



# North Carolina Vikings

January 2010

<http://www.northcarolinavikings.org>



Sons of Norway

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NC Vikings Lodge 3-675

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## President's Message

### Happy New Year North Carolina Vikings Lodge!



For those of you who missed it, the December Christmas Dinner was wonderful! The catered food was wonderful and the appetizers and desserts were extra special for our party. What was most wonderful was all of the children, parents and grandparents sharing in the celebration together with the Juletre and the

songs! I want to give my heartfelt thanks to Kari Crenshaw for organizing the catering and the dining facilities, Signe Marwede for her work in organizing the children's activities and the singing and dancing activities, Gene Crenshaw for playing the piano for us during the celebration activities and making the dancing around the tree so special, and to the other volunteers who provided their time. We had over 45 people for the Christmas Dinner and all of them were treated to special Norwegian traditions, especially the children who certainly enjoyed the dancing around the Juletre. Pictures from the dinner are on the lodge's web-site (my thanks to Karl Svanberg for having his camera).

We have many great programs and meetings coming up. In the January meeting, we will elect the lodge's officers for 2010 and we will also have a one-pound auction. This means that each lodge member (or family) wraps up something which weighs a pound and we will then auction off that item starting at \$3 with increases of \$1 for each bid (proceeds of the auction go to the lodge's treasury). This will be a fun-filled event so please get creative in choosing your 1 pound item and in the wrapping of the item (we may even "recognize" those people who have the most "creative" wrapping).

Please share your commitment and presence at these meetings as you are what make the North Carolina Vikings Lodge! Never forget to promote the Sons of Norway membership to friends and associates. Involvement in the

lodge will certainly be worthwhile for you and your families but it is truly all about what "we make of it for us and each other".

*Takk!*

Mike Tilder,

President North Carolina Vikings Lodge 3-675

*Vikings Lodge Christmas Dinner in Images*



## *Upcoming Lodge Events*

### **January 21<sup>st</sup> Lodge Meeting**

At our January lodge meeting, we'll be electing new lodge members. It's not too late to express your interest in running for a lodge office! If you've ever thought about taking a more active role in your Sons of Norway lodge by accepting a position on the board, please contact Mike or Norm to express your interest!

We'll wrap up our evening with a fun lodge fundraiser, a **one-pound auction**. Please bring a wrapped item weighing one pound to auction off, with proceeds going to our Lodge. Use your imagination and come prepared to bid on some great mystery items!

Have leftover sweets or savory snacks from the holidays? Please bring something small to share for the coffee social that will follow our meeting.

### **February 18<sup>th</sup> Lodge Meeting**

At the February meeting, District Three officers will join us to install our new lodge officers, and we'll enjoy the chance to get acquainted with these guests over coffee and treats following the installation. Please bring a snack to share!

## *Additional Lodge Events*

### **Snakker du norsk? Norwegian language classes beginning soon!**

Our lodge has had interest and questions about starting a Norwegian class. I have taught one person privately this last year and have enjoyed it. I would like to attempt teaching a class for our lodge and I am looking for a class size of no more than 10. The lessons would be free, but you would have to buy a set of books called "Sett i gang". The set includes a textbook, a workbook and a glossary, and also has online audio recordings and a website. It is an introductory curriculum designed for use in the first year of university courses, the first two years of community education and high school classes, or for self-study.

How often the class would meet and the location of where we would meet is still to be decided. The meetings would start in February. There will be more on this at our lodge meeting on January 21.

- Signe Marwede

### **Genealogy workshop**

We're still looking for people who are interested in attending a genealogy workshop in early 2010. In order to make the workshop cost-effective, we'll need at least 10 additional members to express their interest. Contact Mike soon to let him know if you'd like to attend!

## *Upcoming Area Events*

### **Friends of Scandinavia Lutefisk Dinner**

Saturday, January 16<sup>th</sup>

St. Giles Presbyterian Church, Raleigh 6:15 pm

The Friends of Scandinavia lutefisk dinner is an annual tradition, and attendees enjoy lutefisk, lefse, and other traditional treats, as well as performances by the ScanDancers and Spelmanslag. Tickets for adult members of FOS are \$9.00; tickets for non-members are \$11.00 and \$3.00 for ages 6-11 (children under 6 are free).

Though the deadline to RSVP has passed, please contact Friends of Scandinavia (<http://www.ncnordic.org>) to inquire about the possibility of attending.

### **Norwegian Language Lessons**

Date, Time and Location TBD

February will mark the beginning of Signe's Norwegian language lessons. Date, time and location will be determined by participants, but remember to sign up at January's meeting, as space is limited to 10 participants.

### **Finnish Night with the Friends of Scandinavia**

Saturday, January 20<sup>th</sup>

St. Giles Presbyterian Church, Raleigh 7:15 pm

Please join the Friends of Scandinavia for an evening about Finland! For more information, visit <http://www.ncnordic.org>.

