



JANUARY 2023

VIKINGS OF THE SMOKIES

KNOXVILLE, TN

WWW.TNVIKINGS.ORG

President's Report!

I hope everyone had a safe and joyous holiday season, celebrating the reason for the season.

As we embark on a new year, Vikings of the Smokies is looking to grow membership, capture the interest of current membership in interesting activities and events, and participate in community projects, enhancing the image of our Lodge.

We are also trying to increase our social media presence, so if you are on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/vikingsofthesmokies), please like and follow our page! Also, for updated information on the Lodge, visit our website at www.tnvikings.org.

We start 2023 with our next meeting on January 15, beginning at 4:00 p.m. at Faith Lutheran Church with the installation of the new and returning lodge officers. Wendy Winkelman, District 5 Vice President, and Bill Bultinck, who serves as the new Zone 6 Director will officiate and install the new slate of officers for Vikings of the Smokies.

Finally, the Lodge is still looking for a Vice President and a Secretary, so if you are interested, please consider attending a board meeting to see how the Lodge operates.

Please join us on Sunday as we celebrate the fellowship and refreshments with our members.

Paul Abelquist

GODT NYTTÅR

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Please join fellow lodge members for our first meeting of 2023 as we welcome our special guests from District 5 to Knoxville!

Sunday, January 15th
4pm
Faith Lutheran Church

Wendy Winkleman, Vice President of District 5 and Bill Bultinck, who has been elected the new Zone 6 Director, will be conducting the installation ceremony for the 2023 Vikings of the Smokies Lodge leadership team.

The lodge meeting will begin at 4pm with a smorgasbord sampler featuring farikal, meatballs & gravy, boiled potatoes, lefse and desserts before the installation ceremony.

Please RSVP to Linda Turmo at (865) 233-7411 or turmolat@charter.net before Friday, January 13 to assist with meal planning purposes.

This event is complimentary to all lodge members, but all guests and non members are requested to provide a \$5 donation per person to the lodge to defray costs.



International Festival

Viking Volunteers Needed

The Children's Museum of Oak Ridge is hosting the 2023 Annual International Festival. The Lodge hopes to again have a booth at the festival, and volunteers are needed to staff the booth, sell and make lefse!

Saturday, February 25th, from 10-4pm

Please contact Dee Bumpers if you are interested in helping!

From the Treasurer:

Our net gain for Jan - Dec 2022 was \$6, compared to a net loss of \$224 for Jan-Dec 2021. In January through December 2022 there was \$126 profit from the Children's International Festival and \$959 income for membership dues.

The \$1,079 expenses included \$478 towards the next District 5 Convention, \$124 for lodge refreshments, \$120 for Go Daddy subscription, \$78 for pizza & movie, \$76 for Jultrefest, \$49 for Syttende Mai, and \$25 for Ski for Light. This compares to \$1,216 expenses last calendar year, including \$500 for the next District 5 Convention, \$241 for July 4th picnic, \$172 for insurance, \$122 for Juletrefest, \$61 for birthdays, \$61 for the Kari Novilla concert, \$34 for service pins, and \$25 for bereavement.

Lodge current assets are \$4,728 including \$4,590 in the Regions checking account and \$138 in cash from the Jultrefest lefse sales and silent auction. (The \$15 that had been carried for playing cards received \$7 from the silent auction.) This compares to \$5,469 for November 2021. The only current liability is a \$1,723 accrual for the next district 5 convention.

Respectfully Submitted
Trygve Myhre

JULETREFEST 2022

Vikings of the Smokies celebrated the holidays with our annual Juletrefest celebration at Messiah Lutheran Church on December 11th. As always, the food was plentiful and the desserts outstanding.



President Paul Abelquist presented Sons of Norway Sports Medals and Membership Pins to lodge members in attendance, including Andy Stephansen, who was acknowledged for his 45 years of

membership and Jeannette Lively, who was presented with her 50 year pin.

Vivian Smalley took over the duties of St. Lucia this year from older sister Mia, and offered the traditional gingersnaps to lodge members and their guests, while her brother Jack served as a Star Boy.



The Julenisse also made a covert appearance, leaving small gift bags for all the good children in attendance.

Tusen Takk to all who helped make the event a success!



Congratulations 2022 Lodge Members!

