sent to Norway to aid Home Front troops in the dispatching of occupying German forces from their country.

In 1973, while serving as an escort on a Norwegian diplomatic trip to Minnesota, General Herluf Nygaard spent a weekend relaxing with Brigadier General Francis Greenleaf at Camp Ripley. Greenleaf was the commander of the Minnesota National Guard. Nygaard was the commander of the Norwegian Home Guard. During that time together, they shook hands on the idea of exchanging troops between their two commands. The first exchange took place the following winter.

Both men fought the Germans in WWII. Before graduating from the Norwegian Military Academy in 1946, Nygaard had been an active member of the resistance. In 1951 he was promoted to colonel, then in 1968 rose to the rank of Major General. At the time of his meeting with Greenleaf, he was the General Inspector of the Norwegian Home Guard. Greenleaf, a native of Minnesota, was in college at Nebraska when his National Guard unit was activated for WWII. After achieving his commission, he saw action at Normandy, Saint-Lo, and the Battle of the Bulge. Once the

war was over, he returned to the National Guard, reaching the position of director of the Army National Guard in 1971.



From February 8-22, 2019, over two hundred Guardsmen participated in the exchange. Soldiers and Airmen of the Minnesota National Guard were flown to Værnes Air Station in central Norway. This Royal Norwegian Air Force facility is located in the municipality of Stjørdal in Trøndelag fylke and shares space with the Trondheim Airport. Here, the American troopers spent their time training in winter survival, mountain ski techniques, food rationing, and avalanche awareness. They were also schooled in bivouac procedures, emergency shelter, lean-to construction, and fire building. Back at Værnes, the Guardsmen were also taught weapons familiarization.

At Camp Ripley, the Norwegian Home Guard's main mission was to study law enforcement tactics. They interacted with the Morrison County Sheriff's Office and other local agencies in a number of domestic response exercises. Their free time was spent touring the Charles Lindberg Museum in Little Falls and interacting with the community, while curiously observing the similarities between themselves and the descendants of the Norwegian immigrants who had settled in Minnesota two centuries



before.

46th U.S. – Norway Reciprocal Troop Exchange to come to Camp Ripley
<https://minnesotationalguard.ng.mil/46th-u-s-norway-reciprocal-troop-exchange-to-come-to-camp-ripley/>
[Handshake That Made History – The Cross Sectionhttps://crossection.gns.wisc.edu/2014/04/29/handshake-that-made-history](https://crossection.gns.wisc.edu/2014/04/29/handshake-that-made-history)

Bulletin Board

Sunshine News

Congratulations and best wishes to Lisa Mutchler and Nick Heidecker on their marriage on January 26, in Las Vegas.

Genealogy Group

The Genealogy Group will meet on Saturday, February 6, 2021 from 10 am - noon via Zoom. Newcomers are always welcome. We will help you get started organizing your information and teach you how to start researching your ancestors.

The Genealogy Group will meet on Saturday, March 6, 2021 from 10 am - noon via Zoom.

2021 Synnøve-Nordkap Board of Directors



For Information:

Lowell Johnson, President:
pres.synn.nord@gmail.com

Ron Stow, Vice President Pro Tem:
stowronald@gmail.com

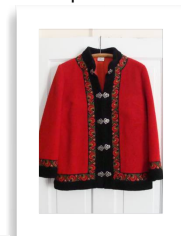
Ingrid Bjorum, Brevet Editor: ingrid@steinmetz.org

Bunader for Sale to Benefit Junior Lodge

Ron and Susan Stow have listed two bunader and a Norwegian wool jacket for sale on Craigslist. Proceeds will go to the Junior Lodge of Synnøve-Nordkap. Follow the links provided below to view the listings of these lovely pieces.

<https://minneapolis.craigslist.org/wsh/clo/d/stillwater-norwegian-firda-wool-jacket/7273879032.html>

<https://minneapolis.craigslist.org/search/sss?query=norwegian+bunad&sort=rel&purveyor-input=all>



Lodge Health and Safety

As we all continue to deal with COVID-19, lodge members are in the process of reviewing a document which will remain with the lodge as we move through this challenging time together. This document will coincide with CDC and Minnesota health and safety guidelines regarding in-person gatherings, food safety, and our high risk lodge population.

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, 2018
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, February 2, 7 PM | Board of Directors Meeting | Virtual meeting via Zoom |
| Saturday, February 6, 10 AM | Genealogy Group | Virtual meeting via Zoom |
| Tuesday, February 9, 7 PM | Lodge Meeting | Virtual meeting via Zoom |
| Tuesday, March 2, 7 PM | Board of Directors Meeting | Virtual meeting via Zoom |
| Saturday, March 6, 10 AM | Genealogy Group | Virtual meeting via Zoom |
| Tuesday, March 9, 7 PM | Lodge Meeting | Virtual meeting via Zoom |

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.

