



Vonheim Saga
Published Monthly by
Vonheim Lodge #1-108
Sons of Norway

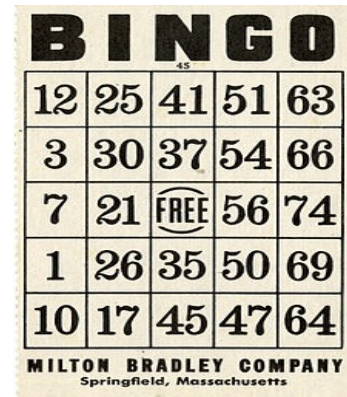
Fra Presidenten

As noted elsewhere in this newsletter, David Engen from the Alt for Norge TV reality show was our speaker at our May 20th Lodge meeting. He was very humorous and entertaining in talking about his experience in visiting Norway and being on Norwegian TV. We really enjoyed his presentation. He had to leave early to catch a plane. He did say he would enjoy coming back to talk to us further. Our next Lodge meeting will be Saturday, June 10th. We will have guided conversation with a goal of getting to know each other better as well as discussing what types of activities and programs we would like to have in the Lodge. In addition, we will be playing Bingo as well as having an Ice Cream Social. On Sunday, June 25th, Scandinavian Day will be held in Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis. We Norwegians are joining with the Swedes in holding this all-day event with a church service in the morning and musical and dance entertainment in the afternoon. Children's activities will also be held. Vonheim Lodge and Oslo Lodge are having a potluck lunch at 12 noon in the pavilion. Bring a food item and a beverage of your choice. The Vonheim Lodge Board held a meeting on May 18 to plan lodge activities for the remainder of 2017. This schedule of events will be covered in the next Saga.

Tussen Takk!
Don Teigen



Enjoy the beginning of summer with Vonheim Lodge members. Join us as we play Bingo.



We will have ice cream along with your favorite toppings as we learn more about fellow members through guided conversations.

See you at Norway House on June 10th at 1PM for coffee and fun.



COMING EVENTS

Meetings are held on **Saturday** at Norway House, 913 E. Franklin Avenue, adjacent to Mindekirken in Mpls. (Lillehaugen Room on the lower level)

June 10th Lodge mtg at 1PM
June 25th Scandinavian Summer Fest
July 25th Lodge Picnic at 6PM

Vonheim Lodge Meeting Notes

Norway House
Saturday, May 20, 2017

18 members and guests were present for our program. David Engen was almost unable to make our meeting when an opportunity to fly to Paris required he leave the same afternoon as our meeting. David committed to making our presentation with it placed at the beginning of our meeting.

David was selected to be one of 12 participants in the season 6, 2015, Norwegian reality show, "Alt for Norge" and won in the final program where he competed with a fellow Twin Cities contestant, Hannah. The television show winner is deemed the most Norwegian after a series of competitions eliminates contestants and sends one home in each hour episode. Each show features something about Norwegian culture and modern lifestyles in Norway.

David began by telling how he learned of the program from a friend and the process of becoming a contestant. There are casting screening events around the country, including one at the Mall of America each November. To be considered, a contestant must have a verifiable Norwegian ancestry, yet must never have previously traveled to Norway. Candidates must complete an application and make a video explaining what would make them a good choice for the program. Prospects were selected for final interviews in Chicago and flown promptly to Norway for filming.

Once in Norway, their phones and internet access were removed. Their families were regularly updated by program staff and sent a photo from a recent set to verify that their loved one was still alive and well. Each episode was shot on location in sites all over Norway. David showed a clip from their episode in Lofoten where the theme was fishing. One of the female contestants was lifted by the others in a small fishing boat with a fishing pole that had a magnet at the end of the line to catch paper cod from the ground. Each "fish" had information about an object and contestants had to each vote on whether the object was truly a Norwegian artifact. One example was the cheese slicer we commonly see used with gjetost. Divided into two teams, David was on the winning side. The other team had to eliminate one of their contestants.

David came across as very articulate about Norway in individual interviews, as well as gaining a reputation for his emotion, particularly his tears and crying as he discovered more about his Norwegian roots. Each contestant learned about their ancestral homes and were placed in contact with relatives. At times they would stay with Norwegian host families during filming. The finalist was brought to meet their

Like most reality shows, the filming takes place over a much shorter time than the weekly broadcasts, so secrecy as to the outcome was necessary. David was in Dublin, Ireland after filming and a man came up to him and said, "David?" David says yes. The guy says, "Alt for Norge?" Again, yes. They were only in the second week of broadcasts and the guy asks if David made it to the finals. David had to tell him to keep watching to find out.

We really enjoyed the talk and appreciate the dedication shown by David. He answered a couple of questions and apologized that he had to run off, but did say he would enjoy coming back to expand on his presentation. Thanks David!

Announcements were made about our June 10 Ice Cream Social/Bingo, June 25 potluck at Scandinavian Festival, July 26 BBQ Picnic with Oslo at Wabun Park and planning for a Torsk Dinner in October. Mary Jo from Norway Art invited us to visit her on the second floor after the meeting. Normally she is open by appointment only as she has two locations, only 1 person and most business online.

May 20th Speaker, David Engen, winner of Alt for Norge



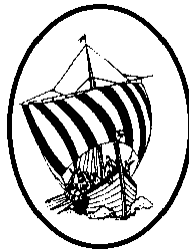
David Engen participating in Norway's Syttende Mai celebration

Vonheim member, Adele Davis, cut the cake to accompany coffee after the program



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Summer Picnics

Sunday, June 25th, Noon
Potluck at Scandinavian Summer Fest
in the pavilion at Minnehaha Falls.
Bring your food of choice.

Tuesday, July 25th, 6 PM
Come enjoy BBQ chicken and ribs from
Caps Restaurant Cost: \$15 The traditional beans and cole slaw
will round out the meal The same location as previous years,
area D, followed by Bingo

