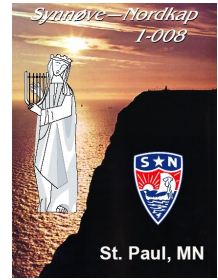




# SynNor Brevet

Synnøve-Nordkap  
Lodge #1 - 008

March 2022  
Issue Number 22 - 03



## Front Page News

### Virtual March Lodge Meeting An Innovator Abroad with Rick Steves

Our virtual lodge meeting for March will feature a video lecture from Rick Steves which was part of the *Innovators and Inventors* exhibit and lecture series presented by Vesterheim, the National Norwegian American Museum. As a Norwegian-American, his presentation focuses on traveling to Norway and traveling, in general, to challenge cultural assumptions.

Rick Steves is a popular public television host and a bestselling guidebook author. His company, Rick Steves Europe, brings more than 30,000 people to Europe annually. Steves is also an outspoken activist who encourages Americans to broaden their perspectives through travel.

You will receive an email with details about attending this virtual lodge meeting via Zoom. Please join us on Tuesday, March 8th at 7:00 PM.

You can read more about Vesterheim and Rick Steves by clicking on the following links:

Vesterheim: <https://vesterheim.org>

Rick Steves' Europe: <https://www.ricksteves.com>



### President's Letter

Hello, Synnøve-Nordkap Members!

The 2022 Winter Olympic Games have just concluded. Once again Norway has topped the medal count statistics. The United States finished fourth in the medal counts, and our state of MN was represented by 25 athletes (according to some media accounts). Given our state's climate and Nordic heritage, I guess it should not be a surprise that we have high levels of performance, participation, and interest in winter games!

My mother (the story-teller and keeper of Norsk traditions in our family) would tell of she and her siblings skiing to country school in rural Freeborn County. She would add that her brothers were also good ski jumpers. She even claimed that her eldest brother was the "best ski jumper". I would often think - "yeah right, as if there are any 'hills' in Freeborn County to even jump from". But, I'm sure the young people (and maybe even some adults in the area where they lived) would find the most suitable hill and have a little jumping competition from time to time. I'm not implying here, by any means, that my aunts and uncles were skilled athletes. What it tells me instead is that skiing and ski jumping, sliding, skating, hunting on skis (biathlon?), and other winter recreation was certainly a part of my Norwegian heritage and culture. The Olympics featured stories of athletes that said they often learned to ski or skate about the same time as they learn to walk. As amazing as that may sound to many millions of people around the world (or even in our own country), we in Minnesota and us Norwegian-Americans know that this is true to this day.

The Winter Games gave us reason to claim a proud connection to Norway. They may have given us a chance reminisce on winter play of our own. They may have even given us a boost of enthusiasm to get out in the beautiful, cold fresh winter that is Minnesota. I also found them as another opportunity to aspire for peace among all nations and all people. I hope you enjoyed them too!

Lowell Johnson, President



### 2022 District 1 Convention and Folk Art Competition

Hey, all you talented folk artists, get your hardanger, rosemaling, painting, photography, woodcarving, etc. projects ready for the Nordic Folk Art Competition at the District Convention in June. Any project you have completed since June 2018 is eligible to be entered. You may choose if you would like your artwork to be for "Exhibit Only" or for "Competition" when you register. You must send in your registration by May 1. You may bring your work to the convention or send it with a delegate. Follow the link below for more details and registration form for the 2022 Folk Art Exhibit. Contact Ron Stow for additional questions: [stowronald@gmail.com](mailto:stowronald@gmail.com)

District 1 Convention Info: <http://sofn-1.org/convention-news/>

Folk Art Guidelines: <http://sofn-1.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/FolkArtInformation2022.pdf>

Registration Form: <http://sofn-1.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/FolkArtEntryForm2022.pdf>

# Secretary's Report

## **Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge #1 – 008 Board of Directors, Online via Zoom, 2/1/2022**

Members in attendance: Dianne Anderson, Sasha Aslanian, Ingrid Bjorum, Connie Chrissis, Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim, Lynn Hoffmeyer, Lowell Johnson, Jean Knaak, Gary Legwold, Dave Mutchler, Mary Beth Mutchler, LaRee Opdahl, Ron Stow, Susan Stow, and Audrey Waage. Guests: Sharon Amann and Clayton Lance.

President Lowell Johnson called the meeting to order.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**-Lowell: Agenda was approved with no additions and minutes were approved by email before being printed in the Brevet.

**TREASURER'S REPORT**-Jean D: Reports were accepted as presented. There will be further discussion regarding Jean's recommendation that we talk about the cost of mailing door prizes and Mary Beth's statement that the costs of printing and mailing the Brevet are on the rise.

