



North Carolina Vikings



November/December 2018

Sons of Norway / Vol. 11, No. 5 / NC Vikings Lodge 3-675

Lodge Officers 2018-2019

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President's Message

We at North Carolina Vikings Lodge 3-675 almost had the opportunity to prove our Viking longboat heritage last month due to Hurricane Florence and the flooding of numerous rivers throughout our lodge lands up to 40 miles from Raleigh. Blessedly, none of our NC Vikings crew were injured or had to pull our long oars to escape the deluge – the worst flooding in eastern NC history.

We now look forward to the joys of Thanksgiving, our American harvest festival, to celebrate the blessings that we have, including our dear family and friends. Norway has similar harvest festivals, too, for celebrating all that we are thankful for in life.

Our next meeting will be December 22 for our annual and fun Juletefest. The date is a little late, but our lodge hall was unavailable at any other date. As in the past, we can have the fun of celebrating the Christmas and New Year's season in many of the unique and wonderful customs of Norway and Scandinavia. We hope you share this Norwegian traditional festival with your family (especially with any kids and grandkids) and friends.

Happy Holidays to you and your families!

Med Vennlig Hilsen,
Frank Bell, President
North Carolina Vikings Lodge 3-675



Upcoming Vikings Lodge Programs and Lodge Meetings

Meetings will be held Underwood Hall at Good Shepherd Lutheran Church (7000 Creedmoor Road, Raleigh, NC 27613) unless noted otherwise.

Future Lodge meetings are as follows. Please mark your calendars!

December 22, 2018

**Jultrefest
3pm – 5pm**

February 23, 2019

Lodge Meeting: TBD
3pm – 5pm

April 27, 2019

Lodge Meeting: TBD
3pm – 5pm



Help Plan a Meeting

Can you invite a professional or line up an expert or even fun person to help us with cultural programs at our lodge meetings? Call Frank Bell or Mike Tilder to pick a month or activity you can line up for the lodge!

Items for the Newsletter

Don't forget – if you've got an announcement, would like to pass on some information or just something interesting to share with the group, please email Mike Tilder at mmtilder@twc.com or Frank Bell at bellfrank2@gmail.com.

New Family Membership Option

Sons of Norway has introduced a new Family Rate for membership! The membership includes two or more members who live together at the same address or who share a mailing address. For instance, a husband, wife, grandmother, 17-year old living at home and 21-year-old away at college (who still uses the home address) are all covered by a Family Membership! Family members do not need to be related.

Dues for Family Membership vary based on the categories of membership in the household...

- A household of two or more regular members pays \$95 per year.
- A household with 1 Golden Member and 1 or more regular members pays \$78 per year.
- A household of two Golden Members plus any other golden or regular members pays \$60 per year.

To sign up additional members, please do the following –

- Go online and click “Join/Renew,” then choose “Add Family Member.”
- Contact Membership Services at Sons of Norway headquarters and sign them up over the phone.
- Fill out a paper application. Choose the “Family” option but cross out the \$95. Put the existing member’s information on the front of the application along with their member number. Add the new members on page 2.

Please contact Sherry Gorse, Membership Services at fraternal@sofn.com or 612.821.4654 with any questions!

November / December Birthdays

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| Harry Iverson | November 4 |
| Karen Kvam | November 4 |
| Diane Mickelson | November 12 |
| John Myhre | November 23 |
| Judy Vanhoosier | November 25 |
| Anders Ottesen | December 1 |
| Walter Lewis | December 4 |
| Michael Thys | December 5 |
| Andy Kristoffersen | December 9 |
| Brett Richardson | December 21 |

Gratulerer Med Dagen!

Thanksgiving Traditions in Norway

M. Michael Brady / Asker, Norway



Thanksgiving, originally the day of giving thanks for the harvest, is celebrated in various ways on differing days round the world, reflecting the diversity of cultural and religious tradition. In the U.S. and Canada, the history of Thanksgiving can be traced back to the Reformation. As in many other countries, it also hallmarks the harvest. Today the celebration of Thanksgiving Day conveniently is fixed.

The celebration of Thanksgiving in Norway differs. In name, it's nearly the same: *Høsttakkefest* translates directly to "Harvest Thanksgiving Feast." But its roots are older and reflect both religious and secular tradition.

The religious roots of *Høsttakkefest* predate the adoption of Christianity in Norway. In the ancient city of Chonae, on September 29, 380 AD, according to the western liturgical calendar, a church was consecrated to the Archangel Michael. With time, that date was celebrated in the Catholic Church as Michaelmas, spelled *Mikkelsmess* in the Nordic countries. In medieval Europe, it became associated with the harvest at the end of the farming year. So in Norway, the annual *Høsttakkefest* was held along with *Mikkelsmess* or on a Sunday before or after it. In 1770, *Mikkelsmess* was abolished as a public church holiday in Denmark and Norway. In 1918 *Mikkelsmess* was reinstated in the Norwegian liturgical calendar, and from 1999 on, its celebration is optional in the Church of Norway. Today Norwegian calendars annotate September 29 as *Mikkelsmess*.

