

# Virginia



# Viking

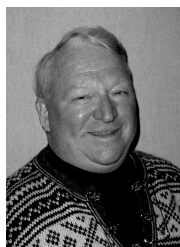
SONS OF NORWAY HAMPTON ROADS LODGE NO. 522

Volume 30 No. 9

September 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



This has been a great summer for Hampton Roads Lodge 3-522. Winning the 3<sup>rd</sup> District small lodge of the year for 2002 was pretty great I thought, but winning the same honor in the International competition was amazing. Congratulations to President Deanna Rumney, her 2002 board and the lodge. I was most pleased

that George and Anita Hill were at the District convention so they could receive the plaque for the lodge. They have worked so hard for so many years for the lodge and it was most fitting the lodge earned the honors as the Hills get ready to move North.

Terri Hewitt's work earned her the "Newsletter of the year" award. which she really deserved.

We also won the large lodge competition for the largest net increase in membership both in District competition as well as in the International competition.

Over \$10,000 was raised for the SON Foundation. Those funds will be used to aid those members who suffered damage from Hurricane Charlie and a forest fire that destroyed SON member's homes in Northern California. We will have a full report in the October edition on the two conventions that will include other lodge winners and some of the results of the convention.

Another item that is of concern to us is the building of an Aviation display that will be built landward of the Norwegian lady. This project will include improvements to the Norwegian Lady plaza. Hal Bernsen is chairing our committee who are working with the Aviation Committee to ensure that the "Lady's interests are protected. To me, it looks like the "Lady" will come out just fine. We need to think about a rededication ceremony next summer. The goal is to place \$100,000 dollars in a trust that will be used to enhance the two Plazas in the future. There will be a committee formed that will maintain a watch over the two displays and prod the city for maintenance or repairs as

## SEPTEMBER MEETING

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16TH, 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).

PLEASE NOTE: Due to a scheduling conflict there will not be a potluck.

### PROGRAM

Back by popular demand! **Mr. Robert Hitchings**, Librarian/Archivist at Norfolk's Kirn library headquartered in the Sergeant Room will speak to us about the international situation as of 1814 and the events that caused Denmark to transfer control of Norway to Sweden.

Mr. Hitchings is also the gentleman who provided us with the original information regarding the Norwegian Seaman who lay in the unmarked graves in Norfolk.

### FOOD PANTRY

As part of our outreach program, bring a can(s) of food to our next meeting. Our host church, Bayside Presbyterian will be the recipient.

needed or provide funding to complete the action. Our lodge will be represented on this committee. I will be representing the lodge on the Azalea planning committee this year as Norway is this years honored nation. We will be asked to assist in many ways including attending some of their fun fund raisers. Don't forget to get your sports medal info over to Mark. We will be forming a nominating committee this month to look for board officers for the next 2 years. Please let us know if you are interested in one of the jobs. It is a very rewarding experience.  
Med Vennlig Hilsen,  
Ralph

Newsletter submissions are always welcome. Deadline is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of the month. Submissions may be mailed to Terri Hewitt, 4936 Farrington Dr., VA BCH, VA 23455 or emailed to [ViElskerNorge@mindspring.com](mailto:ViElskerNorge@mindspring.com)

## Meet our New Members...

Veronica Sharrett

Vernon Sharrett

My husband, Vern, and I were both born and raised in Portsmouth and escaped to Virginia Beach in the early 60's to get out of the "big city" into the country! Vern spent his career between the US Air Force and Civil Service as an electrician. I spent 30 plus years in Banking as a Human Resources Director. We are both gratefully retired, but nearly as busy with volunteer activities as when we were actively employed. We volunteer at Sentara Bayside Hospital, in our church and in various nursing and assisted care homes. We both enjoy meeting and helping others and volunteering has certainly filled that need. We have a daughter, Ginny who is 44 and lives in Portsmouth. Ginny is married to Steve and has given us a beautiful grandson named Ross. We have one son, Herbert, called "Bert", he is 41 and lives with his wife Sonja here in the Beach. They have blessed us with a beautiful granddaughter, Missy, who is engaged to be married in August, and a wonderful grandson named B.J. who is now in college. My mother, Willie, who will be 91 in May, lives with us and spends lots of time keeping us on our toes. I guess it's fair to say that our lives are pretty exciting and full!

