



JANUARY 2016

VIKINGS OF THE SMOKIES

WWW.TNVIKINGS.ORG

Fra Presidenten,

Godt Nyttar!! (Happy New Year!!)

Over the past year of writing this column in the almost-monthly VOTS Newsletter, I have tried to approach topics with logic, encouragement, humor (hey, I tried!), information, philosophy, life experiences and cheerleading, each with some degree of success or failure.

This month being the end of the year and my term as your Lodge President, I wish to use the Robert Burns 1788 Scots poem (and modern song) "Auld Lang Syne" to reflect on my year and look into next year for our Lodge. The traditional use of the song, made famous to many of my age and those of my parents, was a fellow named Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians, who, for decades, played the song upon dropping of the Times Square ball at year's end. The song is very widely used to symbolize other "endings/new beginnings" as well.

Serving as your President has been a welcome and rewarding challenge. As I look back and reflect, the Lodge has grown and matured; it is in a strong position relative to growth and commitment by volunteer members and by the lodge's volunteer Board of Directors. The new Board is committed to continue to strengthen and expand its successful programs while developing and strengthening others. For example, member interest and participation are expected to grow and flourish in cultural and sports programming in 2016, while continuing strong social/event activities.

Talking about 2016, and before I sign off and sing the song - please consider the following: The installation of all directors and officers will be held on Sunday, January 17th at Faith Lutheran Church. All are invited to welcome and wish well our new Directors and Officers. As usual with Scandinavians, food will be served!!

An army (and Norwegians) may travel on its stomach, but our Lodge runs on its committees and volunteers. Please do your part to join in! Emilie & Tom Collins, our current Adopt-a-Mile coordinators,

will be moving to Nashville, so we will need a new volunteer to coordinate this program . Details & assistance can be had from Clark Brekke (865/966-0608). Please always remember that when your Lodge leadership asks for help and volunteers, it's because they need help - so please volunteer when asked!

As a last but important and needed comment, I wish to thank all Lodge members, especially Board members, for support of me and of the Lodge and its activities. We Vikings are a great bunch of folk!!

TUSEN TAKK!!

Clark Brekke

Meet your 2016 Vikings of the Smokies Lodge Board Members

President	Joleen Dewald
Vice President	Wendell Liehmon
Secretary	Jeannette Liveley
Treasurer	Trygve Myhre
Membership	Linda Turmo
Social Director	Bonnie Peterson
Cultural Director	Joan Schrader
Sports Director	Clark Brekke
Historian	Clark Brekke
Trustee	Olaf Storaasli
Counselor	Clark Brekke
Sunshine	Elizabeth Myhre

There are still several positions available including youth director, website management and greeters. Please consider getting involved with the lodge



Viking Volunteers needed for Oak Ridge International Festival - Saturday February 20th

VOTS is participating in the annual International Festival with a information booth and a demonstration of Scandinavian foods again this year.

This is a great opportunity for the public to learn more about the Sons of Norway and the Vikings of the Smokies. Volunteers are needed- especially those who have bunads or Norwegian sweaters!

Dee Bumpers will again be demonstrating how to make lefse, and we need volunteers to make krumkake and assist with selling the baked goods. We need 4-6 volunteers to commit to a three hour shift.

Please contact Dee Bumpers if you are available to help the lodge!



Don't forget to check out the new & improved VOTS website to stay current on lodge events - including inclement weather notifications.

www.tnvikings.org

also remember to "like" VOTS on Facebook

Takk to all who attended Juletrefest 2015

More than 40 Lodge members and their guests enjoyed the annual Juletrefest held at Messiah Lutheran Church on December 13th, which closed the 2015 lodge calendar.

The generous smorgasbord was complete with a wide variety of traditional Scandinavian baked delicacies as well as meatballs, pickled herring, a wide assortment of cheeses and even lutefisk!



The Juletrefest attendees also enjoyed a visit from the Nisse and St. Lucia. Takk to Emilie Collins who organized the event, and to Trude and Erica Wilson, Bonnie Peterson, Bill Gooch and Dee Bumpers who helped with the program.

Tusen takk also to those who supported the silent auction to benefit the lodge and to Francis and Linda Turmo who served as the auction coordinators, and a special take those who cleaned up after the event!



From the Treasurer

Congratulations, our fiscal year 2015 income exceeded expenses by \$102. The major sources of income were the Taste of Scandinavia (\$416), Membership Dues (\$351), and Juletrefest (\$295).

Our major expenses were District 5 Conference accruals (\$500), web site set up (\$109), Arlene's bereavement (\$100), and SON liability insurance (\$86). If there are any late expenses for Juletrefest, they will be back charged to December.

Respectfully submitted,

Trygve Myhre

Lodge Member Spotlight

Jeannette Liveley

Born in Brooklyn, NY to Norwegian immigrants and baptized in the Norwegian Seaman's Church in Brooklyn,

Jeannette remarks "I was named by the doctor because my parents wanted me to have a good American name...which didn't happen the next time. My brother's name is Olav Johan Brastad"

At age four, the family moved to Griggstown, NJ, where many other Norwegians lived, and attended the the local Lutheran Church. She remembers many smorgasbords and at Christmas, dancing around the Christmas tree singing both Norwegian and American carols. "My mother made lots of Norwegian dishes but never lutefisk. My father didn't like lutefisk which was plenty of reason to never have it."

After graduating high school, she attended the University of Pennsylvania, which was very expensive, so during her sophomore year, she applied to a US Navy program in which they paid for the last two years of school after which she would serve them for three years.. "While this sounds like a great deal (and it was), many people thought I was crazy because of the Vietnam War. As it turned out, the war ended just about the time I graduated."

Her first duty station was in Charleston, SC. "I really enjoyed the Navy and wanted to get a tour overseas. So I asked for Naples, Italy and off I went.". After Naples, she was sent to Great Lakes, IL where she spent a lot of time in obstetrical nursing. A fellow nurse had information on a a graduate program in Nurse Midwifery at the University of Illinois, and she applied and was accepted and went from active to reserve status, to attend graduate school.

After graduation. she was set to accept a Midwife position in LaCrosse, WI when she went on her annual 2 week reserve duty in California and met a Marine officer. "He was very handsome, very smart and I was faced with a very tough decision. Should I take the job or take a chance on the guy?"

Jeannette gambled and won - because she took the guy and they have been married for 32 years, adopting two children along the way! She returned to active duty in 1989 while the family was stationed in Okinawa, Japan, and retired from the Navy in 1998.

After moving with her family to Greenville, TN, she continued to work in obstetrical nursing and as a midwife until finally retiring in 2012. "Now I am the grandmother of 2 boys, I read, sew, exercise and travel and attend Sons of Norway". Jeannette is a charter member of the Vikings of the Smokies Lodge and has been a member of Sons of Norway since 1972 and currently serves the lodge as the secretary.

2016 Lodge Activities Begin with Board Installation on Sunday, January 17th

Ring in the new year by attending the January lodge event with the installation of the new lodge board officers beginning at 4pm.

Esther Charleston, representing Sons of Norway District 5, will be traveling to Knoxville to officiate the installation ceremony which will be held at Faith Lutheran in Farragut.

Following the short ceremony, VOTs lodge members will have the opportunity to learn about the exciting activities planned for 2016, which including working towards SON cultural skills pins, baking and outdoor family activities.

The Lodge will provide enjoy beverages and an assortment of appetizers provided by an the lodge which will include meatballs, open faced sandwiches and a variety of desserts.