



NOVEMBER 2022

VIKINGS OF THE SMOKIES

KNOXVILLE, TN

WWW.TNVIKINGS.ORG

President's Report — Fall Is Here!

We have seen a change in the weather, experiencing a rather dry spell to a somewhat rainy period, but mostly the rapid turning of foliage from green to bright and fiery orange, coupled with ground cover and piles of leaves at the curb. Definitely a change of season.

Notable days in the Fall are Leif Erickson Day, 9 Oct.; Election Day, 8 Nov.; Veteran's Day, 11 Nov. Leif Erickson discovered Vinland and North America some 500 years before Columbus. And, a reminder to support our democracy and vote on Election Day, November 8, and pay tribute to our Lodge members who are veterans this Veteran's Day, 11 Nov.

New member recruiting ~ We have a goal of 14 new members for our Lodge and still need 8 new members by the end of the year. Look around at family, friends and neighbors for potential candidates.

Thank you to Dr. Eric Abelquist for his presentation on Oak Ridge, TN ~ Is it still the Secret City? Very informative. with a nice turnout of Lodge members. I hope to see everyone on November 20th at our next Lodge event.

Our Lodge is looking to create a historical archive of its beginnings. If you have startup stories, pictures of early members and/or events, please let us know.

As your interim president, I have a big pair of shoes to fill. Clark has performed admirably. I hope to inspire and fulfill the goals of the Lodge to the best of my ability.

Election of new officers is just around the corner; please consider offering your services to help our Lodge grow.

Finally, how about them VOLS? They beat Alabama, Kentucky, and will face Georgia. What a team!

Paul Abelquist

Make plans to join the Vikings of the Smokies for Fun & Food Game night

**Sunday, November 20th, at 4pm
Faith Lutheran Church**

**Please bring a dessert or appetizer to share with the group.
Homemade or store bought items welcome -
please provide enough for 4-6 guests
Coffee, water and iced tea will be available courtesy of the Lodge**

**As always, to ensure an accurate headcount for the refreshments,
please rsvp to Linda Turmo (865) 233-7411 or turmolat@charter.net**

From the Treasurer:

Our net gain for January through October 2022 was \$217. This compares to a net loss of \$203 for the same time period 2021. This was a result of \$126 profit from the Children's International Festival and \$784 income for membership dues.

The \$693 expenses included \$417 towards the District 5 Convention, \$78 for pizza & movie night, \$124 for general refreshments, \$49 for Syttende Mai, and \$25 for Ski for Light. This compares to \$949 expenses last January through October, including \$417 for the District 5 Conference, \$241 for July 4th picnic, \$172 for insurance, \$61 for Kari Novilla concert, \$34 for service pins, and \$25 for bereavement.

Our current assets are \$4,879 including \$4,759 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 \$5,407 for October 2021. The only liability is a \$1,639 accrual for the next SON District 5 biannual convention.

Respectfully submitted,

Trygve Myhre

TROLLKRETSEN

SCANDINAVIAN DANCING IS BACK

Meg Mabbs and Bill Gooch invite anyone who is interested in Scandinavian Dance to join them on Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm at the Laurel Theater. located at 1538 Laurel Ave in Knoxville.

Absolutely everyone welcome - beginners welcome - no partner needed!
Bring friends!

For more information, please email megmabbs@bellsouth.net

Adopt a Mile

Clean up will held on Thursday, November 17th.

Meet at Boring Road parking area at 9am.

Contact Dee Bumper to participate.

LEFSE FOR SALE

THE LODGE WILL HAVE A LIMITED AMOUNT OF PACKAGED LEFSE FOR SALE AT THE JULETREFEST!

RESERVE YOURS NOW BY EMAILING
INFO@TNVIKINGS.ORG

\$6 PER BAG OR 2 OR MORE BAGS \$5 EACH

Some Interesting History about Leif Erickson

Americans have an odd way of pronouncing his name. In Iceland and Scandinavia, the name Leif is usually pronounced "Layf" and rhymes with the English word safe (or like "life", depending on the region). Yet, in America, people often say "Leef" instead.

Before Leif reached the Mainland, he probably stopped at Baffin Island. Baffin, Canada's biggest island, is 932 miles long and home to lemmings, caribou, and polar bears (and people). It might also be one of the three North American areas that the Icelandic Sagas reference.



When Leif's men begin their westward journey in *The Saga of the Greenlanders*, they soon discover an icy countryside filled with large, flat rocks. "Now I will give the land a name, and call it Helluland," Leif said.. Translated from Old Norse, the moniker means "stone-slab land." Based on the descriptions in the sagas of the Greenlanders and Erik the Red, most historians think Helluland was really Baffin Island. Some Norse artifacts have been found there.

The "Columbus vs. Erickson" Culture War started in the late 19th century. Christopher Columbus didn't become a household name until Washington Irving published a wildly inaccurate biography of the explorer in 1828. Misleading as the book was, the idea of celebrating Columbus really appealed to Italian immigrants. In 1892, President Benjamin Harrison publicly encouraged his fellow Americans to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Columbus' arrival in the New World. At the urging of Italian residents, Colorado adopted Columbus Day as an official state holiday in 1907. Presidents began issuing Columbus Day proclamations in the 1930s, although it wouldn't become a true federal holiday until 1968.

Not all Americans approved of that version of history. Forty-six years after Irving published his biography of Columbus, Wisconsinite, Rasmus Bjorn Anderson published a book called *America Not Discovered BY Columbus*, which pointed out that Leif Erickson was traversing North America 500 years before the Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria crossed the Atlantic. Anderson decided that Erik the Red's famous son needed his own holiday to offset Columbus's, and settled on October 9 as the perfect date for it. On that day in 1825, a group of Norwegian immigrants landed in New York City, an event that is generally credited as starting organized Scandinavian migration to the United States. At Anderson's urging, Wisconsin became the first state to recognize Leif Erickson Day in 1929.



You are invited to join Lodge members and their guests for the annual Vikings of the Smokies

Jultrefest

Sunday, December 11th from 4pm-6pm
Messiah Lutheran Church, 6900 Kingston Pike

If you are bringing any children or grandchildren with you -

PLEASE RSVP & PROVIDE

the name, gender and age of all children attending no later than December 5th. This will ensure all children can participate in the program with the Nisse and receive an appropriate gift bag.

The Lodge will provide the main entree for the smorgasbord; however, all attendees are asked to bring a side dish, dessert or salad to share with the group.

Please tell Linda Turmo what you plan to bring when you RSVP at turmolat@charter.net or call 865-233-7411.