



Vonheim Saga
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Vonheim Lodge #1-108
Sons of Norway

Fra Presidenten

It's Another New Year!

I hope that the holiday season was joyous for you. Welcome to the year 2016. For some of us, the force of habit is so strong that we struggle for weeks to remember to date things we sign with the new year. For those still working, we just finished the part of the year that is rich in time off and are looking at months before our next break.

What does the new year mean for Vonheim? First of all, we have closed the books on 2015 and must file financial statements and activity reports with the home office. It will be a busy time for a few months for several officers. Vonheim is quite fortunate that our assets will support lodge activities for quite some time.

The new year is also a convention year. Vonheim will need to elect delegate to our District Convention at our January meeting. The District Convention will be held in Cedar Rapids, IA from June 9-11. Vonheim pays for the registration cost and partially reimburses room cost. If you are interested in attending as a delegate, please make sure that your name is submitted at the January meeting held at American Swedish Institute on January 17.

Merle Tingelstad

“MEMORIES THROUGH THE LENS” BY DOUG OHMAN

Many of you know Doug Ohman and his wonderful photography with stories. After sixteen years of being the manager of Camp Snoopy, Doug decided to pursue his love of photography and history, and his camera became his pen. Through the years he has traveled throughout Minnesota taking pictures of places and sites that tell us a story. Come and enjoy beautiful photography and experiences that can be delightful, amusing and sometimes sad.

January 17th, Sunday, at 2PM at the American Swedish Institute, 26th and Park, in Paulson Hall (lower level of the old manor)



COMING EVENTS

(Meetings at the American Swedish Institute, 2600 Park Ave So, Mpls in Paulson Hall in the lower level)

Jan 19th 2PM
Feb 21st 2PM
March 20th 2PM

Vonheim Lodge Meeting Notes

Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd

Tuesday, December 15, 2015

About 100 members and guests enjoyed our Julebord celebration. We held a brief meeting to announce our January 17 program at ASI at 2pm. The winter meetings are held in the daytime to increase safety for our aging membership during the coldest months.

It was announced that at our January meeting, we will elect delegates to District Convention in Cedar Rapids, IA on June 9-11.

Dave Kompelien spoke on a successful day that Vonheim did bell ringing for Salvation Army at Festivsl. They raised \$489 during their shift.

We enjoyed our traditional food treats of Rice Cream, Rommegrot, Meatballs, Herrings, Lefse provided by the lodge along with numerous other treats brought by members.

As we finished eating, we were joined by Santa who brought special treats for our child guests. We then gathered around the Christmas tree for singing traditional Norwegian and English songs.

Vonheim Lodge Board Notes

Perkins Restaurant, Riverside

Sunday, November 22, 2015

The board reviewed our November meeting and discussed plans for our December Julebord.

Attendance at the potluck was only 19 people. We continue to see strong support for our October Torsk Dinner and our December Julebord, but the September and November meetings have seen low attendance for a few years. The board has struggled to come up with programming that will attract more people.

We would like to try some meeting at Norway House. However, we needed to commit to our winter month meetings at ASI on Sunday afternoons. It is important to not confuse members with frequent change of meeting dates and location.

Our January, February and March meetings have been daytime at ASI for 3 years. Norway House would have to be a Saturday meeting, which we need to publicize

Most Livable Country

Norway was selected by the United Nations for the 12th consecutive year as the world's most livable country. Among factors considered are life expectancy, education and standard of living. Norway soars in these areas with life expectancy of 81.6 years and a per capita income of \$64,922. Norway benefits from oil revenue and natural beauty that drives tourism. The healthcare system is strong, education is free and their government is stable.

The United States is number 8 on the report.

Salvation Army

On December 3rd The Vonheim Lodge raised \$489.53 for the Salvation Army. The Bell ringing was done at the Festival foods at 401W 98 st in Bloomington. Thanks to Dale and Lois Settergen, Don Teigen, Mark Flom, Gene Branbvoid, Russ Tokhiem, Dennis Sorheim and David Kompelien who did the bell ringing.

The Perfect Gift

- Each year it is a great idea to have a financial review of your current financial situation. You may find out that you need more life insurance for that some one special; you may want to make a gift to your favorite charity or help fund you grandchild for college.
- Also be sure your beneficiary is up to date. Perhaps you have recently married, added a new baby, become widowed or divorced. It is a common mistake to overlook these changes.
- You can contact me for a free financial review at 651-454-6401.
- David Kompelien, your Financial Benefits Counselor.

Libraries changing, but not in crisis

Public library use is in decline. So are the number of check-outs. But this isn't a crisis for public libraries, say researchers. Today [August 28th] is Norway's first national Library Day. The Norwegian Library Association wants to remind us of our libraries. It may be necessary. New figures from Statistics Norway (SSB) show that the use of public libraries is clearly down. Only 40 percent of Norwegians have visited a public library during the past year. This is a decrease of about 10 percent since 2005. While the youngest and the oldest use the library less as before, the decline particularly pronounced in the age group 16 to 44 years.

A new cultural center? More people are using the library's online services, SSB statistics show. A third of those surveyed stated that they've visited exhibitions at public libraries last year, while one in four have attended meetings, performances, courses, debates and similar things organized by the library. This is especially true for those over 45.

"Although use has declined, there is no other cultural institution with nearly as much public use as libraries," says Professor Svanhild Aabø at Oslo and Akershus University College.

- A study she conducted on three Oslo libraries revealed that the majority of users do not borrow anything. They use libraries in other ways.
- Where everyone meets Aabø's research has shown that the library is a place where people of all ages and all cultures meet and thrive.
- Most other cultural arenas are segregated. If you go to the theater, you mostly meet gray-haired people of a certain echelon. At the library you can meet the fancy lady in the mink coat and the young girl with piercings and purple hair, she believes. "People feel that the library belongs to them."
- Asylum seekers also see the library as a place they have a right to be, says Aabø. She believes that the library can also support people who are becoming marginalized.

Library creates confidence Andreas Vårheim, a professor in the Department for Culture and Literature at the University of Tromsø, has done studies on refugee and immigrant experiences at public libraries in Norway and the USA.

The Tromsø library is a very important meeting place for participants in the introductory program for refugees. Help with homework and the reading group for women are key initiatives. "We found that the library made the refugees feel safe. Confidence in the library and other library users was high. Former participants in the introductory program continue to use the library as a meeting place." "This could be the gateway for increased trust in others in Norwegian society, neighbors and people they meet on the street," Vårheim believes.

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Happy Valentines Day

Join us on February 21st at 2PM at the American Swedish Institute, 26th and Park, in Paulson Hall (lower level of the old manor)