Our connection to Norway is through my Grandfather, Sverre Halvorsen who emigrated to America in the early 1900's. He joined the Navy to serve his new country, and unfortunately, lost his life while still on active duty.

Although we never had an opportunity to meet him, as he died when my father was an infant, he left behind a wonderful legacy and a great deal of "Norwegian Pride" in my father's heart which has been passed down to his children. It's interesting that from our Mother's side we have different heritage, but somehow we always think of ourselves as "Norwegian"!

If we are accepted as members of SON, we would look forward to establishing many new and exciting friendships and learning more about the people and customs of Norway.

Greg Nordhougen

I am originally from Fargo, North Dakota, where my grandfather Gilman, a linotype operator for the Fargo Forum, settled after a brief career teaching at the North Dakota School for the Deaf in Devils Lake. He was the youngest of several children of Tollef Nordhougen, a blacksmith who settled in Northwood, Dakota Territory. His stay in eastern North Dakota, in the Cooperstown and Aneta area, is where the roots of most of the Nordhougen family took hold. Tollef emigrated in 1858 from Lillehammer, Norway. He was the youngest of two brothers, and left the family farm to his older brother

Johannes. A part of the farm is still in the family, who are known as Olsen and of which there is one remaining relative known. For some reason, he spelled the family name as Nordhougen, not as Nordhaugen, the correct spelling of the family farm, and this has constantly caused problems as all good Scandinavians try to correct the spelling.

Tollef claimed to be a cousin of the great Norwegian violinist Ole Bull, and is said to have helped fashion the gilded horses that sit on the Minnesota State Capitol Building. My father has the letters he received from Norway, and copies of the letters he sent as well as many boxes of photographs given from nearly all the surviving Nordhougens. Now we just have to figure out who everybody is.

Tollef's son Carl developed a new strain of disease resistant wheat in the late 1920's which boosted yields up to 40 bushels. His work contributed to the fabulous growth of wheat farming in North Dakota. Carl was shipping seed wheat to Canada and Argentina by the railroad carload in the 1930's. Carl's son, Orris, became a senator in the state legislature and was well known to be fair. He was adopted into a Sioux indian tribe for his work in helping the indians. North Dakota's late long-serving US Senator, Quentin Burdick, entered the Senate after defeating Orris in his senate campaign.

Back to me. After moving from Fargo to the Twin Cities and then Detroit, I attended Michigan State University, married, and entered the Navy where I served as a Supply Corps officer for nearly ten years. I currently work for Science Applications International Corporation (SAIC) at NATO Allied Command Transformation and still play Navy as a very active reservist. My wife Pam is a high school teacher in Michigan and will join me permanently next year after many visits and one final school year in Michigan. Son Chris is a senior at Michigan State and daughter Lauren is a sophomore at the University of Michigan.

Ruth Silseth

I am married to David Silseth, who has been a Sons of Norway member for seven years. David and I traveled on two occasions, for several days, in Norway to visit the Silseth family home at Batnfjordsora, Norway, just south of Kristiansand, Norway. In July of 2002, we had the pleasure of hosting some of the Silseth family from Norway for several days at our home in Virginia Beach. We continue to maintain regular communication with David's relatives in Norway.

It has been my good fortune to attend five of the Sons of Norway Christmas dinners with David and enjoy the friendship of the members and the wonderful desserts.

*Velkommen til Alt!*

## Marty Morgen

When my Grandpa Foss emigrated his real last name was Aas. The immigration Officer at Ellis Island suggested that he change it a bit as the English pronunciation would maybe embarrass him. So he became a "Foss". His daughter Elnora (my mother Eldora's twin) did later marry a Swede so I've sat through more than a fair share of good natured ribbing at family reunions. My Grandma Nellie Christiansen emigrated from Denmark at age 17 in 1905. My great-great Grandpa Eric Morgen emigrated from Prussia in 1858. That is the root of my Norsk background with a sprinkling of greater Europe thrown in. Millie my wife's background is tied to English & Welsh heritage.

