



# VIKINGS OF THE SMOKIES

WWW.TNVIKINGS.ORG

Fra Presidenten,

## **“Now is the Time for all Good Men to Come to the Aid of the Party!”**

-- Charles E. Weller

Anyone remember that line by Charles Weller? In the “good old days”, when the high school curriculum included courses like Civics: typing was another of those courses. I took typing class in Junior High (Middle School now-a-days) designed for potential college prep and business (secretary) students. The title of this column is one of the practice phrases that we typed, thanks to Mr. Weller developing it for “typists-in-training.” It was useful to use since it contains many letters of the alphabet.

All of this is to say that the Lodge and its Board need you to “come to the aid of your Lodge” by providing input to the VOTS Board on potential restructuring ideas of our SoN District 5. A committee has been established to study the issue of district restructuring, lodges, and zones support within District 5 and will make recommendations at the convention in the Spring of 2016. The questions the committee is asking each lodge to address are:

- What do you expect from your zone directors as far as visits, contacts or other help?
- Do you feel connected to the other lodges in your zone?
- Do you and other members participate in zone activities -- i.e., meetings, picnics, events, trips?
- Looking at the distance between some lodges and where the zone directors live, what suggestions do you have for addressing the communications/visits/outreach in some areas?
- Do you have any suggestions for realignment, changing the number of zones, or other ways that would make the zone assignments equal in numbers, distance and services provided by the District Board ?

Options for each lodge to consider involving District 5 zones (we are zone 6) include:

1. Involve the alternates -- in each zone you would have four people available for lodge support but just the two that would be official board members.
2. Restructure the board -- have a 14-person board electing a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Publicity Director, Youth Director, Sports Director, and Cultural Director along with one at-large representative from each state: Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Tennessee and Ohio.
3. Add a third director to Zone 6.
4. Keep the current zone structure but focus on better board training so the outreach could be made by board members that would improve the relationship with the lodges.
5. Address the disconnect that lodges have with the District -- not feeling a part of the District, increase attendance at the District Lodge Meeting (14 lodges didn't attend in 2014), completion of required reports and activities, and other areas that need improvement.

Please let the VOTS Board hear your input to these questions and options and feel free to contact me at (865/966-0608; [cjbrekke@gmail.com](mailto:cjbrekke@gmail.com)) to discuss.

Another area where our Lodge needs your help is volunteering to serve as a lodge director or an officer. Openings still exist for Youth Director and Foundation Director, and we still are looking for a Publicity Chair and also Greeters. Please consider serving your lodge by volunteering for one of these positions. YOUR lodge needs YOU!!

Remember that our last event of the year is Jultrefest on Sunday, December 13<sup>th</sup> at Messiah Lutheran Church. Please remember to RSVP - especially if you will be bringing children and grandchildren. Linda Turmo is coordinating the Silent Auction, which includes unique items from both Arlene Christopherson and Emily Collins. If you have items you would like to contribute to the auction, please contact Linda at 865- 233-7411 or via email at [turmolat@charter.net](mailto:turmolat@charter.net).

Lastly, to all VOTS Lodge members, enjoy the upcoming holidays and best wishes for the new year!!

Tusen takk,

Clark Brekke

# Norwegian Vocabulary Words to Practice this Christmas Season!

**Jul (yuhl)** This was originally the name of the Midwinter Fest. But when Christianity was introduced, the heathen festivities were replaced by the Christian celebration.

**Lutefisk (lew-teh-feesk)** A lye-treated cod, lutefisk is one of the many traditional Christmas goods. Since it has little taste in itself, it is often served with fried bacon or butter or a cream sauce.

**Rommegrøt (ruh-meh-gruht)** Porridge made from sour cream, a treat for nisser and humans alike, often served at Christmas

**Julenek (yuh-leh-nehk)** A sheaf of grain, often put on a pole or roof peak for birds at Christmas. All God's creatures must be treated well at Christmas; the horses get some oats and the cows a handful of flour and some extra fine hay.

**Juletre (yuh-leh-treh)** The Christmas tree, having originated in Germany in the 1500s, came to Norway 200 years later. Typical decorations, since WWII, always include strings of small Norwegian flags and a luminous star at the top.

**Julelys (yuh-leh-lees)** Christmas candles are used a lot to decorate the homes. Lys (candles) are also taken to the cemeteries on Christmas Eve and placed on the graves. This custom goes back to the early part of the 20th century.

**Pinnekjøtt (peehn-neh-kjuht)** Ribs of mutton, salted, dried and sometimes smoked. To prepare, steam them on a rack of juniper or birch sticks. Served with mashed rutabaga.

**Ribbe (reeh-beh)** Pork ribs. The custom of having pork for Christmas goes back to pagan times. Pigs—the symbols of fertility—were sacrificed to the god Frey at the Norse Midwinter Fest.

**God dag, god deg! Er det noen snille barn her? (goo dahgh, goo dahgh. Ær deh noo-ehn sneel-leh bahrn hæer?)** Good day, good day! Are there any nice children here? This is the opening line of nissen when he enters the house on Christmas Eve.