There was a lot of discussion regarding some of the long time practices by past treasurers that have been carried forward. The question is their correctness. Lowell asked if we want to continue to have dual signatures (agreed answer was yes with the president and treasurer being the dual signers) on the account and what should be the procedure for processing payments in the future. Lowell suggested he will meet with Jean to sign the checks from the previous month that have been approved by the Board. There will be no pre-signing of checks. Lowell said he would meet with a small group (possibly including the auditors and treasurer) to come up with policy language regarding the treasury to present to the Board.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT**- Nothing from Connie, Mary Beth, or LaRee to report.

### **DISTRICT 1-** Ron:

District Convention:

- 1) Delegates can register as soon as they want to get their hotel reservation;
- 2) This year's convention will be less business and more education and activities;
- 3) Lodge members are encouraged to get their art entered for the folk art exhibit;
- 4) Question asked to Ron: how does reimbursement work for the delegates? Ron will research and let us know.
- 5) Ron will be contacting all participants about a fundraiser he is organizing for the foundation and as the District Sports Director. It will be a walk at 6am on Saturday morning which is the last day of the convention.

Convention ad: Dave has offered to help get this ready. There was a little talk about the sizing and cost. The only spot left this year for a color is the back cover at a cost of \$300. He said that at the March meeting he will have a proposal ready related to ad, size, and cost. The deadline is April 15.

Convention Resolutions: Lowell will email the Board asking for suggestions. We will discuss at the March meeting.

**JR LODGE**-Susan: The Peer Gynt performance at Vinterfest in Scandia was a success. She learned she needs to purchase suspenders for the little boys who have joined the group so they can focus more on the dancing than holding up their pants. She is working on the Family Lodge of the Year forms.

**BREVET/WEBSITE**-Ingrid: Will mention the costs associated with printing and mailing the Brevet in the next edition. There was discussion about how to deal with the cost, but no final decisions were made. Ingrid will leave some room in the next edition for convention information.

**FEBRUARY MEETING**-Jean K: Lawrence Moe, professor emeritus at Metro State University, will present his special presentation in response to the COVID-19 pandemic in which he tells another kind of story about a virtually unknown branch of his own family that was already reeling from tragedy (a suicide) when the 1918 pandemic struck.

**MARCH MEETING**-Jean K: Rick Steves, a Norwegian travel writer, will be featured in a Vesterheim YouTube presentation. His travel philosophy encourages people to explore less-touristy areas of destinations and to become immersed in the local people's way of life.

**COOKIES FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**- Susan shared the following that she has learned and will be doing more research before bringing the issue to the Board for a vote:

- 1) They expect to have 200 cookie eaters;
- 2) There are 4 breaks;
- 3) They figure 3 cookies per person;
- 4) That would be 2400 cookies plus more for the leadership each day;
- 5) They need to be delivered to the convention each day.

Susan said it would take extra days to produce this amount. Jean D will check with GA church and SOKOL about renting their facilities. Jean K will help Susan with finding the cost of ingredients needed. If we decide to take this on, Susan will be asking for volunteer bakers and sharing cookie recipe suggestions in the Brevet.

(Continued on page 4)



(Secretary's Report, continued from page 3)

### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Sports Director-Audrey:** The Snow Day on Jan 29 at the Wargo Nature Center in Blaine was a success. Four people attended, and they snowshoed and spark (kick) sledded. Future activities might include park hikes and tours. She would refer to them as "Social Movement Together" activities where we get to know each other and are out moving for our health.

**Foundation Director-Gary:** Would like to learn what the Foundation does and what have we done in the past? Susan offered to help out since she has done this. Foundation month is October, and suggestions were given from various members. The next Board of Directors meeting will be Tues, March 1, 2022 at 7p via Zoom. (cchrisis)

### **Synnove-Nordkap Lodge Meeting #1-008, Feb 8 at 7 pm via Zoom**

- President Lowell Johnson called the meeting to order.
  - **February birthdays:** Loren Opdahl and Mary Beth Mutchler
  - **Anniversaries:** None
  - **Members attending: 33**
  - **Guests attending:** Jean Borgerding, Solfrid Ladstein, Kim Richards, and Lola Ruff (new member).
  - **Program:** Jean K. introduced Dr. Lawrence Moe who presented his talk titled "Every Care That Love or Skill Could Suggest..." He shared the story of his family settling in Grafton, ND and their experiences during the 1916-1918 pandemic telling tales and showing slides. That period of time is remarkably close to our experiences today with the Covid pandemic. A suggested read was "History of Suicide" by Georges Minois.
  - **Genealogy tidbit:** Fred asked people to share about family or ancestor experiences with 1918 pandemic.
  - **Door prize:** Bob Anderson was the winner of a Skogfjorden backpack water bag.
- (cchrisis)

## Happy Birthday, Norman Borlaug!

March 25<sup>th</sup> is the birthday of Norman Borlaug. Some have called him one of the world's greatest human beings. Some have never heard of him. The 1970 recipient of the Nobel Prize, Borlaug is credited with saving the lives of over a billion people.

