

APRIL 2017



VIKINGS OF THE SMOKIES

WWW.TNVIKINGS.ORG

Fra Presidenten,

March was an active month for the Vikings and I want to thank this folks who participated in some of our extra curricular activities.

The lefse baking class, hosted by Dee Bumpers, was a wonderful event and all participants came away with a much better understanding of the techniques (and secrets!) of baking lefse - not to mention the chance to take a little fresh lefse home. The group also made vafers (waffles) and then enjoyed a lunch together. The next cooking cultural skills event will be scheduled for later this spring. For more information on how you can get involved, please contact Dee Bumpers or myself.

Takk to to Wendell Liemohn for his presentation on the second chapter of "Between Rocks & Hard Places" and for sharing personal stories of his Norwegian family at the March Lodge event.

Thanks also to the small band of Vikings who participated in the bowling outing on March 26th. It was a very fun afternoon and hopefully next time more people will be able to attend. We appreciate the effort of Clark Brekke who coordinated the outings.

Please remember that due to the Easter Holiday, the Lodge will meet one week later than normal - on Sunday, April 23rd at Faith Lutheran.

As the weather warms, it reminds us that Summer and Syttende Mai is just around the corner. This year, the Lodge will host the annual Syttende Mai picnic and parade in Maryville on Sunday May 21st and participate in the Independence Day Parade!

Joleen

Lefse & Vafler Workshops

Thanks to Dee Bumpers who led the Lefse & Vafler workshop on Saturday, March 18th as part of the Culinary Skills pin program.

Eight participants started with the basic recipe, provided by Dee, and after a short discussion on recipes, potato types and flour ratios, the group donned rubber gloves, paired up and began hands on practice rolling and baking lefse.

As part of the event, the group also took turns making vaflers with a recipe from the Sons of Norway website.

The next baking session will include learning to make kranskake and krumkake.



Spring is here!

The Viking of the Smokies will be celebrating the arrival of spring on Sunday April 22nd at Faith Lutheran Church. We will be continuing our book discussion of "Between Rocks and Hard Places" with a presentation on Chapter 3 Farms & Farmers by Dee Bumpers

We will also have some show and tell - if you have a special norwegian family heirloom - please feel free to bring it and share your story.

The menu theme for the April Lodge event is Easter - and the traditional Norwegian Easter menu most often includes potatoes, vegetables and lamb. Most Norwegians, however immediately think of oranges and chocolate when Easter is mentioned (in particular the Norwegian Kvikk Lunsj candy bar!)



Lodge members, therefore, are encouraged to bring a dish to share which incorporates the following based on your initial.

- A-G - Chocolate or Orange
(either in flavor or color!)
- H-M - Potatoes of some type
- N-Z - Vegetable side dish

The Lodge will provide a main entree choice of ham or lamb, along with coffee, ice tea and water.

For those who may prefer not to provide an a food item for the buffet, you may always choose to make a small monetary donation to the Lodge.

Bowling with the Vikings

It was not pretty, and it was not necessarily graceful, but it certainly was an entertaining afternoon when the Vikings invaded the Family Bowl on Sunday, March 26th as part of the Sons of Norway District 5 Bowling tournament.

Thanks to Darla & Alan Berdal, Jeannette & Regina Lively, Laura Larsen and Dee Bumpers who participated in the event - along with the Dewald cheering section.



Everyone enjoyed themselves and hope to get an even larger group to join the fun next time.

Laura Larsen proved to be the high roller of the day, with a combined score of 271. The rest of the scores, however, were less competitive, ranging from 111- 221.





Make plans to join the Lodge members on Sunday, May 21st to celebrate Norwegian Constitution Day. This is a family friendly celebration - so bring the whole gang!

The picnic menu will include hamburgers, hot dogs and buns, baked beans and ice cream which will be provided by the Lodge, however, feel free to bring an alternative meat to grill if you prefer.

Lodge members are asked to bring side dishes such as potato salad, coleslaw, or other picnic fare, fruit, or a dessert. Beverages provided will include coffee, iced tea and lemonade, but Lodge members may choose to bring your own!

Bring your Norwegian Flags, and join us in a short parade to celebrate!

The Pavilion is covered, so this is a rain or shine event!

