



DECEMBER 2023

# VIKINGS OF THE SMOKIES

KNOXVILLE, TN

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

## President's Report

Well, I hope you all have had a Happy Thanksgiving sharing a festive dinner with family and friends. As you know, we cancelled the November general meeting due to time constraints in planning for the Torsk dinner and difficulty in locating a suitable venue for the event.

We plan to combine the Torsk dinner with our Christmas Juletrefest dinner which will include our favorite Scandinavian dishes. This event will be held at Messiah Lutheran Church on Kingston Pike in Knoxville on December 10<sup>th</sup>. We look forward to seeing everyone sharing in the festivities.

A reminder, The bi-annual Sons of Norway convention will be held June 19-22, 2024 in The Crown Plaza Airport hotel in Indianapolis, IN. Anyone interested in participating as a delegate please inform a Board member.

It's also time to elect a new slate of Board officers that will be installed at the January meeting. If you would like to contribute to the growth and sustainment of your Lodge, please let a Board member know.

As we embark on the Christmas holiday season, The Board wishes you and yours a Christmas decorated with happiness and bright with warm memories.

God Jul

Paul W. Abelquist



Please join Lodge members for the annual  
Vikings of the Smokies Jultrefest

Sunday, December 10th beginning at 4pm

Messiah Lutheran Church  
6900 Kingston Pike in Knoxville

If you are bringing any children or grandchildren  
please RSVP and provide the name, gender and age of child  
attending no later than December 6th, to ensure that all children  
will receive an appropriate gift bag.

The Lodge will provide Torsk and Meatballs as the main entrees  
while Lodge members are asked to bring a dessert, a vegetable or  
side dish to share.

Please RSVP to [info@tnvikings.org](mailto:info@tnvikings.org) no later than December 5th



# Pre Order Your Holiday Lefse Now!

Please Contact

[info@tnvikings.org](mailto:info@tnvikings.org)

to place your order no later than  
December 1st.

## \$5 per bag

Pick up at Jultrefest on December 10th  
Cash or check only, please



## From the Treasurer:

Our net income for January through October 2023 was \$0.12, compared to a net income of \$217 for the same period in 2022.

Total income was \$886, including \$666 from SON for our share of membership dues, \$127 for lefse sales at the International Festival, and \$92 from the Norwegian Baking Class. This compares to \$910 income last year. Note that our share of SON membership dues has decreased \$118 (15%) from last year at this time.

Total expenses of \$885 included \$453 for SON insurance, \$305 towards the next District 5 Convention, \$250 for Alyssandra Abelquist's Masse Moro fee, \$113 for Syttende Mai, \$25 for Wendell Leimohn's bereavement, \$12 for tubfrim, \$38 credit balance for the July 4<sup>th</sup> picnic, \$64 credit balance for meeting refreshments, and \$170 credit balance for the torsk dinner.

This compares to \$693 expenses last January through October 2022, which included \$417 for the next District 5 Conference, \$124 for refreshments, \$78 for pizza & movie, \$49 for Syttende Mai, and \$25 for Ski-for-Light expense.

We are six years in arrears for contributing \$200 per year to Faith Lutheran Church for usage of their facilities. Consequently, we will contribute \$300 to Faith Lutheran Church starting next month for use of their facilities for the next six years.

Our current assets are \$4,958 in the Regions checking account. This compares to \$4,879 for October 2022. The only current liability is a \$1,281 accrual for the next SON district 5 biannual convention compared to \$914 last year. Our total equity is \$3,753 compared to \$3,964 for last year – a decrease of \$211 (5%).

Respectfully submitted,  
Trygve Myhre

## THE LODGE NEEDS VOLUNTEERS

Please help the Lodge by serving as a member of the Board, or assisting with organizing the monthly Lodge events, as well as helping with venue set up and cleanup.

# **Vikings of the Smokies Philatelic (postage stamp-related) Donations**

While the Sons of Norway Tubfrim donation program was discontinued last year, our Lodge continues to collect philatelic material as a public service - so please continue to collect, save and donate your cancelled stamps to our collection jar available at each Lodge meeting!

The Lodge now donates our collected stamps to Stamps for the Wounded (SFTW) (<https://www.stampsforthewounded.org/>), a service organization dedicated to providing comfort and stimulating activity to U.S. Veterans through stamp collecting. SFTW sends donated postage stamps and other philatelic material and supplies to wounded, ill and isolated veterans.

VOTS members have collected and sent over 3.5 pounds (5 1-gallon freezer bags full) of used and trimmed postage stamps to SFTW recently.

Besides stamps, other kinds of needed donations include covers and other items from stamp collections; new and gently used philatelic supplies (album pages, mounts, hinges, stock books, perforation gauges, tongs, etc.); and philatelic literature (catalogues and reference books, but not philatelic magazines or newspapers).

For further information on this project, please contact Clark Brekke, VOTS Lodge Stamp Donation Coordinator at [cjbrekkke@gmail.com](mailto:cjbrekkke@gmail.com).

And MANY THANKS for your donations!!

**REMEMBER TO SAVE YOUR  
STAMPS FROM YOUR HOLIDAY  
GREETING CARDS!!**

# VOTS OCTOBER PIZZA AND CORN HOLE TOURNAMENT

The October Lodge event was all about fun and games, and pizza!

The Lodge hosted a spirited corn hole tournament, with Dee Bumpers and Clark Brekke serving as the official scorekeepers. There was lots of cheering and some laughter as five teams competed.

Luckily, no one was put on the disabled list... although several spectators had to duck errantly thrown bean bags!

In the end, Mike Lueze and Linda Thompson took home the VOTS corn hole bragging rights in a spirited final competition with Gary Knutson and Ev Engstrom.



# NORWEGIAN BAKING CLASS 2023

Under the watchful eye of Dee Bumpers and Paul Abelquist, more than a dozen Lodge members and friends gathered at Faith Lutheran church on Saturday, August 19th for for a hands on baking class.



Participants learned tips, tricks and techniques to make nordic favorites such as fattigman cookies, lefse, krumkake and, waffles and even a kranskake! They were also introduced to such speciality items as a lefsa griddle, krumkaka iron, almond cake pans, and kranskake rings .

Elizabeth Myhre also provided a generous supply of almond cake for the group to enjoy along with a light lunch that was provided by the Lodge.

This event also allowed participants to work toward their culinary skills pin.

