

Virginia



Viking

SONS OF NORWAY HAMPTON ROADS LODGE NO. 522

Volume 29 No. 6

June 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



The NATO sponsored Syttened Mai functions were great. The sun came out for the parade. The music and color guard provided a great background. The speeches were very timely in regards to the world situation and full of meaning about the day. It was great to see so many young children taking part in the

celebration. The evening festivities were delightful as well. It was great to see so many there including several of our Richmond brothers and sisters. Many thanks to our fellow Norwegians at NATO for inviting our lodge to the festivities. We appreciate it very much.

We did a lot in the first few months of the year. We collected a lot of food for charities, helped out a choir, worked in schools, helped out Public Radio and Public TV, participated in a parade, held about 40 Norwegian Classes, went to a hockey game, decorated our meeting rooms with NORSK things, held Norwegian genealogy meetings, provided good programs, good food and a lot of fun. Let's hope the last half of the year will equal or better the first half. If we could continue our pace of accepting new members we would have to look for a larger meeting hall. Our **annual picnic** will be held at the Rumney's on June 8. I hope to see you there. This is a great time to bring your children or grandchildren along for a great old-fashioned picnic and to share in the SON experience.

By the time you get this letter AnneGrete and I will have attended the Zone 6 Memorial service in Lancaster, PA. We will both be participating in the service.

Our **boat cruise** is September 1. I would suggest you sign up early as we now have over 100 members but only 72 seats on the boat.

Remember to check our web site from time to time to see if any thing has changed or something new is happening.

Med Venlig Hilsen,
Ralph

Summer Meetings

There are no regular meetings for June, July or August. We hold open Board meetings.

There are no refreshments or programs.

The June board meeting will be held at the home of Ralph and AnneGrete Peterson, June 12 at 7:30 pm. Please contact a Board member for Board Meeting information for July and August.

SON Annual Picnic

Sunday, June 8th. 3:00pm

Deanna & Bob Rumney's house.

776 Harris Point Road, Virginia Beach, 23455
Please bring lawn chairs and your favorite dish to share with others. Bring your children or grandchildren and enjoy fun, food and fellowship.

Directions: Coming from our church meeting hall (Bayside Presbyterian Church) on Independence Blvd., pass the McDonald's Garden Center. Turn right at next light at Haygood Road. Go two lights and turn right on Crossborough, go to the end and turn right on Harris Point Drive. See the Norwegian flags on the house at the left side of street.

Luncheon Boat Cruise

Monday, September 1, 2003

This will be on the Elite 1 which is docked by the Waterside in downtown Norfolk. A reservation form is enclosed with this newsletter. Please fill it out and return with your check and choice of entrée to Ann Atkinson.

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 April Meeting

President, **Ralph Peterson** opened the April meeting with the anthems, a Norwegian sing-a-long and a Lena & Ole joke.

Paul Engebrigtsen's bio was read and his name was presented for membership. He was unanimously voted into our lodge. See *bio next pg.* We have received a letter of thanks from Our Saviors Lutheran Church for the food donations of last month. We were also mentioned in their monthly bulletin.

A SON Founders Award for 2002 has been given to us for achieving a growth in membership of 3% or more. We have had over 20% growth this year.

Astrid Gulas gave us news from our friendship lodge, Christiana Lodge in Olso. She has the newsletter for all to check out.

Our Azalea Fest float and riders were outstanding. The weather held out and it was wonderful parade. The costs of repairing the float and tow-bar were much less than anticipated.

Lani Brockwell is looking for host parents for 3 Norwegian high school students for the coming year. Anyone interested can review the profiles of these students by contacting Ralph Peterson.

A motion was made and passed to frame or mount several posters that were a gift from members, **Bill & Kate Nelson**. These will be used as part of our cultural awareness for our lodge and outside projects. Members are also able to "sponsor a poster" with donations made specifically for that purpose.

A 45 minute program is being worked on for the Adopt-A-School program in the fall. Material has been received from International Headquarters to assist with preparation of this presentation. Any interested volunteers please contact Terri Hewitt.

Martha Blau is now taking orders for the Norwegian-American flag denim shirts with or without the Lodge name. Costs are \$25 s-xl, \$27 2xl, & \$29 3xl. Call Martha @ 421-2660 to order.