Norwegian Constitution Day is the official National Day of Norway, celebrated on the 17th of May. Among Norwegians, the day is referred to simply as "Syttende Mai" (17th of May) or Grunnlovsdagen (The Constitution Day)

A noteworthy aspect of Norwegian Constitution Day is its very non-military nature. All over Norway, children parade with an abundance of flags. Each elementary school district arranges its own parade with marching bands between schools. The parade takes the children through the community, often making stops at homes of senior citizens, war memorials, etc.

The longest parade is in Oslo, where some 100,000 people travel to participate in the festivities. The Oslo parade includes close to 100 schools, marching bands, and passes by the Royal Palace, where the Royal Family greets the people from the main balcony.

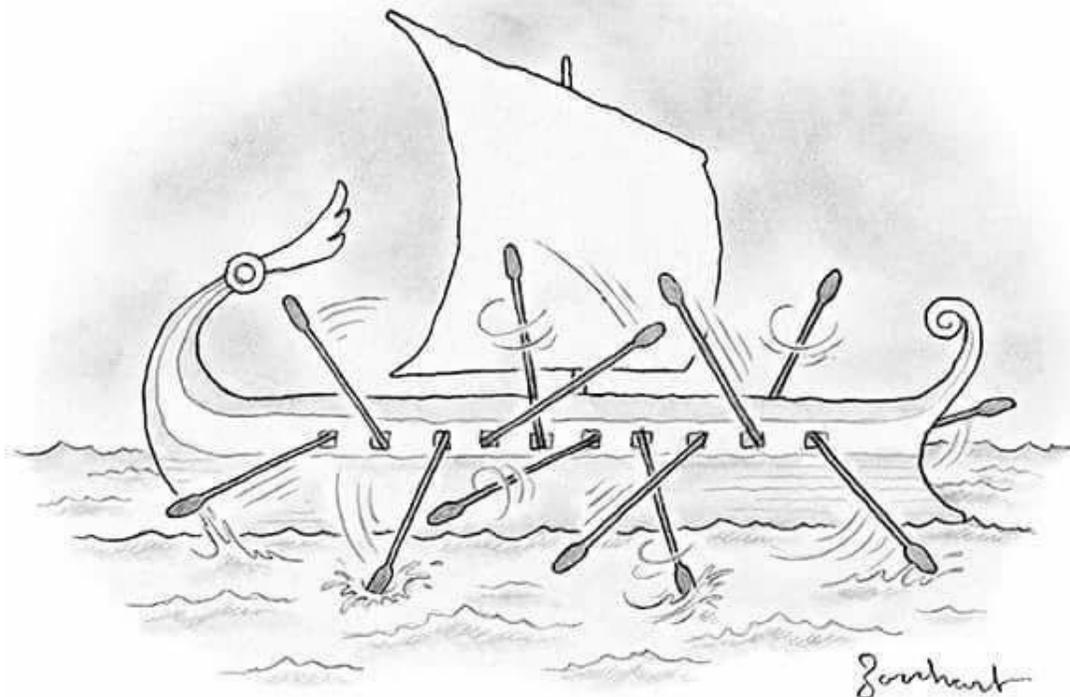
From the Treasurer

Our net income for FYTD March 2017 was \$549. This compares to a gain of \$54 last FYTD.

The sources of income were \$68 (43%) for membership dues, \$44 (28%) for the January pizza party, \$40 for the Children's Museum International Festival (26%), and \$4 from the December Juletefest (2.6%). Expenses were \$125 (83%) for accrual of the 2018 biannual District 5 Convention and \$25 (17%) for the February chili cook off gift card.

There was little change in our financial position in March. Our financial status is very good. There are no major expenses expected in the near future. Our financial status is very good, and there are no major expenses expected in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,
Trygve Myhre



“Calm down, guys—it’s just a bee!”

Påske in Norway

Easter is an important holiday in Norway, giving Norwegians a chance to celebrate the arrival of spring after the long, dark winter. Despite being a predominantly secular country, this holiday is eagerly welcomed by the people of Norway as a chance to celebrate the arrival of spring and to spend time with friends and family over a lengthy break from work and school.