Sports Medals

These VOTS members earned sports medals over the last several years and were presented with them at Juletreffest on Sunday, 12/11/2022.

Ole Kolberg

Gold Sykkel (bicycling)
Hederspris (super medal)

Barbara Storaasli

Bronze Gangmerke (walking)

Olaf Storaasli

Enamel Svammerke (swimming)
Idrettshelt Sykkel (bicycling)
Bronze Gangmerke (walking)
Silver Gangmerke (walking)

Linda Turmo

Enamel Idrettsmerke (fitness)

Membership Anniversary Pins

These VOTS members earned membership anniversary pins as noted below. Some received their pins at Juletreffest, while the rest of the pins will be mailed to the recipients.

50 Years

Karen Glasgow
Jeannette Lively

45 Years

Andrew Stephansen

30 Years

Ole Kolberg

25 Years

Robert Lively

20 Years

Linda Turmo

15 Years

Dee Bumpers
Bill Gooch
Forrest Hoffman
Mike Leuze
Meg Mabbs

Elizabeth Myhre

Trygve Myhre

Dean Oen

Joan Shrader

Barbara Storaasli

Olaf Storaasli

Linda Thompson

Trude Wilson

10 Years

Emily Berdal

Toni Engstrom

5 Years

Maribeth Heiserman

Anna Joy Isaksen

John McCarthy

Linda McCarthy

Daniel Peterson

Debra Peterson

Regina Potter

Diana Wolfram

FROM THE JENSENS!

Ken and Ruth Jensen moved to East Tennessee two years ago. Ken is originally from Viroqua, Wisconsin, while Ruth hails from Brooklyn, New York. The rest of their remaining family resides in Wisconsin, California, Arizona or Florida. Ruth has two daughters, one granddaughter, one greatgrandson with another great-grandchild due this spring!

Ken is an Air Force veteran, who was stationed primarily in Northern Italy, while Ruth, in her youth, was active in the Naval Cadet Program at the Brooklyn Navy Yards.

Ken earned his doctorate degree in Clinical Psychology, graduating from University of Wisconsin (Madison) and later Southern Cal, and also attended the University of Maryland-European Division. He has post graduate training in psychophysiology and advanced hypnotherapy.



Ruth has a baccalaureate degree from Colorado State University. Their careers were both long and rich. Ken, a clinical psychologist, operated two clinics in the Milwaukee area. He ended his career in related executive positions in Northern Wisconsin and Coastal California.

Ruth established her agricultural consulting firm forty year ago, taking her to nearly every state in the union and over 40 countries around the world. Her many unique experiences included forging relationships between farmers and agricultural professionals together with policy makers. She is an active member of American Agri-Women, currently serving as President of Florida Agri-Women, and is involved as well with Republican Party politics.

To answer the question, why the interest in Norwegian culture? Ken's grandparents and great-grandparents are from the Hønefoss, Brandbu region northwest of Oslo and south of Lillehammer. He attended a rural Wisconsin Lutheran Church where services were conducted in Norwegian. He is, and always has been proud, of his Norwegian heritage. At one time he could speak conversational Norwegian, but those skills, dormant now for 50+ years, have deteriorated. He does speak Italian and Ruth, although Italian, speaks bilingual in Spanish.

Pets? There has always been a black lab in the house, sometimes ostensibly owning the home. For more than 35 years, Sydney, Selena and now Sissy have graced their home.

Hobbies?

Ruth loves art, travel, cooking and classic theater. She has amassed a collection of personally created recipes, as well as unique and special recipes from family and friends. She plans one day to publish a recipe book with anecdotes of her travels.

Together they have become NASCAR addicts and are already counting down days until the 2023 Daytona 500. Ken loves motorcycling, fishing, gardening, working on cars/tractors/motorcycles and very much wants to return to golf.

Why Tennessee? We retired from California to Florida to escape the expense and crazy political environment. Florida wasn't to our liking, the heat, humidity, hurricanes, tropical storms, absence of four seasons and the daily presence of alligators, snakes and no-see-um bugs in our backyard drove our desire to leave. We were contemplating returning to northern Wisconsin; however, once driving into East Tennessee, we knew this was the place we wanted to make our forever home!

WELCOME TO THE LODGE!

TROLLKRETSSEN

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 Avenue in Knoxville.

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

For more information, please email
megmabbs@bellsouth.net