

Vonheim Saga

Published Monthly by Vonheim Lodge #1-108

Sons of Norway

1491 Dodd Road

Mendota Heights, MN 55118

Vonheim Saga



Vol 103, No. 12

December 2013

Fra Presidenten

May Peace and Harmony Prevail

Part of the ceremony of Sons of Norway has the Counselor stating after the closing song, "May Peace and Harmony prevail within our lodge." Our speaker in November, was Dr. Maureen Reed, Executive Director of the Nobel Peace Prize Forum headquartered here in Minneapolis. She reminded us that the peace initiative is a core Norwegian value, not just within our lodge but recognized by the global community.

While the Nobel Peace Prize itself is awarded in Norway by an independent Norwegian committee, the Forum is the only external organization allowed to use the Nobel Peace Prize name. The Forum is a gathering each year of Nobel Peace Prize winners engaging in dialogue with a global audience and international leaders on topics to inspire peace.

The 2014 Forums will be held March 1 and March 7-9 at Augsburg College and University of Minnesota. The theme this year is "Crossing Boundaries to Create Common Ground." The Dalai Lama is a featured guest. The forums are open to the public. I'd encourage you to go to nobelpeaceprizeforum.org to find out more and register for this uniquely Norwegian gift to the world.

Fraternally,

Merle Tingelstad

The Sons of Norway First District invites you to see the Stoughton High School Norwegian Folk Dancers perform on January 19, 2014, at Concordia University in the Beutow Theater, at 2:15PM, Come early, there will be exhibits, demonstrations, booths.

Location: 1282 Concordia Ave, St. Paul. Parking is free.

Tickets are \$8 for adults, \$5 for students, and \$1 for children under 6.

Vonheim Lodge would like to offer half price tickets to the first 60 members who make reservations before or at the December 17th Julebord meeting.

Please call Louise Bakken to reserve your tickets—763-545-4827.

This event replaces the January lodge meeting planned for ASI.



Coming Events

(Meetings at the Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd, 4801 France Ave So, Mpls. The meeting room is downstairs and handicapped accessible, including elevators)

Board meetings one hour before meetings

Dec 17	Lodge Meeting
Jan 19	Stoughton Dancers

Vonheim Saga (Permit #2102) is the official publication of Vonheim Lodge #1-108 Sons of Norway. It is published 11 times a year by Vonheim Lodge #1-108, 1491 Dodd Road, Mendota Heights, MN 55118. Non-profit bulk permit paid at Minneapolis, Minnesota. Annual membership in Vonheim Lodge includes subscription to this newsletter.

Vonheim Lodge Meeting Notes Church of the Good Shepherd Tuesday, November 17, 2013

The Vonheim Board met at 5:30pm. Gene Brandvold reported on the District 1 Bowling Jamboree that had been hosted by Vonheim and Oslo Lodges on October 26. More than half of the bowlers came from Vonheim, so thanks to them for their participation. The event is designed to break-even financially and did finish with a net of \$9 profit. The Membership Committee held a few meetings in October to discuss what we might do to bring new members in, particularly younger people. There were a number of programming ideas exchanged. Vonheim signed up to sponsor a recruiting table at the November 26, Scandinavian Family Concert event at MacPhail Center for Music. Dave Kompelien will be putting together packages containing a Viking magazine, Sons of Norway brochures and other items to provide to prospective members everything they need to know about becoming a member. Dave pointed out that the best way to recruit new members is to make it easy for our membership to become our sales people. We will provide these packages to members who wish to share their Sons of Norway experience with friends and family.

The board reviewed the proposal to help fund and accelerate the Norway House project that will provide a home for Norwegian heritage and culture in the Twin Cities.

Our Potluck Dinner followed the Board Meeting. We were joined by members of Oslo Lodge, who also brought their favorite dishes. There was a nice variety of food from salads, chips, several entrees and a number of dessert items. The food was delicious and plentiful.

We had announcements made on the Nordic American Thanksgiving Breakfast, the Scandinavian Family Concert, Tubfrim and our upcoming Julebord program. Erling Husby provided the Cheer report to let us know that member Arden Nygaard had been hospitalized.

