

# Virginia



# Viking

SONS OF NORWAY HAMPTON ROADS LODGE NO. 522

Volume 30 No. 10 *International Div. II 2002 Lodge of the Year* 2003 3rd District Newsletter of the Year October 2004

President: Ralph Peterson 318-9414	Treasurer: Ann Atkinson 489-3218	Cultural: Mary Zimmerman 502-0846
VP: Martha Blau 421-2660	Secretary: Mary Friesen 857-8560	Editor: Terri Hewitt 460-4318

## The President's Corner



As I watch the rain coming down today, the left over from Ivan or is it Jeanie, I can't help but feel lucky when I think of our brothers and sisters reeling from hurricanes (4) in Florida, earthquakes and forest fires in California. I guess the weather in Hampton Roads is not that bad.

We have a busy month coming up. I am looking forward to our boat trip, a night with WHRO and our monthly meeting where we will get an update on the Norwegian military and Norway's role in the "New NATO".

Our Nominating committee is still looking for a few "good Men and Ladies" for lodge offices. If you are interested please contact them if you haven't, as there may still be some jobs available. If you feel that being on the board is too much of a commitment then let them (Ann A, Mark H, Anita H, Terri H) know that you would be happy to help on various committees.

We still need some folks for the Adopt-A-School committee; serve as a volunteer to listen to first graders read ½ hour a week. You can call me for the Adopt-A-School committee and Barbra Stehlik for the reading. I have attended my first meeting representing our lodge on Azalea festival committee. It sounds like they will have a great week. The Norwegian Embassy is very involved with the planning and has some great ideas. The week will have a "Maritime Theme". We expect that Norway's ambassador to the USA and perhaps Norway's Defense Secretary will be here.

One of our biggest events of the year if not the biggest is our Christmas Bazaar. It is a big event both from a community relationship event and it is our biggest moneymaker. We need a lot of help. You don't need to be there all day but one or two hours of your time would

## OCTOBER MEETING

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21TH, AT 7:30 P.M.  
at Bayside Presbyterian Church, Room 401,  
on Ewell Road in Virginia Beach. (Off Independence  
Blvd. Just north of McDonald's Nursery).

### PROGRAM

A guest speaker from NATO will give us an overview of the Norwegian Military and Norway's role in the "New NATO".

### FOOD PANTRY

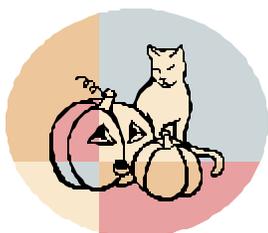
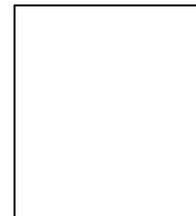
As part of our outreach program, bring a can(s) of food to our next meeting. Our host church, Bayside Presbyterian will be the recipient.



be great. We have a lot of jobs so please call Terri or Sharon and volunteer and do it soon so they can concentrate on the Bazaar and not looking for help. It is time for the fall WHRO radio membership drive. We are volunteering for 27 Oct 7 PM to 11 PM. Normally we get out before 11. I would like to have 10 people sign up. Please let me know by phone 318-9414 or email [nodakralph@aol.com](mailto:nodakralph@aol.com) ASAP.  
Tusen Takk!  
Med Veldig,  
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](mailto:ViElskerNorge@mindspring.com)

**Sons of Norway**  
Hampton Roads Lodge 522  
Terri Hewitt, Editor  
4936 Farrington Dr.  
Virginia Beach, VA 23455  
ViElskerNorge@mindspring.com



Happy  
Halloween!



## Norwegians Don't "Get" Halloween

The trick and treat traditions of Halloween are steadily spreading around the world. But while neighbor Sweden enjoys the holiday, some Norwegians want it banned.

Americans in Norway are trying to explain the point. "The celebration of Halloween in Norway is so misunderstood. It is more and more about the frightening and less about the cute and strange," says American Diane Daviknes, who has lived in Norway for 11 years.

Diane Daviknes and other members of the American Women's Club believe that Norway's version of Halloween is in the process of becoming something very different from the U.S. holiday.

Daviknes suggests what Norwegians need is to learn the American rules for celebrating the spooky holiday, including only visiting homes that have turned on lights and only allowing small children (up to 10 or 11 years) participate in trick-or-treating.

