



MARCH 2023

# VIKINGS OF THE SMOKIES

KNOXVILLE, TN

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

## President's Report!

Good day all,

Well, our February meeting was a hoot! We saw a movie about the mythologic Trolls in a Norwegian film that was enjoyed by all. Kudos to Ev Engstrom for being the audio visuals man, running the show.

I want to welcome our newest members, Keith Karlsen and family from Ooltewah in the Greater Chattanooga area, and Linda and Swede Veyette from Oliver Springs. Welcome to our Lodge!!

I believe the Yankee groundhog got it wrong this year, as witnessed by all the Dogwood trees in bloom and the flowers along the Pellissippi Highway, what a sight! The temperatures have reached up to 80 degrees, which means people are out walking and beginning yard work.

The District 5 Task Force met on Saturday, March 4<sup>th</sup>, to brainstorm ideas for the way forward with new and fresh ideas from selected members in all Lodges. Clark Brekke represented Vikings of the Smokies.

St. Patrick's Day is on the 17<sup>th</sup> and is a sure sign of Spring. Be sure to wear green and eat some Norwegian corned beef and cabbage — Lutefisk is out of season.

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**Next Sunday, March 12<sup>th</sup> is "spring forward" one hour to begin Daylight Saving Time.**

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# SCANDINAVIAN SHOW & TELL NIGHT

Lodge members are invited to bring something that represents your Scandinavian heritage. This can be anything from a family heirloom, a photo, a travel souvenir - or whatever you choose - to display and discuss with fellow Lodge members.

**Sunday, March 19th**  
**4pm**  
**Faith Lutheran Church**

For the March meeting, we are asking Lodge members to provide either an appetizer or a dessert to share. The Lodge will provide coffee and lemonade.

Please RSVP to Linda Turmo at (865) 233-7411 or [turmolat@charter.net](mailto:turmolat@charter.net) before Friday, March 17, to assist with planning purposes.

# From the Lodge Social Chair

Dee Bumpers

We're making plans for the coming year. We ask for input to the kinds of things you would look forward to participating in or leading this year.

We have plans for a 17<sup>th</sup> Mai gathering, a 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade and BBQ afterwards, a fall Torsk Supper, and Jultrefest in December. We're also looking forward to some outdoor events such as a flower hike, Short hike in the Smokies with picnic lunch for those who just want to socialize, and other special events you might recommend.

Does someone have information about historical aspects of bunads, stave churches, Norwegian-American migration through North America, genealogy,, or other aspects of Norwegian or Scandinavian history or culture that you might recommend for presentation to our lodge meetings.

Please contact me with your ideas and willingness to present, participate, or help contact presenters. We're all trying to get back to "normal" after the pandemic and, although it may take some time, we will proceed with caution and vigor

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## Sons of Norway Social Media

**Did you know** that in addition to the various social media platforms from Sons of Norway International and District 5, your local Vikings of the Smokies Lodge has a Social Media presence???

VOTS has an extensive website, which includes copies of all the newsletters dating back to 2015, along with an updated calendar of events, including monthly board of directors meetings, contact information for the lodge officers and directions to Faith Lutheran Church.

Take some time to explore the websites and other social media pages, including Facebook and Instagram.



[Sons of Norway Int'l](#)

[District 5 website](#)



[\*\*www.tnvikings.org\*\*](http://www.tnvikings.org)



# International Festival

Once again, Viking Lodge volunteers showcased the Sons of Norway with a booth at the Annual International Festival hosted by the Children's Museum of Oak Ridge.

Dee Bumpers, assisted by Clark Brekke, Paul Abelquist, Trygve and Elizabeth Myhre demonstrated how to bake lefse for the festival attendees on Saturday, February 25th.



## From the Treasurer:

Our net loss for January through February 2023 was \$57. This compares to a net loss of \$62 for the same period in 2022. There was \$127 income from the Children's Museum International Festival for the sale of lefse, (however, all the expenses for the festival have not been received), \$89 income from the SON for our share of membership dues, and \$64 for lodge refreshments.

