

Virginia



Viking

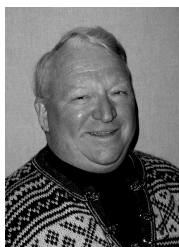
SONS OF NORWAY HAMPTON ROADS LODGE NO. 522

Volume 30 No. 5

May 2004

President: Ralph Peterson 318-9414	Treasurer: Ann Atkinson 489-3218	Cultural: Mary Zimmerman 502-0846
VP: Martha Blau 421-2660	Secretary: Mary Friesen 857-8560	Editor: Terri Hewitt 460-4318

The President's Corner



We have accepted 28 new members during the past 11 months with 2 more applications in hand. You have all done a great job. We can still add to the total if we can get additional applications in prior to our board meeting, which is 15 May. Applications after that date are great as well as we are looking forward to meeting new friends whenever they join.

Our float looked great in the Azalea parade. The new flowers were great. We had several of our NATO Norwegians both in the float and walking with us adding a great deal to the float. Thanks to all of you, both our lodge members and our NATO friends. Several people helped get the float ready but Mark Holmquist and Ann Atkinson were real performers in readying the float. When our supplier was unable come up with azaleas, Ann dug hers up out of her garden. I almost had a heart attack, as we were en-route to the parade. A Norfolk garbage truck slid into the float but just took off some paint from 2 of the oars.

Norway will be the host nation next year and hopefully the Queen will ride on our float. We plan on an **extreme makeover for the float** prior to the 2005 parade.

Both the District and International conventions are coming up in June and August respectfully. The district convention is in the Poconos and the International in Washington DC. You do not have to be a delegate to attend. If you are interested in any of the events please contact me. If you have any entries for the cultural contest contact one of our delegates and we'll get the entry to the District convention. Our 4 delegates/alternates were at the Zone 6 meeting where we reviewed the proposed amendment changes. Only one amendment was controversial and that concerned term limits for board members. I am happy to report that no one was in favor of term limits for any position so I am sure it will die fast at the convention.

Med Vennlig Hilsen, Ralph

MAY MEETING

THURSDAY, MAY 20, AT 7:30 P.M.

at Bayside Presbyterian Church, Room 401 on Ewell Road in Virginia Beach. (Off Independence Blvd. Just north of McDonald's Nursery)

PROGRAM

An interesting video on a famous Norwegian will be shown. Social time will follow the business & program meeting with refreshments provided.

FOOD PANTRY

As part of our outreach program, bring a can(s) of food to our next meeting.



MAY EVENTS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR TODAY

More info on these events on page 2

NORGE CHURCH SERVICE

May 16th, 11:00 AM at Our Saviour's Church, Norge, Virginia.

SYTTENDE MAI CHILDREN'S PARADE AND PICNIC

Sunday, May 16th, 11:00 am at Great Neck Recreation Center, Virginia Beach.

NORWEGIAN SAILOR REMEMBRANCE

Monday, May 17th, 10:00 am, Forest Lawn Cemetery, Norfolk.

Newsletter submissions are always welcome. Deadline is the 3rd Friday of the month. Submissions may be mailed to Terri Hewitt, 4936 Farrington Dr., VA BCH, VA 23455 or emailed to ViElskerNorge@mindspring.com

Highlights from the April Meeting

International Director John Hlivyak, was our speaker for the evening. We welcomed him and his wife Helen, as well as Commodore Tjorbjorn Sakside and daughter Anne Christina, who will be representing Norway as Princess in the Azalea Festival.

Eleven new applications were presented to the group. They were from Eric Beyer, Britt Kausland, Pamela Geisinger, Ken Olsen, Lillian Marcy, Eleanor Beyer, Veronica and Vernon Sharrett, Ruth Silseth, and Mary & Donald Ohnemus. All applications were unanimously approved by the membership.

Raffle tickets are available for 2 round trip airline tickets to Norway sponsored by The Norwegian American 17th of May Committee of New York City. The drawing will be held on June 7. Anyone wishing to purchase tickets call Mary Friesen at 857-8560.