### **Trip to Norway with Charlotte's Norsk Carolina Lodge**

July 26<sup>th</sup>-August 5<sup>th</sup> 2010

This summer, our sister lodge in Charlotte is planning the trip of a lifetime to Oslo and Sandefjord, Norway. Though the trip itself is still a few months away, it's not too early to start planning! For more information, contact lodge president Carol King (704-674-2778).

*From the District 3 President*



Godt nytt år!

I hope that you all had a great Christmas. For many of you it was a white one and I think that's the only time of the year when I can handle a bit of

snow. I used up my quota for snow during my 21 years in ND, 10 in NJ and 4 in Norway.

November and December have been great months for **new members**, 102 so far. Gateway to Florida with Ken Larson leading the way picked up 18 new members and Nansen Lodge was right behind with 15 new members. I am writing this on 18 December so we have a few days left in December. Forty Seven of our lodges signed up at least one new member this year.

November was our web sites busiest month this year with over 97 visitors a day. We need more lodge pictures and lodge events posted on the site.

<http://www.3dsofn.org/home.html> The information on the D3/Hurtigruten trip is now on our web site.

We will be instituting the New Bern NC lodge, Drammen 3-682 in February. Please check out the web site for the exact date and location. I hope that we can have a large crowd on hand for the event. While this is our 4<sup>th</sup> new lodge in a short period of time we should not slow down. If you are aware of any location that looks like it can support a new lodge please notify Vice President Ekloff.

January will see a lot of Lodge Office installations up and down the coast. I want to thank and congratulate all the new officers for taking on their new positions. I am sure that they will find it rewarding. For some it may be a bit intimidating to start.

There are a lot of people that you can go to for guidance. There are past lodge officers, your Zone Director and the District Board to call on for help. There is a lot of written guidance available as well; the leadership manual (if you can't find one call supply at Headquarters and ask for one), your own bylaws, District bylaws, The SON Constitution, Roberts Rules of order and the SON web site which contains a multitude of information like available programs, Viking resource and your local lodge membership information.

This is also the month when Lodge of the Year forms are being filled out. I was disappointed last year when 20 lodges failed to submit their forms. There are at least 3 reasons why you should fill out the form. You might win. One lodge who did not fill out a form last year probably would have won the Family Lodge of the Year based on what I saw in their newsletters. Even if you have no chance of winning your members have worked all year and their efforts should be recognized. They can be recognized by achieving Gold, Silver or Bronze status. Finally, it is important for the Sons of Norway to be able to document all the activities our lodges participate in to ensure our non-profit status remains intact.

I want to thank all of you for what you did for the Sons of Norway last year and in past years. I am looking forward to working you again this year and I have great faith that we will have even greater success in the years ahead.

Med vennlig hilsen,

Ralph Peterson  
President  
District Three  
Sons of Norway

## *King Harald's New Years Eve Speech 2009*

*King Harald's New Years Eve speech appears below, translated by Finn Roed, Sons of Norway Lodge 5-378.*

Solidarity and joint activities are an important part of our Christmas celebration. Many of us again have gathered with those of whom we are most fond. At the same time, we know that the Christmas season's other face is loneliness. Not everyone is so fortunate to have children or family. Some have experienced separation or a dear one has passed away. And even if one should be surrounded by many people, one can still feel insecurity and experience being alone.

An old African saying says, "I am, because we are. Because we are, I am." It underscores that our lives are always inter-connected. We belong to someone, and we are dependent on one another. The one who dares to ask for help is never completely alone. And the one who finds someone with whom to share his thoughts is never completely helpless.

Norway is a good land in which to live. For this we are rightly proud. But, we would be wise to remember that the source of our welfare society has come about because of our forefathers' and our own contributions and work. Therefore, we cannot take our advantages and securities as givens. We must all, each in his own way, take responsibility to build and preserve the Norway to which we aspire. And lastly, we cannot demand more of our society than we are willing to contribute.

Those who are older might periodically feel insecurity over society's development and think that things were much better in earlier times. We constantly see examples of intolerance, extreme viewpoints and violence, which do not harmonize with the ground pillars of our inheritance. Such we must reject. Nevertheless, we must believe that most people are honest, normal human beings who contribute their best so that the world will be a better place.

A society which does not develop itself will stagnate. The variety of developments which we see growing today is undoubtedly enriching our country. It does not mean that we have to embrace everything new uncritically. That can lead to our losing our foothold and becoming rootless. At the same time, we must not reject what is new as foreign and hostile. As long as we are comfortable with our own values and know what we stand for, we can also be open to that which is unknown and different.