Like my sponsor Hal Bernsen, Millie & I spent 30 years in Navy. I flew as a Naval Flight Officer in F4 Phantoms and as a Naval Aviator in E2 Hawkeyes. I commanded a squadron aboard USS Constellation in 1981 and served as Commander Training Air Wing SIX in Pensacola Florida. 1987-1989. Retired from Navy Sept 1995 and have worked as a contractor since. Millie hails from Lucedale Mississippi and I from South Dakota.

~Marty

## Mary Ohnemus Donald Ohnemus

Mary Ohnemus has the blood of Norway in her. Her maternal grandparents, Martin and Johanna Lovaas, were born in Norway and immigrated to the USA. Mary's mother, Thelma Evelyn Lovaas, was born in the USA, but maintained a strong love of things Norwegian all of her life.

Donald Ohnemus has been married to Mary for 43 years, and was properly supervised by a Norwegian mother-in-law for over 41 years. In those 43 years, he has learned the Norwegian Table Prayer and now drinks from a cup with the label "Living with a Norwegian builds character". He spent three weeks at Haakonsværn Naval Station near Bergen in 2003 doing some consulting engineering work for the Norwegian Navy. As a result, he was informally granted honorary Norwegian status. He also genuinely likes lefse, almost any Norwegian dessert, and "Ole and Lena" jokes. His weaknesses are that he has never eaten lutefisk and can't drink aquavit, but could be trained if necessary.

~ Mary & Don Ohnemus

### New Membership Rosters

*will be coming out in January. If you need one before that time, please contact Terri @ 460-4318 or*

[ViElskerNorge@mindspring.com](mailto:ViElskerNorge@mindspring.com)

## Lilly Marcy

Carol McCarthy is my younger older sister and introduced me to the lodge. I was born in East Boston, MA. I married Forrest Marcy in 1947 and we have three boys. They are now all married and have children of their own. My youngest son, Jim, lives here in VA Beach and might be interested in Sons of Norway. We will be bringing him to a meeting soon. The other two boys live in MA.

I volunteer at the Old Coast Guard Station and enjoy that very much. I am interested in Sons of Norway and the different things you do. My Norwegian heritage has always been important to me and I have always tried to maintain Norwegian customs, etc.

~Lilly

### *Please add/change to your directory*

Foss, William  
[wofoss@verizon.net](mailto:wofoss@verizon.net)

Keever, Dan  
[dkeever@vbschools.com](mailto:dkeever@vbschools.com)

Marcy, Lillian  
1885 Tolstoy Dr.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23454-6760  
757 721-4578

Morgen, Marty  
1405 Hatick Ct.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23456-4816  
757 467-0215  
[mandm37@cox.net](mailto:mandm37@cox.net)

Nordhougen, Gregory  
400 Richardson Run Apt. G  
Williamsburg, VA 23188-3912  
757 345-0747  
[gpnord@hotmail.com](mailto:gpnord@hotmail.com)

Ohnemus, Mary & Don  
1125 Selwood Dr.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23464-5809  
757 467-6156  
[donemus@verizon.net](mailto:donemus@verizon.net)

Sharrett, Veronica & Vernon  
3849 Liberty Ridge Rd.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23452-2937  
757 486-2609  
[ronivern@netzero.net](mailto:ronivern@netzero.net)

Silseth, Ruth  
1121 Selwood Dr.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23464-5809  
757 495-6015

*Mark your  
calendars today!*



**Sons of  
Norway**  
Hampton Roads  
Lodge #3-522  
**Christmas  
Bazaar 2004**

**Saturday, November 13th  
9am-3pm**

**Francis Asbury  
United Methodist Church  
Fellowship Hall  
1871 N. Great Neck Road  
Virginia Beach, VA 23454**

- \* Traditional Food & Bake Sale
- \* Norwegian and American

**Crafts**

- \* Great Vendors
- \* Raffles
- \* Information Table
- \* Members in Traditional  
Norwegian Dress
- \* Much, Much More!

Need more info?  
Want a table?

Call 460-4318 or 857-7847

## Service

Government officials have launched a new website, in English, aimed at helping foreigners get acquainted with life in Norway.

Cabinet Minister Morten Andreas Meyer called the site a "guide to public services" in Norway. It also offers practical information about studying, working and living in Norway.

