

Restauration Lodge #548

April 2004

www.sofn-cedarrapids.org

Volume XXVIII number 4

**Next Social Meeting:
April 13, 2004**

Meeting time: 7:00 p.m.

**"Foreign Exchange Programs"
by Lois McCormick.**

**First Lutheran Church
Luther Fellowship Center
1000 3rd Avenue SE
Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52401**

Address or Phone Number Changes

For any changes of address or telephone numbers, please contact Sue Shimon. She can be reached either by phone, 364-7735; email, rjshimon@aol.com; or by U.S. mail, 1931 Oak Knolls Court SE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52403-3962. It is important we know of any changes of address (either traditional or email) or telephone numbers. We are making every effort to keep a current membership list. This becomes especially critical now that the newsletter is being sent electronically. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

The deadline for May newsletter submissions is Wednesday, April 28, 2004. Please have all articles to the newsletter editor by then.

If you submit anything via email (my address is [<jonrwhite@hotmail.com>](mailto:jonrwhite@hotmail.com)) please mention Sons of Norway (or SON) on the subject line. I often throw away twenty or more messages a day unopened because they appear to be spam – don't let yours be one of them!

The next board meeting will be April 20, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at First Lutheran Church in the Youth Room.

Kaffe Tid will meet Wednesday, April 21 at the home of Ellie Reeder, 1006 29th St. NE, Cedar Rapids, IA 52402.

Please Call Ellie at 363-4753 to let her know you'll be attending.

VESTERHEIM WORKDAY

Saturday, May 1 will be our 7th annual workday at Vesterheim. Please save this day for our lodge's direct assistance to Vesterheim. We will again be leaving Cedar Rapids at 7 a.m. and return by about 6 p.m. It is a great day for fellowship and some fresh air. Please plan to join us.

Contact Dean Gesme for your reservation. Thank You.

Sons of Norway

Restauration Lodge 1-548

March Board Meeting Minutes

President David Christ called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Youth Room of 1st Lutheran Church, in Cedar Rapids, on March 16, 2004.

The following Board members were present: David Christ, Ruth Christ, Dean Gesme, Ann Gesme, Sue Shimon, Mary Durspek, Sara Knutson, Larry Knutson, Lois McCormick, Jon White, Ding Sather and Bob Thorkildson.

The Secretary's minutes from the last Board meeting were approved as published in the newsletter.

Treasurer Ding Sather reported that the Lodge has \$1789.71 in the checking account.

Mary Durspek reported the syttende mai banquet will be held at the Touch of Class hall out on Mount Vernon Road. There will be a Social Hour starting at 5:30 p.m. and the dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. with the program to

follow. Sue Shimon said that she has started selling tickets, which will cost \$20 per person.

Social Director Sara Knutson announced the hostesses and hosts for the next social meeting: the Sundets, the Sathers, and the Boyds.

Counselor Dean Gesme reported that we can always use some extra help at our Vesterheim work day on Saturday, May 1.

Newsletter Editor Jon White set the deadline for submitting articles for the next newsletter as Wednesday, March 31. Board members were encouraged to submit ideas for the newsletter. Sue Shimon is in charge of the Lodge's master address list, both for U.S. mail and e-mail.

The Scholarship Director, Ruth Christ, will encourage our scholarship campers to write an article for the newsletter relating their experiences.

Old Business: We now have three Lodge members signed up as delegates to the 1st district convention next June in Rapid City, South Dakota. They are Fred Amundson, Dave Tesdahl, and Lloyd Holecek.

New Business: David Christ presented his preliminary work on the budget. Following the work performed by our last month's presenters, who submitted a report on their efforts including costs, what worked and what did not, general description of the program, and per person cost for those attending, David suggested that all presenters be asked to do the same in the future.

Lois McCormick reported on her effort to organize classes in Norwegian craft skills and obtaining grants to help defer the costs. The first class will be in rosemaling and be held on a weekend sometime this fall. Sara Tollefson will likely teach the beginning class. A follow up class will be held sometime later and will be taught by Ronda Kekke, who will also help Lois in writing for the grant. The class size will be limited to 8 – 10 people.

The next Board Meeting will be held at 1st Lutheran Church at 7:00 p.m. on April 20 in the Youth Room.

Comments for the Good of the Order: Ann Gesme made a motion to send a \$25 donation to the Norwegian American Historical Association in memory of Dr. Lloyd Hustvedt, who was the Secretary of NAHA for forty years. Jon White seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously by voice vote.

The Board meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by:
Bob Thorkildson, Lodge Secretary

Greetings from Minneapolis,

It's my pleasure to alert you to an exciting new partnership between Icelandair and Sons of Norway! Sons of Norway members now receive a 10% discount on any published Icelandair airfare*.

