

APRIL - 2 0 2 0



# VIKINGS OF THE SMOKIES

KNOXVILLE, TN

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

Well, 2020 has not been kind to the world. I hope that everyone is staying home and healthy. Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, the Lodge chose to cancel the March event, and, per instructions from Sons of Norway International in Minneapolis, we will not be meeting in April:

**“Due to the COVID-19 crisis, we strongly recommend that all lodge meetings and in-person events related to Sons of Norway be postponed through April 30<sup>th</sup>.**

**Sons of Norway has been closely monitoring the global COVID-19 crisis and its impact on the upcoming 2020 District and International Lodge meetings. The Sons of Norway International Board of Directors has voted to postpone the International Lodge Meeting and Convention scheduled for August 2020 in Ringsaker, Norway. Pursuant to the national emergency provisions in the Charter and Constitutions, the meeting will be postponed until 2022.**

**In addition, the International Board, through its interim authority granted by the International Lodge, has voted to postpone all 2020 District Lodge meetings until 2022. These postponements serve to continue the 2018-2020 biennium into the year 2022. It is expected that all district and international delegates and those installed in leadership positions for the 2018-2020 biennium will continue in service until the regular session lodge meetings of 2022”.**

Unfortunately, the District 5 Convention scheduled for June has also been cancelled. Please see the special message from Andy Johnson, District 5 President.

While everyone is hopefully practicing social distancing and self isolation, there is a silver lining - this is a great opportunity to work on your cultural skills activities! Check out all the great online resources to begin or continue working on your cultural skills pins in cooking, literature, genealogy or music.

There is a great opportunity to work on your Music and Musicians of Norway pin with a series of online listening parties which have been organized to help people complete the requirements of the Sons of Norway Cultural Skill Music and Musicians of Norway. Anyone can join in the listening parties.

Sons of Norway members can fill in listening response forms and receive a Cultural Skills pin and bars. Listening parties, at party time, we will go to the URL where we will be able to listen to music together and text chat.

<https://w2g.tv/2oleueggloyh76rim6>

WHEN:

Parties will be M, W, F at 7 pm Pacific. From March 18th through at least April 17th, 2020. (March 18th and 20th will be considered test parties, and we are likely to repeat that music later).

HOW:

Go to the link, watch the video with everyone else, answer the discussion questions if you wish (the same questions as on the listening response forms). Have fun!

For more details see <https://musicnorway.blogspot.com/>

It's my greatest hope that things will have improved enough so that by May, we will be able to celebrate Syttende Mai - although perhaps not as we had originally planned!

As we move forward to July - the Lodge has been registered to participate in the annual Town of Farragut Independence Day Parade.

Please keep checking the facebook page for activities and updates as we navigate through these uncertain and challenging times.

Remember, as good citizens and lodge members, the best things that we can do are

**STAY HOME & WASH OUR HANDS!**

Hope to see you in May!

Joleen

## District President Har Ordet

Kjære Venner,

As of now I am sure that most of the members of the District have received word that the 2020 Fifth District Convention/Meeting and the 2020 International Convention/Meeting have been canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

There was a unanimous vote by the International Board of Directors to cancel the 2020 conventions/meetings. President Ron Stubbing has instructed all Sons of Norway Officers, Directors, and Delegates to “continue in service until the regular session lodge meetings of 2022”. As members of Sons of Norway we need to follow President Stubbing’s instruction in order to maintain our cohesiveness as a fraternal in this time of uncertainty.

As your District President I am requesting that all local lodge Presidents and Officers be prudent, and that they follow all State and Federal government mandates concerning the COVID-19 virus. Be thoughtful and do not put yourself or any of your lodge members in any undue risk. Stay in touch with your other lodge members using the telephone and electronic means (conference calls or skype).

These are difficult times we are all experiencing. It is my hope that when this pandemic is over the Sons of Norway will continue to be as strong and vibrant as ever.

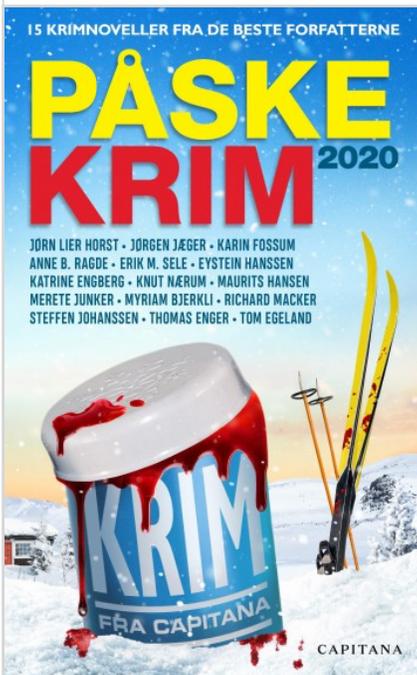
It is with sadness that the Fifth District has lost one of its finest members, Gene Steensma, who passed away on March 25, 2020. Gene was a past Fifth District President, an International Director, and a long-time member and President of Samhold 5-473. Gene will always remain in the hearts of those who knew him. Keep Gene’s family in your prayers as they go through their time of mourning.

Med beste hilsen,

Andrew Iver Johnsen

Sons of Norway Fifth District President

# Påskekrim: Why Crime Stories on Easter?



They extend winter, invented modern crime fiction, and celebrate Easter by reading about murder. Who? The Norwegians, of course.

One would think that after a long, dark and bitter winter, Norwegians would welcome spring, sun and the promise of summer.