The great-grandchild of Norwegian immigrants, Norman Borlaug was born in 1914 on a farm near Cresco, Iowa. He attended the University of Minnesota College of Agriculture. His major accomplishment was the development of high-yield, disease resistant wheat which was to provide food for millions of people in Mexico, India, Pakistan, and other parts of the world.

While working at the Norway Café for Festival of Nations, Ron Stow heard a gentleman from India exclaim, "That man saved us!" as he pointed to the poster the lodge was displaying in the booth. It was the photo of Norman Borlaug standing in a field of wheat.

As a Stillwater High wrestling coach, Ron met Norman Borlaug in March of 1970 at the Minnesota State High School wrestling banquet where Borlaug was honored for his contribution to Minnesota high school wrestling. When he was a wrestler at the U of M, Borlaug and a teammate would go to high schools and give wrestling demonstrations to promote the sport. This greatly helped the growth of wrestling programs in the state. Borlaug said wrestling taught him some valuable lessons for life.

Besides the Nobel Prize, Norman Borlaug received the highest civilian awards for an American, the Presidential Medal of Freedom and the Congressional Gold Medal. He died in 2009 at the age of 95. For more about Norman Borlaug, check out these biographies *Our Daily Bread: The Essential Norman Borlaug* by Noel Vietmeyer and *The Man Who Fed the World* by Leon Hesser. In Borlaug's honor, the date March 25<sup>th</sup> has been designated National Agriculture Day in the USA.

## Viking Chess

by Don Halvorson

The story of chess begins in India in 500 A.D. From India the game traveled to Persia. After the Muslims conquered Persia, they brought the game with them to Spain, where it eventually spread throughout Europe by 1000 A.D.

The Vikings created their own version of chess. They called it *Hnefatafl*, pronounced nef-ah-tah-fel, Old Norse for King's Table. *Hnefatafl*, the latest version of *tafl* games played throughout early northern Europe, reached its height of popularity in 4<sup>th</sup> Century A.D. Its decline began with the rise of chess in 11<sup>th</sup> Century. Still it survived under other variant games in medieval Europe, including the Celtic game *Brandubb* and the Welsh game *Tawlbwrdd*.

Game pieces have been found in multiple archeological sites in both Scandinavia and other lands the Vikings occupied. Early in this century they were found in a grave of forty Swedish Viking warriors buried in Estonia. Pieces were also discovered in the famous Birka, Sweden grave of a highborn Viking woman warrior. Game pieces could be elegant or crude, as simple as dark and light small pebbles or as elaborate as finely carved pieces in wood, bone, or amber. The board size, depending on the region, varies from seven inches to nineteen inches square, and might be made from textiles, animal skins, wood, or even drawn on stone or on the ground.

Much of our knowledge about *Hnefatafl* comes from two surviving manuscripts, the Old Norse Saga, *Fridthjof the Bold* and the Germanic *Hervarar Saga*. Further information comes to us from the 925 A.D. Christian game

*Alea Evangelii*. In 1732, while visiting the Sami in Lapland, a Swedish botanist, Carl Linnaeus, wrote down some notes in Latin, on the rules of *Talbut*, which was yet another variation of the *Hnefatafl* game. In 2013, a Finnish linguist, Olli Salmi, translated Linnaeus' work and came up with a more complete set of rules.

The *Hnefatafl* board is set up like a Viking battle formation. The board is on a layout of 11 x 11 squares. The king is placed in the exact middle of the board, surrounded by a diagonal square of warriors for his protection. This formation is called the Throne. The Throne pieces are always white. Facing the Throne on all sides of the board's edge are the attacker pieces: a back row of five pieces with another piece centered on each row in front. The attacker pieces are always black.

The strategy of the Viking game differs from traditional chess. The black pieces are always on the attack while the white pieces are always on the defensive, protecting the king. To make it more interesting, players can change positions in a new game.

The goal of the white team is to move the king to one of the four corner squares on the board. If they succeed, the king has escaped, the game is over, and the white team has won. For the black team to win, the king

has to be captured. The attacking side moves first to start the game. Each team then takes its turn. Each piece can move to any number of vacant squares, up or down in a straight line. Pieces on both sides can be captured and removed from

play after being sandwiched on two sides by their opponent's pieces. The game ends when enough of the black and white pieces have been captured or the king has successfully escaped.

