

OCTOBER 2015



VIKINGS OF THE SMOKIES

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Fra Presidenten,

It's the Last Quarter! No, I don't mean regarding UT Vol football (although the last quarter has not been kind to them in too many recent games). I'm referring to the end of the year for our Lodge and the opportunities for filling up on Scandinavian morsels at smorgasbords and dinners at our upcoming events.

First comes a smorgasbord at our October 18th event, where Swedish member Karl Ekstrom, our world traveler and dedicated international fisherman, will fill us in on his recent travels from Greenland, through the Northwest Passage and Canada, ending in Alaska. Be sure to come for his travelogue!

In addition, the slate of nominees for 2016 elected Lodge officers will be presented to the membership for review at this event with the voting to take place in November.

November brings the always popular Torsk & Meatball Supper hosted at Seasons Cafe in Turkey Creek, followed by the annual holiday Juletrefest Christmas dinner and program in December - so mark your calendar now!

In January/February of this year, a Membership Satisfaction Survey was sent to lodge members to provide for VOTS programming that will help strengthen our lodge. Only 17 surveys were returned, but I would like to present a summary of results of several of the survey areas/questions. The three top benefits of VOTS membership were identified as (1) Viking magazine, (2) lodge social activities and (3) cultural events and lessons, and (3 also) SoN online resources.

Generally, members felt that fellow lodge members are friendly and cordial, and the food is always great. However, some members expressed that there are not enough activities that encourage participation in the lodge, and that it appears that groups have formed and congregate together, rather than in mixing with other lodge members.

A definite majority (87%) are happy with our lodge event meetings, but felt that cultural and heritage activities should be increased. Regarding having smorgasbord pot lucks at most of the lodge events, some respondents commented that preparing and bringing food can get to be a burden if it is needed too often. Surprisingly, 6 of the 17 (35%) respondents expressed willingness to provide a presentation at an event meeting.

Topics that members would most like to see for lodge events include Norwegian guests, films, language classes, game nights, potlucks and general social time. These were followed by field trips, folk art instruction, cooking classes and genealogy research. In general members favored lodge events for the camaraderie, social and learning about culture, heritage and history. Oh and did I mention the number of positive remarks about the importance of food at lodge events?

Overall, the survey results have provided programming direction for the Board of Directors, and summary comments have been particularly useful in determining the lodge's strengths and areas for improvement.

Your service on the Board to determine and implement lodge planning for its future would very much be appreciated! Please consider being nominated or volunteering for a Board position!!

Tusen Takk!!
Clark Brekke

Sail the Northwest Passage on October 18th

with Karl Ekstrom



Join Lodge members for a potluck smorgasbord and learn more about cruising the Northwest Passage voyage from Karl Ekstrom.

From Montreal to Greenland and then across the Baffin Bay, Karl will discuss following the footsteps of famed Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen. Glaciers, polar bears and icebergs were part of the majestic scenery ending with the spectacular Northern Lights, as the voyage concluded in Nome, Alaska.

A-G
Please bring a cold dish
or salad
H-R:
Please bring a hot dish
or vegetable
S-Z
Please bring a desert

Lodge members are invited to bring a dish to share. The Lodge will provide coffee and ice tea.

From the Treasurer

September's income exceeded expenses by \$340. Income was \$473 net from the Taste of Scandinavia and \$34 for our share of the membership dues. Expenses were \$86 for our annual SON liability insurance, \$42 for District 5 Conference accrual, \$30 for service pins, and \$10 for a SON culture kit.

For the fiscal-year-to-date total expenses exceed income by only \$89.

Respectfully submitted,

Trygve Myhre

Annual Taste of Scandinavia

Thanks to all who made the annual Taste of Scandinavia a success. Under the guidance of Emilie Collins, the members of the Vikings of the Smokies Lodge again shared traditional nordic foods with the Knoxville community.

A wide smorgasbord of hot and cold dishes, along with a bountiful dessert tray ensured that no one left Messiah Lutheran Church hungry!



Meatballs, lapskaus, farikal, along with a wide variety of open faced sandwiches were offered and almond cake, lefse and kringla were just a few of the homemade dessert specialties offered.



