



North Carolina Vikings



May, 2015

Lodge Officers 2015-2016

President

Michael M. Tilder

mmtilder@twc.com

(919) 349-0102

Vice President

Asgeir (Andy) Kristofferson

AsgeirKristofferson@gmail.com

Treasurer

Kjell Ottesen

imnorsk@hotmail.com

(919) 848-9152

Secretary

John (Chris) Christiansen

jocmpc@att.net

Co-Social Directors

Kari Crenshaw

karicren@yahoo.com

(919) 781-0302

Martha Arnum

(919) 326-7084

Membership Secretary

Frank Bell

fbell@nc.rr.com

(919) 787-7063

Newsletter Editor

Jennifer Axness

jenniferaxness@

gmail.com

(919) 802-8212

President's Message

Hei alle sammen!

Our next meeting will be held on Saturday, May 16th to celebrate Syttende Mai. More information is available in the newsletter.

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".

Mange takk

Mike Tilder, 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.

Upcoming Events –

May 16 (Saturday)

11 am

Syttende Mai Celebration

The Syttende Mai celebration will be held on Saturday, May 16th at St. Giles Presbyterian Church, 5101 Oak Park Rd, Raleigh, NC 27612. Syttende Mai is the festival of the children so bring your children or grandchildren. Wear your bunad or something red, white and blue (Norwegian and American colors). We will gather at 11:00 AM and the parade with flag bearers, children and marchers will begin at 11:30 AM. A picnic will follow the parade and families are asked to bring a main dish and a salad or desert. Single persons may bring one dish to share. The North Carolina Vikings will provide entrée as well as plates, flat ware and beverages. A reminder to bring some money – we will have some nice gifts to raffle off this year.

Please let Kari Crenshaw (karihren@yahoo.com), Martha Arnum (MandMArnum@aol.com) know by Monday, May 11th if you will be attending along with the number of people in your party

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 Mike Tilder at 919-460-9214 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.

May Birthdays

Jason Ritenour	5/11
Signe Marwede	5/30
Robert Hoff	5/31

Land of the Vikings Youth Camp

Camp is just around the corner, and District 3 is pleased to announce that camp will be held at LOV again this summer. The older group: 12-15 years of age will attend camp during the week of June 5th to July 11th. The younger group: 8-11 years of age will attend camp from July 12th to 18th. For all the campers who would have aged and missed your last year, when camp had to be canceled, you are invited to attend this summer.

For an application, please send your name, address, age, email address to Evelyn Karpack at either farmorkar@yahoo.com or PO Box 318, Hibernia, NJ 07842. Evelyn will then mail all the information each camper will need before they attend camp.

The price for camp is \$300.00 per camper whose parent is a member or \$350.00 for non-members. You may be eligible to earn a scholarship from the Third District or a Draxton Fund Award from the Sons of Norway.

Save the Norwegian American Weekly

This has been a time of change for the Norwegian American Weekly. You may have noticed (we hope!) that you haven't received this newsletter lately. Did you miss us?

Things have been rocky there. Earlier this year they were told that they would have to shut down the newspaper for financial reasons. They dodged the bullet, but one casualty of their cost-cutting was the Norwegian American Weekly. Did you know they charged for it? They charged a lot more than they could justify, so it was decided to discontinue it. They are sorry that they didn't say goodbye.

However, they have temporarily resurrected the newsletter list to bring you a very exciting announcement: they aren't dead! All the content you hopefully love is still available at www.na-weekly.com.

They aren't dead, but they we aren't out of the woods either. They appear to be close to making ends meet, but to close the final gap they are running an Indiegogo campaign: www.indiegogo.com/projects/save-the-norwegian-american-weekly.

They are offering some very exciting perks including subscriptions and advertising along with nisse merchandise (for an intro to their nisse mascot Nils Anders Wik, see www.na-weekly.com/featured/naws-new-friend), the extremely limited edition "final" issue of NAW, postcards, and "busserull" shirts that Hovden Formal Farmwear has generously given them at cost (see www.na-weekly.com/featured/return-of-the-busserull for more on the shirts-they're pretty cool).

They really appreciate your support! The Norwegian American Weekly is part of a 125-year tradition of Norwegian newspapers in America, and with a little help from their friends they will keep it alive.

Syttende Mai, Norway's Constitution Day

May 13, 2014

<http://thanksforthefood.com/syttende-mai/>

Although condemned in its early years by the Swedish and then Norwegian king, this celebration of Norwegian statehood marks one of the occasions every year Norwegians wear their traditional outfits called bunads, take to the streets in parades, celebrate with family (plus eat lots of cakes and drink strong, dark coffee). Syttende Mai occurs during the end of the school year and gives high school students in Norway a chance to put an end to all of their russing!

History

Syttende Mai, or 17th of May as it colloquially called or Constitution Day (*Grunnlovsdagen* in Norwegian) as it is more formally called, celebrates the day the Norwegian constitution was signed in Eidsvoll, Norway on May 17, 1814. Syttende Mai is an annual celebration of all things Norwegian. It celebrates Norway's declaration as an independent nation from Sweden although full independence would come in 1905.

