

Vikingskip

www.vesterdalen.org



juli-august 2023

Vesterdalen Lodge No. 2-131 • Sons of Norway • Auburn/Kent, WA • Chartered October 23, 1983

Vol. XLI No. 7

Hilsen Fra Presidenten



Hello Vesterdalen Lodge Members and friends,

We are done with meetings until September, but that doesn't mean there are no activities to keep you connected throughout the summer.

Our **picnic on Monday, July 17th** (see article) is always a great way to get together casually, to visit, play a few games of Corn Hole and enjoy each other's company, along with a good meal. You are also encouraged to bring guests (or other family members) who may be interested in learning

about Sons of Norway and meeting some of our members.

We also have a **Kaffe Stue on Saturday, July 29** at Larson's home on Lake Tapps. They have a great setup for a fun afternoon in the sun. We are invited to join them from 2-5 that day. There will be an email with the details about the afternoon later in July - be watching for that.

District 2 has several events this summer. There is the **Border Festival in Blaine on July 8**, the **Trollhaugen Steak (or Salmon) Fry on July 15**, or the **Golf Tournament in Leavenworth on August 19**. The District 2 website (<https://www.sonsofnorway2.com/>) (Under the Events link) will give you details of all these events.

Our lodge will be represented on July 4 at the **Enumclaw 4th of July Parade**. Please come join us to walk in this (short) parade. It lasts less than 30 minutes and is about 5-6 blocks long. We will be walking with our banner. Staging for participants will begin at 10 AM on the corner of Initial and Railroad. (Across from Seeders). The parade begins at 12 PM. Just come to downtown Enumclaw and look for the check-in booth which will tell you where we are in the parade (which number in the list). Please come and join us. You will likely be home by 2:00. You will still have plenty of time for a family BBQ!

I also wanted to apologize again for having to cancel our Nordic Fest in June. Because we didn't have enough personnel support in key positions, it didn't seem feasible to hold a successful event. In planning for a future Nordic Fest, we need to start by September, or October at the latest, to organize and plan for all that we would want to have happen during the event. We will be looking for volunteers in the fall for the spring Nordic Fest.

One last item - we will be celebrating our 40th anniversary of the charter of our lodge on Monday, October 16, in the place of our actual meeting. The details will be in the September newsletter, and tickets will be available at the September meeting, so stay tuned for that. Plans are in the works.

Til neste gang,

Vernene

Upcoming Meeting

Monday, July 17, 2023

Picnic!

**Game Farm in Auburn
3030 R St. SE**

Drive south on Auburn Way South. Just before going up the hill to the casino, angle to the right and drive to the stop sign. Turn right and the park entrance is a few blocks down on your left. **Drive to the very end—you're there!**

Setup is at 4:30 p.m. Help is needed! Contact Jorunn Ruff 253-293-0611.

Games 5 p.m. - Potluck Dinner 6 p.m.

Bring to share:

- dishes of your choice, include serving utensils
- table service for your family/guests
- preferred beverages (non-alcoholic)
- for your family/guests
- table cover for the table you use

Welcome New Members!

**Robert and Wendy Olson
Myla Sumstad Butz**



Sunshine Report

A get well card was sent to John Fatland and a thinking of you card was sent to Dotty Erickson after a fall.

July Birthdays:

- 3 Donald Lockrem
- 4 Sande Nelson
- 7 John Fatland, Sandi Peterson
- 10 Rose Stevens, Erik Knauer
- 12 John Leghorn
- 16 Carla Evans
- 17 Ben Drinkwater
- 19 Jarid Scheurer
- 21 Ella Densmore
- 25 Ervin Wicklund
- 26 Raymond Meckle, Jr.
- 29 Andrea Coby

August Birthdays:

- 1 Don Olson
- 2 Grace Helman
- 4 Patricia Drinkwater, Barbara Chamberlain
- 7 Lucy Erickson
- 11 Marisa Kirst
- 12 Judith Parker
- 17 Cassie McArtor
- 23 Pauline Sanders, Thomas Heavey
- 24 Kirsten Hayley
- 31 Ed Olson

Six members who are 80+ years of age will receive birthday cards in July and August. Please email or call when you know of a member who needs some Vesterdalen sunshine. Your help is needed to reach everyone. Thank you so much.

Nancy Sommerfield, Sunshine Chair
dnsommerfield@comcast.net 206-612-6389



Kaffe Stue-- July 29, 2 to 5 PM

Velkommen to a summer kaffe stua at Jim and Carol Larson's at Lake Tapps on July 29. Bring your swimming suit and towel for swimming, floating (we have several floaties) and playing in the water. Or just come and relax with a coffee and a snack and visit. Come anytime from 2:00 to 5:00 on Saturday, July 29. Bring a snack to share and we will provide beverages. The address is 18102 17th St E, Lake Tapps and there is limited parking down the driveway, otherwise along the street is OK.

Carol and Jim Larson

Picture from our Little League Team's end of season swim party.



Kultur Hjørne

We were happy to have Chris Hicks (and Bill Hicks, her husband, and also a Trollhagen board member) at our June meeting.

