

APRIL 2016



# VIKINGS OF THE SMOKIES

WWW.TNVIKINGS.ORG

## Fra Presidenten,

Takk for Sist!! And takk to those who caught my typo last month on our Norwegian Word of the Month...at least, now I know VOTS members are reading the newsletter!

**The Norwegian Word of the Month is:  
Eg har ikkje\* peiling.**

**which means "I don't know."  
or better yet "I don't have a clue."  
\* Dialect - Joan will explain!**

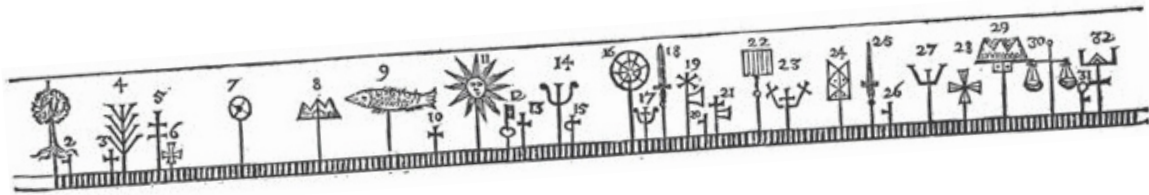
Last month, Lodge members were treated to an interesting and interactive program on runes - and this month Cultural Director Joan Schrader will be discussing the history and explanation of the primstav, Norway's medieval calendar stick. Before the days of printed calendars or clocks, the simple but highly accurate primstav served as a religious guide and farmers almanac for seven centuries. She will also assist lodge members in making their very own primstav!

Syttende Mai (Norwegian Independence Day) is just around the corner, and this year Vikings of the Smokies is planning a large community event which will combine both the annual Syttende Mai celebration and the "Taste of Scandinavia" on Sunday, May 15th.

Social Chair Bonnie Pederson has been busily working with her committee, **but we need help from the entire lodge to make this a success!!!** This will be a community event - and great way to introduce VOTS to your friends, family and neighbors. This is our biggest Lodge fundraiser of the year - so save the date on your calendar now and contact Bonnie if you are willing to help!

I look forward to seeing everyone on April 17th.

Joleen



# April Showers bring..... Primstavs??

**Sunday, April 17th**

**Faith Lutheran Church 4pm**

**Join Cultural Director Joan Shrader  
& learn the history behind the Primstav  
and how to to make your very own  
Viking Calendar.**

**Lodge members are asked to bring a dish to share for  
our "Spring" Smorgasbord - and encourage you to  
bring something to celebrate Spring!**

**Please RSVP to Social Director Bonnie Pederson at  
865-748-8044 or [bonniepederson@comcast.net](mailto:bonniepederson@comcast.net)**

**If your last name begins with the following letter, you are asked to bring:**

**A-G Cold dish or salad**

**H-R Hot dish or vegetable**

**S-Z dessert**

# Board Member Spotlight

## Bonnie Pederson

“From the lakes of Minnesota to the hills of Tennessee” -- yes, that is how the song goes, but how exactly did that happen to me?? Let’s back-track a few decades!

I was born in a small town in the very upper northwest corner of Minnesota – (Hallock), the youngest of six children to a farmer and his wife, Carl and Christine Nordling. I attended a one-room country school; most of the time I was the only person in my class (grades 1- 8<sup>th</sup>). The school system consolidated when I was in the 4<sup>th</sup> grade, comprised of 40+ students! My family attended a little country Lutheran church. My older siblings left “the roost” as time went on, leaving my Mom, sister Lyla and I. My father died when I was seven. The school years passed quickly. They were a lot of fun with friends, family and activities.

Then came college at NDSU, in Fargo, ND. (Go Bison!) Upon finishing college, I married a fellow music major, Don Pederson from Moorhead, MN. Summers were spent in Greeley, Colorado for graduate school for us and Don’s Masters degree. We both taught vocal and instrumental music in the public schools in northern Minnesota before moving “south” to Iowa City and leaving “Lake Wobegon” behind.

I taught four years near Iowa City, attended summer school at the University of Iowa, where Don was a full-time doctoral student. Upon his graduation in June, 1968, we headed further south to the University of Tennessee and Knoxville! We immersed ourselves in work, UT football, concerts and all things new and exciting to us! I taught part-time in the music department for the first two years. We moved to our present home and our son, Scott was born. I think we were in Tennessee to stay! I was a part-time staff member at Messiah Lutheran church as the Junior Choir Director for eleven years. PTSO boards, Band Boosters, choir, bell choir, committees, the church women’s group, UT Faculty Wives all brought much enjoyment as a volunteer.

