

# Virginia



# Viking

SONS OF NORWAY HAMPTON ROADS LODGE NO. 522

Volume 30 No. 1

January 2004

President: Ralph Peterson 318-9414	Treasurer: Ann Atkinson 489-3218	Cultural: Mary Zimmerman 502-0846
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## The President's Corner



I hope that you all had a great Christmas and a happy New Year. These two holidays bring back many pleasant memories of past Christmas and no matter how old we are, I am sure that you have memories of that special gift that you once received. For many of us it is a time to reflect on our Norwegian heritage, which plays an important part in our holiday

celebrations. The customs vary from valley to valley and town to town and those traditions came across the ocean with the immigrants. But no matter which main dish was served, the seven different kinds of cookies were there, and that truly is Norwegian.

The Christmas party was a great event. We had over 90 happy, well fed Norwegians in attendance. Synnove and her super helpers did a great job and deserve our many thanks. Thanks to those of you who donated the excellent door prizes. As usual our language class provided us with some great songs. Next years party will be held in the same building but in the big room next door complete with a big bar and dance floor. I have talked it over with all the other "Bestefars" and we decided that the rest of you can waltz as well as us. December 19 is the date so put it on your calendar.

I found out that the German community has an annual Church service, which is held entirely in German. This year it was in Norfolk. That is a project that we might want to try for the coming year. If anyone is interested in being part of a committee to look into holding a Norwegian Christmas Service please contact me.

I am very proud to advise you that Ernie and Grete Sutton's son Austin finished the requirements for both a Bronze and Silver "Sykkelmerke" Medal. That is great. Austin challenged me to keep up with him but I only won the Bronze medal as my bicycle had some problems staying upright. If you still have medals to claim for 2003 get the information in to Mark Holmquist ASAP. I hope that next year we can increase our participation in the program and get more children and grandchildren into our programs.

## JANUARY MEETING

THURSDAY, JANUARY 22TH, AT 7:30 P.M.

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

## PROGRAM

Rick Baer portrays "Eric the Bear" a 10th century Norse clansman (of the Bear Clan). He is member of the Hampton Roads Historical Reenactor's Organization. (Rescheduled from Sept.)

## THEME FOR THE NIGHT

Please wear or bring along your favorite Viking items to share.

## FOOD PANTRY

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

Some things to look forward to this spring include a possible bus trip to Ikea in February, our f rik l dinner 12 March, a trip to watch the local hockey team (the Admirals) play in Feb or March and the Azalea parade April 24. Language classes will start again in January, Sykkelmerke will continue and we will schedule a few meetings to discuss Genealogy. AnneGrete and Martha have agreed to co-chair a cookbook project for the lodge. They will be looking for recipes in the near future. Hope to see you at the January meeting.  
Med Vennlig Hilsen,  
Ralph

Newsletter submissions are always welcome. Deadline is the 3<sup>rd</sup> 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 Christmas Party

## Happy January Birthdays!

Unni Ramsey 11, Carol McCarthy 13,  
 Jerry Blau 15, Mary Friesen 17,  
 Jim Zingler 18, David Silseth 19,  
 Bob Larsen 23,  
 Billie Letts 24, Karen Berling 24,  
 Katherine Priestap 30, Berit McCarthy 30



**Congratularer Med Dagen!**



*Left: The Julenissen made a special visit.*

*Below: The Norwegian Language Class provided excellent entertainment.*

*Right: Mary Friesen, Joe Gulas and Astrid Gulas.*



*Left: Revs. Dick & Evie Keever and Ethel Gravesen.*

*Right: Vice President Martha Blau with husband, Jerry.*

*Left Below: Selma & Thor Andersson with daughter Grete Sutton and her husband Ernie.*

*Right Below: Editor Terri Hewitt and husband Steve.*



## Meet our New Members...



Sharon Holmquist

I was born in California but came to Virginia when I was two years old. I am center manager for Lincare's Chesapeake office. It is a home oxygen company. We have two children. Robert is 21 and Jessica is 18. I am

not of Norwegian descent but I see how much joy it brings Mark in his learning his family background, Norwegian language and traditions. I am joining at his request and because I enjoy all of the functions this group puts on. I look forward to the meetings and will help where I can.

~Sharon Holmquist



Rose  
Johansen Vallera

My Norwegian heritage has always been important to me. I have always been very interested in learning more about everything to with Norway. My grandfather came from Norway in the early 1900's.

My father was always proud of his roots and I am too. Working for a ship chandler and with two fellow Norwegians, I was able to learn a lot. But I am always interested in learning more. I am a pretty good cook. I sew and am very computer literate. I am willing to help out where ever I am needed. I am a divorced mother of three beautiful blue-eyed boys. They are also interested in learning more. Our goal is to one day take a trip to Norway and experience everything first hand. My father was talking about joining right before he passed. I wish he were here to attend the events with me. In my heart he will be.

~Rose Johansen Vallera

Velkommen  
Sharon & Rose!

*Look for new member bios*

*next month!*

*Please make additions/changes to your directory:*

### *Add*

Axel Dahl  
Bishops Lea  
East Burnham Park  
Allards Rd.  
Bucks SL2 3TJ England  
Phone: 001 441 753 6469 75

Sharon Holmquist  
3818 Pamlico Circle  
Norfolk, VA 23513  
Phone: 857-7847

Katia Peterson  
2025 N Quinn ST  
Arlington, VA 22209  
Phone:703 913-9524

Hanni Peterson  
Patrick Peterson  
7857 Wintercross Lane  
Springfield, VA 22152

Rose (Johansen) Vallera  
653 Tyson Road  
Virginia Beach, VA 23462  
Phone 757 495-6629

### *Change*

Wilma & William Foss  
Anna Schmidt  
813 Queen Elizabeth Drive  
Virginia Beach, VA 23452  
Phone: 757 486-2042

**Tusen Takk to all our members for making 2003 a success!**

Please remember to fill out and turn in your Volunteer/Member services sheet for 2003.