Chris' presentation about Trollhagen was excellent, inspiring pride and many questions about this gem of a lodge owned by all of us, as Sons of Norway members. While many members are aware of Trollhagen, Chris and others had delved into memories and archives, finding additional information about the early history of Trollhagen that was included in this presentation.

In 1966, SON members who were also engineers at Boeing, got the idea of building a year-round lodge at Snoqualmie.

Five lodge members from four different lodges served on the first working committee, with an initial \$12,000 investment from District 2 (\$92,000 in today's dollars). In 1978 the District was granted a special permit for the lodge from the National Park Service for 12.78 acres. Groundbreaking happened in 1972.

Of the initial core group of about four members, a few returned to Norway, others have passed on, and one—Earling Berg—remains—stalwart and representing the very best of what SON is all about.

Chris showed many photos of the construction and refinements of the techniques used (such as how to keep the plywood dance floor intact despite the winter snow and ice), the athletic events held at Trollhagen—including Ski for Light events for the visually and mobility impaired, and the snow movers: Little Olé, Sven, and Freya.

The pandemic, as well as record snowfalls in the last few years and the departure of long-term caretakers, have presented many challenges for Trollhagen recently. Trollhagen board members and others have heroically spent days and days clearing snow, interviewing caretakers, and performing the myriad tasks involved in keeping it running. Reservations are ticking up, and members who wish to reserve are able to do so six months in advance. For popular time periods, those reservations are often snapped up immediately.

A heritage weekend is offered for adults in mid-September.

The annual Trollhagen Steak Fry (steak and salmon choices, \$30) as well as horseshoe contest are happening July 15th this year. Plan to attend; it will be fun!

Karen T, Culture Chair

The Scandinavian Hour

with Seth Tufteland

is on KKNW 1150 AM

on Saturdays, 9:00 - 10:00 AM

Listen anytime at:

<https://www.thescandinavianhour.org>



What's going on around here? Check out Sons of Norway's District Two web site!

<http://sonsofnorway2.com>

Social Directors' Report

At the Last Meeting

Many thanks to all of you who helped set up and clean up at our June meeting. Thank you, also, for all the delicious food that you brought! It made my job much easier because it is hard to be the only person on the Social Committee. Please join the Social Committee starting with our September meeting. We could plan some interesting food for our meetings!

Upcoming Meeting

Our next meeting is the Picnic, Monday, July 17th. See Page 1 for details. It will be a fun time to meet and visit with our Vesterdalen members and you can even play some fun games.

Jorunn Ruff, Social Chair



Lodge Float may have a future!

We have been trying for over a year to find a new home for our Lodge Float with some member of our lodge. The search has not been successful. The board decided we need to offer it to another lodge. There had been some interest from the Tacoma Lodge (Norden), with the hope we could also use it from time to time. This did not work out either. It was finally decided to send out the offer to most of the lodge presidents in Washington and Idaho to see if there was any interest. We immediately received a request for information from Harald Haarfager Lodge No. 11 in Couer d'Alene ID. We are exchanging information with their Lodge leadership, and we hope it will be making its way to Idaho sometime this summer. They are very excited to have the opportunity to have a float, so our float will continue to have life and be enjoyed by others in another community. We thank John Nyseth, who has so generously stored and hauled our float for at least 20 years. He has taken very good care of it for us. It is now time to share it with another lodge that is really looking forward to owning it and using it in parades (they currently have been borrowing Spokane Lodge's float (Tordenskjold Lodge No. 5). Maybe we can make a toast to our float at our picnic!

Vernene

Dear Editor,

As a society we are facing many critical issues that are more important than ever, and that includes Vesterdalen.

Covid has delivered a serious blow to us now, like it or not, and we are at a crossroad. We can continue in a downward spiral toward our demise or do we take actions toward recovery?

The former is easy, the latter will require that we all pitch in to save our patient---Vesterdalen. Choosing the latter (as I would) will require a lot more work on everyone's part, but the outcome would be a "Vesterdalen of old." I think we must develop outreach to our new members. We older folk must be willing to share our expertise by offering to be an aide to a Board or committee member who asks.

Remember, all the Vikings pulled on the oars of their ships to get to their destination!

I welcome comments, suggestions, etc. Send or call me at: (360)825-6771 or email at mrvnel@earthlink.net

*Respectfully,
Marv Nelson*

Social Committee Needs Your Help!

Jorunn Ruff is our Social Committee - currently (officially) by herself. She really should have at least two or three additional members (officially) to assist. Sande Nelson and John Fatland (and John Nyseth) have often helped her, but unofficially. If you would consider being part of our Social Committee, please contact Jorunn at (jojoruff74@gmail.com or 253-293-0611). No committee should have only 1 member - especially our Social Committee. It may happen that Jorunn might not be available for a meeting. We rely on our Social Committee to plan (and implement) the social time--and typically what food we will have--before our meetings. Please step up to assist Jorunn with this important position. Our next social time will be before our September Meeting, so there is time, but it should be planned before September so it can be put into the *Vikingskip* for the September issue.