**Julegaver (yuh-leh-gah-vehr)** Christmas presents

**gå julebukk (goh yuh-leh-bookh)** Adults started the tradition, and now the children dress in costumes, put on masks to avoid being recognized, and go from home to home, usually between Christmas and New Year's. The masked visitors are asked in for a treat. If they are sent away empty-handed, they "carry Christmas out with them" (not a good thing).

**Julesanger (juh-leh-sahng-her)** Christmas carols

# Lodge Member Spotlight

## Linda & Francis Turmo

Francis Turmo has been an active member of Sons of Norway since 1993 at the Hudson Valley Lodge 3-432 serving as Financial Secretary, Newsletter Editor, Marshal, Librarian and Historian.

Linda began attending Sons of Norway meetings when she met Francis in 1995 and soon joined the Hudson Valley Lodge. Currently Francis is serving as the Vikings of the Smokies Lodge Historian, while Linda is the new Membership Secretary.

A North Dakota native, Francis graduated from high school in 1953, and then attended Concordia College in Moorhead, MN. In 1956, he served on active duty in the the United States Navy, attaining the rank of Petty Officer Second Class Electronics Technician and spent two years aboard the USS Macon CA-132.

After leaving the Navy, Francis joined IBM in 1959 as a Field Engineer and retired as an Advisory Systems Analyst in 1991. He spent the majority of his IBM career in Kingston, New York, but also had assignments in Marquette, MI; Riverside, CA; and Omaha, NE..

In 1965, Francis married Jean Adele Orton and daughter Rebecca was born in 1967. Francis has two grandchildren, Rose, who has a bachelor's degree in accounting and works as an accountant. and Ayden has a degree in kinesiology and is pursuing a master's degree.

In 1981, Francis became a hang gliding pilot and enjoyed the sport for more than a decade and continued in the sport for 12 years. In addition, he was active member of Christ's Lutheran Church in Woodstock, NY, serving on the church council, property committee and as archivist. He also began working on his family history, and made several trips to Norway to research his great grandparents, traveling to the farms where three of them were born, and where other ancestors lived.

Linda Turmo was born and raised in northern New Jersey, the oldest of four girls and enjoyed her status as the "big sister." Graduating from Pascaek Valley Regional High School in Hillsdale, NJ, she attended Katharine Gibbs Secretarial School in Montclair, NJ.

Linda met her first husband, Donald Fefee, while working at ITT in Paramus, NJ. After they were married, they moved to Baltimore, and were both employed by Molecular Electronics, a division of Westinghouse, and daughter, Donna was born in Maryland.



Join us for the annual Sons of Norway

# Juletrefest

Sunday, December 13th - Messiah Lutheran Church  
6900 Kingston Pike in West Knoxville

4PM - 6PM

Smorgasbord will begin at 4:30 pm

For more information about Juletrefest or for directions to Messiah Church -  
please visit [www.tnvikings.org](http://www.tnvikings.org)

Please remember to rsvp **NO LATER THAN MONDAY DEC 7th** by contacting Emilie  
Collins at 670-3773 or via email at [tn\\_bestemor@comcast.net](mailto:tn_bestemor@comcast.net)

**Silent Auction!**  
**Visit by the Nisse!**  
**St. Lucia Children's Parade!**  
**Bunads Encouraged!**

**THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT**  
if you are bringing any children or  
grandchildren in order to notify the  
Nisse. This will ensure all "good  
children" receive a small gift bag  
during the celebration that is age and  
gender appropriate.

If your last name begins with the following letter, you are asked contribute the  
item below to the smorgasbord (enough to feed at least 6-8 people please!):

A-J: hot dish or vegetable

K-R: cold dish or salad

S-Z: dessert

The Lodge will provide the meat entrée, beverages and bread/rolls!

# silent AUCTION

## **Juletrefest Silent Auction!!!**

**Get ready for the annual silent auction to benefit VOTS and support lodge activities at the Juletrefest at Messiah Lutheran Church in Knoxville.**

**If you have any new or "gently used" items you would like to contribute to the auction, please bring them to the Juletrefest no later than 3:30 pm during the event setup.**

**Items contributed do not have to be Norwegian or Scandinavian in origin. All appropriate items will be accepted.**

**There will be forms available for describing your items, and bid sheets will be provided.**

**Please be sure to include a starting bid if there should be one. You will be responsible for repacking and taking away any of your items that do not sell.**

**For more information, please contact Linda Turmo at (865) 233-7411 or [turmolat@charter.net](mailto:turmolat@charter.net).**

## DON'T FORGET TO SAVE YOUR STAMPS FOR TUBFRIM!



The holidays are upon us - so please remember to clip and save your postage stamps from your holiday greeting cards! Simply tear or clip canceled stamps from envelopes and drop them in the "stamp jar" on the sign-in table at any VOTS event.

**PLEASE LEAVE AT LEAST 1/4" BORDER AROUND STAMP.**  
Any questions - contact Clark Brekke at [cjbrekke@gmail.com](mailto:cjbrekke@gmail.com)

## VIKING VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

The Lodge is looking for a Vikings volunteer(s) for the following projects:

Quarterly ADOPT A MILE road clean up effort. Tom Collins is moving and we need someone to take over this project.

Contact Clark Brekke or Tom Collins for more information!



The Lodge is also looking for a a volunteer to help update and maintain the [TNvikings.org](http://TNvikings.org) website. Please contact Joleen Dewald for more information on how you can help.