There are two ways to obtain this special offer:

1. Contact Icelandair at 1-800-223-5500

- Identify yourself as a Sons of Norway member
- Provide reservation agent with Sons of Norway agreement number: SOFN2004
- Provide reservation agent with your Sons of Norway membership number (seven digits)

2. Or contact Borton Overseas in Minneapolis, MN · 1-800-843-0602/612-822-4640. Provide information listed above.

Sons of Norway is pleased to offer you this exciting travel opportunity. I hope you enjoy your new membership benefit!

*Restrictions may apply. Offer excludes Icelandair "Lucky Fares."

In addition to being a new and exciting travel discount this might also serve as a good recruiting tool. Please keep it in mind when talking to family and friends.

Fraternally, Eivind J. Heiberg
Fraternal Director, Sons of Norway
www.sonsofnorway.com

PRESIDENT CHRIST'S CORNER

How did you learn to feel your Norwegian heritage? With one exception none of our lodge members grew up in Norway. Thus we have not lived our Norwegian heritage but have had it given to us. Some of you may be old enough to have Norwegian parents or knew their Norwegian grandparents who came from Norway. They probably learned directly from someone who was from Norway. For the rest of us our heritage was given to us in an indirect fashion. And of course we have members who have no Norwegian forebears and have heritage by adoption.

Of course having a Norwegian grandparent doesn't mean you got a heavy dose of Norwegian culture. In some families Norwegian customs and language lasted well into the twentieth century while others shed all vestiges of Norway as soon as they were able. For the latter, recovering their heritage can be a struggle. With our mobile and pluralistic society, Norwegian connections can be diluted and lost.

But yet for many of my age and older, Norway was unavoidable. We may have had pure Norwegian ancestry or grew up in a town where the population was predominantly of Norwegian extraction. For me, and maybe for others, the realization of how small Norway is came as a surprise. Being immersed in a "Norwegian Ghetto" distorted my world view. Norway was obviously a most important country; the dominant source of European culture. Our schoolbooks tried to teach us history from an English point of view but we all knew that Leif Erickson got here first.

So as I got bigger, Norway got smaller in a way. But as I grow older I understand how large the impact of Norway and its culture has been on my life. My view of the world still has a predominant Norwegian immigrant sensibility. Of that I remain proud and grateful. That is Norway's greatest gift to me.

Here are a few words about language camp from Rachel Steffensen, the daughter of Ruth and David Christ, who is one of our former campers and is now a lodge member living in Norway.

What she doesn't say is that she is now married to a Norwegian and has 7-year-old twins. She teaches school in Norway and yes, she teaches Norwegian to Norwegians.

Language Camp: More than Language

Why attend Skogfjorden or one of the other Norwegian language camps supported by Sons of Norway? Why send a child or a grandchild? The benefits are more diverse than you might imagine! April is a month for focus on language camps for Sons of Norway, and I'd like to share a few thoughts on the subject.

From the time I was seven until I turned sixteen, I attended Norwegian language camp no fewer than eight times. The first couple of years my parents made the decision to send me, but it didn't take long before I was equally eager to sign up for the next session at camp. But why?

It is fun! Going to camp has to be fun in order to get kids to go more than once. Every year I looked forward to meeting many "old" friends and helping newer campers learn the ropes. Sure, we had language class three times a day, but the immersion teaching system, combined with energetic and enthusiastic teachers, made us really feel like we were playing more than going to class. Little did we realize how painlessly we were learning *and using* a language!

It is different! I always got a kick out of going back to school in the fall and having something unique to talk about. Lots of kids went to camp, but I was the only one at my school who could speak Norwegian! I also had the opportunity to try out different crafts, from rosemaling to spinning wool. Some of these crafts have become life-long hobbies.

It is useful! Learning Norwegian made learning German easier when I started high school. I also feel that learning a foreign language helped me become more aware of English as well.

It opens doors! A few weeks away at camp gives youth a chance to challenge themselves in a safe environment; they can make friends and take responsibility for their own actions. Learning about another culture gives children the

opportunity to think about what they value most in their own culture.

I warmly recommend language camp. The only risk you run is that of enriching a child's life!

Språksommerleir: mer enn språk

Hvorfor dra til Skogfjorden eller en av de andre norske sommerleirer drevet med støtte av Sønner av Norge? Hvorfor sende et barn eller barnebarn? Fordelene er mer variert enn du tror! April er måneden der Sønner av Norge setter fokus på språksommerleir, og i den anledning ønsker jeg å dele noen tanker med dere.

Fra jeg var sju år frem til jeg fylte seksten, dro jeg på norsk sommerleir hele åtte ganger. De første år var det nok foreldrene som tok valget for meg, men det varte ikke lenge før jeg var like ivrig på å melde meg på til den neste sommer. Men hvorfor?

