

Virginia



Viking

SONS OF NORWAY HAMPTON ROADS LODGE NO. 522

Volume 29 No. 2

February 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

First of all, thank you for showing your confidence in me by electing me your President. I shall do my best to make sure you made a wise decision.

I want to thank Deanna for the great job she did these past two years. I learned a lot by working with her during that time. I would also like to say thanks to the past board for a job well done and a great big thanks to the lodge members for their great support of our activities. It is fun to get together at the meetings and elsewhere.



Continuing to have fun at our functions is one of my main goals. While our lodge membership has been growing slightly, the SON membership has been shrinking and we face a rapidly aging membership. If drastic changes are not made our organization will be faced with some very unpleasant choices. Changes are being studied. A committee called "Second Century for Growth" has been formed to study our problems. As a member of this committee, I have seen several good ideas proposed. Many of these ideas require very little to implement and they may have significant results for our lodge and the organization.

Bill Nelson, one of our recent Past Presidents, deserves much credit for leading our lodge into more outside activities where we have promoted Norway and helped our neighbors. I would like to continue this trend.

I have some specific goals that I will be proposing: It has been suggested that we make our meeting room look more Norwegian. You will be seeing more posters of Norway, more Norwegian clothing, woodcarvings etc. If you have suggestions on how to make our meeting room more Norwegian looking let somebody on the board know.

Reading old newsletters I see that in the years past our lodge had many Norwegian dinners. I think we should try that ourselves i.e. lapskaus, f rik l, even lutefisk, can it get any better. We do need a place to have the dinners where we might have a beer or a bit of Aquavit to help the food along. If you know of a place please let me know. Feel free to check it out for cost etc.

I think our Christmas Bazaar could be greatly expanded. I would like the lodge to be able to provide some scholarship money to our members, member's children or grandchildren and if the Bazaar does well, that could be the source of funds.

We are awaiting some guidelines from the Home Office on an "Adopt a School" program. I am envisioning that this will involve tutoring and perhaps presenting information on Norway. We have

February Meeting

Thursday, February 20th. 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

There will be a video featuring Norway with refreshments immediately following the business meeting and program.

Also

For the February Meeting
In an effort to make us feel more and look more Norwegian would everyone wear something Norwegian, like a ski sweater etc. to our February meeting. If you don't have anything Norwegian to wear we still want you to come to the meeting.

Food Pantry

As part of our outreach program would you please bring a can(s) of food to our next meeting. We will be giving our first collection of food to our Landlord (Bayside Presbyterian) for use in their food pantry.

members who are already involved in this type of volunteer work.

We will be invited to help Public Radio and Television during their March fund drive. They promised to get us on TV if we come in Bunads and other Norwegian wear.

I would like to provide the opportunity for us to attend functions as a group i.e. musical events, sporting events (Tides, Admirals, Mariners etc) theater etc. Not everyone will attend each event but hopefully we will find something you enjoy.

I am looking forward to the next two years. I want us to have fun as we learn more about our heritage and share in each other's company in a variety of ways.

Fraternally,
Ralph

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 January Meeting

Due to our President, **Deanna Rumney** being in California helping her son and daughter-in-law on the arrival of their new grandson, Vice President, **Mary Zimmerman** opened our meeting. Members enjoyed a delicious potluck dinner and had time to visit before the business meeting began.

Four new member applications were presented to the membership. **Katherine and Kenneth Hill, and Caren and Craig Hutcheson** were voted in as new members. *See bios on following pages.*

The general membership approved a \$200. donation to the Virginia Beach Sister City Committee to be used for the Moss Choir visiting in February. (Ed. note: \$150. was applied for and received from the Foundation in form of a grant.)

Past Pres. **Bill Nelson** announced that he and wife **Kate** are relocating to the Richmond area. He expressed his gratitude and pleasure at having been part of Hampton Roads SON Lodge. Ralph praised Bill and Kate Nelson for past contributions to the Lodge.

Astrid Gulas read greetings from Pres. Kari Myer of Christiania Lodge in Oslo.

3rd District President Gene Olsen then officiated at the Installation of new officers for years 2003-2004. Following the installation, Gene and new lodge President **Ralph Peterson** gave out 5, 10 and 25-year member pins.



Above: New President, Ralph Peterson with Gene Olson, District 3 President. Below Left: Guest, Connie Huff takes home the 50-50 raffle. Below Right: Member Carol McCarthy wins the basket of Norwegian goodies.



Gratularer Med Dagen!