*-from Aftenposten*

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.

FYI...



**\* The Sy Klub** (Sewing Club) will be held on Thursday, October 28th, 2004 at 10:00 AM at the home of AnneGrete Peterson, 4121 Roenker Lane, Virginia Beach. This is a very important meeting. We will be making the final arrangements for our table at the Bazaar. If you have any items that are finished or need to be finished, please bring them to this meeting or if you are not able to attend the meeting bring them to Mary Friesen at the S.O.N. meeting on October 21st. Directions and information can be gotten from AnneGrete at 318-9414.

~Mary Friesen

### \* Lodge happenings

Our busy autumn is here and the lodge has a lot of activities planned over the next few months. Keep up to date on activities and changes through our **lodge website** at <http://sonhamptonroads.cjb.net>

~Larry

### \* Bazaar 2004

It's right around the corner! Our success last year was due to all that helped. Please mark your calendars for Sat., Nov. 13 and think about ways you can help- We really need you! Please call Terri @ 460-4318 or Sharon @ 857-7847. Tusen Takk!

~Terri

### \* Bazaar Bakers Needed

Mary Zimmerman (502-0846) and Mary Ohnemos (467-6156) are co-chairs for the Bakeri Booth for the bazaar in November. We will be scheduling baking days the whole month of October, probably on Tuesdays and/or Thursdays and at least one Saturday. Since we sold out of everything last year we know we really have to prepare early and plan our selections and presentation of product carefully. We hope to also offer the "mini" kransekake again and since Ann Atkinson made all of them by herself last year, she'd appreciate help this year! We're also looking for bread-bakers who can make julekake for sale that day. These can be made ahead also and frozen. Mary Z. has room in her freezer if needed by anyone. Does anyone in the lodge want to volunteer to make lefse? Would anyone want to get a group together and have a "lefse bake?" If you know how to make it and are willing to teach others in the lodge please call either Mary! Any ideas or suggestions for improvement are appreciated- we want to present the very best of our Norwegian baking for the community to enjoy.

~Mary Zimmerman

## Third District Today

### From the District President

*An edited version from the October 2004 newsletter.*

*The newsletter can be read in entirety online at*

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

October is upon us and it is time to remind you this is Foundation Month. The lodges make their donations to the Sons of Norway Foundation and/or the Third District Charitable Trust. Both of these causes are very worthy especially now. The Third District is currently gathering the information of those members who have been devastated by hurricane Charley. We are also gathering information of those members who were affected by hurricane Francis. { We just hope that hurricane Ivan takes a different path. } We are thinking of ways that we will be able to offer our help. Please forward any ideas to Ralph Peterson and myself, or any member of the District Board. The SON Foundation collected \$10,199.68 from the three days of the International Convention. It was asked and approved during the convention, that a portion of the money raised during the three days be designated to those members affected by Charley. The International Convention went very well. The Co-Chairmen, Audun Gythfeldt and Jørgen Fidje, and Honorary Chairman Charlie Nilsen, did a superb job with organizing every item to the last detail. The week ran like clockwork. The International Board and the International Delegates were delighted with the events and the free time. We are presently calculating the expenses and I can report that we made a good profit. I would like to thank everyone on the 2004 Convention Committee, who worked so hard for the four years, but especially for the past two years. Our 21 International Delegates have done a fine job. All were prepared and present at each session. The convention committees reported on 21 Officer and Staff Reports and 45 Resolutions. We were hard at work and diligent to complete it all. International President Jim Olson kept everyone on task and the convention was completed ahead of schedule. The Third District presented nine resolutions for consideration. Five of the nine were approved. They were:

1. LEIF ERIKSON DAY, OCTOBER 9TH, PROCLAMATIONS, AND CELEBRATIONS: that in States that do not issue a proclamation, lodge members consider meeting with their local State Representatives to petition their State Legislature to pass an education bill, for their Governor to issue an annual October 9th, Leif Erikson Day Proclamation, to be posted in all schools and promoting and perpetuating the observance of the US President's Proclamation that October 9th, is Leif Erikson Day, and urging Lodges in Canada and Norway to also promote this as an international event.
2. RESTORATION OF THE HISTORIC 1893 REPLIC A GOKSTAD VIKING SHIP, LOCATED IN CHICAGO: that all Sons of Norway members, Lodges, International Headquarters, and Viking Magazine, take an active part in publicizing this voyage and the need to restore and preserve the 1893 replica Gokstad Viking Ship, and consider dedicating its restoration as a memorial to the 100th Anniversary of Norway's Independence.
3. DIFFERENT COLORS FOR CARDS: that the cards titled "Death Notice", "Change of Name" and "Change of Address" be of different colors.
4. INCREASE FRATERNAL FEE TO DISTRICTS: the formula for the fee was changed to be \$1.00 per member in each district, with a minimum of \$4500. per district.
5. ZONES OR SUB-DISTRICTS: Change the word "sub-district" wherever it occurs in the Charter and Constitutions of Sons of Norway to "zone". Four of these resolutions were recommended approval by the committees as written, the exception was the increase to the Fraternal Fee. There was a substitute to combine those received. 2005 will be an eventful year. We are working in conjunction with various organizations and within our own lodges on exciting events throughout the year. The Norwegian/American 2005 Commemoration Committee of New York is working on a few ideas. For everyone who is asking, Roy is doing great. His knee, leg and ankle are healed and he has been back to work full time for two months now. He is still going to physical therapy but his progress gets better and better. I want to thank everyone for their thoughts and wishes. Our Sons of Norway Family continues to grow.  
Fraternally, Barbara

# News from Norway

*By Astrid Gulas, Friendship Lodge and Sister City Representative*

## Update from our friendship Lodge Christiania, Oslo and 4th of July

While in Norway this summer my husband, Joe, and I took part in the celebration of the 4th July in the beautiful Vigeland Park in Oslo. Due to security regulations there was no parade from the American Embassy to the Park this year. The 4th was on a Sunday this year and a perfect summer day. The large crowd was a big surprise, and as the day went on more people showed up.

It seemed like everybody was having such a good time picnicking on the lawn, looking at the large assembly of antique American cars, and shopping at all the different booths. There are several American organizations in Oslo, and they were all represented. One popular booth



*Christiania Lodge and their very successful vafler booth.*

was selling American foods that are not available there such as, Dr. Pepper, Kraft Dressings etc.....and another selling fresh donuts. The most popular one was The Christiania booth where they were making VAFLE and coffee non stop. The wonderful aroma brought in the crowds. I was told they made 16 gallons of batter ahead of time, and they ended up with a super profit that day. They also launched a big membership campaign. I was very impressed with the brochure that was made with such details on the Lodge's activities, benefits etc. They received several applications for memberships. There was a huge stage decorated in red, white and blue, and after the National Anthem was sung and the official speeches delivered, entertainment continued throughout the day.

The American Ambassador opened the festivities and I was told that Ambassador and Mrs. Doyle became Honorary Members of Christiania Lodge in a ceremony at the American Embassy earlier this summer, performed

by Norway's District President Ernst Granly, and Christiania's President, Anne Tandberg. The Ambassador is of Norwegian decent and is doing very well in his study of the Norwegian language. Needless to say, Christiania is very honored to have Ambassador and Mrs. Doyle as their Honorary members.

I receive Christiania's Newsletter every month and it is very informative. I only wish it was in English so I could share it with you. I was very pleased to see that they featured our story about the "Norwegian Sailors Graves", also telling about our Lodge's success with such an increased membership, Azalea Festival, etc... They also receive our newsletter every month, and I send info of our activities from time to time.

Christiania sends their warm regards for a wonderful season ahead.

Visit to Moss Norway, Virginia Beach's Sister City  
I went to Moss this summer representing Virginia Beach in their bringing gifts from Mayor Oberndorf for Mayor Krogsvold, Former Mayor Gretha Kant and Sister City Representative, Kari Sandmael. I was shown around the Mayor's offices and after the gifts were presented a luncheon was held at the lovely "Refsnes Estate" together with all the staff.. I was overwhelmed by the hospitality and warmth of everyone and invited them to visit Virginia soon.



*Astrid (center) with Moss city representatives.*

Norway will be celebrating their 100 years independence from Sweden in 2005, and invitations have already been sent to the Virginia Beach Mayor and Delegates to take part in festivities in Moss Aug.2005.

