



JUNE-JULY 2022

# VIKINGS OF THE SMOKIES

KNOXVILLE, TN

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

## President's Report

It's hard to believe that Independence Day is almost here! And once again, our hardy band of Vikings will be representing the Lodge with our Viking ship in the annual Farragut Independence Day Parade. Please join us for the fun!

I recently returned from attending the District 5 Convention, along with fellow Lodge delegates Paul Abelquist, Ev Engstrom, and Dee Bumpers (attending in her role as Zone 6 Director).

The convention was held in Middleton, WI, a former bedroom community of Madison, and where I lived as graduate student over 52 years ago - and needless to say...things there have changed!

Overall, the convention was well attended with more than 100 delegates participating. Funding for the delegate travel was partially supported by VOT Lodge budgeted funding.

While a thorough report on the District 5 Convention may be found at the weekly [Friendly Fifth Friday](#) newsletter, I wanted to provide some highlights of the convention.

Quite some time was spent by Connie O'Brien, Director of Fraternal & Foundation Development from the International SoN, reporting on governance updates and recent and potential updates and changes in government structure and responsibilities.

## Independence Day Parade Details!

**The parade route is along Kingston Pike (from the Farragut High School to Boring Road (by the Ingles) and begins at 9:30 am.**

**If you are interested in riding on the Viking float or walking the parade route (approx. 1 mile), please contact [Clark Brekke](#).**

These included changes to the Viking Magazine, pins awarded to members and changes in demographics of membership vis-à-vis insurance purchases.

Involvement with Tubfrim at the national level has ceased (including the opportunity to win a free airline ticket to Norway), but District 5 has made the decision to continue collecting and sending Tubfrim donations to Norway - so please keep collecting these stamps!

### **The Newly Elected D-5 Board**

District President – Cheryl Wille-Schlesser  
*Vennelag Lodge, Mt. Horeb, WI*

District Vice President – Wendy Kay Winkelman  
*Shawnee Skogen Lodge, Cobden, IL*

District Secretary – Darlene Arneson  
*Mandt Lodge, Stoughton, WI*

District Treasurer – Nathan Nutter  
*Shawnee Skogen Lodge, Troy, IL*

Publicity Director & Zone 2 Director LaVonne Wier  
*Fagernes Lodge, Galesville, WI*

Cultural Director & Zone 4 Director – Judy Ghastin  
*Norse Valley Lodge, Appleton, WI*

Sports & Rec & Zone 1 Director – Robert Fossum  
*Devre Lodge, Chetek, WI*

Youth Director – Elle Taylor  
*Gronnvik Lodge, Green Bay, WI*

Zone 2 Director – Tom Boudreau  
*Elvedal Lodge, Nekoosa, WI*

Zone 3 Director – Scott Wegner  
*Mandt Lodge, Stoughton, WI*

Zone 4 Director – Lisa Solak  
*Skjold Lodge, Crystal Lake, IL*

Zone 5 Director – Connie Benson Kross  
*Cleng Peerson Lodge, Sandwich, IL*

Zone 6 Director – Bill Bultinck  
*Shawnee Skogen Lodge, Cobden, IL*

International Director – Robin Fossum  
*Dovre Lodge, Chetek, WI*

As part of the convention, the International Board of Directors presented several award certificates to the Vikings of the Smokies Lodge, including Silver Merit awards for 2018, 2019 and 2021, with a Bronze Merit award for 2020.

Tusen takk goes to Jeannette Lively for her record keeping and for tracking the necessary data needed for these award applications.

Finally, new District 5 officers were elected, and congratulations goes to Dee Bumpers who was elected as an alternate delegate for the International Convention which will take place in Minneapolis in August.

Remember while the Vikings of the Smokies Lodge will not “Officially” convene again until September, Lodge members will be active in the Farragut Independence Day Parade, the Dixie Lee Farmers Market Gleaning Project and the Adopt-a-Mile program.

Tusen takk (and keep on truckin’) and hope to see you at the Farragut Independence Day Parade!

**Clark Brekke**

# Norge Cultural Corner

Hei, jeg heter Darla. (Hi, my name is Darla) and I am the Lodge Cultural Chairperson.

The Cultural chair is tasked with providing experiences for our lodge to help learn, share and enjoy the sights, sounds & tastes of Norwegian culture. I work with the Social Director & Sports Director in coming up with programs and opportunities for our lodge to experience all things Norwegian.

Things we have done in the past include Norwegian dancing, baking and cooking, beginning hardanger, embroidery, rosemaling, and learning Norwegian phrases. We enjoyed presentations on artist Edvard Munch, Norwegian Forest Cats, stamp collecting and don't forget genealogy - and we've even played the Norwegian version of Jeopardy.

Many lodge members have participated in our show and tell, sharing their treasures and telling their stories as well as pictures of travels abroad. We even did a couple of skits and a Mystery Dinner. We have celebrated traditional foods with Syttende Mai, Taste of Scandinavia and the Torsk dinner. There is a lot more but you get the idea.

The SON website has great resources for planning events. If you are interested in Norwegian culture and would like to talk to me about helping out with events - please give me a call or catch me at one of our meetings. Also, if there is something you would like to see as a cultural program, please let me know - I would love to hear some of your ideas.

We are looking for someone to fill the position for next year, and I would be willing to work side-by-side with you and answer any questions you might have. It isn't hard and really doesn't take that much of your time. We have an amazing group of people, and they are usually very good sports. Many are very willing to help out in a pinch.

If you are interested in delving in a bit deeper in learning about your Norwegian heritage, there is an opportunity to earn cultural pins from Sons of Norway for various cultural activities, including literature, culinary skills and a variety of handiwork., Ask me about that or go to the SON website [www.sofn.com](http://www.sofn.com) and get more information!

Tusen Takk, hope to see you soon!

## From the Treasurer:

Our net gain for January through May 2022 was \$297, compared to a net gain of \$212 for January through May 2021 due to a \$126 profit from the Children's International Festival and \$527 income for membership dues.

Expenses of \$356 included \$208 towards the District 5 Conference, \$78 for pizza & movie, \$44 for refreshments, and \$25 for Ski for Light. This compares to \$233 expenses last January through May..

Our current assets are \$5,975 including \$5,855 in the Regions checking account, \$105 for the remaining prepaid Cumberland County Playhouse tickets, and \$15 for playing cards resale or awards. This compares to \$5,614 for May 2021. The only liability is a \$1,931 accrual for the next SON district 5 biannual conference.

Respectfully submitted,

Trygve Myhre

## WANNA GET SOCIAL?

The Lodge is looking for a few individuals who are interested and willing to help plan our monthly social events for the Lodge. This position can be held by one or more people, and is a great way to meet Lodge members, contribute to supporting the Lodge and have fun!

Please see Dee Bumpers for more details!

**Thank you to everyone who was able to attend the Lodge Syttende Mai gathering on Sunday May, 22nd.**

**A big tusen takk goes to Clark and Elaine Brekke for hosting the group at their club house and to Dee Bumpers for organizing the wonderful luncheon, complete with lefse!**