Ralph Peterson reported that he now has the forms for applying for the walking sports medal for anyone interested in accepting the challenge. After his visit to Vesterheim in Decorah, Iowa, **Ralph Peterson** had much to share about his trip. It is a fabulous museum with exhibits of items which were collected starting 50 years after the first immigrants arrived. He also attended a workshop on writing a family history.

Floyd Friesen won the 50/50 drawing and donated all of it to the poster framing project. Tusen Takk!



Floyd Friesen accepts his 50/50 winnings, only to later donate it to the poster project.

Gratulerer Med Dagen!

Happy June Birthdays!

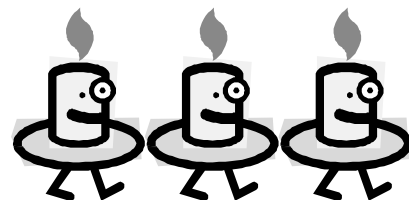
Marie Nielsen 1, Jack Stehlik 15
Jean Shewmaker 18, Mary Zimmerman 25,
Katarina Brekke 28

Happy July Birthdays!

Kate Nelson 9,
Anita Hill 10, Connie Hoff 10,
Rolf Williams 24, Duane Hass 30

Happy August Birthdays!

Astrid Gulas 2, Ralph Peterson 3,
Janice Underseth 3, Lisbeth Coker 5,
Larry Atkinson 6, Harry Richards 8,
Sheila Barrie 12, AnneGrete Peterson 19,
Howard Johnson 21, Diane Newlon 22, Helen Wallace 23
Sylvia Foster 25, Paul Sherland 25,
Grethe Sutton 28, Pat Shewmaker 28,
Gregg Henderscheidt 30, Violet Larsen 30,
Ed Andreassen 31



Today's Norway

Preventing trouble while abroad

Norway, like the United States, is a modern country with modern services and conveniences. However, some problems may arise while traveling that can be prevented or made easier before leaving.

First, it is always a good idea to purchase travel insurance before leaving, especially if the trip represents a significant financial investment for you. Travel insurance will cover what ordinarily would not be, such as theft, liability, loss, medical care and sudden alterations by travel companies. Often, standard insurance providers will offer better deals for this than insurers specializing in travel. Second, it is a good idea to pack a folder in your luggage with photocopies of your passport, birth certificate (certified) and the front and back of your credit cards, as well as leaving copies of these with a trusted friend or relative at home. That way, if your passport or wallet is lost or stolen, you can respond immediately. Always be aware of where to find your embassy as well. The phone number to the American Embassy in Oslo is 22 44 85 50, and the Canadian Embassy is at 22 99 53 00.

God tur! Have a good trip!

Today's Norway

Shopping in Norway

When shopping in Norway as a tourist, there are a couple things travelers ought to keep in mind. If you enter a shop in Norway that display the sign "Tax Free for Tourists" and purchase goods exceeding 308 kroner, you will be eligible for a rebate of 10 to 17% upon leaving the country. Simply ask the cashier for a "Tax - Free Shopping Cheque." At your departure point, present your shopping checks along with your purchases and receive your rebate.

A second thing to keep in mind while making purchases is the customs regulations of the country you will be returning to. For the United States, the general exemption to customs duty on most goods you purchase is \$600, and for Canada, the general exemption on most goods is \$750. For more complete rules, check out www.customs.gov and select "Know Before You Go!" on the right-hand side, or for Canada, go to www.ccr-aadrc.gc.ca/customs and select "Exemptions" on the right-hand side.

Lodge Annual Summer Kick-off



Sunday, June 8th, 2003

3:00 pm

at the Rumney's

776 Harris Point Dr.

Virginia Beach, VA 23455

490-3030



**Get ready for food, fun &
fellowship.**

**Please bring :
a dish to share
your favorite lawn chair**

**Hot dogs and lemonade supplied
Games provided
Norsk Basket Raffle**

**Bring your family
and share in the fun!**

Meet our Officer...



Financial Secretary, Anita Hill

Anita is a Charter member. She has served as President 3 times, Social Director, Editor, Counselor and now Financial Secretary for many years. Anita holds a wealth of knowledge about the lodge and the district as she has served as Zone Director 4 times. Anita and

husband, George have attended many District and International Conventions.

Anita's mother was Norwegian and her father Greek. They moved to Brooklyn, NY where Anita was born-delivered by Dr. Stork. Turns out he was a cousin of past member Edith Larsen. Anita's parents moved to Norfolk when she was very young. She met George while he was in the Navy here and they have two wonderful daughters and two beautiful grandchildren.

