



MARCH 2024

# VIKINGS OF THE SMOKIES

KNOXVILLE, TN

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

## President's Report

Greeting One and All,

Well, we had an interesting January this year. For all you Northerners and Mid-Westerners it was like winters past, nine inches of snow followed by days of ice and single digit temps; and, of course, secondary roads impassable. Felt like home in your childhood, eh? Then on the 2nd of February, the Groundhog reported a short winter this year. We'll see!

The Board has worked hard on updating our Lodge bylaws, and I encourage you to take a look at them. If you have any questions or concerns, please let me know. The VOTS Lodge Membership will be voting to approve them at the March meeting, so we may send them on to the District 5 and International for approval

Our next meeting will be Sunday, March 17th and will coincide with St Patrick's Day, so the theme for the day will be the Luck 'O the Irish, so wear something green! The Lodge is planning to serve Corned Beef and Cabbage, boiled potatoes and more for our Sunday meeting. See more information elsewhere in this newsletter.

Did you know that Viking influence was felt in 795 AD Ireland when the Vikings settled there? The Vikings created their first city, Waterford. They ordered the construction of the famous Christ Church of Dublin in 1028 AD. In the tenth century,, the Vikings created the first Irish currency, the Hiberno-Norse coin in 995 AD. The Vikings also introduced rabbits to Ireland as a food source! Come to the March Lodge meeting to hear more about Vikings and the Irish.

At the December Lodge meeting we decided to try something new—that is, to hold fewer large lodge events, but also coordinate smaller special interest activities throughout the year.

Please give us feedback on how we can offer activities, programs, that you and your families would like to get involved in. We will be offering some suggestions at the March meeting and find out what types of activities games, programs, or events that you and others might enjoy.

As a result of reducing the regular Lodge meetings for 2024, we will meet as a group in March, May (Syttende Mai), October, and December as well as our annual Independence Day Parade and picnic in July.

The Lodge is still looking to fill several board positions for 2024, including secretary and cultural director(s). We invite your participation and enthusiasm to grow our Lodge. If you would like to contribute to the growth and sustainment of our Lodge, please let a Board member know.

Finally, a reminder - The District 5 Sons of Norway convention will be held June 19-22 at the Crown Plaza Airport hotel in Indianapolis, IN. Anyone interested in attending as a delegate please let a Board member. We need two delegates.

Fraternally yours,

*Paul W. Abelquist*

## Gratulerer!

The following Lodge Members have earned membership pins for the following categories:

### **35 years**

Ole Kolberg

### **30 Years**

Kari McClure  
Francis Turmo

### **15 Years**

Alan Berdal  
Darla Berdal  
Clark Brekke  
Karl Ekstrom

Ev Engstrom

Ellen Petrik

Erica Wilson

Lucas Wilson

### **10 Years**

Bonnie Pederson

### **5 Years**

Luke Birkeland

Carol Miller

Denice Birdwell

Membership Chair Ole Kolberg will be distributing the pins at the March 17 Lodge meeting - so we hope that you will make plans to attend and receive your new pin!

## 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!

HAPPY  
  
St. Patrick's  
DAY

*Join Lodge Member on Sunday,  
March 17th, beginning at 4pm  
Faith Lutheran Church  
to celebrate*

## *St. Patrick's Day – The Viking Way!*

The Lodge will provide the corned beef, cabbage and potatoes, along with coffee and lemonade. Lodge members attending are asked to bring either a dessert, or a “green” side dish.

Please rsvp to Dee Bumpers before March 14th.

[tazlinaagg@gmail.com](mailto:tazlinaagg@gmail.com)

865-385-9657

\$10 per person donation is requested to help defray the cost of the meal for those who are unable provide a menu item.



The Children's Museum of Oak Ridge's 25th Annual

# International

**Feb 24**      **Festival**      **10 am**  
**4 pm**

The Lodge will again be demonstrating Lefse making and providing information about the Vikings of the Smokies Lodge. If you are interested in helping, please contact Dee Bumpers!

**From the Treasurer:**

Our net loss for January was \$31, compared to a net loss of \$67 for the same period in 2023. Total income was \$75, our share of SON membership dues, compared to no income last January.

Total expenses of \$106 included \$75 for Messiah Lutheran facility usage and \$31 towards the next District 5 Convention, compared to \$67 expenses last January (\$42 for District 5 Convention and \$25 donation to Ski-for-Light).

Our current assets are \$4,374 in the Regions checking account, compares to \$5,444 for January 2023.

The current liabilities are \$1,373 accrual for the next SON District 5 convention and \$1,100 for past Faith Lutheran facility usage. This compares to \$1,764 last year for the SON District 5 Conference.

Our total equity is \$2,224 compared to \$3,680 for last year – a decrease of \$1,456 (40%).

Respectfully submitted,  
Trygve Myhre