

Virginia



Viking

SONS OF NORWAY HAMPTON ROADS LODGE NO. 522

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April 2003

President: Ralph Peterson 318-9414 Treasurer: Ann Atkinson 489-3218 Cultural: Mary Zimmerman 523-9409
VP: Martha Blau 421-2660 Secretary: Mary Friesen 857-8560 Editor: Terri Hewitt 460-4318

The President's Corner



Well this has been a busy month for SON Lodge 522 and I love it. We had a great monthly meeting. Astrid and Floyd, thank you so much for your great performance. In addition to the great entertainment, we accepted 7 new members and had to delay the start of the meeting so we could get more chairs in order to handle the crowd.

Those of us (over 30) who attended the hockey game had a great time. Not only was it a good game, the Admirals won, we got our name on the score board several times and we had at least 6 future SON members under the age of 18 with us. While I enjoyed the game I realized that I enjoyed it much more because I was with a large group of people that I knew and liked. I then found out that several of the people I talked to had the same feeling. Nice.

Our "Adopt a School" Program is moving along. Barbra Stehlik is coordinating our efforts at Newtown Elementary school. I finished my second day of "reading with the first graders" today and had a great time. You are not expected to be a certified teacher. All we are doing is helping these children read first grade books. If you can spare a hour or a half hour a week, please call Barbra and get a time slot. Not only will you help a child but I believe you will get a nice warm feeling when your hour is finished.

I have received another letter from the President of the Sons of Norway concerning overall membership growth. I will make it available to you at our next meeting. There are many goals listed and several projects planned to help achieve those goals. Many of the projects are on a National level where we have no control but on a lodge level we seem to have implemented many of the ideas they speak about i.e. good programs, stress our culture and heritage, reduce the age level of our membership, increase our membership, reduce loss of members and have fun. We are doing all of those things. Let's keep it up.

Hilsen,
Ralph

April Meeting

Thursday, April 17th. at 7:30 pm

at Bayside Presbyterian Church, Room 401 on Ewell Road in Virginia Beach. (Off Independence Blvd. Just north of McDonald's Nursery)

Program

Torhild Byggstoyl will bring pictures/slides from Telemark where she lives. Some are from the tourist information office in Telemark, and some are her own. Special entertainment will follow the slide show. Refreshments will be provided during intermission.

Also

For the April Meeting, please bring any wood carvings you have and we'll display them.

Food Pantry

As part of our outreach program, bring a can(s) of food to our next meeting. We will be announcing the recipient at our next meeting.

Azalea Fest Parade of Nations

Saturday, April 26, 2003 10:00 am

Downtown Norfolk, Waterside. This annual event salutes NATO and it's member nations here in Hampton Roads. Our lodge has an impressive Viking ship float that will carry the NATO Norwegian Princess and her court, as well as, bunad clad members and guests. Bring your family, friends and Norwegian flags to the Norfolk Waterside to root them on. Come early for the best seats.

See you there with flags waving!

Newsletter submissions are always welcome. Deadline is the 3rd Friday of the month. Submissions may be mailed to Terri Hewitt, 4936 Farrington Dr., VA BCH, VA 23455 or emailed to ViElskerNorge@mindspring.com

Highlights from the March Meeting

Pres. **Ralph Peterson** opened the meeting which included many members and guests. Bestefar's Vals was sung acappella. Seven new members were recommended and approved for membership: **Floyd Friesen; Connie & Walter Hoff; Howard Johnson, AnneMarie Otteson; Heidi Peterson, & Kari Pincus.** (See their bios on following pages)

Our food donation will again go to the Bayside Presbyterian Church.

A Zone Memorial Service will be held at St. Peter's Lutheran Church in Lancaster, PA on May 31, at 2 PM. Lee Richards, a Hampton Roads member, will be memorialized.

Applications for the 3rd District youth camp have been received. Contact our president if you have a child who would like to participate.

Past-presidents Club will meet at LOV on April 12 at 1:30 PM.