The secular roots of *Høsttakkefest* are agrarian and tied to the practice of transhumance, the seasonal movement of people with their livestock between lower valleys in winter and higher pastures in summer. In rural Norway, *Høsttakkefest* originally was called *Buferdsdagen*, also spelled *Bufardag*, traditionally the autumn day on which a farm's livestock and its tenders moved from a higher summer farm, called a seter, to the main farm in the valley below. Transhumance was not much practiced in English-speaking countries, so *Buferdsdagen* is one of the few words in Norwegian that has no equivalent in English.

Today, the Norwegian *Salmebok* ("Hymnal") has four hymns for *Mikkelsmess* (numbers 257-260) and four hymns for *Høsttakkefest* (numbers 253-256). *Høsttakkefest* is celebrated in churches throughout Norway, usually as a *familiegudstjeneste* ("Family service") in which children bring vegetables, fruits, and grains into the church to symbolize the harvest. A family service often includes entertainment, as by children's choirs, and in churches with suitable facilities, snacks and refreshments after a service.

The date of *Høsttakkefest* is not set for the country, so the dates of its celebration vary from early September to late October and occasionally early November. In 2015, the most lavish celebration of *Høsttakkefest* was held on Tuesday, September 8, in the National Cathedral in Trondheim. In addition to the church service, it included performances by a band for disabled persons, two choirs, dancers from the Trondheim Cathedral School, and a juggler.

Norway's "Friluftsliv"

<http://www.traveller.com.au/norway-land-of-1000-waterfalls-has-a-secret-h17bts>



Norway, land of 1000 waterfalls and possibly the world's most successful society, has a secret. It's called friluftsliv, which sounds like a Nordic yoghurt but is, in fact, a complicated Scandinavian word for a simple, rather lovely concept.

It's an abiding passion for landscape, and an active appreciation of the country's incredible natural beauty.

This deep sense of calm spirituality – with a focus on balanced happiness and a common, inclusive ethos – goes some way towards explaining how Norwegians have used their oil riches since the 1960s. They've worked out that a happy society is a fair society, where the nation's bounty is shared equally.

THE HAPPINESS FACTOR

Year in, year out, among many other prosperity rankings, Norway finds itself at the zenith of the "happy countries" index, according to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

Critically, from the friluftsliv perspective, rankings are based not just on per capita gross domestic product, but also life expectancy, which in Norway, according to the World Health Organisation, is 82.5, ranking it 10th in the world. Freedom, generosity, social support and absence of corruption in government and business are other markers that make for a happy country....

Read the entire story here: <http://www.traveller.com.au/norway-land-of-1000-waterfalls-has-a-secret-h17bts>



Election Time! – Who Does What??...

It's time to elect new lodge leadership for 2019. To assist the nominating committee as they recruit candidates and develop a slate of potential officers, the following brief summary of duties for the top six local lodge officers may prove helpful:

President

The president is the highest-ranking officer and has general supervision over the lodge. He or she serves as the team leader who appoints committees, presides over meetings, encourages the activities of fellow lodge officers and helps to plan lodge programming.

Vice President

The vice president serves as the driving force behind membership recruitment and retention strategies, usually serving as chair of the membership committee. He or she should also be prepared to replace the president if the need arises.

Secretary

The secretary's primary function is to keep accurate and impartial records of all meetings of the lodge and of the board of directors. He or she also serves as the primary communicator between the lodge and its members.

Financial Secretary and Membership Secretary

Each lodge gets to choose whether they wish to have a financial secretary or a membership secretary. Both of these officers collect new membership applications, process requests to transfer membership and inform Sons of Norway Headquarters of membership cancellations and deaths. The financial or membership secretary is the primary communicator between the lodge and Sons of Norway Headquarters.

In addition to the duties described above, the financial secretary collects money from lodge members and delivers the funds to the treasurer and assists the treasurer with filing financial reports. The membership secretary does not have these financial duties but focuses on the administration of membership as described in the first paragraph. In a lodge that has chosen the membership secretary structure, all financial duties are relegated to the lodge treasurer.

Treasurer

The responsibilities of the lodge treasurer include handling all incoming and outgoing funds, keeping accurate accounting records and preparing fiscal reports. He or she should also be present when the financial books are audited.

Social Director

The social director plans and supervises the social activities of the lodge. He or she works closely with any other officers who have a programming focus, such as the Cultural Director, Sports and Recreation Director, and Youth Director.

