



MAY 2 0 2 3

VIKINGS OF THE SMOKIES

KNOXVILLE, TN

WWW.TNVIKINGS.ORG

President's Report

On the 17th of May, we celebrate the signing of the Norwegian constitution in 1814. In Norway, Constitution Day is huge. While many countries celebrate their national day with a military parade, Norway's 17th of May is a party for everyone, especially children. Among Norwegians, the day is referred to simply as "Syttende Mai" (17th of May) or Grunnlovsdagen (The Constitution Day).

The Constitution of Norway was signed at Eidsvoll, Norway, on May 17, 1814 when Norway declared independence as a kingdom with the new constitution. This constitution was an attempt to avoid being seized by Sweden after the defeat of Denmark and -Norway in the Napoleonic Wars. The plan did not succeed and in August 1814 the Union between Sweden and Norway was a fact.

Every year on May 17, Norwegians shed their typically reserved shell to dress up, hit the streets and party! It's a day full of national pride, yet there are no displays of military power, and the politicians keep quiet. Norway's Constitution Day is all about the children.

The lack of military parades is perhaps the most notable difference about Norway's Constitution Day compared to many other countries around the world. Instead, the main parade is full of children from local schools, often in marching bands. Proud parents watch with smartphone cameras at the ready, before joining a people's parade later in the day.

Happy Constitution Day

Paul Abelquist

Celebrate Syttende Mai with Vikings of the Smokies on Sunday, May 21

This year, the Lodge will celebrate Syttende Mai in Maryville, beginning at 4pm at the Shannondale of Maryville Clubhouse.

The Lodge will provide the BBQ meal including coleslaw and baked beans and dessert, along with coffee, iced tea and lemonade.

**Please RSVP to Linda Turmo (865) 233-7411 or
turmolat@charter.net.**

Members and their guests are asked to contribute \$5.00 per person to cover the meal cost.

Directions to 1507 New Providence Drive

From Pellissippi Parkway:

- Travel south towards Alcoa/Maryville.
- Take exit 11 (Airport exit), then Hwy 129 South (Alcoa Hwy) for 6 miles
- Turn left onto Hwy 321 East (W Lamar Alexander Pkwy) - for 1.2 miles
- Turn right on Hwy 336 South (Montvale Rd) for 1.1 mile.
- Turn right on Shannondale Way, then (after 400 feet) take first left onto New Providence Drive.
- Meeting place is 2nd building on the right.

From Knoxville/ Downtown

Take Hwy 129 south (Alcoa Hwy to 4 miles past the airport).

Turn Left turn onto Hwy 321 East (W Lamar Alexander Pkwy) for 1.2 miles

Turn right on Hwy 336 South (Montvale Rd) - for 1.1 mile.

Turn right on Shannondale Way, then (after 400 feet) take first left onto New Providence Dr.

Meeting place is 2nd building on the right.

From the Treasurer:

Our net loss for January through April 2023 was \$67, compared to a net income of \$262 for the same period in 2022. Total income was \$581, which included \$127 from the Children's Museum International Festival lefse sales, \$390 income from the SON for our share of membership dues, and \$64 for lodge refreshments. (All expenses for the festival have not been received.) This compares to \$576 income last year - \$126 from the International Festival and \$450 from membership dues.

Total expenses of \$648 included \$251 for SON insurance, \$250 for Alyssandra Abelquist's Masse Moro fee, \$122 towards the next District 5 Convention and \$25 for Wendell Leimohn's bereavement donation. This compares to \$314 expenses for the same time period in 2022, which included \$167 for the next District 5 Conference, \$78 for Pizza & Movie, \$44 for Refreshments, and \$25 for Ski for Light expense.

Our current assets are \$4,784 in the Regions checking account, compared to \$5,898 for April 2022. The only current liability is a \$1,098 accrual for the next SON District 5 biannual convention compared to \$1889 last year. Our total equity is \$3,686 compared to \$4,009 for last year – a decrease of \$323 (8.1%).

Respectfully submitted,
Trygve Myhre

ADOPT A MILE CLEAN UP DAY

**The first clean up day for 2023 is scheduled
for Wednesday, May 17th at 9am.**

**Vikings of the Smokies are responsible for a one mile stretch
of Boring Road off Kingston Pike, east of the Ingles shopping
center in Farragut.**

**Please contact Dee Bumpers for more
details!**

VELKOMMEN ERIC & SANDY ABELQUIST TO THE VIKINGS OF THE SMOKIES FAMILY!