The Christmas Bazaar will be held on Nov. 1 from 10 AM to 3PM at Bayside Presbyterian Church. **Deanna Rumney & Terri Hewitt** will co-chair. Look for more info to come.

Richard Thorson from Richmond, VA is interested in starting there. We have been asked to help in this effort. Any names of people living in or near Richmond who might be interested would be helpful.

Anita Hill has 17th of May pins available now for a price of \$5.00. The proceeds go to the Norwegian Orphanage in Brooklyn, NY.

The 50-50 raffle was won by new member **Connie Hoff**. Connie's and our lodge's share were both donated to the Charitable Trust Fund.

The play "The Leprechaun and the Troll" was presented starring **Astrid Gulas** as the Troll and **Floyd Friesen** as the Leprechaun. It was a smash success!

Delicious & festive refreshments were provided by **Martha Blau, Billie Letts, Synnove Quaglietta** and **Elaine Murray**. Tusen Takk!

Sincere Sympathy to Mike Solhaug and his family on the passing of his mother, Majorie, in February 2003.

Congratularer med dagen!

Happy April Birthdays!
Charlotte Thorsen 8,
Isabel Pflueger 12,
Jim Larsen 19,
Brian Friedman, 23
Deanna Rumney 24,
& William Underseth 24



The WHRO volunteers take a moment to pose with Jim Lerher and Bob Zentz.



Our very own troll and leprechaun made a surprise visit .



Connie Hoff shows her winnings before donating them to the Charitable Trust .

News From Christiana Lodge

The Feb.meeting was unusually well attended. They started in the kitchen learning to make "Springrolls". Member-author Lil-Ann Chepstow-Lusty reported from her book "Absolute Viking". She had a slideshow from her visits to many of these Vikingfestivals, even one in Spain. Kari bought a new book by Siri Ringdal. Called "The American Lista" and in Norwegian: "Den amerikanske lista med 110volt i huset", that tells about how the modern USA came to Norway through the Norwegian immigrants in the late 1920's and when they returned to Norway 30-40 yrs. later. Genealogy has hit Norway in a big way. In Oslo, a group of 25,000 have united and they share organized walking trips through Oslo,lectures,courses and all kinds of knowledge to do with research. A note to Bill Foss about his story that was in "The western Viking"reads- We loved the touching story about Bill and his father and we will bring that up again in the fall. Kari will do an article about it in their newsletter before May when a lady from Moss will come and tell about The Norwegian Lady. Kari has traveled on the ships that had regular trips between NY-Oslo which also Bill and many of us have on the "Stavangerfjord", "Oslofjord" and "Bergesfjord". With best regards to all of you from all of us at Christiania. ~ Astrid Gulas

Meet New Members...

Walter & Connie Hoff



My name is Walter Hoff. I am an Industrial Food Broker for a company in Philadelphia, PA. I am also a husband, a father of three and a grandfather of seven. Both my parents were born in Bergen, Norway. As a first generation American, I grew up within the Norwegian community in Brooklyn, NY. I have been familiar

with the SON over the years, but this has been the first opportunity for me to become part of it. ~Walter

My name is Constance (Connie) Hoff. I have been a homemaker for most of my life, although I did work for a period of time as a secretary to a psychiatrist. I am the mother of three and MorMor to seven. I am of Swedish and German background. I have been familiar with some of the traditions of both the Swedes through my mother's family and the Norwegians through my husband's family. I am looking forward to learning more about the SON and Norwegian traditions. ~Connie

Floyd Friesen



Floyd Friesen was born in Fairbury, NE, the son of Andrew (Dutch Mennonite descent) and Wilmina (nee Gudge) (Scotch-Irish descent). After attending the University of Illinois and the University of Southern California in the Naval ROTC program, he received a Bachelor of Engineering degree and a commission in the Navy. During his career he served primarily as an aircraft carrier pilot in the Atlantic and Pacific and retired in 1979. He has 5 children, 3 in the Tidewater area and one each in Georgia and Northern VA, and 5 grandchildren. He is married to Mary Friesen who has been in Sons of Norway since 1977, and they visited Norway together in 1992 during a SON convention there.