There will be no parade on 17th of May this year but a party will be held at Great Neck Recreation Center on the 16th and a reception at NATO headquarters on the 17th.

Francis of Asbury Methodist Church in Virginia Beach has agreed to allow us to have our Christmas Bazaar at their facilities.

Member Sheila Barry has retired from the Virginia Beach Sister City Committee and member Astrid Gulas has been named to replace her.

Five members will attend the Zone 6 Convention on April 17. Several recommendations for by-law changes have been presented including raising dues and limiting tenure of office to two terms. Our delegates will be voting no on these recommendations.

Marshall, Mark Holmquist presented President, Ralph Peterson with a bronze medal for cycling.

Delicious refreshments were enjoyed by all! This proved once again that the best cooks belong to SON!
Tusen Takk to all who contributed!



Happy May Birthdays!

George Low 4,
Synnøve Quaglietta 5, William Hovland 11,
Sharon Holmquist 14, Joan Hass, 25

Congratularer Med Dagen!

MAY EVENTS NORGE CHURCH SERVICE

The Williamsburg Chapter of the Norse Federation invites the members of S/N Hampton Roads lodge 3/522 to a special church service on May 16th, in honor of May 17th, 11:00 AM at Our Saviour's Church in Norge, VA. After the service, a gathering in the Fellowship Hall to sing the U.S. and Norwegian national anthems, and a talk by a Norwegian exchange student: "What It Is Like to be Santa's Neighbor". Approximately 1:15 PM we will go on to the Candlefactory Restaurant nearby for a Dutch treat luncheon with a special menu.

SYTTENDE MAI PARADE & PICNIC Great Neck Recreation Center

Time	Activity
1100	Start/Welcome by Capt Georg Indresand
1115 - 1145	Children Parade
1145	Nor. National Anthem "Ja, Vi elsker"
1145 - "until it's all gone"	Hot Dog, Ice cream & Soda for the kids. Potluck for us all. (*)
1200 - 1300	Games for the kids
300 - 1400	Desserts & Coffee, (and more ice cream for the kids)
1430 - 1600	More games

Although, we moved the celebration to the 16 May, so we don't have to take the kids out of school for the day, and chosen a picnic ground for arrangement, we intend to make it as close to a traditional 17 May celebration as possible. We will have the traditional children parade, play and sing the national anthem, and dress up like we normally would on 17 May. Bunad dress for those who have. This arrangement is primarily for the kids, which the 17 May celebration in Norway always focuses. There will be hot dogs, ice cream and soda for the kids, and games for them to participate in.

Please contact Knut Armo -445-3489 office, 962-9097 home or Helge Arnli 445-3623 office, 333-3967 home if any questions.

NORWEGIAN SEAMEN REMEMBRANCE

At 10 am on the 17 of May we will lay flowers on the graves of 2nd Engineer Ingvald Gjerstad and AB Jakob Siring. We will not have a formal ceremony but rather just lay the flowers at 10 am.

The graves are located in the Forest Lawn Cemetery in Norfolk which is just off Granby Street. When coming from the Virginia Beach area on Highway 64 you would exit on the first Granby Street exit and the first right turn into the cemetery and to the graves will be as soon as you get on Granby. There will be people there by 9:30 to mark the graves for you. The graves are in the South end of the cemetery located just behind the Jewish Lawn and east from the Children Section.

Meet our New Members...



Kenneth Olson

I was born in 1923 in New York City. My parents were of Scandinavian descent and came to the USA in the early 1900's. My father was born in Sweden. My mother came from a large family in Bergen and her many relatives remain there today. My grandfather was a decorated Fire Chief of Bergen and he died in a fire saving residents in Skottegaten (a street in Bergen). My sister and I were brought up in a Scandinavian - American community in NYC and we celebrated many Scandinavian traditions and customs.