After returning to Virginia Beach, I presented Mayor Oberndorf with a gift from the Mayor of Moss at the Sister City Award Ceremony. Virginia Beach recently won an award for best Sister City.

**Congratulations Astrid  
on your Golden Membership!  
Tusen Takk for all you have done to  
make our lodge great!**

# International Convention Notes

*By Lodge Pres., Ralph Peterson*

The 58<sup>th</sup> Biennial convention of the Sons of Norway was held 18-21 August in Washington, DC. This was the first time the convention was held in DC and the first time it was held in District 3 since the 1980 convention was held in Philadelphia, PA. The next convention will be held in Vancouver, Canada in August 2006.

There were 158 elected delegates and 12 International officers present. One delegate was absent and 13 of the seated delegates were alternate delegates. A last minute count of members revealed that District 4 (ND, SD, MT and Alberta, Canada) had added enough members to warrant another delegate. Members from 34 states, 3 Canadian Provinces and at least 3 NORSK Fylke attended.

While the International Board and the convention committees (Resolution, Finance/Investment, Law, and Reports) started their meeting on Monday the actual convention started Wednesday with the Keynote address given by the former US Ambassador to Iran who was an Iranian hostage for over a year and who is a Cousin of the International President.

There were two main social events: The President's reception and banquet which was a black tie event. There were several tours for those who did not have to attend the meetings and on Friday evening virtually everybody attended the Marine Corps Color ceremony which I must say was amazing.

A big glitch occurred in the folk art competition. The rule for delivering the items to be judged was a bit vague. A large percentage of the items were not delivered until Wednesday afternoon (including AnneGrete's entry) and by that time the judging was over. Due to complaints the contest was re-judged and AnneGrete won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the open division the second time around. While the show was excellent I think the quality of the 3<sup>rd</sup> District competition was as good as the International convention but there were more items on display in DC.

The SON Foundation sponsored a walk-a-thon. They walked every morning and at noon. We also had "coin banks" that also held paper money placed on each table. Between everything over \$10,000 was raised. The majority of the money will be sent to SON members in Florida to help with their hurricane recovery.

Daily sessions normally went from 8:30 am –12 PM and 1 PM –4:30 or 5 PM. We also had coffee breaks in the morning and afternoon. Every session was started with at least one song. For those of you who made cookies they were great. We also had some great entertainment. We received several reports from Headquarters personnel. The business end of our organization has been doing very well. While the insurance sales remain



*Ralph Peterson, receiving International Lodge of the Year Award for 2002 from President Jim Olson.*

rather flat the amount of annuities sold continues to grow at a very strong rate. The membership is also growing. 2003 was the first year of positive growth in many years and 2004 is looking good as well. Money is being invested in membership training. This training is designed to improve membership recruiting and retention. District 3 has several members who have been to Minneapolis for training and they will be training members of our lodge.

There were 46 resolutions submitted to the convention. A few were withdrawn and many were amended. Several of the amendments were of the book keeping nature don't have many of the amendments today but they will be coming in the mail. In her last newsletter the district president reported on the amendments proposed by District 3 and adopted by the convention. One that was proposed by District 3 was to investigate changing the name of SON to a no gender name. It was defeated. Two resolutions were passed that gave some financial aid to our two smallest Districts. A resolution was passed giving the lodges the choice of doing away with the position of Financial Secretary, change the functions or leaving it as it is. Delegate certificates were done away with and will be replaced with the SON membership card or a photo ID. An increase of the Fraternal funds to District was defeated however I believe this will happen in the future. A motion to reintroduce the dues free lifetime membership was defeated.

I believe we can expect the International dues to include a family plan in the future. Only the Vice President and the Secretary positions were contested. The incumbents were reelected. Our past International Director, John Hlivak was defeated in his run for Secretary.

I was impressed at the number of non-delegates at both the District and International conventions. I plan to be at the Vancouver convention, delegate or not, because it is just a great time.

## Highlights from the September Meeting

A letter was received along with a check for \$50.00 from the Fraternal Director of the SON Foundation congratulating us on 3% growth. We also received \$1000. for greatest percentage growth for large lodge internationally.