Another way of helping prepare for our Social time, for any of you who come early, we greatly appreciate your help in getting the tables set and coffee prepared. If you are one of our dedicated members who comes early, please offer to help the few individuals who may be there preparing the buffet table for the refreshments or meal. Thank you so much!

Vernene

Membership and Growth

Members - how do we find others interested in joining Sons of Norway and Norwegian Heritage? Start with your family members. Wear your pin or a shirt that shows your affiliation to our Lodge or to District 2. They can be conversation starters. Consider neighbors, church members, co-workers, children or grandchildren's school friends, parents or teachers. Share what we do on social media. Currently, we do not have a Publicity Director. Please consider stepping into this position. We need to be able to get the word out about the Lodge and our activities. This does take people to be willing to talk about the Lodge with others - it isn't hard. You can also share the benefits, both fraternally and financially (if anyone you know is interested in an insurance product - we have a Lodge Financial Counselor who can help with this.). The more we grow our Lodge, the more we can do and the more fun we will all have.

Vernene

Nominating Begins Work

Just say "YES" when asked to participate as an officer of Vesterdalen for the 2024.

If no one happens to contact you, talk to President Vernene, Carol Larson or Marv Nelson and volunteer. You can help "Make Vesterdalen Great Again!!"

Marv Nelson

Kalender

Annual Calendar is at www.vesterdalen.org

juli

no board meeting this month

- 4 July 4th Parade in Enumclaw 10:00 AM
- 11 Book Club - meet at Maggies in Kent 11:00 AM
- 17 Picnic at Game Farm Park - Games 5:00 PM
Potluck dinner 6:00 PM
- 29 Kaffe Stua picnic 2:00-5:00 PM
at Larson's home, Lake Tapps -(see article)

august

no board meeting this month

- 1 Nordic Heritage Night at the Mariners Game (details coming)

september

- 4 Labor Day Parade Black Diamond 10:00 AM
- 11 Board Meeting via Zoom 6:30 PM
- 18 Social Hour 6:00 PM
Meeting 7:00 PM

oktober

- 2 Board Meeting via Zoom 6:30 PM
- 16 Vesterdalen Anniversary Dinner
Messiah Lutheran Church - see September Vikingskip

Coffee Culture in Norway



Did you know that there are actually more coffee shops per capita in Oslo than in Seattle? And, did you know that Norwegians are the 2nd largest coffee consumers in the world, with 90% of adults drinking multiple cups of coffee daily, starting in childhood? If you have traveled in Norway, it will not surprise you to learn coffee is the most common drink among Norwegians.

Coffee was probably first brought back to Norway by the Vikings, but became more popular in the 18th century when coffee consumption was a sign of wealth and of being able to afford imported goods. Between 1917 and 1927, prohibition was in force in Norway and the taxes on alcohol were so prohibitively high that the social aspects of drinking coffee took the place of alcohol. Coffeehouses sprang up in the cities and serving coffee to visitors in the home was considered a sign of hospitality.

Norwegians drink coffee at breakfast, lunch, and supper, and it is commonly served at least a couple of times in-between. In southern and eastern Norway, Norwegians have borrowed the word, "Fika," to describe coffee served with a snack of waffles or lefse in mid-morning or mid-afternoon. If you order coffee in a restaurant or are served it in someone's home, it is most likely served black and strong and there is always a bun or other pastry alongside. Milk and sugar are usually for children, although it is possible to order a latte in some of the more trendy coffee shops, but not a decaf. When out hiking or on a picnic, there is always a thermos or two of coffee. This "outdoor coffee" is called turkaffe. When we were hiking with a friend in the hills outside of Oslo, we saw many groups that had collected firewood and built a fire just to brew coffee and have a snack for kvikk lunsj. Our particular hiking spot was so popular, that there was actually a coffee shop that could only be reached by hiking several miles on the trail to reach it.

Ruthanne Henderson

2023 Vesterdalen Officers

- President Vernene Scheurer 253-848-7231
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- VP/Membership Tom Bellerud 253-226-8011
tombellerud@comcast.net
- Secretary Carol Larson cell 859-321-4577
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- Treasurer Linda Kleppe-Olson 360-825-4304
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- Cultural Karen T. 206-359-1556
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Rose Stevens – 1-800-210-0240

Sons of Norway Financial Benefits Counselor

Lodge Survey coming soon!

At our June General Meeting, we took some time to discuss, table by table, what is working in Vesterdalen Lodge, and what is not working. Members were also asked how we might "fix" what isn't working. This helps your President and Board to determine what our members are looking for in the General Meetings and for social events.

To get even more input from the members who may not have been at the meeting (and those who were there can reiterate what they would like to share), I will be sending out a survey via MailChimp, which allows for surveys. This will happen before the picnic, and I hope many of you will take a few minutes (maybe 10 or so) to fill out the survey to help the Lodge.

We really appreciate your input – to make it the Lodge you enjoy attending and inviting others to join you as well. In answering the questions, please try to be specific about what you would like to see for programs at our meetings, or other entertainment we might consider. We will also be asking members to consider taking a leadership role for next year, in the way of officers and board members. It takes many people to successfully run a Lodge – please consider being a part of the board, in one way or another.

Vernene