I was an electrical engineer in NY before I retired and moved with my wife to Virginia Beach in 1988. I have visited Norway twice and look forward to joining the Sons of Norway to help preserve and remember our Norwegian heritage.

~Ken Olson



Pam Geisinger

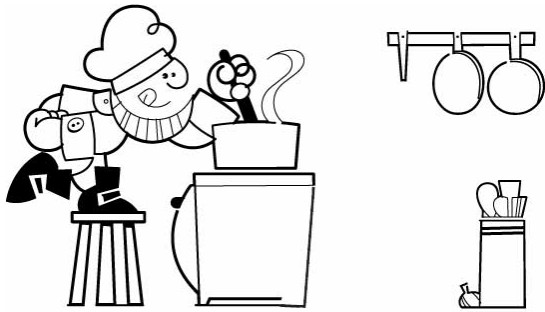
I have lived in Virginia Beach since 1966 when my father retired from the U.S. Navy. I worked for U.S. Customs for 32 years retiring in 1999.

My maternal grandmother, Marit Lien, was born in Norway and came to the U.S. at about age 3. She worked on the newspaper in Cass Lake, MN before marrying and moving to Minneapolis.

Other relatives moved father west settling along Highway 2 all the way out to Spokane, WA. I attended your bazaar last fall and decided it would be fun to explore my Norwegian Heritage. I look forward to making new friends and learning Norwegian arts and crafts.

~Pam Geisinger

Calling all cooks!



Wanted:

Your favorite Norsk recipes for our "lodge" cookbook

send yours to:

blueringer5@juno.com AND
Gerald.Blau@navy.mil

PLEASE conclude each recipe with a short explanation as to WHY it is a favorite of you and/or your family.

Tusen takk!



Flora & Carl Halvorsen

I was born in Portsmouth, Virginia and with the exception of a tour of duty in the United States Army have lived here in the Tidewater area all of my life. Forty of those years were spent working with the Norfolk and Western Railway Company and what is now Norfolk Southern Corporation.

My wife Flora and I have been married for about fifty years and we have two daughters. Vanessa Richmond and her husband Jim who live here in Virginia Beach, our other daughter Martha Hough and her husband Stan are living now out in Waco, Texas. Flora was born in a little place called Prosperity, West Virginia and moved with her family to Portsmouth in the mid 1940's where the two of us met when I was a young twelve year old. My grandfather arrived in this country from Oslo probably in the very early 1900's and died when my father was still quite young. My dad was extremely proud of his name and his Norwegian ancestry. He and my mom corresponded with relatives in Norway up until 1940. Just about everyone in our family has an interest in learning more about Norway, its people and their customs.

~ Carl Halvorson

Meet Our New Members...

Eric Byers

A Son of Norway, why yes, I am, a true thoroughbred of sorts. I start on my Father's side back in Bergen, year 1528 my ancestor Absalon Pedersen Beyer was born to an old Norwegian Noble family. His parents died young and he went to live with a man named Geble Pedersen who brought him up and he was educated in Copenhagen, Denmark and became a great Author, Minister and Humanist. Down the genealogical road, we move to 1830 in Bergen with the Birth of Johan Jacob Dekke-Beyer, Son of Frantz Dekke-Beyer and Maria de Fine von Krogh. He was a bookbinder in Bergen and had an illegitimate child with Elisabeth Fredrikke Kramer in 1854, his name was August Beyer. Elise was married to Shipmate Ole Andreas Olsens. August Beyer married Berthea Jonasdatter Tonnessen and they had two sons, Jonas Artvig (my Grandfather) and Johan Didrik, who both came to America via Ellis Island. My father was the first generation born in the United States in 1931.

On my Mothers side of the family, we travel to the West Coast Island of Karmoy, where roots can be traced back as far as 64 AD. A distant cousin in Kopervik has traced the family tree back and discovered that there were 7 Kings, 3 Queens and a Baron in the family tree. My Great-grandfather was Hans Berndt Kornelius Hansen. There were so many Hansens in Norway, he decided to take a farm name Austevik, (Ostevik in America) Austevik meaning East Bay, which is where the farm was located, on the East Bay of the Island. My mother, who is rejoining, is the first generation born in America.