"Where have all the heroes gone?" sings Jan Eggum. Every day, I feel that I constantly meet heroes. Some of them are honored with the King's Medal of Honor and visit the Palace. But, most heroes are never covered on the first pages of newspapers and are perhaps not commended. Surely, there are people who have enough of their own sorrows and who struggle with their lives, but who also use their lives to realize what it says on the gravestone of Albert Schweitzer, "Search to see if there is one place or another in the world where you can demonstrate your humanity."

Our history is full of examples of individuals who are willing to engage themselves to make a contribution for their fellow human beings. Next year, we will honor one of them. Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson was a person who used his life to make a difference. "The good deeds save the world," said Bjørnson and followed up by being an eager spokesman for humanism and the worth of human beings in Europe. Also, today, Norwegians are leaving tracks behind them around the world. Tonight, I want to praise all who use their lives for others, whether it is in the neighborhood or in humanitarian, diplomatic, or military missions around the globe.

"Solidarity and joint activity has gotten poor traction," says the poet Kjartan Fløgstad somewhere. These values have been the pillars in the building of Norway. But also in the international arena we see how important it is to stand together. Last fall, we celebrated the twentieth anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. Many of us still remember the magical moment when the first pieces were chopped off, and neighbors and families and a piece of the world were united. One of the pictures from 1989 shows the world famous cellist, Rostropovich, standing in the opening of the wall. "I played from pure joy. It was the wall in my life that was torn down," he said.

But, Berlin walls can be found all over. Walls of relentless hatred and distrust contribute to war and conflict in many places of the world. Disparities and unjust attitudes are also contributors to building walls and creating distance. It is, nevertheless, hopeful that the remains of the Berlin wall today have become a symbol and a gathering place both for a united Germany and a united Europe.

Between generations, families, and neighborhoods it is also possible to build walls. Jealously, discord, and suspicion can easily take root. Often, it is small incidents that start the conflict. But, the time that we human beings are together is so short, and life is much too valuable to waste on quarrels and bitterness. We can be the one to bring people together. We can all participate in tearing down the walls that block us from each other.

“Tie a Ribbon,” says the campaign by the Red Cross. We invite a voluntary communal work against isolation and loneliness for a generous, warmer society, where we dare to come near each other. This could be a goal for us all in the new year we are entering--to tie a ribbon to another human being, preferably across cultures and generations. I wish this would be a theme song for us all in the New Year.

I think there are many groups in our society that feel that they are not heard. We are all responsible to ensure that the most defenseless get their say. For me, children’s rights have been close to my heart these last years. We have recently celebrated the twentieth year of the Children’s Convention. In such an informed world, one would think that the subject of children’s rights would be taken for granted, but it is not. We cannot rest until all children have rights. Even the world’s best countries are not the world’s best for children who live in fear and insecurity. That children experience injustice should not belong in our private lives. We all have a responsibility to speak up when an injustice is committed.

We human beings often judge each other from the viewpoint of success, visibility, and material well-being. Then it is easy to look down on those who seemingly have not done as well. The financial crisis has many causes; but, at one level, it seems to have a connection to a short-sighted chase after profits. In that connection, the crisis can perhaps serve as a useful reminder that economy and society cannot be laid down on material values.

Arne Garborg wrote in his time about the danger of attaching too much confidence in money.

/“‘With money I can get everything,’ it says./  
/No, one cannot do that./  
/One can buy food but not appetite./  
/Drops but not health./

/Soft beds but not sleep./  
/Knowledge but not wisdom./  
/The shells of all things one can acquire with money./  
/But not the kernel. That cannot be had with money.’”/  
Perhaps we have been more ambitious in counting our money than we have been in counting our days. Human beings’ excess consumption at worst has created a dramatic imbalance in the globe’s climate. If we cannot handle that better, we will experience very severe consequences. No matter what, this is a global problem that requires global solutions. Perhaps the world as a whole has never faced a bigger challenge. What we require now are individuals at all levels who seriously consider passing on the earth, as we know it, to future generations.

Everything is connected. Our children and grandchildren will experience the consequences of the decisions we make today. It concerns our ecological choices we make; and it also concerns the values by which we, as a society, want to be characterized. The most important will be how we choose to live our lives. We will come a long way if we manage to live simpler, take care of each other, and look at the joys of every day in the small things.

When things get tough and we recognize how vulnerable life is, we need to have someone around us who is concerned about us. We surely have all met enthusiasts who function as the glue in the local society: the scout leader who never gets tired of being prepared, the teacher who is always available, the seniors who daily meet at the senior center, the home help who take the time for a talk even though the workday is over. These people who make us feel seen and worthy when we meet them, that “I am important.”

Tonight I want to send an extra greeting to the “yes-people” among us--all the heroes who live their lives for others and who live out the meaning of the saying, “I am, because we are. We are, because I am.” Confronting a new year, it is important to remember that we are all useful and that each of us has an unending, immeasurable worth.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!