That is probably true for the cold-challenged, but many Norwegians choose to extend the winter by spending the Easter holiday in their mountain log cabins, armed with mutton, eggs and chocolate wafers.

However, one more ingredient is needed to really get into the spirit. To some it is the highlight of the holiday. Murder. Preferably many of them, safely experienced between two

book covers. Between shoveling snow or skiing on it, Easter for Norwegians means wallowing in crime fiction. In Norway, you can't avoid it that one week of the year.

TV bursts with high profile British mystery shows. On the radio, NRK has produced radio plays. Your newspaper's weekend supplement has probably commissioned a crime short story and interviewed an expert on why Norwegians read Easter crime fiction, or "påskekrim". Want milk? Not without spotting the crime cartoon on the cartons.

The classic media for Easter crime is soft cover paperbacks, a practical format with their small size and weight, suitable for backpacks and suitcases. You can buy them at gas stations and local convenience stores on your way to your holiday destination. More than half the population travel somewhere during the Easter week.

And then there was the bakery that asked its Facebook followers to find out who had stolen their cupcakes. A fictional cupcake kidnapping case, because what is Easter without crime everywhere the word can be typed? In Norway, reading crime stories during Easter is as normal as eating chocolate and going skiing.

But to the outside world, the "Easter crime" phenomenon is – quite literally – a mystery.

However, it is widely regarded that it was the publisher Gyldendal's director Harald Grieg, Nordahl's brother, who was responsible for making the book a best seller.

Fifteen years before Orson Welles' "War of the Worlds" radio drama caused panic because of its simulated news, Harald Grieg achieved the same effect by employing the method known today as clickbait. When word got out that the robbery only took place in a book, readers rushed to the book stores.

Harald Grieg did probably not intend to create a specific and lasting tradition. Granted, he wanted to sell books, but even though he realized that selling light literature in March and April was a way to branch out for an industry that usually released their books in the fall, reading detective fiction instead of going to church is thought to have fastened its roots because of the specifics of the Norwegian Easter.

All sub-genres of crime and thrillers are read, but classic whodunits and slow paced "cosy crime" are the traditional choices. You don't even have to cave in to the publishers' suggestions, as nobody flinches if you bring a stack of old dog-eared flea market finds.

The reading of crime fiction during Easter is believed to be a tradition unique to Norway. The seed of the Easter crime phenomenon can be attributed to a specific day in history, because it was a book publisher's marketing ploy that started it all.

On March 24th, 1923 (the day before Palm Sunday), Oslo newspaper Aftenposten printed the headline "The train to Bergen was robbed last night" across the front page. The news spread like a free money rumor. In reality, there was no headline.

What Aftenposten had printed was in fact an ad for a novel of the same name, but few picked up on the small disclaimer printed next to it. "Bergenstoget plyndret i nat" was written by Jonathan Jerv, or Jonathan Wolverine, an alias for two students, Nordahl Grieg and Nils Lie. Both born in Bergen on Norway's west coast. Grieg went on to be one of Norway's most prominent authors in the 1920s and 30s, while Lie would become a major figure in publishing.

Sven Elvestad (1884-1934), also known as Stein Riverton, was the first Norwegian crime author celebrity, having created the Christiania (now Oslo) detective Knut Gribb in a series of murder-free stories in 1908.

Further back, Maurits Hansen (1794-1842) published the novel "The Murder of Machine Builder Roofsen" in 1839, predating the book that is thought to have created the modern murder mystery, Edgar Allan Poe's "The Murders in the Rue Morgue", by two years.

The habit of reading about invented illegalities is thus older than Easter crime, but thanks to Harald Grieg's clever marketing 95 years ago, Easter opened up as the high season.

Norwegian crime authors do not face unemployment. Last year, in the two weeks before Easter, crime novels made up 55 percent of all fiction sold in bookstores, three times more than crime's portion of Christmas book sales. British, French and German authors can't get their heads around this when they talk to their Norwegian colleagues. The Norwegian Easter seems set to remain crimson red for the foreseeable future!

## **Cultural Skills activities for Literature**

[Get the unit PDF](#) | [Go to the YouTube playlist](#)

**Part 1: A Survey of Norwegian Literature** [Download Level 1 Report Form](#)

**Part 2: Fiction, Poetry and Drama** [Download Level 2 report form](#)

**Part 3: Nonfiction** [Download Level 3 report form](#)

### **From the Treasurer**

Our net loss for 12 months ending March 2020 was \$143, compared to a net loss of \$147 for the previous 12 months. Membership dues income of \$670 was \$94 (16%) more than the previous 12 months.

Community events (International Festival and Taste of Scandinavia) had an income of \$729, compared to \$612 from the previous 12 months. Lodge events had a net loss of \$297 for lefse sales, Juletreff, chili cook off, Mystery dinner, Syttende Mai, and Torsk dinner which compared to a \$481 net loss for the previous year. VOTS T-shirts are showing a loss of \$182 as of 31 December, while additional expenses for facility rental, insurance, bereavement, and Go Daddy subscription were \$406, with \$723 allocated for the 2020 District 5 Convention.

Current assets are \$4,845 in the checking account and a \$100 SON gift card compared to \$4,320 for December 2018, with our only liability the \$723 accrual for the 2020 convention. Our total equity is \$4,222 compared to \$4,067 for last year – an increase of \$155 (3.8%). The March 2020 per capita equity was \$78.53, compared to last year's \$78.21.

Respectfully submitted,

**Trygve Myhre**