



# VIKINGS OF THE SMOKIES

[WWW.TNVIKINGS.ORG](http://WWW.TNVIKINGS.ORG)

Fra Presidenten,

Well, the summer is ending, and the kids are back in school, which means the Vikings of the Smokies are gearing up for some great fall activities...including the always popular "Torsk & Meatball Dinner" and the Christmas Juletrefest in December.

While the Lodge did not "officially" meet over the summer months, Lodge members participated in the Town of Farragut Independence Day Parade and picnic.

Past Lodge presidents Dee Bumpers & Clark Brekke traveled to Wisconsin to attend the Sons of Norway District 5 convention in Wisconsin. They have provided a report which is elsewhere in the newsletter. Attending the District convention is a great opportunity to learn more about how other Lodges operate - especially those lodges who have been established for more than 50 years!

Cultural Chair Joan Shrader has been busy planning over the summer - so join us on Sunday, September 18th and learn more about tracing your Scandinavian ancestors and how to trace your Nordic heritage. She along with fellow Lodge member and "resident genealogist" Francis Turmo will concentrate on the digital Norwegian Archives and how to access it.

This interactive program will be a "hands on" demonstration on how to use the vast resources of the internet to conduct genealogical research. This will include an opportunity to have "real time" online teaching, and lodge members are encouraged to bring a lap top or tablet that can be connected to the internet.

Joan will also discuss several websites which will help you begin searching your roots, and will also discuss various ways to collect and organize your data. in order to share with your family members. This is a great way to work towards your Sons of Norway cultural skills pin in genealogy!

Hope to see you all on September 18th!!

# September is Genealogy Month



ARKIVVERKET  
DIGITALARKIVET

Make plans to join lodge members at Faith Lutheran on Sunday, September 18th for a hands on discussion and demonstration on using the internet to conduct genealogy research.

Joan Shrader and Francis Turmo will discuss how to access the Norwegian Digital Archives along with other helpful websites. Internet access will be available for lodge members to bring a lap top or tablet for hands on instruction.

Information on how to earn a Sons of Norway cultural skills pin in genealogy will also be explained. This is a great opportunity to get started on your family history!

[Click here to download the requirements and forms.](#)

September's Lodge gathering will be a  
"Family Favorite" potluck!

Please bring a favorite family dish (entree or side dish) to share — and remember it does not have to be Scandinavian/Norwegian!!

The Lodge will provide the beverages (coffee/ice tea, water and lemonade) and dessert.

# Vikings celebrate Independence Day in Farragut

Tusen Takk to the band of Vikings who participated in the 2016 Town of Farragut Independence Day Parade with our "Viking Ship".



Special thanks to Clark Brekke, Dee Bumpers and Darla & Alan Berdal

who coordinated the effort and to all who helped decorate the trailer and rode or marched in the parade.



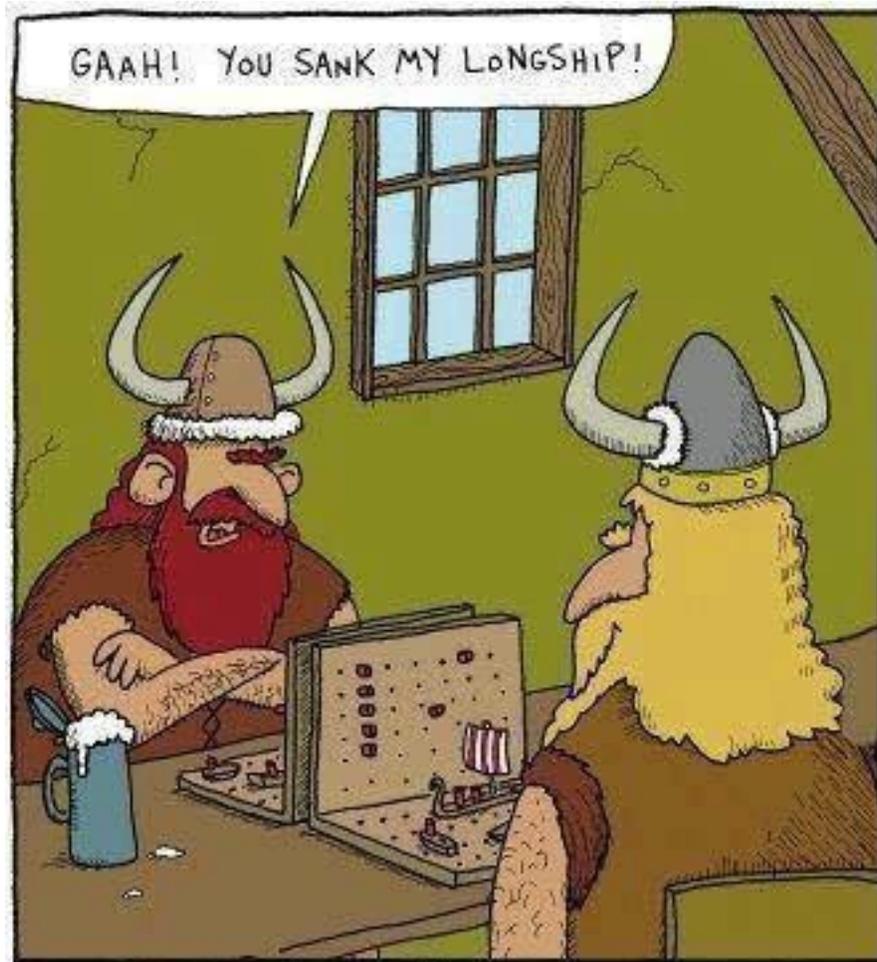
# Netflix adds Norwegian "SLOW TV" as part of Streaming Lineup