To my fellow Sons of Norway members. Mange takk for the beautiful plaque. This plaque will have a special place on my wall in my study and will serve as a reminder of the wonderful two years I served as your president. Thank you for your thoughtfulness. Hilsen, Deanna

AnneMarie Otteson



I was born in Skudenehavn on the island of Karmøy. I came to Mass. In 1964 where I lived for 2 years before going to Brooklyn where I stayed for five months. From there I went to California where I met and married Walter and we lived there for three years. Walter got transferred to New Jersey where we spent the next 33 years. I joined SON in 1970. After retirement we came to Gloucester, VA where we now have been for four months. We have one son, Kristian.

~ AnneMarie

Heidi Peterson



Hi. I'm Heidi Peterson. I was born in Puerto Rico but come from all Norwegian parts. My first introduction to SON was when I could barely walk, as my parents were involved with SON in New Jersey and I came along to the meetings. I graduated from UNC at Greensboro with a degree in Music Education and I am currently working on a Masters degree in clarinet performance at North Texas State University. I must get all my music ability from my dad as he plays the radio so well. I worked last summer at the "Oktoberfest" in Busch Gardens and we will be there again next summer.

I have made a few trips to Norway and look forward to even more if studying there should work out. I have managed to attend some lodge functions and hope to take part in more.

~Heidi

Kari Pincus



Kari's mother, Inger Pincus, was born and raised in Bergen & Moss, and has been a longtime member of SON. Her father, Harry Pincus was the attorney who helped start the local charter. Kari has always loved Norway. Growing up, she spent many summers visiting her mother's summer home in Moss and other relatives around Norway. She has a brother in Tromsø, where he has been for the last 20 years. She has attended the 17th of May flag raising festivities just about every year since she could walk., and has also taken part in the Norwegian Lady Ceremonies. The Pincus family has always had a special interest in the statue because the Bark Dictator belonged to one of their ancestors in Moss. When Kari was 2, King Olav visited Virginia Beach. He talked to her, but she refused to shake his hand! She is going to Norway this summer, so if anyone know of some great airline deals, please let her know!

(See Howard Johnson's Bio next page!)

Meet new Member...

Howard Johnson



My Great Great Grandfather, John Johnson, arrived at Marcus Hook, PA, Quarantine Station aboard a Norwegian ship in 1801. He met Sarah Rodgers and settled in Long-A-Coming, NJ, now Berlin. They had eleven children.

My wife and I spent eight days in Voss, Norway, last September where we were really exposed to the Norwegian cultural, religious, political and geographical makeup

of the country. The trip was sponsored by my alumni association called Alumni College Abroad. It consisted of lectures, day trips, and evening entertainment. There was no time for genealogy research. It really piqued our interest in finding out more about Norway, its people and my family. Everyone was friendly and outgoing. We did not want to leave. It was our best vacation ever.

I have enjoyed the meetings I've attended and look forward to becoming a member and attending many more. And watch out! I'll be picking brains given the chance. ~Howard
(Howard has a wonderful & rich history which due to space I was unable to include. Ask him about his ancestors! ~ED.)

Membership update...

Add: Floyd Friesen to Mary Friesen info

Connie & Walter Hoff
417 Prince of Wales Drive
Virginia Beach, VA 23452
757/486-0609

Howard Johnson
700 Prince Charles Lane
Virginia Beach, VA 23452
757/486-7147

AnneMarie Otteson
7825 Laurie Lane
Gloucester Point, VA 23062
804/642-3093

Heidi Peterson
521 E. Windsor Drive #59
Denton, TX 76209
940/383-4434
Tapqueen8@aol.com

Kari Pincus
722 Redgate Avenue #3
Norfolk, VA 23507
757 622-0335

Change email for Deanna Rumney
norskamerican@aol.com

Meet our Lodge Officer...