The new site [www.norway.no](http://www.norway.no) also contains information for tourists, with tips for traveling both to Norway and around the country by air, train and car. The government launched another site earlier this year, called BAZAR ([www.bazar.deichman.no](http://www.bazar.deichman.no)) which also helps guide foreigners through the day-to-day aspects of living in Norway.

*-from Aftenposten*

*Litt på norsk...*

## Norge oppretter ny internett service

Den norske regjeringen har opprettet en ny webside på engelsk, som skal hjelpe utlendinger med å bli kjent med livet i Norge.

Statsråd, Morten Andreas Meyer, kaller websiden en "guide til offentlige tjenester" i Norge. Den tilbyr også praktisk informasjon om å studere, jobbe og bo i Norge.

Den nye websiden, [www.norway.no](http://www.norway.no), inneholder også informasjon for turister med råd om reising både til og innen Norge, via fly, tog, og bil.

Regjeringen opprettet også en annen webside tidligere i år som heter BAZAR

([www.bazar.deichman.no](http://www.bazar.deichman.no))

Denne gir utlendinger en veiledning av det dagligdagse livet i Norge.

*-fra Aftenposten*

**Congratularer med dagen!**

**Happy September Birthdays!**

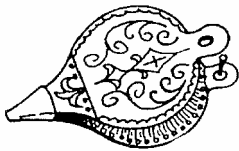
Arne Svindland 5, Elaine Murray 8,  
Bernt Raugstad 9, George Hill 9,  
Mike Solhaug 11,  
Inger Friedman 10, Bruce Peirce 18,  
Elaine Norman 26,  
Gene Bjerke 27, Betty Andro 27.



*A Little in English...*

**State Launches New Internet**

FYI...



\* **The Sy Klub** (Sewing Club) will resume meeting on September 23rd at the home of AnneGrete Peterson at 10 AM. Her address is 4121 Roenker Lane, VB; phone--318-9414. In addition to individual projects, we'll be working on items for the bazaar in November. If you'd like to contribute to our table you are most welcome to do so even if you have not attended any meetings. We only charge 10% of the asking price which will be determined by you. We will also have some materials available if you wish to contribute your time and talent. Instructions, too, if you need them. We'd love to have you join us. You can contact me at 857-8560 if you have any questions.

~Mary Friesen

### \* **Lodge happenings**

Autumn is nearly here and the lodge has a lot of activities planned over the next few months. Keep up to date on activities and changes through our **lodge website** at <http://sonhamptonroads.cjb.net>

~Larry

### \* **Bazaar 2004**

We are gearing up for our annual bazaar. Our success last year was due to all that helped. Please mark your calendars for Sat., Nov.13 and think about ways you can help- We really need you! Please call Terri @ 460-4318 or Sharon @ 857-7847. Tusen Takk!

~Terri

\* Mary Zimmerman (502-0846) and Mary Ohnemos (467-6156) are co-chairs for the Bakeri Booth for the bazaar in November. We will be scheduling baking days the whole month of October, probably on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays and at least one Saturday. Since we sold out of everything last year we know we really have to prepare early and plan our selections and presentation of product carefully. We hope to also offer the "mini" kransekake again and since Ann Atkinson made all of them by herself last year, she'd appreciate help this year! We're also looking for bread-bakers who can make julekake for sale that day. These can be made ahead also and frozen. Mary Z. has room in her freezer if needed by anyone. Does anyone in the lodge want to volunteer to make lefse? Would anyone want to get a group together and have a "lefse bake?" If you know how to make it and are willing to teach others in the lodge please call either Mary! Any ideas or suggestions for improvement are appreciated--we want to present the very best of our Norwegian baking for the community to enjoy.

~Mary Zimmerman

## Third District Today

### From the District President

*From the September 2004 newsletter.*

*The newsletter can be read in entirety online at*

*<http://sofnd3.home.att.net> or ask our lodge president for a copy.*

September is here and the summer has flown by and I am amazed that the conventions are concluded and we are planning to get back to the routine business for the District. 132 Convention Delegates gathered the second week in June, at the Pocono Manor Inn. Our District Lodges work hard to make the Sons of Norway the best organization to belong to. We had 19 resolutions to consider and many have passed. There is a dues increase, which is needed for the District to function in an efficient way.