A letter was received from Cindy Olsen, director of the SON Foundation, thanking us for attending the 2004 international Convention.

A letter was received from Meyera Oberndorf, Mayor of Virginia Beach in regards to the ANA monument plaza and the Norwegian Lady plaza. She is excited about the project and feels it is a good thing for the city and the Norwegian Lady.

A Nominating Committee was formed consisting of **Anita Hill, Ann Atkinson, Terri Hewitt and Mark Holmquist**. They will be looking to fill all positions. Everyone was asked to put in their name if interested.

Past President, **Deanna Rumney** was congratulated for the 2002 International Small Lodge of the Year. Editor, **Terri Hewitt** was presented with a plaque for the 3rd District Newsletter of the Year award for 2002. Charter Member, **Astrid Gulas** was presented with a Golden Membership award.

Our annual Christmas Bazaar preparations are in full swing. Requests for tables are still coming in and the date is November 13 for the Bazaar. Help is still needed before during and after the bazaar.

Azalea Festival plans are being made. President, **Ralph Peterson** is attending those meetings and will keep us updated on the upcoming events.

**Hal Bernsen** updated the lodge on the Norwegian Lady Plaza and ANA Monument Plaza project. A formal motion was made for our approval of the project. The motion passed.

One of our favorite speakers, Robert Hitchings gave a program on the international situation as of 1814 and what caused the transfer of control of Norway from Denmark to Sweden.

**Marie Nilsen** won the 50/50 drawing and donated it all to the Charitable Trust. Tusen Takk Marie!

A wonderful selection of Norwegian desserts were on hand for sampling! Mange Takk to all who prepared these goodies!



Gratulerer  
Med Dagen!

Happy October Birthdays!

**William Foss 2, Ed Aadahl 9, Ruth Silseth 13,  
Axel Dahl 13, Floyd Friesen 20,  
Norma Castellano 24, Terri Hewitt 25,  
Anna Schmidt 28, Ragnhild Zingler 28**

Litt på norsk

## Å forsøke tapte familie forbindelser

Dette er tiden for folk utenfor Norge med norske røtter som ønsker å lære mer om sin fortid.

Tilgjengelig informasjon på internett øker stadig, og gjør arbeidet lettere for amatørleksforskere, skriver Aftenposten.

Personlige opplysninger som fødselsdato, fødested, pikenavn, dødsdato og andre viktige hendelser i kirke- og locale dokumenter kan være til hjelp for å finne slekt.

Arkiv, folketellinger og andre offisielle kilder blir stadig mer tilgjengelig på internett, og er kanskje det mest viktig verktøyet man trenger for å begynne jakten på forfedre i Norge.

For mer informasjon, besøk websidene nedenfor.

*-fra Aftenposten*

A Little in English

## Researching lost family ties

These are good times for people abroad with Norwegian roots who wish to learn more about their past. The increasing amount of information available, particularly on the Internet, facilitates the detective work for amateur genealogists, Aftenposten reports.

Basic facts such as birth dates and places, maiden names, death dates and dates of other major occasions in church and local records can help you trace your family tree.

Archives, censuses and other official sources are increasingly available on the Internet, which is the most important tool you need to start searching for your forefathers in Norway. Visit the web sites listed below.

*-from Aftenposten*

- ? [www.slekt.no](http://www.slekt.no)
- ? Genealogy Society of Norway:  
[www.disnorge.no/whoware.htm](http://www.disnorge.no/whoware.htm)
- ? The Norwegian Historical Data Centre  
[www.rhd.uit.no/indexeng.html](http://www.rhd.uit.no/indexeng.html)
- ? How to trace your Norwegian Ancestors  
<http://digitalarkivet.uib.no/sab/howto.html>
- ? Norwegian National Archives  
[www.riksarkivet.no/english/about.html](http://www.riksarkivet.no/english/about.html)
- ? Vesterheim Genealogical Center  
[www.vesterheim.org/genealogy.html](http://www.vesterheim.org/genealogy.html)
- ? Norwegian-American Historical Association  
[www.naha.stolaf.edu](http://www.naha.stolaf.edu)
- ? Norwegian-American Bygdelagenes Fellesraad  
[www.fellesraad.com](http://www.fellesraad.com)