[www.norseamerica.com > HnefataflThe Viking Game Hnefatafl](http://www.norseamerica.com/HnefataflThe-Viking-Game-Hnefatafl)



## Bulletin Board

### Genealogy Group

The March Genealogy Group meeting will be on Saturday, March 5<sup>th</sup> from 10 am to noon via Zoom. Do you need some great help finding your roots? Plan to attend the Genealogy Group meeting. The group welcomes new members of the lodge who would like to begin researching their family tree or to receive help if they have already started their family tree.

### Norwegian Language Classes

Classes are cancelled until further notice.

Please contact Class Facilitator Sheryl Hove at [sherylhove12@gmail.com](mailto:sherylhove12@gmail.com) or 651-738-4908 for information

### Thanks to Ruth Gibson

Thanks go to Ruth Gibson for suggesting we honor Norman Borlaug on his birthday.

### It's a Walk in the Park!

Let's take a walk together. On the third Thursday of the month, we'll meet at the entrance of the Muriel Sahlin Arboretum at 1:00 PM. If you have any questions please contact the lodge Sports/Recreation Director Audrey Waage [h2alo@yahoo.com](mailto:h2alo@yahoo.com).



### For Sale

These two beautiful Norwegian sweaters are for sale via Craigslist, listed by Ron Stow. Proceeds will be donated to Synnøve-Nordkap's scholarship fund. Both are women's size small. Follow the links below for more photos and information.



<https://minneapolis.craigslist.org/wsh/clo/d/stillwater-norwegian-sweater-small-size/7435537505.html>



<https://minneapolis.craigslist.org/wsh/clo/d/stillwater-norwegian-sweater-size-small/7435530985.html>

### For Information:

**Lowell Johnson**, President:

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**Ingrid Bjorum**, Brevet Editor:

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## Junior Lodge Update

### JUNIOR LODGE UPDATE

In celebration of *Alle Hjerters Dag!* (Valentines Day), we learned a song with hand motions and pictures to cue us along. The song is called *Alle Hjerter Banke* or *All Hearts Beat*. Those who have been to Skogfjorden knew this one already. Then from the new edition of **Viking for Kids**, we showed a pattern of how to make valentine ornaments. Can you imagine using a cold heart shaped waffle iron to impress the pastel colored clay to form five sweet little Valentine's Day gifts? Check this out through the Sons of Norway website to access the pattern. Here is the link to Viking for Kids: [https://www.sofn.com/member\\_benefits/viking-for-kids/](https://www.sofn.com/member_benefits/viking-for-kids/) While you are reading the **Viking for Kids** February issue, Liv Larsen sent news from her Folk High School in Fana, Norway.

In a jolly singing mood, we learned a new Norwegian folk tune song dance, "Eg rodde meg ut". Sometimes when you translate folk tunes, the lyrics come out as not making sense. "I Rowed Out", is a fishing tale about rowing out to a favorite fishing place and finding Olav in my favorite spot. So I hit him with my fishing rod so I could have the place all to myself. The dancers really liked this choreography because there is fake dramatic hitting across the face with sound effects of the partner clapping hands undetected by the audience. Or it will be undetected once we rehearse this a bit more!

With a huge new sports medals chart, each of the junior lodge members registered their points. Any figures from the past chart were recorded with the number of active points to achieve the next medal, such as 900 more needed for silver. Every one of the kids is so active, it is really fun to learn what they like to do and how busy they are from month to month.

We had two birthdays in February, Beatrix and Netta. We gave our usual cheer Hipp, Hipp Hurra! Instead of singing Happy Birthday, we tried the Norwegian *Hurra for deg som fyller i år!* Two circles are formed around the birthday children, each dancing in an opposite direction. The motions in the song lyrics are like those in the *Å Jul med din Glede* that we have danced around the Christmas tree at our Julebord, like bowing, nodding, and curtsying, but wishing the birthday girls all good things.

### 2022 Lodge Scholarship Applications Available

There is still time to apply for the Synnøve-Nordkap postsecondary scholarship. The application deadline is March 18. Junior Lodge members as well as children or grandchildren of active lodge members are eligible.

Additional information and application materials can be found on the lodge website: <https://synn-nord.org/scholarships/>



*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	Location
Tuesday, March 1, 7 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Saturday, March 5, 10 AM - Noon	Genealogy Group Meeting	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, March 8, 7 PM	Lodge Meeting	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, April 5, 7 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, April 12, 7 PM	Monthly Lodge Meeting	TBD