The treasurer and secretary will be compensated for their hours of work they perform each week. We have forwarded the other nine resolutions for consideration by the International Lodge Delegates (and at the time of this writing I do not know the outcome of those nine resolutions).

There were eighteen former District Officers introduced at this convention. The lodges received their Lodge of the Year gold, silver or bronze certificates. I would like to congratulate all the lodges that participated and earned their recognition. The forms are sent to the Lodge Secretaries each January / February. Take time and complete the forms. Earn your place among these honored lodges. The 2003 Newsletter Contest was awarded by Asbjørn, but I would first like to thank all the lodges that send such fine newsletters. The winners 1st, 2nd, and 3rd respectively are: Group A = Hampton Roads, Tampa Bay, and Fram, Group B = Vikingworld Orlando, Henrik Ibsen, and Sarasota, Group C = Norumbega, Norden, and Suncoast. There were over 80 items to be judged in the Folk art Room, and over 120 pieces total to gaze at. Such works of art, you are the champions of your crafts. They were a delight to see. This year we presented two Lifetime Achievement Awards.

The Third District was proud to honor Johnny Delin from Hartford Lodge and Helen Sjursen from Noreg Lodge as the first recipients to receive these awards. The District Lodge of the Year plaque was presented to Hampton Roads Lodge and Norrna Lodge for 2002 and Gateway to Florida Lodge and Nansen Lodge for 2003. Our distinguished Leif Erikson Citation Award winner was Dr. Erling Johansen, DMD, Ph.D., Dean Emeritus and Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Tufts University School of Dental Medicine. Dr. Johansen now serves on the Board of Directors of the Swedish Charitable Society of Greater Boston and maintains an interest in dental pharmaceuticals. He is a member of Norumbega Lodge.

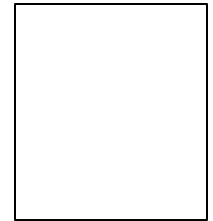
In reading the Minutes Book you will learn that I was faced with a dilemma. Roy had broken his ankle, leg and knee during the golf tournament. He needed extensive knee replacement surgery and it was one of the longest days in my life. Not only waiting for the nine hours until he was out of surgery, but the wonderment of what was happening at the Pocono Manor Inn. With all this behind us, I would like to thank all the delegates (members) who elected me as your District President. I have been busy this summer with completing the Minutes Book, working for both conventions, and keeping up with all the nursing and chauffeuring duties, to name a few responsibilities.

During the summer, plans have begun to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Norwegian Independence in 2005. There are a few events throughout our District, already being considered. The Edvard Grieg Society and the Third District are co-hosting a Gala Concert in New York City on November 5, 2005, Norumbega Lodge's Ad-hoc committee is scheduling a Gala Nordic Concert with the Boston Pops in Boston, Massachusetts, on June 5, 2005, the 17th of May Parade Committee are planning their celebration in May 2005, and we have our joint venture with the Scandinavian American Heritage Society in June 2005. We will keep you informed as we learn of more events or celebrations. I encourage all of our Lodges and Zones to become part of a celebration and event.

One of our main District Sporting Events is happening September 16 - 19, and I encourage every member to participate in this at least once. See the rice plantations of South Carolina. Enjoy the beautiful facility. You don't even have to golf. I have already made my reservation. Hope to see you there.

Hilsen,  
Barbara

**Sons of Norway**  
Hampton Roads Lodge 522  
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September is  
Back to School...  
Watch out for



## UN: 'It's best to live in Norway'

For the third year in a row, the United Nations' Development Program has ranked Norway as having the best standard of living in the world. Norwegians beat out all others because of their high levels of education, pay and life expectancy. Norway's average life expectancy is 78.4 years and 99 percent of the population can read and write, according to the survey. The country has 413 doctors per 100,000 citizens and Norwegians are wealthier than ever before.

Norwegians are known to complain nonetheless, over everything from high prices to long waits for non-emergency medical care, cuts in police and school budgets and a shortage of day care and nursing home spaces. Government minister Hilde Frafjord Johnson, who is in charge of Norway's foreign programs, doesn't dismiss the complaints. "But there are few who are so well off as we are," she told newspaper Dagbladet.

*-from Aftenposten*

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.