This data is used for mandatory reporting that maintains SON tax-exempt status. It also goes toward consideration of lodge of the Year. ***Make every hour count!***

**Return your form to: Mary Friesen, 6433 Azalea Garden Road, Norfolk, VA 23518**

FYI...



\* **The Sy Klub (Sewing Club)** will be held on Thursday, January 8, at 10AM. We'll meet at Mary Friesen's house: 6433 Azalea Garden Road, Norfolk. Planning for the coming year including Hardanger lessons beginning in February and ideas for the next Bazaar will be subjects for discussion. It's not too early to be working on projects. We received many nice comments about our table this past November. Please let me know if you're interested in Hardanger. You can call me at 857-8560. Looking forward to seeing you in January. ~Mary Friesen

\* **Genealogy Website of the month**

No web site this month but a tip on names. You must have an open and imaginative mind when dealing with Scandinavian immigrants names. First you had the patronymic system of naming, ie Peder's son became Pederson. Then you had the practice of taking a farm name. This could change if you switch farms. Then there is the spelling problem when immigrating. I will give you some personal examples. My fathers grandparents, Ole and Margætte, signed out of Norway in 1877 using the same last name, Olson. Margætte (later changed to Margaret) did not use her Patronymic name Knudsdatter. Later her family all took the last name Vikan. After a few years in America, Ole and Margætte changed their last name to Vettern, which is a farm name. My mother's parents married in Norway and then immigrated. My Grandmother used the farm name Nabben not Pedersdatter as she was listed in the 1901 Norway census. Her brothers used the patronymic name Pederson not Nabben when they signed out. My grandfather used his patronymic name as well as a farm name. The farm name was spelled differently on 3 different documents coming over. Once here, he changed his last name to the farm name but with a different spelling than that used in Norway. Later one of his sons ended up spelling that name differently and his children have spelled the name differently. Compounded problems, I have more name stories but enough is enough. Just remember to be flexible and learn to document individuals by other means than last names when names won't work for you. ~Ralph

\*Keep in touch with lodge happenings with updates from 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

## Third District Today

### From the District President

*From the January 2004 newsletter.*

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

The question of how to run a convention is not new. We have discussed this over time; we do it differently from district to district and that is all well and good. We should all be comfortable with the way we do things. But during this past year the question has come up again since there have been many questions raised about corporate governance. True, the problems of the commercial world have not hit the fraternal benefit societies, at least not yet, but the International Board thought it prudent to examine the situation and explore legal matters pertaining to governance, which led the Board to discuss governance options available under the Model Fraternal Code.

According to the Model Fraternal Code, there are two permissible forms of governance. One is the convention system, which we have used in Sons of Norway. Under this system the International Lodge is the supreme governing authority. The other permissible option is to have the Board of Directors as the supreme governing authority. As you know, members of the supreme governing authority must be insurance members, which means that the way things are now, all delegates to the International Convention must be insurance members, whereas if we used the Board model, only members of the Board would have to be insurance members. When discussing all this several things were taken into account such as convention costs, size of delegation, financial commitment to hotels, delegate issue of Norway and Canada where Sons of Norway does not sell insurance, as well as the desire by some or many to make the conventions more cultural and less business oriented.

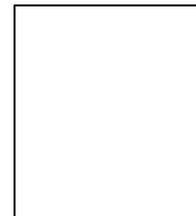
The District Presidents were consulted on these matters, but before I let my opinion be known, I brought this matter to the attention of the members of the District Board who unanimously stated that they wanted status quo, and I passed this on to the International Board. Sons of Norway has always been governed from the grassroots up and unless we are mandated to change the way we work, membership participation in the governance of the organization should be continued. To say with Yogi Berra: "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!"

There are other arguments in this matter also, but we need not go into those now because the International Board not unexpectedly decided that there was no reason to change. In a letter I have received from the International President, Jim Olson, he writes: "The International Board does not believe that it is appropriate for Sons of Norway to consider implementing any changes in the governance system. We are aware that it may be appropriate for Sons of Norway to examine governance options at a future date and also that Federal or State laws may dictate changes in operations. We believe that the District and International Lodge Conventions systems have served us well and provide an opportunity for member involvement and participation in the governance of Sons of Norway. We do not intend to pursue any change in this form of governance."

I commend the International Board for discussing matters of such obvious importance to the organization and I am gratified that they understand the importance of the District Presidents and that they sought our opinions in the matter. And being of the opinion that no change was needed, I am delighted that the International Board concurs.

Fraternally,  
Audun Gythfeldt, President

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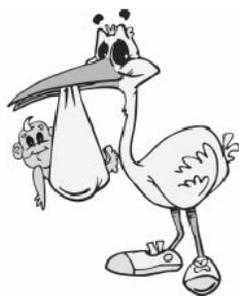


**Happy 2004!**

Mystery  
Member?



? If you guessed  
Jack Stehlik for  
December's  
mystery member,  
you are right!



## Norwegians Having More Children

The population of Norway increased by 20,700 during the first nine months of 2003. The main cause of this is that more babies were born. The birth rate increased by 1,800 compared to the same period the previous year, reports Statistics Norway. Norway's population now stands at 4,573,000 people. Oslo, Rogaland and Akershus counties have the highest birth rates. Women in Hedmark County had the fewest babies. At the same time, immigration has gone down while emigration went up, according to census data. In many European countries, too few children are being born, but in Norway this trend has perhaps reversed.

*~From Aftenposten-Nettavisen*

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.