Slow TV is a cultural phenomenon that has attracted millions of viewers in Norway which began with "Train Ride Bergen to Oslo" which featured a seven-hour and 17-minute train ride from Bergen to Oslo, a trek described as an "orgy of beautiful nature" by the documentarians.

National Knitting Evening, shot in 2013, follows a group of Norwegians trying to break the record for producing a sweater - from shearing a sheep to the final stitches. while National Firewood Night features eight hours of people chopping wood and watching it burn in a fireplace. Eleven episodes will be available including:

National Firewood Evening  
National Firewood Night  
National Knitting Morning  
Northern Passage  
Salmon Fishing

National Firewood Morning  
National Knitting Evening  
National Knitting Night  
Northern Railway  
The Telemark Canal



# Reports from the District 5 Convention

## Dee Bumpers

Clark Brekke and I were delegates to the District 5 Convention held in Marshfield, Wisconsin June 22-26, 2016. While Clark chaired the Reports and Publicity Committee, I served as a member of the Laws Committee.

The Opening of the Assembly began with the parade of Board Members in their regalia, followed by the call to order by President Owen Christianson, the anthems and Pledge of Allegiance, and introduction of International President Jon Tehven; CEO Eivind Heiberg; Foundation Director Corrie Knudson and Len Carlson; and Parliamentarian, Tim Heeg.

Committees met on Thursday morning, June 23 before the official business meeting began on Friday, June 24. The coffee breaks were fabulous as usual with varieties of Norwegian cookies as well as coffee!

The Laws Committee, which was chaired by Michaela Decker, Nordlyset 186 Lodge, reviewed all the by-law proposals for consideration by the assembly. Three proposals were discussed:

- 1) Current by-laws require each zone to list lodge names. Knute Rockne Lodge was disbanded so the description of zone 1 deletes the name "Knute Rockne 634"
- 2) Article VII of Officers and Salaries was amended to allow the District Lodge to set per diem and traveling expense allowance for the Board of Directors and make recommendation to each District Lodge Meeting. The committee did not support this proposal based on the past practice not leading to any problems or complaints.
- 3) Article VII, Para 4 added the Treasurer as well as the Secretary to not be included as a representative against a zone's entitlement to 2 representatives on the board. Further, an alternate for both Secretary and Treasurer shall be elected.

4) An amendment to this proposal to require all Board Members to reside within the geographical boundaries of the District was not passed.

Workshops for delegates were scheduled for Thursday afternoon after our Delegate Orientation. I selected the workshop on Required Forms for Lodges from which I received information to pass on to our secretary, while Clark attended the Publicity and Newsletter Sharing workshop.

Thursday evening was the Viking Feast--food made from what would have been available during the Viking era, and a presentation on Long Houses. After that, there were the Norwegian Sagas at the Pool Side by Owen Christianson and his wife.

A Walk-a-Thon to benefit Masse Moro began each morning at 6 am, and there was a Silent Auction for the benefit of the District 5 general treasury. Workshops & demonstrations were offered in wire weaving, rosemaling, cheese demo, Hardanger and Knitting. Use of Social Media, Ideas for Lodge Programs, Bunad Presentation,

There was also a Cultural Arts Competition Room showing a whole range of weaving, knitting, rosemaling, wood carving, etc by which members could go through and vote their favorite by dropping a bean into the container by the display!