Eric was born in Groton, Connecticut where his father (current Lodge President Paul Abelquist) was stationed in the United States Navy.

He grew up Torrington, CT, and received his BS and MS degrees in Radiation Sciences from the University of Massachusetts - Lowell.

In 1993, he accepted a job at Oak Ridge Associated Universities (ORAU, where he met his future wife Sandy. Along the way, he also earned an MBA, along with a PhD from the University of Tennessee in Nuclear Engineering.



Eric and Sandy live in Knoxville with son Gunnar and three French bulldogs. Their two daughters, Alyssa (Ben) and Elizabeth (Wes) are married and have four kids between them.

Eric spent 27 years at ORAU, retiring as Executive Vice President and Chief Research Officer in 2020 performing independent verification (IV) of environmental cleanup for Department of Energy and Nuclear Regulatory Commission. While he claims he's forgotten much of what he used to know about IV...fortunately it was captured in the textbook he authored "Decommissioning Health Physics: A Handbook for MARSSIM Users," 2nd ed. (2014).

Eric is now the Chief Technology Office at UCOR (United Cleanup Oak Ridge) and has been active in his professional society, serving as President of the Health Physics Society in 2017-2018. In addition, he has been very involved in local community activities over the years including serving in various leadership positions with the East Tennessee Economic Council, the Oak Ridge Chamber, and the United Way of Anderson County.

The Abelquists are active in their church in Oak Ridge (Faith Bible Fellowship), where Eric serves as Elder, and they enjoy hanging out with family, working out, riding e-bikes, visiting NYC, and dining out.

SONS OF NORWAY ONLINE BOOK CLUB

May Book Club Selections

May 25, 2023, 7:00 PM Eastern Time and 7:30 PM Mountain Time

Main Selection

Berlin Poplars, by Anne B. Ragde - Translated by James Anderson

Published: 2004 (Norwegian original); English Translation published: 2009

Synopsis: Just before Christmas on a farm in Northern Norway, 80-year-old Anna Neshov, matriarch of a troubled family, is taken gravely ill. Her three sons have been quietly immersed in their work: one an undertaker, one a window-dresser, and the eldest running the family farm, but now they are forced to reunite for the first time in many years. Their personalities are as disparate as their careers, and tensions mount from the second they meet, climaxing over Christmas dinner when the matter of inheritance prompts the revelation of disturbing family secrets. Anne B. Ragde has created an engrossing dark comedy brought vividly to life through extraordinary characters.

Mystery Selection

Norwegian by Night, by Derek B. Miller

Though originally written in English, *Norwegian by Night*, a crime thriller by Derek B. Miller, was first published in a Norwegian translation in 2010. An English language version followed in 2012.

Synopsis: Sheldon Horowitz—widowed, impatient, impertinent—has grudgingly agreed to leave New York and move in with his granddaughter, Rhea, and her new husband, Lars, in Norway—a country of blue and ice with one thousand Jews, not one of them a former Marine sniper in the Korean War turned watch repairman. Not until now, anyway.

Home alone one morning, Sheldon witnesses a dispute between the woman who lives upstairs and an aggressive stranger. When events turn dire, Sheldon seizes and shields the neighbor's young son from the violence, and they flee the scene. As Sheldon and the boy look for a safe haven in an alien world, past and present weave together, forcing them ever forward to a wrenching moment of truth.

For more information on the Sons of Norway Book Club, please contact

Bill Browning

Sons of Norway Book Club Coordinator

SonsofNorwayBookClub@gmail.com

404-953-2525

Viking Volunteers Are Needed for 2023 Gleaning Project

As part of the Lodge's public service activities - Viking volunteers are again needed to support the St. Andrews Gleaning Project at Dixie Lee Farmers Market for 2023.



Twice a month, two or three Lodge members are needed to collect unsold produce at the conclusion of the Dixie Lee Farmers Market from the vendors, weigh them and then transport to the local food bank, located in Farragut.

The total time commitment is 90 minutes, from 11:45am until approximately 1pm.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Paul Abelquist

Have You Heard??????

The Scandinavian Hour, a community staple for over a half a century in Seattle, is currently heard on KKNW 1150 on the AM dial.

Tune in Saturday mornings to hear Scandinavian community news, information, and of course music! Accordion, fiddle, and dance music from Norway, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, and even the Faroe Islands is regularly featured with modern music and banter

<https://www.thescandinavianhour.org/>