Our son graduated from the UT School of Music and married Amanda in 2003. My most cherished roles are those of being a wife, mother and grandmother to our grandson, Taylor, (age 11) and granddaughter, Madeline (age 8) who live with mom and dad in Hendersonville, TN. My husband retired in June, 2013 from the UT School of Music as Professor Emeritus, after 45 years of teaching. So now we are both retired!

My interests and hobbies have always been mostly centered around music – teaching, piano, bassoon – plus dancing, bowling and ice skating when I was younger. As a season ticket holder, I attend the Lady Vols basketball and UT football games. I enjoy concerts of various styles, book study, Bible study, playing bridge and grandmothing. I am still a volunteer at church.

I have enjoyed Sons of Norway – VOTS, and meeting fellow Scandinavians and friends. The food is always great! I also learn from the programs and special events. Life IS Good!

**Congratulations to VOTS Secretary Jeannette Lively who has completed the Virtual Pilgrimage on Norway's historic Kongsveien or Old Kings Way!**



With this accomplishment, Jeannette joins an exclusive group of less than 200 Sons of Norway members who have completed this 387 mile walking challenge.

**From the Treasurer**

Our net income for the fiscal year-to-date is \$54. This compares to a \$108 loss for the same period last year. The differences are mainly due to net income for the Children's Museum International Festival, installation, and the pizza & movie events.

Our current assets are \$5127, which compares to \$4733 for last year. Our only liability is \$806 for the SON District 5 biannual conference. Last year we had a liability of \$319, primarily the accrual for the District 5 Conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Trygve Myhre

# Cultural Corner with Joan Shrader

The Vikings of the Smokies had such a good time exploring runes at the March meeting! We started some serious (and some not so serious) thinking about our cultural values. There is a reason we are called Vikings.

Meanwhile, many of us are knee deep in heritage projects. At least two people are making bunads. Speak up if you want to wade into this idea. Please, somebody venture into constructing a man's jacket or at least colorful socks. And wouldn't all of us women look smart wearing embroidered aprons to meetings?

We have two people doing the Sons of Norway knitting curriculum, two doing hardanger stitching, and four working on music. Let's find someone who wants to carve trolls. And if you love to read books, we can agree on half a dozen possible authors to tackle together. Speak up!!

All culture units are online at the Sons of Norway site. (You need the number on your membership card to sign on – it's part of what you paid for.) We could have 100% completion rate on the genealogy requirements, whether we are Norskies or Norsk-by-Marriage. Is your place marked on Francis Turmo's map yet? He could expand it to Sweden and Denmark, you know.

We will make primstavs this month. Look it up. Be sure you know when your wedding anniversary is. Just a warning, in case your spouse comes to meetings with you. Also remember which Younger Futhark rune is your personal favorite.

Probably it's obvious that I trust those runes, but if I could start my very own culture – move over, Buddha – I think my runes might be based on this blessing from Minnesota:

May the ruts in the road fit your pickup.  
May your oars row straight in the fjord.  
May the nisse keep your hayloft clean  
And your house be safe from the huldre.  
May all your yarn be heathered,  
Your ear muffs as strong as the wind,  
And your mittens dry and warm.  
May the butter melt on your lefse,  
The smorgasbord be set,  
Your coffee strong and hot.  
May your friends tell you the truth,  
Your family cherish home,  
And Viking good sense protect you  
From life's inevitable Uff Das.

# SAVE THE DATE!

Invite your friends, family neighbors and  
strangers

to the Vikings of the Smokies

## Taste of Scandinavia & Syttende Mai Celebration

Sunday, May 15th beginning at 4pm  
Faith Lutheran Church

This year, the lodge is combining the two events and inviting the community to join us in celebrating our Scandinavian Heritage! In addition to hosting the

Tickets are \$15 per person -  
children under 12 eat free!

Face painting & games

Tasty Traditional Scandinavian foods

Special performance by the Trollkretsen  
Scandinavian Dancers!

SMORGASBORD WILL INCLUDE  
MEATBALLS, SWEDISH POTATO  
SAUSAGE, LAPSKAUS (NORWEGIAN  
STEW), WAFFLES, CREAMED HERRING,  
SMOKED SALMON, OPEN FACED  
SANDWICHES & SCANDINAVIAN  
BAKED SPECIALTIES SUCH AS LEFSE,  
KRINGLA, KRUMKAKA, ALMOND  
CAKE AND MORE...

To rsvp or for more information email - [info@tnvikings.org](mailto:info@tnvikings.org) or mail payments to Vikings of the Smokies  
104 Dancer Lane, Oak Ridge, TN 37830