Treasurer, Ann Atkinson



I am a half Norwegian, half Swedish member of Sons of Norway since 1996, born in Washington State's Seattle area, graduated from the University of Washington, married and followed my oceanographer husband, Larry, to N.C.(1966), Nova Scotia, Canada(1968), and Savannah, Georgia(1972) where our two sons Berg and Sten were

born and to Norfolk, VA in 1985. My grandmother came from Nordfjordeid north of Bergen the youngest of 13 in a farming family. She came to the U.S. via Ellis Island in 1908. We have maintained a closeness with our generation and have special memories of a grand tour of Norway ending up with a family wedding to end all weddings; visit to New York; Thanksgiving in Norfolk; touring France with multiple cell phones keeping track of everybody, a wonderful noisy bunch, a family. It took me some time to find and join Sons of Norway. I was so impressed when Lee Richards made candied grapefruit peel just like Grandma for the first meeting I attended. Now I bake more kransekakes than my Norwegian relatives ever have and my cousin Liv is baking pecan pie like a real southerner in Sandefjord... she calls it becoming one world. Sons of Norway has connected me with people having similar interests that I probably wouldn't have met otherwise, and has been filling a need to congregate with people who are truly "pieces of sunshine!" And you know how Norwegians like sunshine!!!

Duties of the Treasurer shall include:

- (a) receive the money collected by the Financial Secretary, receipt for same, and shall deposit the money in the name of the Lodge in such banks as are designated by the Lodge or the Board of Directors;
- (b) report to the Financial Secretary, the amounts received on monies deposited in banks or on investments;
- (c) maintain in the Treasurer's Cash Book an accurate and detailed account of Lodge funds received from the Financial Secretary; (9/80) in their proper places when the Lodge is called to order;
- (d) make no payments from any of the funds without authorization from the Lodge;
- (e) make no payment except by check, bank or postal transfers; (8/86)
- (f) submit the books for examination as often as required by the Lodge, the Board of Directors or the President;
- (g) be present when the books are audited;
- (h) prepare the financial reports of the Lodge, together with the Financial Secretary, and sign the same together with the President and Secretary.

FYI ...



* The newly named **Sy Klub** (formerly known as the Cultural Skills Group and means sewing club) will meet at my house on **Thursday, April 3 at 10 AM**. The address is 6433 Azalea Garden Road, Norfolk. Phone 857-8560. We'll be discussing how we might want to participate in the Christmas Bazaar most probably with our own table. Call me if you can come.

~Mary Friesen

* **Genealogy Website of the month**

Genealogy Web Site of the month. Ellis Island <http://www.ellisland.org/> Remember not everybody came this way. If your ancestor(s) came to the USA between 1892 and 1924 Ellis Island was open and they could have entered through Ellis Island. However, many immigrants came through Canada and other USA ports during this time frame. If you try this site remember that you may have to try many spelling variations before you find one that works. Your relatives may not have spoken English very well and the person recording the information probably didn't speak it very well either so its easy to understand why you might have a problem with spelling. Patience and persistence my friends in genealogy.

~Ralph

* **Norwegian Genealogy Meeting- April 14, 7:00pm** at the home of Ralph and AnneGrete Peterson. The formats and abbreviations used in Norways 1865 and 1900 census will be reviewed. Bring a census printout if you have one Please bring along a sample of your work if you have started on your family tree. If you haven't started, just show up. Please let the Petersons know if you are coming at 318-9414.

* If you haven't checked out our **lodge website** you are missing the boat! You can see it at <http://sonhamptonroads.cjb.net> Look for updates and newly posted events. Comments and suggestions of any kind are appreciated. Send mail to the Larry Atkinson. Just click on his name on the website. ~Larry

* **WHRO Radio Show Pledge-a-Thon, April 7, two shifts available, 3-7 PM and 7-8:30 PM.** If you would like to volunteer let me know by email ASAP. We had a lot of fun at our last pledge-a-thon and we took in donations for more than \$5000 in our short stay.