Norwegian Christmas Bread (Julekake)

<https://www.thespruceeats.com/julekake-norwegian-christmas-bread-recipe-305849>



- Total: 3 hrs 20 mins / Prep Time: 2 hrs 30 mins / Cook Time: 50 mins
- Yield: One loaf

Ingredients

- 1/2 cup margarine (or butter)
- 2 cups milk (plus more for brushing loaves)
- 1/2 cup water
- 8 cups flour (divided)
- 2 packages rapid rise yeast
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1/2 teaspoon cardamom
- 2 cups mixed candied fruit

Steps to Make It

1. Gather the ingredients.
2. Melt the margarine or butter with milk and water.
3. In a large bowl, combine 4 cups of the flour with the dry ingredients.
4. Add the butter or margarine mixture and combine with an electric mixer. Beat until the batter falls in sheets from beaters.
5. Stir in the candied fruit and gradually add remaining the flour.
6. Knead the dough until smooth and elastic, 6 to 8 minutes.
7. Shape the dough into a ball and place in a greased bowl. Cover and let rise in a warm place (80 to 85 degrees F) until doubled in bulk, about 1 hour.
8. Punch down the dough and place on pastry board.
9. Shape into 2 loaves and place each in a greased 9x5x3-inch loaf pan.
10. Brush the tops of loaves with milk.
11. Cover and let rise until doubled in bulk, 45 to 50 minutes.
12. Bake at 375 F for 30 to 40 minutes or until lightly browned.
13. Serve and enjoy!

Message From the District 3 President, Kathy Dollymore



November 2018

It's a busy time as we move into winter and lodge programming, recruitment, deadlines and the holiday season! It's also officer election time in some lodges! A warm congratulations to the new officers and express our sincere appreciation for dedicated service to those retiring officers. You can be proud that the members of your lodge have selected you to serve in a leadership role. I know that each of you will uphold the principles of your office. Being a new or returning officer is a milestone for a person and is a sign of high prestige, it deserves all good wishes. It is not an easy task and requires an immense investment of time and efforts. For lodge members when you see these officers, wish them good luck, because the people elected will be the ones who help chart the course for your Sons of Norway lodge for the next year or two. Working as a team you can decide where your lodge is and make plans for where you want it to be. What has worked well for your lodge, what can be improved, what are some new ideas to try in your lodge? Look for the talents in your lodge and team up with members who want to join you in helping to make a difference. Utilize the resources offered through SON International, (sofn.com) and be willing to listen to your members. Don't dwell on the negative, and when making any decision, always have the best interests of your lodge in mind. Be positive and enthusiastic in all you do. Be a mentor and bring others along with you. Expect success and celebrate your successes.

The Thanksgiving holiday is coming soon and giving thanks also reminds us of how much we do have. Human beings are prone to materialism. We tend to focus on what we *don't* have. By giving thanks we are reminded of how much we *do* have. Thanksgiving is also the time for parades and football. Whether you are watching the New York Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade on TV, standing on the sidelines enjoying the bands on a Philadelphia or Orlando street, watching Washington and Atlanta Football while munching munchies, remember to thank our Veterans. When we start being thankful for the things we usually take for granted, our perspective changes. So, let's be thankful and maybe think about the other guy once in a while.

Fraternally, Kathy

Find out more about Sons of Norway!

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|------------------------|---|
| Sons of Norway Website | https://www.sofn.com/ |
| Facebook | http://www.facebook.com/groups/SonsofNorway/ |
| Twitter | http://twitter.com/#!/SonsofNorway |
| LinkedIn | http://www.linkedin.com/company/2080826 |

... and here are some informative Genealogy Websites!

A comprehensive list of sites related to Norwegian-American genealogy.
<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~norway/>

Oldest church registers in Norwegian Parishes. Shows the year in which different parishes began keeping church records.

<http://www.nndata.no/home/jborgos/register.htm>

<http://www.cyndislist.com/norway/>

List of sites related to Norwegian-American genealogy

The National Library of Norway, including Norwegian newspapers.
<http://www.nb.no>

The Norwegian Emigration and Genealogy Center
<http://www.emigrationcenter.com/index.cfm>

Norwegian National Archive. Includes the 1660, 1801, 1865 and 1900 censuses.
<http://digitalarkivet.uib.no/cgi-win/WebFront.exe?slag=vis&tekst=meldingar&spraak=e>

Search amongst 16,000 documents from Norway during the period 1050 – 1590
http://www.dokpro.uio.no/dipl_norv/diplom_field_eng.html

And here are some interesting sites related to travel to Norway / Scandinavia –

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| Norway's Official Site | www.Norway.org |
| Royal Norwegian Embassy, Washington D.C. | http://www.norway.org/embassy/washington/ |
| Royal Norwegian Consulate General New York | http://www.norway.org/News_and_events/CG-New-York/ |
| Norway's Travel Requirements | https://travel.state.gov/content/passports/en/country/norway.html |
| Hurtigruten Voyages | http://www.hurtigruten.us |
| Viking River Cruises | http://www.vikingrivercruises.com |
| Norwegian American Genealogical Center & Naseth Library | http://www.nagcni.org |
| Vesterheim Museum: "A Norwegian American Treasure" | http://vesterheim.org/index.php |