A very special tusen takk goes to Meg Mabbs and Bill Gooch, who along with the Trollkretzen Dancers, delighted the audience with their performance.

Vice President Wendell Liehmon also presented 10, 20 and 30 year membership pins to Lodge members in attendance, while

Joan Schrader was awarded a pin for her cultural skills efforts.

Thanks to all who supported this event - and especially those who stayed to clean up after the event!

Join Vikings of the Smokies for the 7th Annual Meatball & Torsk Dinner

Sunday, November 15th

5pm-7:30pm

Seasons Café - Turkey Creek


11605 Parkside Drive, Farragut, TN

\$20 adults

Children under 12 are Free!

There is limited seating for this event - so to ensure a reservation, please email
by **Monday Nov. 10th**

Payment at the door by
cash or check payable
to "Vikings of the
Smokies" and mail to:
Knoxville, TN 37934



Along with meatballs & torsk (Norwegian
Cod), this all-inclusive buffet (tax & tip
included!) will feature buttered potatoes,
lefse, green beans, along with an
assortment of traditional Scandinavian
desserts, and your choice of soda, iced
tea or coffee.

In addition, a selection of beer, wines and other
adult beverages will be available for purchase.

Lodge Member Spotlight Dee Bumpers

Born and raised near Frederic, Wisconsin, Dee graduated from Pacific Lutheran University, located in Tacoma, Washington.

Immediately after graduating from college, she attended the International Summer School at the University of Oslo in Norway. She then remained in Norway for an additional year, and worked as a maid, and then later as a clerk in the Oslo Overformynderiet (Public Trustee's Office.)

Dee returned to Wisconsin from where she then entered the United States Air Force. Her military career in Administration, Personnel, and Comptroller fields took her to Nebraska, Alaska, Washington D.C., Ankara, Turkey, and finally, Tennessee.

After retiring from the Air Force, Dee volunteered teaching English as a Second Language, Recording for the Blind and Dyslexic, and was involved with various singing groups which performed at a variety of community functions, public venues, and nursing homes. An avid hiker, Dee has tackled most of the state parks, and many of the trails on the Tennessee side of the Great Smokey National Park.

Dee's father was born in Orkanger, South Trøndelag and emigrated with his family when he was 12 years old. Her mother's family emigrated from Undredal, Sognefjord and Leikanger, Nordmøre area. She has made several trips to Norway, one of them a Heritage Tour where several siblings and cousins hiked up to her ancestral farms of Nedberge and Kappedal, where one farm is still used as a hunting cabin today, while the other has only remains of the buildings after it was abandoned when her ancestors emigrated in 1866.

Dee's mother and her siblings were members of Sons of Norway and took trips offered through their programs. When Dee found out about a Sons of Norway Lodge being formed here, it was a natural step to join. The members in this lodge provide opportunities to learn more about Norwegian heritage through the exchange of stories and ideas with those of similar backgrounds. She looks forward to hearing more stories from each of you.



Upcoming 2015 Lodge Events & Activities

October 18th

Smorgasbord & Presentation by Karl Ekstrom
Faith Lutheran Church

Sunday, November 15th

Annual Torsk & Meatball Dinner
Seasons Cafe

December 13th

Annual Juletrefest
Messiah Lutheran Church

DON'T FORGET THOSE STAMPS FOR TUBFRIM!

The holidays will soon be upon us with lots of stamps for Tubfrim. Tear or clip canceled stamps from envelopes and drop them in the "stamp jar" on the sign-in table at any event.

PLEASE LEAVE AT LEAST 1/4" BORDER AROUND STAMP.

Any questions- contact Clark Brekke at cjbrekke@gmail.com

Hiking with the Vikings!

VOTS Vice President Wendell Liemohn is looking to schedule several more hikes throughout the late fall and early spring. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the Great Smoky Mountain Park with an experienced hiker!



The hikes will be tailored to match the needs, experience and fitness levels of the participants. If you are interested, please e-mail Wendell with your hike interest & date(s) to wliemohn@gmail.com.