I love reading about Norwegian history and culture. I am fascinated about the fine and illustrious History of my "Mother Country." I am planning a trip there in the next few years and plan on one day making a book of my family history. So as you can see, I am a true full-blooded Norwegian descendant. I am excited about joining and interacting with people of the same interests as myself. Thank you for your time and I look forward to being part of this organization.

~Eric Byers



Eleanor Byers

I was born in the Norwegian Hospital in Brooklyn, NY to Norwegian parents. I grew up in Lake Telmark, NJ. My parents were charter members of Norsemen Lodge, now NorBu lodge. I have many fond memories of Christmas Parties and dances.

I married Bill whose parents also came from Norway. When Bill retired from the Navy we settled in Virginia Beach. We've lived here 32 years.

I'm a widow with two wonderful children and four wonderful grandchildren and two great grandsons. I'm blessed.

I'm a former member of this lodge and looking forward to being an active member again.

I've visited Norway twice, once for 5 months, the other 1-month. I've traveled from Vadso to Kristiansand.

~Eleanor Byer

Lodge Annual Summer Kick-

off **PICNIC**

Sat., June 19th 2003, 3:00 pm
at the Rumney's
776 Harris Point Dr.
Virginia Beach, VA 23455
490-3030

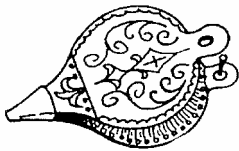
Get ready for food, fun & fellowship.

Please bring :
a dish to share
your favorite lawn chair
and any games you'd like to play
☐ Hot dogs and lemonade supplied
☐ Norsk Basket Raffle

Bring your family and share in the fun!

**On the road between the
homes of friends, grass does
not grow**

FYI...



* **The Sy Klub** (Sewing Club) will meet at Grete Sutton's home on Thursday, May 27, at 10 AM. This will be the last meeting before summer. If you'd like to have a few small projects to work on for the Bazaar, come to this meeting and pick up some materials. Most things planned are some simple counted cross stitch and are quick and easy to do. Grete lives at 5201 Ambassador Drive, VB. Phone--499-0725.

~Mary Friesen

* **Lodge happenings**

Check it out on our **lodge website** at <http://sonhamptonroads.cjb.net>

~Larry

* **Genealogy Tip of the Month**

If you know the date your ancestors left Norway between 1860's and before 1894 and traveled via Hull, England you can probably find out what ship they took and where/when they landed in North America. Go to the Digital Archives (<http://digitalarkivet.uib.no>) and look in the emigrant register. You should be able to find out when your ancestor left Norway and what ship and ship line they left on. Then go to the Solem Swiggum site (<http://www.norwayheritage.com>). Click on the index of ships departing Norway. Enter the year of the departure. Find your ship and click on details. Then find the date of departure from Norway and click on the steering wheel to the right. Find the first ship of your line that left England 3 days or more after departure Norway and you should have your ship.

* **Cookies Makers Needed**

Our lodge has agreed to provide 23 dozen cookies for use at the International SON Convention in Washington, D.C. in August. Mary Zimmerman is coordinating this effort and asks for volunteers to make 3 or 4 dozen Scandinavian cookies. Please email her (nodakmaryz@aol.com) or call her (502-0846) and leave a message. Please let her know ASAP if you can help. She will then call or email you to remind you in early August. She can freeze cookies if you will be out of town.

* **Public Radio Pledge**

Will start on May 8. Those who have participated in the past have enjoyed the experience and feel that they are helping to keep quality Radio and Television programming in the Tidewater area while bringing public attention to Sons of Norway. Call Ralph to volunteer 318-9414.

Third District Today

From the District President

From the May 2004 newsletter.

The newsletter can be read in entirety online at <http://sofnd3.home.att.net> or ask our lodge president for a copy.