In addition, vendors offered a variety of interesting items for sale such as books, cultural artwork, household/baking items, and food.

On Saturday, the committees were recalled to tie up unfinished business, hear about the location for the 2018 convention location in LaCrosse, Wisconsin and vote to approve the bid, elect International Delegates, present Appreciation and Resolutions, and photograph new and outgoing board members.

The convention concluded with the annual evening banquet, awards ceremony and entertainment.

For information to our Lodge's delegates, the \$500.00 our lodge sets aside for each delegate does not completely cover the cost of the room and registration (which includes the special event Viking Feast and the Banquet), nor the travel expenses to and from the convention.

Clark & Dee were willing to donate costs above the stipend set aside for this event, but they recommend the lodge should consider having a special fund raiser or something to set aside more money for the next delegates.

Lack of financial support should not preclude any of our members from volunteering to attend. I think this is an event that every member should have an opportunity to experience!

## Clark Brekke

At this year's Sons of Norway's District 5 Convention, I chaired the Reports and Publicity Committee. Following please find my report to Arlene Arneson, District 5 Secretary. It is a synopsis of the reports that were submitted to our committee regarding the actions of the various office holders and other committees of the district and, as such, summarizes District 5 activities during the last 2 years.

I appreciate much the opportunity I had to attend the Convention, and for the lodge's partial monetary support. It was a very friendly and dedicated group of folk, and the program was an interesting one.

I had many excellent discussions with other attendees and district officers, and we received encouragement from several board members to extend an invitation to host either the 2020 District 5 Convention or the International Convention. This would be a large task requiring the assistance of most lodge members, but it would also be an exciting opportunity for us.

## Report of the Reports/Publicity Committee

Clark Brekke, Chair – Vikings of the Smokies 677

Lucy Ghastin – Idun 74

Joy Bashara, Advisor – District Five Publicity Director

Susan Morton – Vennligfolk 627

First, the Committee would like to thank all Directors submitting reports for the thoroughness, review of progress over the past biennium and suggested future programming of their responsible areas within District 5 governance. We found them to be very useful in performing our review and report of their activities and proposals.

President Christianson expressed that he was honored to serve District 5 as President the past two years, and summarized some of the issues the Board and officers have dealt with. Insurance coverage for both campers and councilors at camp Masse Moro has been improved and updated.

The Viking Chest is popular, with many lodges participating. A better method for scheduling is needed, and our committee suggests consideration of a District master (shared) calendar with scheduled district events. Putting information on the Viking Chest program in the Friendly of the Fifth Friday News, including who to contact for scheduling, should be considered, as well as asking Owen to provide information on how to initially set it up. Owen discussed communication problems within the district, and an *ad hoc* committee continues to work to address and solve these, including establishment of a District Newsletter.

Vice President Dinter's report dealt with membership. She stressed that member recruitment and retentions is, to a large extent, the responsibility of all members of the District, and not solely the responsibility of the Vice President.

A major role of the District Treasurer is to serve as a liaison between individual lodges and International. She emphasized the importance of mentoring new members, making them feel welcome and needed, and using their input whenever possible. The Vice President reminded members and lodges that there are many ideas to increase membership on the District and International websites.

Secretary Arneson reported that this biennium has provided several issues and changes that have needed to be addressed on local, District and International levels. She has wonderfully kept all in the District apprised of issues, developments and upcoming business through the Friendly Fifth Friday News, and our committee notes, appreciates, and commends her in this effort.

Darlene has agreed to serve another 2-year term as District Secretary, and we are pleased that she will continue her and the District's efforts to reach our geographically distant lodges, taking a limited budget and making the best use of members funds to do the work of the District, and how to work to meet lodges' needs. One of her most compelling roles is to keep our leaders connected to each other, to the District, and to the International organization.

District Treasurer Duane Kittleson reported that District expenses for 2015 were the lowest in the last seven years, and the Fundraising Committee is continuing to seek ways to replenish cash reserves.

He also pointed out that camp tuition is the only income available to pay Masse Moro Language and Heritage Camp expenses, with the camp operating at a loss each year. Additional sources of income and/or increased tuition rates, especially for non-District 5 youth, should be considered. Treasurer Kittleson should be commended for serving so ably after the loss of George Sievers; he has shown himself to be a valuable fiduciary resource person.