The Norwegian word for Easter is Påske, a name derived from the Hebrew word "Pesach/Pasah" or Passover. In Norway, however, Easter does not pass over very quickly. Norway has the world's longest Easter holiday. Traditionally, Norwegian shops and work places are closed over skjærtorsdag (Maundy Thursday), langfredag (Good Friday) and the Monday following Easter Sunday, known as andre påskedag, or the Second Easter Day. Schools are usually closed for the entire week preceding Easter.

Evolving Traditions

Easter is basically a religious holiday that is marked with a number of holy days, religious practices and symbols. In addition, Norwegians have plenty of other nonreligious things to do with all of these days off. It applies to everything from ancient traditions such as the use of Easter eggs, the Easter bunny and yellow Easter chicks, to more recent traditions like the Easter Crime Genre (påskedekrim), Easter nuts and the Paganorigin Easter tree.

Of course no holiday in Norway is complete without a large celebratory family meal. Because the Easter season includes several national holidays, Easter holiday for many becomes a time for family gatherings. The traditional Norwegian Easter lunch consists of boiled potato and vegetables with lamb meat, accompanied by Easter beer. The meal is followed by a selection of cakes and desserts as well as the ever-present Easter eggs. The lunch table is decorated with daffodils and other Easter decorations.

Mountain Trip and Skiing

Churches are naturally open for service through the Easter holiday for special services and enjoy higher attendance rates than on a normal Sunday. Many Norwegians choose Easter as one of their designated biannual visits to church. Another Easter tradition unique to Norway is the mountain trip, where Easter is celebrated up in the mountains enjoying the sunshine, skiing, and eating oranges and Kvikklunsj, a famous chocolate bar comprising of crunchy wafer covered with milk chocolate.

More Domestic Celebration Styles

The settled image of Easter in a cabin up in the mountains, however, fades away year by year. The recent statistics on Norway's itinerary for the Easter holidays shows that Easter turns into a gathering celebrated at home. According to Statistics Bureau's (SSB) latest data, only one out of ten Norwegians set on a journey. However, "Easter at home" does not mean that they do not go anywhere. There are more locally arranged events at Easter from local Easter skiing to Easter Parade in Oslo, which began as a public walk in the middle of the 1800s.

The celebration of the "quiet week" and the holy days of Easter has diversified with a number of folk traditions. For example, Good Friday, which used to be marked by serious, quiet contemplation and compassion for the suffering Jesus on the cross, now has turned into a regular festive day. Another example is Maundy Thursday, which is a holiday in Norway, but not in Sweden. For many Norwegians, it has developed into a holiday associated with gardening and shopping. More specifically with shopping, the so-called "harrytur" or "Sverigedag" is now a common practice especially during Easter where Norwegians drive in long queues on the major roads to Sweden because of the influx of Norwegians going Easter shopping into Sweden and shop at the cheaper Swedish shopping centers near the Norwegian border, particularly in Strömstad.

Påskekrim: Why Crime Story on Easter!

Reading crime stories and detective novels during Easter is a national trait in Norway. Each year, nearly every TV and radio channel produces a crime series for Easter. The milk company prints crime stories on their cartons. In order to cash in on this national past time, publishers churn out series of books known as "Easter Thrillers" or Påskekrim. Nobody quite knows why, but for some reason, Easter is a high time for reading crime stories and detective novels in Norway, where many say that Easter and the crime genre simply work well together. It is believed that the tradition of påskekrim began with an ad of Gyldendal's publisher Harald Grieg during the Easter of 1923.

The ad, like a regular news article, appeared on the front page of Norwegian daily, Aftenposten, entitled "Bergen train looted in the night". The text was advertising the new crime book of Nordahl Grieg and Nils Lie. The book was a success and it was clear that people liked the idea of påskekrim. In the following year, the publishing house Aschehoug began to focus on crime during Easter time. Since then, Easter has been incorporated as the peak season for the crime genre.

Easter Sunday in Norway starts with a good Easter breakfast: Eggs, usually colored, are an important part of the meal while fresh bread is also indispensable in an Easter breakfast. The table is also decorated with Easter goods. Tradition has it where the Easter Bunny comes with eggs on Easter Sunday and hides them around. The children are often up early and go hunting for eggs.

Easter Monday

Easter Monday is associated as a relatively calm day. The day's most significant signs are packing, returning home and preparing to start a new work day, and then have to wait for the next noteworthy tradition, namely the national day 17 May.