



OCTOBER 2024

# VIKINGS OF THE SMOKIES

KNOXVILLE, TN

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

## President's Report

Greeting One and All, I trust you all have had a happy summer, with travels far and wide.

Fall is here and school is back in session. We have had some notable storms in recent weeks with some experiencing significant property damage. We pray that all our Lodge members are safe and sound.

As the weather begins to cool, the trees will be turning vibrant colors as leaves fall to the ground, creating a spectacular color show for all to enjoy. And, as a Lodge, we will begin to turn our focus to our upcoming events, with the first being Leif Ericson Day on October 9th.

I look forward to meeting again on Sunday, October 20th at Faith Lutheran Church, where we will enjoy fellowship and hearty soups! And soon afterwards, we will enter the holiday season where happy times are spent with family and friends.

For future planning, the annual Juletrefest will be held on December 8 at Messiah Lutheran Church on Kingston Pike, beginning at 4pm. Additional details will be available soon.

Lodge members will also have the opportunity to attend a concert featuring "Thirteen Strings From Scandinavia", at the Laurel Theater on December 10 as part of a concert tour celebrating their latest album, Hambo in the Garden.

We invite your participation and enthusiasm to grow our Lodge. Submit ideas that all may have fun doing.

Fraternally yours,

*Paul W. Abelquist*



## Harvest Gathering



Join Vikings of the Smokies  
Sunday, October 20th - Faith Lutheran Church - 4pm

The smorgasbord menu will include a variety of soups, sides and desserts, along with coffee, lemonade and iced tea.

\$10 per person

Please RSVP to [info@tnvikings.org](mailto:info@tnvikings.org) no later than Thursday, October 17th

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### Two Grammy-nominated fiddlers come together as “Thirteen Strings From Scandinavia”



[Loretta Kelley](#) is a master of the Norwegian Hardanger fiddle, while [Andrea Hoag](#) is equally renowned for traditional Swedish fiddling.

Loretta and Andrea will be presenting a concert at the Laurel Theater on **Tuesday, December 10th** as part of their tour celebrating their latest album, “Hambo in the Garden”.

For tickets, or for more information on the event, please contact Bill Gooch.

*Get Ready for Lefse Season!!*



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## “Leif Erickson Day ~ October 9th” Some Interesting History about Leif Erickson



Americans have an odd way of pronouncing his name. In Iceland and Scandinavia, the name Leif is usually pronounced “Layf” and rhymes with the English word safe (or like “life”, depending on the region). Yet, in America, people often say “Leef” instead.

Before Leif reached the Mainland, he probably stopped at Baffin Island. Baffin, Canada’s biggest island, is 932 miles long and home to lemmings, caribou, and polar bears (and people). It might also be one of the three North American areas that the Icelandic Sagas reference.

When Leif’s men begin their westward journey in *The Saga of the Greenlanders*, they soon discovered an icy countryside filled with large, flat rocks. “Now I will give the land a name, and call it Helluland,” Leif said in the text. Translated from Old Norse, the moniker means “stone-slab land.” Based on descriptions in the *Sagas of the Erik the Red*, and *Greenlanders*, most historians think Helluland was really Baffin Island. Some Norse artifacts have been found there.

The “Columbus vs. Erickson” Culture War started in the late 19th century. Christopher Columbus didn’t become a household name until Washington Irving published a wildly inaccurate biography of the explorer in 1828. Misleading as the book was the idea of celebrating Columbus really appealed to Italian immigrants. In 1892, President Benjamin Harrison publicly encouraged his fellow Americans to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Columbus’s arrival in the New World and at the urging of Italian residents, Colorado adopted Columbus Day as an official state holiday in 1907. Presidents began issuing Columbus Day proclamations in the 1930s, although it wouldn’t become a true federal holiday until 1968.

Not all Americans approved of that version of history, so 46 years after Irving published his biography of Columbus, Wisconsinite Rasmus Bjorn Anderson published a book called *America Not Discovered BY Columbus*, which pointed out that Leif Erickson was traversing North America 500 years before the Nina, Pinta, & Santa Maria crossed the Atlantic.

Anderson decided that Erik the Red’s famous son needed his own holiday to offset Columbus’s and settled on October 9 as the perfect date for it. On that day in 1825, a group of Norwegian immigrants landed in New York City, an event that is generally credited as starting organized Scandinavian migration to the United States. At Anderson’s urging, Wisconsin became the first state to recognize Leif Erickson Day in 1929.

## From the Treasurer:

Our net income for January through September was \$585. This compares to a net income of \$244 for the same period in 2023.

The total income from January through September was \$875, which included \$609 for our share of SON membership dues, \$234 for donations for food for the recent regular meeting, \$56 for donations, \$55 from the Children's Museum International Festival, and \$81 expenses for Syttende Mai. This compares to income 2023 January through September of \$886, which included \$666 for SON membership dues, \$127 for the Children's Museum International Festival, and \$92 for Norwegian baking class.

Total expenses of \$289 included \$244 towards the next District 5 Convention, \$75 for Messiah Lutheran facility usage for the Christmas party, and \$30 income for the July 4<sup>th</sup> picnic. This compares to \$641 expenses 2023 January through September 2023, which included \$275 towards the District 5 Conference, \$251 for SON insurance, \$250 for Masse Moro, \$113 for Syttende Mai, \$25 for bereavement, \$38 income for the July 4<sup>th</sup> picnic, \$64 income for refreshments, and \$170 income for the Torsk dinner.

Our current assets are \$4,734 in the Regions checking account. This compares to \$5,248 for September 2023, a decrease of \$514 (10%).

The current liabilities are \$2,186, which includes \$1,100 Faith Lutheran Facility Usage, \$1,086 accrual for the next SON District 5 biannual conference. This compares to \$1,250 last year's accrual for the SON District 5 Conference.

Our total equity is \$2,548 compared to \$3,997 last year – a decrease of \$1,450 (36%).

Respectfully submitted,  
Trygve Myhre

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH**

**FOR THE ANNUAL JULTREFEST**

**MESSIAH LUTHERAN CHURCH**