Andy Johnsen, District Recreation Director, reported success of the District's Bowling Tournaments, which will continue as a recreation event for 2017. Proceeds from the Tournament help to support the Fifth District Scholarship Fund. Our committee suggests consideration of expanding the Bowling Tournament program to be zone-wide as well as district-wide. Also, thought should be given as to the role of the Recreation Director, asking what role do we want this position to play -- advisor, idea person, cheerleader, motivator, etc.?

The Publicity Director, Joy Bashara, stressed that publicity today relates to mass media to the largest extent, and those charged with publicity must learn to maximize use of these technologies. She outlined the tasks of publicity, as well as listing accomplishments in the past biennium such as an increase in lodge communication, an increase in receiving photos for consideration for publication, a workshop of and for lodge publishing folks at this year's convention and a proposal for a new webmaster. Joy also posed questions for study and action to be addressed by an *ad hoc* committee.

District Cultural Director Esther Charlton reported on a contest which has been instituted which awards a District member who earns the most cultural skills pins and an award to the lodge with the most members who earned pins. Our committee suggests consideration of these contests at the zone level as well as the District. Esther pointed out that participation in various cultural activities not only enriches lives, it also enriches the lives of future Sons of Norway members. Our committee noted that the key to having strong cultural programs in a lodge is to have strong leadership in motivating members and programming. Cultural leaders need to be both teachers and cheerleaders, and programs should reflect that.

Our committee also recommends a study of SoN's cultural programming that would permit and encourage development in new/different cultural areas and activities. For example, if stamp collecting is recognized as a cultural path, why not coin collecting of Nordic country coins, since coin collecting may now be as or more popular than stamp collecting?

The Youth Director, currently Cheryl Wille-Schlesser, is responsible for youth activities and is chair of the Heritage and Grants Committee. A large part of her activities is directed toward administration, support and encouragement of camp Masse Moro.

Cheryl reported that publicity for the camp was accomplished by posting photos on the camp's Facebook page. Our committee recommends periodic use of photos on the District 5 part of the photo section of Viking Magazine. She also noted that concerns have been expressed concerning retaining quality staff and cost of operating the camp.

Our committee recommends that the District needs to address these issues, especially means to overcome these problems. A suggestion is that lodges, in their fund-raising efforts, devote a portion of the raised funds to support the District-connected camp. A road rally scavenger hunt is scheduled for this District 5 convention.

President Christianson also instructed our Reports & Publicity Committee to specifically address whether District 5 needs a District newsletter, including considering the communication void created by discontinuance of the Ole Bull, and review how the Reports Book is distributed. He also asked the committee to review and comment on the new District website and Facebook page.

The Committee recommends that the website be the vehicle to use for communication within the District, encouraging the use of photos, graphics and the like. The proposed District Newsletter would be available on the website, including the material the Ole Bull previously used for communication. District and lodge officers would be included. The District Secretary's Friendly Fifth Friday News material would be included as well. All of this information would be available via clicking on a side-bar menu. The website should be very intuitive, interesting, and contain contact information.

Facebook should also be utilized, since it is used by younger folk as a mode of communication, positioning SoN to attract new, younger members. So it could serve as a vehicle for recruiting. It must be informative. A key is selecting willing and interested administrators/managers of the page.

Regarding the Reports Book, the consensus of our committee was that hard copies only should be provided to delegates, with the cost of production and distribution added to the cost of delegate registration. The District Secretary should not be made to deal with decisions and steps needed in both hard copy and email methods of distribution, including the complaints by email recipients of not being able to open attachments.

In summary, we were pleased with the quality and thoroughness of the directors' reports and look forward to similar reports for future Reports and Publicity Committees for review.

## From the Treasurer

- Our net income for the fiscal year-to-date is \$641. This compares to a \$428 loss for the same period last year. The major source of income (68%) was from the Taste of Scandinavia. The next largest source (21%) was from our share of membership dues.
- The major expense (95%) was from the monthly accruals for the biannual District 5 Conference.
- We have an \$87 bill for SON liability insurance, due October 1, 2016, which will be paid in September.

Respectfully resubmitted,  
Trygve Myhre, Treasurer



**HOPEFULLY I'LL HAVE ENOUGH FREQUENT  
PILLAGING POINTS AFTER THIS TRIP  
TO GET A NEW SWORD!**