Happy February Birthdays!

William Nelson, 6
Bjørn Barang, 11
Lise Pease, 12
Caren Hutcheson, 23
Wesley Quamme, 28



Welcome to all the new 2002 members!

Helen Wallace, Jude Liptak,
Mark Holmquist, Gregg Henderschiedt,
Brian Friedman, Inger Friedman,
Elaine Murray, Orville Gladen,
Katharina Brekke, Thomas Bie,
Adda DePool, Robert Larsen, Betty Andro,
Evelyn Keever, and Ethel Gravesen

**Thank you for joining
Hampton Roads Lodge 3-522
and making 2002 a
great year for membership!**

Meet New Members...

Kenneth & Catherine Hill



My name is Kenneth Hill. I am a maintenance manager, a husband a father of two. I am familiar with SON through my in-laws who have been active members for years. My wife who is a Norwegian-American has introduced me to the traditions and language of Norway. I have enjoyed your dinner cruises the past two summers and look forward to more.

~Kenneth

My name is Catherine Hill . I am an architect, a wife and a mother of two. I became familiar with the SON through my parents, who have been active members for several years. I am a Norwegian-American through my Norwegian mother and having lived in Norway for 5 years, I learned the Norwegian language and traditions. I was first introduced to the SON through the NOREG Lodge in New Jersey. I was a member of the “Happy Trolls”, the lodges youth group. I feel it is important to maintain my Norwegian heritage so I can eventually pass them on to my own children.

~Catherine

**Velkommen
Kenneth, Catherine,
Craig, & Caren !**

Craig and Caren Hutcheson



My name is Craig Hutcheson. I am a Vice Principal for a high school on New Jersey. I have been exposed to SON through my in laws and my Norwegian American wife, Caren. I am becoming more and more Norwegian as each holiday passes and new foods and drinks are discovered. I have enjoyed being with you on your dinner cruise and look forward to other events.

~Craig

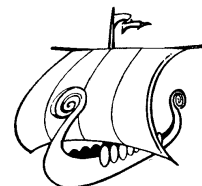
My name is Carne Hutcheson. I am a middle school math teacher in Northern New Jersey. I have lived in Norway and speak and read Norwegian. I first learned about SON through my parents’ involvement in the organization. I was also a member of the NOREG lodge youth group, “Happy Trolls”. I am very interested in all things Norwegian. I have enjoyed being with the lodge on some your outings and look forward to more events.

~Caren

Editors note: Catherine and Caren are the daughters of our very own AnneGrete and Ralph Peterson!

**Let us take you back
to your heritage.**

Discover Sons of Norway



Meet our new Officers...



President, Ralph Peterson

I was born and raised on a farm near Buxton, ND. One of 4 boys, after graduation from North Dakota State University, I attended Navy OCS and was commissioned an Ensign in 1962. I served on a variety of Destroyers and one Cruiser. I lived in Italy for 2 years, Norway for 3.5 years

and Puerto Rico for 2 years. After retirement in 1983 I went to work with Maersk Line Limited. We leased ships to the US Navy and operated them as well. We also operated ocean going ships in the commercial trade. We did many things but our main job was to carry equipment for the US Marines. I retired from that job in 2000 as VP of Operations. I feel that I have been in the SON all my life. My Mothers parents emigrated from Norway in 1903. They were from Østerdal. My Fathers Grandparents were from Numendal and Hallingdal. Everybody in Climax, MN where I went to school was Norwegian except for one Swede, 1 Russian and 1 Irish family. Things certainly did not become less Norwegian when I married AnneGrete. I officially joined the SON in 1981 but I had been practicing for 42 years.

While we participated in all the lodge activities until we moved away from our lodge in NJ, my work related travel (66 countries and many of them over and over) did not permit me to hold office. I am glad the travel is over because I like the deeper involvement in the lodge.

Duties of the President include:

- a) preside at all meetings of the Lodge and the board of Directors;
- b) be the highest ranking Officer of the Lodge, and as such have general supervision of the Lodge, enforce proper obedience to the Charter and the Constitution of Sons of Norway and the Lodge, and to the rules, regulations and ceremonies; and see that the Officers perform their duties;
- c) appoint all standing or special committees unless otherwise expressly provided;
- d) be a member ex-officio of all appointed committees except the Nominating and Auditing Committees;
- e) announce the result of all elections and ballotings;
- f) have no vote except when Officers are elected or applications balloted on, or in case of a tie vote;
- g) decide all parliamentary questions that may arise, but these rulings may be appealed to the Lodge;
- h) attend to the bonding of Officers;
- i) sign all reports to the International Lodge and contracts, and all other instruments issued on behalf of the Lodge;
- j) countersign all checks, bank and postal transfers issued by the Treasurer;
- k) in the event of a member's death, be of assistance to the deceased's relatives with the arrangement of the funeral, if so desired, and shall request members of the Lodge to be present at the funeral;
- l) render assistance to the family of the deceased in matters as requested by the family, to the best of his or her ability.