Spring is here, or so they say. And with spring we are preparing to celebrate the 17th of May. We are celebrating the signing of the Norwegian Constitution at Eidsvoll in 1814 as we have done for almost 200 years. I can remember as a senior high school student in Oslo, that we honored the poet Henrik Wergeland as the person who took the initiative to celebrate the 17th of May, and we honored him by adorning his statue in downtown Oslo with a high school students cap, or "russelue" as we call it in Norway. Henrik Wergeland got the celebrations going not too many years after 1814, but it was not until the latter half of the century that children became the focus of the celebrations. Revered author Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson played a major role in bringing the children into the celebration, and since this happened 17th of May has always been children's day in Norway.

Children's day or not, it commemorates an important day in Norwegian history. But however important the signing of a document like a constitution is, and however worthy of celebrations that is in itself, many of us put more into it, we celebrate freedom. We celebrate freedom because our constitution was really created as an instrument of freedom. For more than 400 years we had languished under Danish rule, and when Napoleon was defeated at the battle of Leipzig and the Danes yielded to the Swedish demands of parting with Norway, Norwegian leaders protested and said that enough is enough, and that they wanted their freedom.

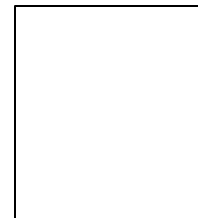
Well, freedom did not come that quickly. The Swedes forced the Norwegians into a union with them that lasted for 91 years. But even though Norway had to wait another 91 years for their freedom, the foundation was laid with the signing of the Constitution at Eidsvoll. Minor changes were made entering into the union with Sweden, and ever since it has been the basis for the governance of Norway. In my book it is truly the foundation of Norway's freedom. And freedom is worth celebrating. I was born just before the Second World War broke out in Norway, and although as a child living in Stavanger I experienced little of the horrors of the war, I realize what it meant not being free. But then I believe that I value freedom perhaps more so than those who have never been without it. I have vivid memories of when peace came, and what I remember the most were all the flags. Everywhere there were flags and deliriously happy people.

The times immediately following the war were difficult times in Norway and many good Norwegians came to America to seek a better life for themselves, following in the footsteps of hundreds of thousands of countrymen who had done so before them. And as they settled, built their new homes and inevitably made friends with others from the old country, they picked up on the desire to continue celebrating 17th of May. The parade in Brooklyn quickly became a rousing success and has become the biggest parade outside Norway. I enjoyed marching in the parade back in Norway and I enjoy marching in the parade every year in Brooklyn. I hope that the parade in Brooklyn will continue for years to come giving all those of us of Norwegian heritage the opportunity to continue celebrating freedom. Let us keep bringing out the flags and celebrate freedom in Norway and America, hoping that one day we will all be able to enjoy freedom and peace.

Hurra for søttende mai!

Fraternally, Audun Gythfeldt, President

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A Brief History of May 17, 1814

On May 17, 1814, the Norwegian Constitution was signed, giving Norway independence from its 500-year union with Denmark. The constitution followed the Napoleonic Wars, when a defeated Denmark ceded Norway to Sweden without the consent of the Norwegian people. The constitution was created in Eidsvoll, Norway, by a group of Norwegian delegates with the intention of constructing an independent Norway. Sweden was displeased with Norway's actions and a war commenced.

After six months of hostility, a peace treaty was established and Norway and Sweden became separate kingdoms, with their own constitutions under the same monarch. The Norwegian people remained unhappy in this arrangement and sought full independence. Finally in 1905, all ties between Sweden and Norway were peacefully dissolved. Throughout Norway on May 17, children participate in parades or *barnetog* celebrating Norway's independence.

- From www.geocities.com/Athens/Academy/7920/Independence.html

The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote, preserve, and cherish a lasting appreciation of the heritage and culture of Norway and other Nordic countries while growing soundly as a fraternal benefit society and offering maximum benefits to its members.