Parades

Every city and town in Norway has at least a children's parade to celebrate Syttende Mai. Children and their adult counterparts march down the streets of their neighborhood in bunads or their best formal clothing, waving flags or playing their instruments if they are apart of their school's marching band. In larger cities, such as Stavanger, there is also commonly a parade for the adults in town to march in celebration of Syttende Mai. The largest parade on Syttende Mai is in Oslo, the Norwegian capital, and includes more than 75 schools and marching bands. The Oslo parade route includes a trip past the Royal Palace, where the Norwegian Royal Family greets parade participants and passer byers from the main balcony.

Outside of Norway, Norwegians and Norwegian descendants all over the world celebrate Syttende Mai. The largest population of Norwegian emigrants travelled to the U.S., which

means the U.S. also has the largest Syttende Mai parades outside of Norway. In the U.S., parades, speeches and fun runs are held in towns and cities with sizable Norwegian emigrant populations such as Seattle, Washington, Brooklyn, New York, Stoughton, Wisconsin, Minneapolis, Minnesota and Billings, Montana. The Syttende Mai parade in Seattle lays claim to being the third largest in the world behind Bergen and Oslo.

Ice Cream, Hot Dogs and Lots of Cakes

Norwegians celebrate Syttende Mai by eating of ice cream (*is* in Norwegian) and hot dogs (*pølse* in Norwegian) during the parades or shortly after. Later in the day, after the parades have finished, Norwegians tend to gather with other family members for *smørbrød* (open-faced sandwiches) served with milk, juice and carbonated water as well as coffee and tea. Several varieties of cakes are also served on Syttende Mai, including the classic *bløtkake* (a cousin to the very British Victoria sponge), *Suksesskake* (“success cake”) or *Verdensbeste* (“The Best Cake in the World”). More coffee is of course served to help wash it all down.

The End of Russ-ing

Russ is a special Norwegian phenomenon, which can only be described as tolerated social mischief. “Russ” are high school students in their last year of school who wear self-decorated red or blue overalls and spend about a month acting mischievous all over town. Many russ spend their month of debauchery drinking heavily and causing trouble. The phenomenon started as way for students to blow off steam after years of studying, but has evolved into the Norwegian version of April’s Fools Day meets Spring Break. Russ are tolerated for the most part by the police and local community until May 17, when all russ activities are supposed to end and students return to their normal calm selves.

During the month of “russ”, usually beginning about 6 weeks before Syttende Mai, russ students play tricks on their classmates and neighbors, drive around in old vans playing very loud music, steal street signs and commit other acts of social defiance. They also pass out cards with their photo and information on them, to trade like baseball cards.



Message From the District 3 President, Mary Andersen



Who will take your place waving the flag?

“If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail!” – Benjamin Franklin

Things change constantly. Sometimes change is a good thing, sometimes not. Who will take over for your current lodge leaders if they are term limited or have been. I know that new officers haven't been in their position very long and we have over a year until the 2016 District Convention. However, it is not too early to think about succession planning! In fact, succession planning should be an ongoing process.

- Helps ensure the continued existence of your lodge
- Helps identify potential leaders
- Helps identify gaps that may exist or will exist (e.g., a treasurer who is term limited or will not run again)
- Enables you to “grow your own” future leaders

Many lodges have nominating committees which form around election time and then disappear until needed again. Consider the nominating committee as an ongoing committee, always on the look-out for local and district leaders. A year round nominating committee could be your first step in succession planning!

Succession planning isn't just for lodge leaders. Succession planning means getting new members too. If your lodge membership is dwindling, where will you find new members? Members are the lifeblood of your lodge.

Many lodges have membership committees. If yours doesn't, form a membership committee. In order to recruit new members or new lodge leaders, you have to have a story to tell. Everyone should be on the same page as to what is expected of lodge leaders as well as what new members can expect from joining a lodge.

Consider developing an "elevator speech" to describe the benefits of being a lodge member. An elevator speech is short. It lasts as long as it takes to ride an elevator from the bottom floor to the top floor of a city skyscraper. Every lodge has their own unique elevator speech, work on it! It may sound like just one more thing to do, but it is essential to the continuation of your lodge. Let's make sure we continue to celebrate our shared heritage!

Happy Mother's Day!

Mary

Find out more about Sons of Norway!

Sons of Norway Website:

<http://www.sofn.com/home/>

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/groups/SonsofNorway/>

Twitter:

<http://twitter.com/#!/SonsofNorway>

LinkedIn:

<http://www.linkedin.com/company/2080826>

Sons of Norway Blog:

<http://www.sonsofnorwayblog.blogspot.com>

... and here are some informative Genealogy Websites!

<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~norway/>

A comprehensive list of sites related to Norwegian-American genealogy.

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

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

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

List of sites related to Norwegian-American genealogy

<http://www.nb.no>

The National Library of Norway, including Norwegian newspapers.

<http://www.emigrationcenter.com/index.cfm>

The Norwegian Emigration and Genealogy Center

<http://digitalarkivet.uib.no/cgi-win/WebFront.exe?slag=vis&tekst=meldingar&spraak=e>

Norwegian National Archive. Includes the 1660, 1801, 1865 and 1900 censuses.

<http://home.online.no/~cfscheel/index.htm>

List of Norwegian local histories, dictionary, calendar, and more

http://www.dokpro.uio.no/dipl_norv/diplom_field_eng.html

Search amongst 16,000 documents from Norway during the period 1050 – 1590.