Secretary, Mary Friesen

I was born and raised in Minnesota which might be the next best thing to being raised in Norway! My home town of Albert Lea was originally a largely Norwegian settlement with a huge Norwegian Lutheran Church. I'm told that when I was little there were still sermons being given in

Norwegian. My mother's family emigrated from the vicinity of Hamar, Norway, where they lived and worked on a farm. Having no means of acquiring property, they sailed to America with two little daughters to better their opportunities. My mother was later born in Albert Lea.

Dad's people were from the area of Kongsberg, Norway. His grandmother emigrated when his father was only 4 years of age and settled in New Richland, Minnesota, a town not far from Albert Lea. Both parents imparted their rich Norwegian heritage to both my brother and me. In fact, my brother was instrumental in convincing me to join Sons of Norway more than 25 years ago. I joined the Hampton Roads Lodge in 1977. After Floyd and I moved to California I was a member of Solbakken Lodge in Orange County for the next 17 years. It was a rich experience. The lodge is large and very active and I learned a great deal about all things Norwegian plus how to serve a lutefisk and lefse dinner to 350 people! 35 members including Floyd and me went to Lillehammer for the International Convention in 1992. We're looking forward to a trip with Hampton Roads members sometime in the future. It was great fun to be in the company of good friends for that special trip. Now we're back and I'm so happy to be a part of Hampton Roads Lodge again. Not too many folks are left from my earlier days but I'm enjoying getting acquainted and reacquainted with everyone!

Duties of the Secretary include:

- a) keep an accurate and impartial record of all meetings of the Lodge and the Board of Directors;
- b) carry on all correspondence which has not expressly been delegated to other Officers;
- c) read all official communications from officers of the International and District Lodge as well as all other communications to the lodge;
- d) issue and attest all reports to the International and District Lodges and all documents and certificates on behalf of the Lodge;
- e) send the District Secretary names and addresses of all persons who are expelled from the Lodge;
- f) in case any member moves to a place near where another Lodge is located, report this fact to the other Lodge and request that the member be contacted;
- g) inform the members of the time of all special meetings and also such regular meetings as the President may think necessary;
- h) be the custodian of the Lodge seal, which shall be affixed to all official documents.

FYI ...



* **Cultural Skills Group** will meet on Thursday, February 6 at the home of Grete Sutton: 5201 Ambassador Drive, Virginia Beach; her telephone-499-9725. Please phone these ladies if you are planning to attend. We have hopefully settled on a regular meeting day of the 1st Thursday of each month at 10 AM. We will have a few simple cross-stitch projects on hand for you beginners. If you haven't done this type of work before, starting on a simpler form of counted stitchery is essential before you can tackle Hardanger. We hope to go on to Hardanger lessons in the future. We'll look forward to seeing you next month! ~ Mary Friesen

* **Genealogy Website of the month**

<http://digitalarkivet.uib.no>

Norway's Digital Archives has provided me with a great deal of information. It has great census information for both Norway and the USA. It has Norway's census info for 1801, 1865 and 1900. It also has some information about Norwegians in the USA for several USA census. It lists many of the immigrants as they left Norway. It has so many different types of information that we can't list them here but please try the site, you will not be disappointed. ~Ralph

*Our **lodge website** is now active. You can see it by going to <http://sonhamptonroads.cjb.net> with your browser. Either Internet Explorer or Netscape should work fine. It is still 'under construction' (and probably always will be). Web Sites can go stale very quickly unless members take the initiative to keep it up to date. Comments and suggestions of any kind are appreciated. Send mail to the Larry Atkinson. Just click on his name on the Web Site. ~Larry

***From our Friendship Lodge-** Kari sent this website for those interested in Viking history. It is www.vikings.no and the site is both in Norwegian and English. There are several interesting links. In Norway and other countries nearby there is a big Viking movement going on. It almost seems like it is "hip" to be a Viking these days. There are many clubs where they meet, dress up as Vikings, and are find out how talented the Vikings really were in handicrafts and other areas. Check it out ~Astrid

*The **SON Lodge Yearly Audit** must be completed by mid March and an audit committee of two or more people will need to be appointed in February. Anyone interested in serving on the audit committee please contact Ralph Peterson or Ann Atkinson. This will entail a meeting (mutually agreed upon) separate from our regular meeting to go over the books and complete the audit. ~Ann

Third District Today

From the District President

From the February 2003 newsletter.