We had two items of business that needed completion. November is election of officers and though this is an off year, we had a Trustee position open. Dave Kompelien was nominated and unanimously elected. The board had moved in October that we have a lodge vote on providing a \$10,000 donation to Norway House in November. After discussing the merits of this motion, the lodge voted and nearly unanimously supported it.

Our program was a presentation on the Nobel Peace Prize Forum, by their Executive Director, Dr. Maureen Reed. The Forum is the only organization outside of Norway allowed to use the Nobel Peace Prize name and it is headquartered in Minneapolis. We learned about the roots of the Forum granted by Nobel to the 5 Midwest Norwegian church colleges; Augsburg, St. Olaf, Luther College, Concordia College and Augustana. The Forums rotated among the campuses for 25 years and a realization that in order to grow the impact of these Forums, a central location and headquarters was needed. The Forum now hosts over 6000 live attendees and provided over 70,000 web streams into 67 countries to encourage a dialogue of peace. We were given a quiz to see how well we could recognize some past Nobel Peace Prize winners from their photos. Almost everyone recognized Nelson Mandela and the Dalai Lama. Other winners were not as easily named. Dr. Reed told us that all winners are picked only on the merits of what they did in the past year and that every winner is controversial. The Forums are a series of meetings with different focuses that take place over a week in March of each year in Minneapolis. They are open to the public.

Merle Tingelstad
mctingels@aol.com

Rosemaling Class

Shirley Evenstad will be teaching a rosemaling class which will help you earn a cultural skills pin. The class will be held at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd on 48th and France, Saturday mornings at 9AM on 1/18, 1/25, 2/1 2/8. the cost is \$85

Registrations will be made through Vesterheim. To register, contact Vesterheim Museum at 563-382-9681, or info@vesterheim.org

More about the Stoughton Folk Dancers:

The Norwegian Dancers have strong tradition at Stoughton High School, and there are signs of this written on the walls. The group practices every morning in the high school in the same room. This room is technically shared with other groups at the school, such as the cheerleaders and the baseball team, but the room clearly belongs to the Norwegian Dancers. Decades of Dancers have left their names and doodles on the walls, giving the room a distinct character. Over 30 plaques featuring an annual picture of the Norwegian Dancers line the hallways. This presence has helped give the Norwegian Dancers a sense of prestige. Being a Norwegian Dancer improves your social status in the school, despite how many other teenagers would consider wearing a “bunad” in public to be a fashion disaster. Currently, up to 40 students try out for the 9-10 spots left by graduating seniors (Heimsoth).

Since its inception in the 1950’s, the Norwegian Dancers group has undergone significant changes. In 1994, the group transitioned from the music being provided by accordions to electronic keyboards, as finding accordion-playing high school students became increasingly difficult. The group has added to their list of dances as new ones were discovered. In the summer of 1998, the group traveled to Norway and met with another Norwegian folk dance group who taught them a new dance. The costumes have also evolved throughout the years as old ones wear out and new ones are made. Originally, none of the costumes were authentic. Girls wore black skirts, white blouses and whatever sort of a vest they could find. Now all the costumes come from Norway but are assembled by trained seamstresses in Stoughton. The teacher, Staci Hemsoth, is a former dancer now teaching the group each day.

Viking Voyager

Children’s Life Insurance

What is Viking Voyager?

Viking Voyager is a simple economical way to introduce children to the benefits offered by SONS OF NORWAY. It is a way for parents, and grandparents to help the next generations learn about the importance of owning life insurance. Viking Voyager provides level term life insurance that is convertible at age 26. Certificate owners may choose to make either annual payments or a one time single premium payment that provides a life insurance benefit. The rates are affordable. For more information you can call your FBC David Kompelien at 651-454-6401.

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December 2013

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Dated Material Prompt Delivery Please

Christmas Julebord

December 17th at 6PM

We will have Rommegrot; Ris Cream; Fruit Soup, Meatballs; Herring and many other surprises.

All of these will be made by members. All we ask is that you find your favorite Norwegian cookie recipe and bring some to share.

Santa will also be coming to our party; so if you have children or grand-children, please bring them along. If you are bringing children, please call Erling at **651-484-5780**. He has a special line to Santa so he can let him know how many presents to bring.