~Ralph

Third District Today

From the District President

From the April 2003 newsletter.

The newsletter can be read in entirety online at <http://sofnd3.home.att.net> or ask our lodge president for a copy.

Later this year we will be celebrating the 25th anniversary of Land of the Vikings with a special gala event at LOV. As we approach this special event it is very encouraging to see the improvements that are being made. We have for as long as I have been involved always been busy trying to improve the physical condition of LOV, and although I may be somewhat biased, I think most people will agree that tremendous improvements have been made. Most noticeable is of course, the Viking Ship bar, the kitchen addition and bathrooms in all the bedrooms in the main building, vinyl siding and new windows in the main building, a new swimming pool, a gazebo, and playground for the kids. What is not so noticeable is the enormous effort that has gone into making what I call smaller improvements and general maintenance. If you were to add up the amount of work that has been carried out by our members over the years, the number would be staggering.

It was clear to me when I took over as your president that volunteer efforts for maintenance and further improvements would continue to be necessary, but it was equally clear that we needed to pay more attention to the business side of the operation. This is now being done, and I would hope that the financial result for last year is an indication that we are on the right track. One year is probably not enough to declare that LOV is over the hump and that we are now profitable, but after many years of losses, it was encouraging to say the least, that we can show a profit of almost \$5000 for 2002. It certainly suggests that we are on the right track, and with a board that is now very conscious of the business part of the operation, and in the process of implementing several cost control measures, I have hopes that this positive trend will continue.

We have been talking about attracting outsiders for years, and for the last few years, LOV has had a few outsiders frequenting our establishment. We can say what we like about marketing and that we want outside business. But although there are possibilities, I think we have to be realistic and accept that at least for some time to come, we have to look to our own members and groups close to us like Ski for Light, to be the main source of revenue. Further improvements at LOV, and some are planned, could improve the possibilities for outside business, but I do believe that you and I are the ones that will have to carry the operation. And we should be willing to do so. Think about what it means for our district. Think about Youth Camp. What would we have done without LOV? If we believe that the youth is our future, Youth Camp should be very important to us. Think about District Board meetings. What would they have cost us had we not had LOV? In this connection I am really pleased to be able to tell you that we have reached agreement with the LOV Board to get a \$1000 discount per Board meeting. I appreciate the LOV Board for offering this. What it really means is that the District is starting to realize a financial return on the investments we have made at LOV. With this kind of arrangement, LOV is now a financial benefit for us. Can we keep this up? With a tremendously dedicated LOV Board like we have now, and your support, I believe we can. Let us do it!

Fraternally,
Audun Gythfeldt, President



Who is the April Mystery Member?



If you guessed Cultural Director, Grete Sutton for March's mystery member, you are right!

Today's Norway

Travel Tips: Shopping in Norway

Traveling in Norway, even today, may require some adjustment in shopping habits for many North American visitors. Nearly every business is closed on Sunday, and few are open in the evening or later than 2pm on Saturday. Here is a list of minimum business hours for the essential stops:

Stores 9 – 5 M – F

9 – 2 Saturday

Shopping centers 9 – 8 M – F

9 – 6 Saturday

Banks 9 – 3 M – F

Post Offices 8 – 4 M – F

8 – 1 Saturday

Businesses are often open longer in larger towns and cities, as well as having a *langdag*, long day, on Thursday, when hours often extend into early evening. Also, gas stations and kiosks tend to be open until late evening. Because hours vary from place to place, it is a good idea to ask the locals when you arrive.

If you have thought of traveling to Norway, check www.visitnorway.com for help

The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote, preserve, and cherish a lasting appreciation of the heritage and culture of Norway and other Nordic countries while growing soundly as a fraternal benefit society and offering maximum benefits to its members.

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God Påske



Happy Easter