Det er morsomt! Å dra på leir må være artig for å få ungene med mer enn den ene gangen. Hvert år gledet jeg meg til å treffe "gamle" venner og hjelpe nye deltakere finne seg til rette. Jada, vi hadde språktimer tre ganger daglig, men med språkbadet, sammen med livlige og engasjerte lærere, følte vi at vi heller lekte enn hadde språktime. Det vi ikke ante var hvor smertefritt det gikk an å lære *og bruke* et fremmedspråk!

Det er noe annerledes! Jeg opplevde det som spennende å dra tilbake til skolen om høsten og ha noe unikt å fortelle om. Mange unger dro på sommerleir, men på min skole var jeg alene med mine norskkunnskaper! Jeg fikk også anledning til å prøve forskjellige typer håndverk fra rosemaling til spinning på håndtein. Noe av dette har jeg ennå som fritidssysler.

Det er nyttig! Å lære norsk gjorde det lettere å lære tysk da jeg begynte på videregående skole. Jeg opplevde også at det å lære et fremmedspråk hjalp meg bli mer bevisst på bruken av engelsk.

Den skaper nye muligheter! Et par uker på sommerleir gir ungdom muligheten til å utfordre seg selv innenfor trygge rammer: de får

muligheten til å treffe nye venner samtidig som de tar ansvar for egne handlinger. Å lære om en annen kultur gir barn anledning til å fundere på det de verdsetter innen egen kultur.

Jeg anbefaler språkleir på det varmeste. Den eneste risiko er det å berike et barns liv!

AN INVITATION TO THE DISTRICT 1 FOLK ARTS EXHIBITION/COMPETITION

You are invited to participate in the Folk Arts Exhibit at the District 1 Convention in Rapid City, S.D. beginning June 17, 2004. Any Sons of Norway member is eligible to exhibit and/or compete, but all items submitted must have been finished in the last two years by the person who enters it.

Children/Grandchildren of Sons of Norway members may submit a craft. Children (age 15 and below) may enter for exhibition only, but children (ages 16-20) may exhibit and/or compete.

An entrant is allowed to enter a maximum of two articles in each category.

Categories are: rosemaling, fiber arts (textiles and stitching), woodworking (with hand tools), genealogy (for display only), photography (Norwegian motif), folk painting and collage.

For a complete list of categories, awards and pre-registration forms, please attend a lodge meeting or contact: Carolyn Rushton, 215 Lexington Ave, Iowa City, IA 52246 or call 319-351-8604.

Pre-registration forms must be mailed by May 1, 2004.

The Storelva Lodge in Davenport will be having a Norwegian Heritage Festival April 25, 2004, 12:00 to 4:00 PM at the Williams Intermediate School, 3040 North Division Street, Davenport. Featured will be the Stoughton Dancers, Bake Sale, Children's Activities, and Demonstrations. Admission is Adults \$4.00, Children under 16 \$1.00 and Families \$10.00. They are also looking for people with bunads to be in their style show. If interested in being in the style show please contact John and Cindy Lee <jl87654321@aol.com> or Tom Fedje <tom_fedje@juno.com>.

Calendar of Coming Events:

April 13
April 20
April 21

Social Meeting
Board Meeting
Kaffe Tid

Elected Officers:

President-David Christ	351-7717
Vice President-Ann Gesme	362-6910
Counselor-Dean Gesme	362-6910
Secretary-Robert Thorkildson	436-4542
Treasurer-Ding Sather	393-7310
Financial Secretary-Paula Schulte	396-1076
Cultural director-Carolyn Rushton	351-8604
Social committee-Sara & Larry Knutson	395-0621
Greeters: Judy Argo	247-2479
Sharon Mow	366-3202
Marshall-Lloyd Holecek	377-4438
Jon White	393-9430
Trustees: 3 year-Wally Sundet	393-6971
2 year- Sue Shimon	364-7735
1 year- Tom Brennom	377-7473
Auditors: Ruth Christ	351-7717

Jean Oxley	364-5340
Wil Mickelson	743-0575
Sports/Recreation/Youth-Bill Windus	365-1533

Appointed Officers:

Foundation-Lois McCormick	377-2890
Historian-Lois McCormick	377-2890
Kaffe Tid-Mary Durspek	377-4480
Language Facilitators:	
Ann Gesme	362-6910
David Christ	351-7717
Librarian-Ruth Berger	365-4979
Musician-Carolyn Rushton	351-8604
Newsletter Editor-Jon White	393-9430
Publicity-Marlis Windus	365-1533
Scholarship-Ruth Christ	351-7717
Sunshine-Ann Larson	373-1891

Sons of Norway representatives:

David Tesdahl	286-9447
---------------	----------

Lodge web site:

www.sofn-cedarrapids.org

Sons of Norway
Restauration Lodge #548
2119 Lincolnshire Dr SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403-1606

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. Postage Paid
Cedar Rapids, IA
Permit #274

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

- My name was misspelled
- My address was wrong
- I received more than one
(please enclose label(s))