Anita & George have seen the lodge through many changes. They have been instrumental in making & keeping strong bonds in the community Anita says they have really enjoyed being part of the Lodge.

Duties of the Financial Secretary:

- (a) receive all money due and payable to the Lodge and shall promptly pay the same to the Treasurer upon obtaining a receipt. Money collected between meetings shall be turned over to the Treasurer no later than the close of the next business meeting; (8/88)
- (b) retain in a Lodge Record Book, the essential membership information required by the Lodge, and shall keep complete and accurate accounts between the Lodge and its members;
- (c) maintain books of account provided by the International Headquarters showing all monies received;
- (d) carry on all correspondence with the International Headquarters relating to the duties of the office;
- (e) prepare the financial reports of the Lodge, together with the Treasurer, and sign the same, together with the President and Secretary;
- (f) prepare and attest all transfer cards and shall inform the International Headquarters of all withdrawals, expulsions or re-instatement, and in each case give the name and address of such persons;
- (g) prepare membership reports and such other reports as may, from time to time, be requested by the International or District Lodges, or their Boards of Directors;
- (h) be present when the books are audited;
- (i) in the case of death of a member, report such to the International Headquarters;
- (j) perform such other duties as set forth in the Financial Secretary's Manual;
- (k) be the agent of the Lodge and not of the International Lodge. The Lodge members are, therefore, responsible to the International Lodge and the International Headquarters for the manner in which these duties are performed.

Meet our New Member...



Paul Engebrigtsen

I was born in Bodo, Norway in 1968. My father, Birger, was serving at the air station as an air force pilot. We soon moved to Snaroya outside of Oslo where my father began a new career as a commercial airline pilot for SAS.

My mother stayed home with my two siblings and I until we reached High School. She now runs her own company providing wigs for cancer patients at the cancer hospital in Oslo.

My biggest interest is sailing. I started out racing Optimist dinghies and later advanced to European racers. I competed both in Norway and internationally where I gained recognition in the process. My other interests include scuba diving, building and flying model airplanes, skiing, and music.

I was very lucky growing up since my family owned two cottages where we spent many a winter and summer vacation. One cabin was in the mountains near Geilo, and the other on the southern coast of Norway in Lyngor. In other words, I was exposed to the elements of water and snow. I am very fond of the Norwegian mountains. But, my heart will forever belong to the southern coast of Norway.

After graduating grade school, I decided to pursue an engineering education. I received a Mechanical Engineering degree from OIH (Oslo Engineering College). After graduating, I met my American wife Kim. We soon moved to Boulder, Colorado where I received a masters degree in Mechanical Engineering. We then moved back to Oslo, Norway where I worked for ABB Environmental as a project engineer. My son Dennis was born shortly after our return to Norway. We enjoyed Norway very much but after three years we returned to America. I am now completing a Masters Degree in Environmental engineering at ODU.

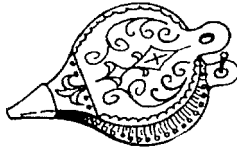
Velkommen Paul!

Kissing Zone to be Built

Farewell kisses outside of an entrance to St. Olav's Hospital in Trondheim, which lies along a busy road, have been causing traffic chaos. The problem arises during morning rush hour, as hospital employees are dropped off by their spouses for work. In response, authorities will build a "kissing zone" near the entrance for cars to pull off into as passengers say their goodbyes for the day.

~Nettavisen

FYI ...



* **The Sy Klub** will next meet at the home of **Grete Sutton** on Thursday, June 12 at 10 AM. She lives at 5201 Ambassador Drive, VB: Phone: 499-9725. This will be the last meeting until September when we'll be working in earnest on items for the bazaar. Come to this meeting if you want to get ideas for something you can be working on during the summer. ~Mary Friesen

* **Genealogy Website of the month**

<http://www.fellesraad.com/>

This is a site where you can look for information that is very specific to the part of Norway that you or your ancestors came from. You will have to find out which "Bygdelag" you are interested in checking out. Each Bygdelag offers a different package. You will have to check out your "Bygdelag" to find out what they are offering. *Bygdelag* are organizations comprised of descendants of emigrants from Norway to North America. Every "Lag" seeks to preserve and strengthen bonds with its home district or community-of-origin in Norway. You don't have to be a genealogist to enjoy this site. ~Ralph

* Follow the summer updates!