The newsletter can be read in entirety online at

<http://sofnd3.home.att.net> or ask our lodge president for a copy.

Recently I received an email from a friend who expressed great concern about the cost of conventions. I share his concern. I share his concern to the extent that I have already brought this up for discussion at the District Presidents Council, and the Council passed on the concern to the International Board. The International Board is actively looking at this issue realizing that it is of real concern to many of our members

To be fair to organizers of conventions, the district conventions over the past many years have probably not been what I call excessively expensive. But even if we agree that this is the case, the cost of conventions today are such that many lodges can ill afford to send a full complement of delegates. A few cannot even afford to send any. And of the lodges that do participate, most probably only partially reimburse the cost involved. I think most members realize that to participate in Sons of Norway at this level, is going to cost some. Having said this, clearly there are costs that should be reimbursed to the extent possible, and participation in conventions belongs to this category.

Before I go any further, let me make one assumption and that is that we agree that we need to have conventions. How then can we hold down costs? We have a system where organizational units can bid to host conventions. Does this have a cost implication, and should we change this? Of course the host will build a profit into its budget, otherwise why would they want to host? Obviously this has a cost impact, but a reasonable profit should be acceptable. The question then becomes how we safeguard against unreasonable profits. Could we legislate a maximum? No doubt we could, but is it practical? I would say probably not. Some would say that the District should run the conventions. Sure, that is a thought, but I don't think this would in itself necessarily mean cheaper conventions. So we probably have to look at the way we organize our conventions.

Undoubtedly one factor that impacts the cost is the venues of the conventions. Since I have been involved, we seem to have been going to fairly good hotels, I guess some would even say luxurious, and although they give us deals, no doubt this has cost implications, particularly since having our conventions in June means high season in most part of the district. Can we use other establishments? Some has suggested colleges, but would that work? Some will say that we can still use hotels but have the conventions during low seasons. That is a possibility. But keep in mind that the earlier we have the conventions, the earlier we need to start the preparations. As it is now, we have our District Board meeting the first weekend of March. If we move the convention up, the board meeting would have to be moved up too, and having it in either January or February would cut into what I consider high season for LOV. We could of course have the board meeting at another place than LOV, but that would obviously have cost implications for the district.

Can we reduce the time of conventions? This is, I think, something that should be considered. The International Secretary suggested that maybe somehow we could reorganize the conventions so that the business part could be reduced. It should be said that there are districts where the conventions are of shorter duration than the four days we have, but also keep in mind that traditionally our district has always had a large number of resolutions to deal with. I would not like to discourage lodges from sending in resolutions, but maybe there is a way to deal with resolutions that is not as time consuming as it is for us the way we are used to doing business. It has been suggested to classify resolutions as "substantial" and "housecleaning," thinking that the latter could be dealt with somewhat quicker. Maybe "housecleaning" resolutions could be considered en bloc with a written recommendation from the committees they have been assigned to? But I believe this topic warrants serious consideration as I do share my friend's concern. I am not sure what can be done, but I can promise you that I will bring the matter up for discussion at the District Board.

Fraternally,

Audun Gythfeldt, President



Who is this Mystery Member?



Look for the answer
in the March
newsletter!

Moss Choir to Visit Virginia Beach



As part of the Virginia Beach Sister City Cultural event a 36 member choir will be visiting from Moss, Norway. Get your tickets early, as limited number of tickets will be available.

Feb. 13, 2002 7PM "Voices of Love and Peace"- International Sister Cities Music Festival Joint Choral Concert featuring choirs from Ireland, Japan, and Norway. Tickets are \$10 each

Feb. 14, 2002 7PM "Ode to Joy"- International Sister Cities Music Festival Concert featuring the Miyazaki City Philharmonic Orchestra, the Virginia Beach Symphony Orchestra, and choirs from Ireland, Japan, Norway, and Hampton Roads.

Tickets are \$15 each

The tickets can be purchased at the Pavilion Box office from 9-5 weekdays, or at 1 800-955-5566, or www.tickets.com.

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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