The \$273 expenses included \$251 for SON insurance, \$61 towards the next District 5 Conference, and \$25 for bereavement. This compares to \$108 expenses last February, including \$83 for the next District 5 Conference, and \$25 for Ski for Light expense.

Our current assets are \$4,733 in the Regions checking account. This compares to \$5,306 for February 2022. The only current liability is a \$1,036 accrual for the next SON district 5 biannual convention.

Respectfully submitted,  
Trygve Myhre

# WELCOME

**KEITH KARLSEN AND FAMILY FROM OOLTEWAH**

**&**

**LINDA AND SWEDE VEYETTE FROM OLIVER SPRINGS**

**TO THE VIKINGS OF THE SMOKIES FAMILY!**

# More About Trolls...

Troll is a term used to describe various supernatural beings in Nordic folklore and storytelling traditions, and has roots in Norse mythology. Both appearance and characteristics can vary, but the creatures are often both dangerous and stupid. They tend to live in wilderness and areas inaccessible to man, such as mountain caves, dense forests and the ocean.

The troll legends are many and very old. Those we are familiar with today feature in fairytales and folklore – in particular in Asbjørnsen and Moe's Norwegian folk tales from 1844 where the trolls often are the main characters.

Trolls featured in Nordic literature, art and music during the Romantic period in the 1800s as well as later on. The most famous are maybe those in Theodor Kittelsen's fairytale illustrations and in Henrik Ibsen's dramatic poem Peer Gynt from 1867.

Inspired by Peer Gynt, Kittelsen drew his trolls with a cow's tail. In the poem, the main character meets trolls and mythical beings in Dovregubben's hall inside the mountain. The various creatures differ in appearance, such as having pigs' heads etc., but all the trolls have tails and this is something Peer will also get if he does "not leave the mountain, but shun the daylight".

Furthermore, Ibsen's troll king, Dovregubben, is not as stupid as trolls usually are. He asks Peer to figure out what the difference is between troll and man. The trolls have the saying "Be true to yourself, and to Hell with the world", and Peer Gynt had adopted this as his motto.

Trolls were often described as strong, evil and dangerous giants. They were ugly, with large noses and eyes "the size of plates", and often had several heads or just one eye. Gods and humans were their enemies, and they were angered by the "smell of Christian blood". Most lived in the mountains or in a distant, cold country, but trolls living in the ocean or forest also existed.



[Hunderfossen Family Park](#), with trolls and legends as its theme, is the country's very own fairytale adventure park. The Hunderfossen troll towers 14 metres above ground, and is one of the most photographed in the world.



## *The REAL reason the Irish celebrate St. Patrick's Day!*

*It seems that some centuries ago, many Norwegians came to Ireland to escape the bitterness of the Norwegian winter. Ireland was having a famine at the time, and food was scarce. The Norwegians were eating almost all the fish caught in the area, leaving the Irish with nothing to eat but potatoes. St. Patrick, taking matters into his own hands, as most Irishmen do, decided the Norwegians had to go.*

*Secretly, he organized the Irish IRATRION (Irish Republican Army to Rid Ireland of Norwegians). Irish members of IRATRION passed a law in Ireland that prohibited merchants from selling ice boxes or ice to the Norwegians, in hopes that their fish would spoil. This would force the Norwegians to flee to a colder climate where their fish would keep.*

*Well, the fish spoiled, all right, but the Norwegians, as everyone knows today, thrive on spoiled fish. So, faced with failure, the desperate Irishmen sneaked into the Norwegian fish storage caves in the dead of night and sprinkled the rotten fish with lye, hoping to poison the Norwegian invaders.*

*But, as everyone knows, the Norwegians thought this only added to the flavor of the fish, and they liked it so much they decided to call it "lutefisk," which is Norwegian for "luscious fish." Matters became even worse for the Irishmen when the Norwegians started taking over the Irish potato crop and making something called "lefse."*

*Poor St. Patrick was at his wit's end, and finally on March 17th, he blew his top and told all the Norwegians to "GO TO HELL!"*

*So they all got in their boats and emigrated to Minnesota---- the only other paradise on earth where smelly fish, old potatoes and plenty of cold weather can be found in abundance!*