Check out our **lodge website** at <http://sonhamptonroads.cjb.net>

Send suggestions, submissions and updates to Larry Atkinson. Just click on my name on the Web Site. ~Larry

*Mark Your Calendars Now!

Lodge Christmas Bazaar, Nov. 1, 2003

Some tables are still available. Also teams are being formed for working that day. Please call Terri @ 460-4318 or Deanna @490-3030 to sign-up for either.

*Has your newsletter arrived in pieces?

Measures are being taken to solve this problem. Meanwhile, please let me know by phone or email if you another newsletter. ~Terri

*Traveling this summer?

Visit the official Sons of Norway website at: <http://www.sofn.com>
Events for other areas are listed there.

Third District Today

From the District President

From the May 2003 newsletter.

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

As 3D today takes a break for the summer I want to talk to you about membership. I want you to go into the summer season looking forward to cook-outs, picnics, festivals and whatever else it is we do during the summer months, but I would also like you to think, and talk about membership and what we can do to increase the number of our dwindling flock.

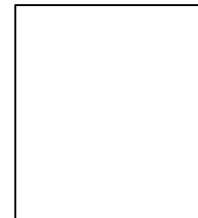
There are initiatives undertaken by the Sons of Norway leadership in an effort to encourage lodges to go out and try to increase their membership. One such initiative is an incentive scheme that I think is doable for just about every lodge. What it is all about is for the lodge to gain a net increase of 3% in membership for the year 2003. For a long time now achieving a 3% membership increase has given the lodge the Founders Award, which is given in the form of a certificate. That is nice enough and at least gave the lodges recognition for modest membership increase. However, for the year 2003 in addition to the Founders Award, the lodge will also receive \$50. I say money talks! Now you go out and prove me right! And think about it, it really is not that difficult. A majority of the 53 lodges in the Third District are relatively small. If you have 100 members and many of our lodges have about that number of members or less, all you have to do is to show an increase of 3 members come the end of the year. If every lodge in the district achieved a 3% increase, the district would increase its membership by about 230, which would bring our total to about 7900. The result of that would be that we would maintain the current number of International delegates. I do realize that it is somewhat unrealistic to expect every lodge to achieve a 3% increase. However, to maintain our delegate number, the district as a whole only needs an increase of about 2%, and that I think, is something that we can achieve. So I challenge every lodge to set itself the goal of increasing its membership by 3% in 2003, hoping that a sufficient number of lodges will achieve the goal and thereby increase the total district membership enough to maintain the current number of delegates to the International Convention in Washington in 2004.

The International Vice President has formed a vice presidents network, which has worked on promoting membership recruitment and retention throughout the Order. The group had 3 goals: 1) Establish an active membership program in each Local Lodge. 2) Place all Spirit of the New Century in the Local Lodges, and 3) Share District membership programs among the Districts, Home Office and International Board. I hope that with a concrete program in our hands, we can give the local lodges better guidance as to how to go about dealing with the question of membership. But until we have our program to work with, think culture, heritage, lodge programs and financial benefits and you should have plenty to attract the interest of potential members.

I hope you all enjoy the summer. Myself I am heading back to Norway to spend time with family, mostly at the old summer place by Drammensfjorden. Oslo is not too far away, so I will have time and occasion to show my son and his wife the town where I grew up, and will hopefully also meet some old friends. Have a great summer, relax and enjoy.

Fraternally,
Audun Gythfeldt, President

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GOD SOMMER!



**Who
is
the
June**



**Mystery
Member?**



► Yep! It's your Editor,
Terri Svendsen-Hewitt

Litt på norsk

Nordmenn drikker minst i Europa

Det kom gode nyheter fra en fersk rapport fra den norske stat. Nordmenn drikker mindre alkohol enn noen andre folk i Europa. Målt i antall liter ren alkohol per innbygger topper Irland listen med 12,3 liter. Islendingene og svenskene var lenger nede sammen med Norge, mens Romania, Portugal og Tyskland følger Irland på topp.

-Norway Times

A Little in English

Norwegians Drink the Least in Europe

There was good news from a recent report by the Norwegian government. Norwegians drink less alcohol than any other people in Europe. Measured by the number of liters of pure alcohol per capita, Ireland tops the list with 12.3 liters. Icelanders and Swedes are further down with Norway, while Romania, Portugal and Germany follow Ireland at the top.

-Norway Times

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.