



MARCH 2023

# VIKINGS OF THE SMOKIES

KNOXVILLE, TN

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

## President's Report

May this Easter Sunday inspire you to new hope, happiness, prosperity, and abundance, all received through God's divine grace. Wishing you the hope and beauty of springtime and the promise of brighter days.

Spring is here! Days are longer, crowds are to be found at the big box stores purchasing items for their gardens and doing home renovations. A delightful time of year.

Here at Vikings of the Smokies, we are looking forward to the next few months of fellowship with our Lodge members during the general meetings, Syttende Mai activities, of course, the annual Independence Day parade in Farragut! Details on these events can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

The Lodge is also planning to again participate in the Farragut Farmer's Market produce gleaning program and continuing to support the Adopt-A-Mile. If you or your family are interested in participating in either of these events, please let us know at the next meeting.

Look forward to seeing everyone on April 21st!

*Paul Abelquist*

**YOU ARE INVITED TO A GAME OF**  
**OM MEG**  
ABOUT ME

**THIS FUN BOARD GAME WILL ALLOW  
YOU TO ENJOY FELLOWSHIP WHILE  
LEARNING ABOUT FELLOW LODGE  
MEMBERS**

This easy to play board game features a map of Norway in the center. As players roll the dice, they land on squares to learn more about 21 heritage sites in Norway. Many times, players are able to share stories about their travels to these places or note from where their ancestors came.

**Sunday, April 21st beginning at 4pm**  
**Faith Lutheran Church**

For the April meeting, we are asking Lodge members to provide their favorite “game night” snack to share - based on the initials of your first or last name!!  
Let’s get creative!

As usual, the Lodge will provide coffee and lemonade.

## Now on Netflix



The Norwegian film “War Sailor” started its run on Netflix on April 2.

Based on true stories of the Norwegian merchant marines who became "war sailors" during WWII to aid the Allied cause.

The film was Norway's entry for Best International Feature at the 95th Academy Awards.



### From the Treasurer:

Our net income for January through March 2023 was \$125, compared to a net income of \$147 for the same period in 2022.

Total income was \$493, including \$127 income from the lefse sales at the International Festival, \$301 income from SON for our share of membership dues, and \$64 for lodge refreshments. All the expenses for the festival have not been received.

The \$368 in expenditures included \$251 for SON insurance, \$92 towards the next District 5 Conference, and \$25 to the SON Foundation.. This compares to \$272 expenses last January through March, which included \$125 for the next District 5 Convention, \$78 for Pizza & Movie Night, \$44 for refreshments, and \$25 for Ski for Light donation. There's an outstanding check of \$250 for Nordic Legacy Foundation application for Alyssandra Abelquist.

Our current assets are \$4,945 in the Regions checking account, compared to \$5,741 for March 2022. The only current liability is a \$1,067 accrual for the next SON District 5 biannual convention.

Respectfully submitted,

Trygve Myhre

# From the Lodge Social Chair

Dee Bumpers

Spring is here and we have some activities coming up. Besides our April Lodge meeting, where we will be playing an interactive Norwegian game called Om meg, there are also opportunities to do some community service.

The first is working with the Farragut Farmers market on their Gleaning Project, something that former lodge President Clark Brekke has spearheaded in the past. This consists of volunteering one Saturday a month, helping to collect and weigh leftover produce from the market vendors and deliver to the local food bank, which takes only 2-3 hours once a month.

The second volunteer activity is participating in the Farragut Adopt -A- Mile program. VOTS is responsible for a stretch of Boring Road, near the Ingles on Kingston Pike. Please let me know if you are able and willing to help with this quarterly project.

The Lodge is currently finalizing our Syttende Mai plans and has been registered to participate in the annual Independence Day Parade in Farragut, followed by a picnic.

We're also looking forward to some outdoor events such as a flower hike, short hikes in the Smokies with picnic lunch for those who just want to socialize, and any other special events you might recommend.

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## **SONS OF NORWAY ONLINE BOOK CLUB**

April 2023 Book Club Selections

Main Read: The Viking Heart: How Scandinavians Conquered the World by Arthur Herman. Published: 2021

Mystery Read: The Laughing Policeman (Martin Beck #4) by Maj Sjöwall and Per Wahloo. Published: 1968

Zoom Meeting/Discussion Date & Time: April 27  
7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Eastern Time

**To join the Sons of Norway Book Club, send an email with your name, lodge name and contact information (phone number and email address) to [SonsOfNorwayBookClub@gmail.com](mailto:SonsOfNorwayBookClub@gmail.com)**

# God Påske --Happy Easter

So why do Norwegians say Påske? In Norwegian (or "pa Norsk") the word translates from the Hebrew for Passover. Early Christians kept the Passover, NOT Easter, with a new concept added to it, of Christ as the true Paske lammet (Paschal Lamb) continued to be observed. It was during a Passover Seder that Jesus proclaimed that the meal represented Himself and that He was instituting the New Covenant.

When the second-century Christian missionaries encountered the tribes of the north with their pagan celebrations, they did what Christian missionaries have always done; they attempted to convert them to Christianity. They did so, however, in the clandestine manner.

## "Easter"

The name Easter comes to us from Oстера or Eostre, the Anglo-Saxon goddess of spring, for whom a spring festival was held annually, as it is from this pagan festival that some of our Easter customs have come.

Eggs have always been associated with the Easter celebration. Nearly every culture in the modern world has a long tradition of coloring eggs in beautiful and different ways. "In Christian times, the egg had bestowed upon it a religious interpretation, becoming a symbol of the rock tomb out of which Christ emerged to the new life of His resurrection" (Francis X. Weiser.) The goddess, Eastre, was worshipped by the Anglo-Saxons through her earthly symbol, the rabbit.

## The Date of Easter

Prior to A.D. 325, Easter was variously celebrated on different days of the week, including Friday, Saturday, and Sunday, because Pesach, or Passover, falls on the Hebrew calendar dates of Nissan 15-22. In that year, the Council of Nicaea was convened by Emperor Constantine. It issued the Easter Rule which states that Easter shall be celebrated on the first Sunday that occurs after the first full moon on or after the vernal equinox (Spring). Therefore, Easter must be celebrated on a Sunday between the dates of March 22 and April 25.

**HAPPY EASTER TO ALL**