



VIRGINIA VIKING

SONS OF NORWAY HAMPTON ROADS LODGE NO. 522

President: Ralph Peterson Vice President: Jack Kise Secretary: June Cooper Treasurer: Ragnhild Zingler

The President's Corner



Morn morn alle sammen, as with most people I felt that the summer flew by and I am not going back to school this fall. The days are getting a bit shorter and every now and then you feel a reminder of the cooler temperatures that lie ahead. No Canadian fishing trip for me this summer but I was on Lake of the Woods in Minnesota and we had a lot of fish and a lot of big black flies. Perhaps more flies than fish but still a great time with the brothers, cousins, nieces and nephews. Let's hope there are no hurricanes in our future. AnneGrete and I spent a lot of time in New Jersey this summer and the rebuilding that is going on along the "Jersey" shore because of Hurricane "Sandy" is nothing short of amazing.

We did have some nice events this summer with our picnic and then Harriet took many of us to see the Norfolk Tide as well as having a movie night for several members. This past Saturday we had another nice members lunch with a good crowd. This was at the Tradewinds restaurant overlooking the bay. These monthly lunches have become a favorite for many members. They normally are during the day resulting in easier driving, very little work involved in setting up and a great time to chat with our friends not to mention great food. Watch for our next lunch.

Our events postcard should have been out to you by now and I will take the blame for that but it will be out shortly. I was enjoying New Jersey too much. We should have some very interesting programs coming up so watch for the post card.

Our Zone 7 Director, Dirk Hansen, will be visiting us this fall and that will be great. He will probably visit us in November.

The SON has come up with a new Member Benefit Program that might be of interest to you. It is called PerkSpot. I copied this off the SON web site. "By visiting Sons of Norway's exclusive PerkSpot portal you can start saving today on products and services, like travel, clothing, food, entertainment and electronics. But that's not all! Every month new discounts are added to enhance the benefit and, once you create your account, the discounts you see will be tailored to the area in which you live!" Just sign on to the members only section and look for benefits. You might find something there you can use. There is a wide variety of offers and more come each week.

Ralph Peterson

Autumn Events

September Lodge Meeting

Thursday, September 17th

The summer is over and it's time to get down to business. Join us as we plan into the New Year! **Meeting is 7pm at the Bayside Presbyterian Church.**

Leif Erikson Day

Friday, October 9th

Celebrate with us in Newport News. We plan on meeting up at the Mariners' Museum for a ceremony and then going over the Mike's Pub. Contact Deanna Rumney for details and to RSVP 757-490-3030 or Norskamerican@aol.com



Fra Presidenten, Mary B. Andersen

I hope everyone had a chance to sit back, relax and enjoy the summer! Please remember to send photos of your summer picnics and other summer lodge activities to Ron Martinsen, our Publicity Director. The activity and excitement level always seems to pick up around the District at this time. The Third District will have a table at the 2015 Scandinavian Festival at Budd Lake, NJ this year (September 6th, 10 am to 6pm). Scanfest draws thousands of visitors! This is a great venue for us to let the Scandinavian community know we exist. As we have heard many times, Sons of Norway is one of the best-kept secrets! Zone 1 Director Karen Olsen-Helmold and Zone 3 Director Paul Kornbrette have taken the lead with this activity. I will be helping with the set up and staffing our table. If you are in the area on Labor Day weekend, stop by and say hello! If you have the time and want to help staff the table, just let Karen know. We welcome your help.

I will be joining Norumbega in September to celebrate their 45th Anniversary, WTG Norumbega! Our International Director, Marci Larson will also join in the celebration. I will also be visiting Hartford Lodge in October for their Leif Erikson Day festivities! Like I said, things are picking up around the District! Board members have been busy over the summer with the affairs of the District. Committees have been established to take a look at LOV, the Charitable Trust, the 3D website and the 2016 Convention. Work is progressing on a new lodge in the Atlanta area too! The Financial Advisory Committee has been busy with beginning work on Convention budgets, 3D LTD (LOV) projections and, of course, the 3D financials. The membership committee is also taking a hard look at our lodges and assessing the lodge leadership situation. You will be hearing more about all this soon!

Speaking of the 2016 Convention, this year we will have a District Nominating Committee. The Committee members are Marci Larson (Gateway to Florida), Barbara Bensen (Noreg), Charlie Abrahamson (Maine Nordmenn) and Judi Mack (Norumbega) as alternate. We will be working out the details of the Nominating Committee at the Fall Board meeting and will keep you posted. Land of the Vikings opened and youth camp was held! I was happy to be part of a work weekend; the LOV Board has accomplished a lot! You can read more about it in Roy's report. Well that's about it for now, much more to come!

Høsthilsen, Mary

The Full District Newsletter is online at <http://www.3dsofn.org/documents/TDTSept2015.pdf>
There's lots of information in the Third District Today newsletter. There's a wonderful stranded knitting pattern for a Norwegian headband... great for getting ahead on those holiday gifts!

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September Lodge Meeting

Just a reminder that your September meeting is fast approaching! We will meet after a long summer of fun in the sun on **Thursday, September 17th at 7pm**. We have a packed agenda and need you all to come ready to have a fantastic fall with us!

Harriet has another great film to share with us that runs around 30 minutes with music and scenes from around Norway. She also wants to encourage EVERYONE to mark the spot or spots that their ancestors come from in Norway. This is a lead up to a great program coming to you in November on your Norwegian Ancestry. Several lodge members are working to bring you the latest information on how to track down your family tree!

We also need help for all the upcoming events and celebrations we have this fall. October brings our Leif Erikson celebration in Newport News and possibly another membership luncheon! November is always busy with the Bazaar. Finally, we need to start thinking about our Holiday get together!

We look forward to seeing you all there!



Leif Erikson Day Celebration



The time is drawing near to celebrate the REAL New World explorer – Leif Erikson. Our lodge never misses an opportunity to celebrate a great Viking! This year's celebration falls on **Friday, October 9th**. We will all meet up in Newport News at the **Mariners' Museum and Park** (100 Museum Dr.). You are advised to come early, the museum opens at 9am and there are so many amazing exhibitions to take in. At 11:30 there will be a ceremony and laying of the wreath on site. After the ceremony we will plan to meet up at **Mikes Place Irish Pub** (1006

Warwick Blvd). We will have plenty of seating and a private room. We would love to get a count of who all would like to join us. Let us know if you are going to the lunch, museum, ceremony or any combo of the following. If we get more than 10 in our group at the museum we will all only pay \$10 for admission a piece. Also, it should be of note that Mike's Place is getting in a ton of Icelandic Cod for us! For more information on the Museum and Mike's Place please check out our **Facebook** page! Please contact Deanna Rumney to reserve your spot at lunch and to get in on our admission discount to the Mariners' Museum!

Deanna Rumney

NorskAmerican@aol.com

757-490-3030

Annual Holiday Bazaar

It's our favorite time of year around the lodge – time to get ready for our annual bazaar! This year the bazaar will be held on the second **Saturday of November – the 14th**. We'll be at the same location as last year, the **Francis Asbury United Methodist Church** (1871 N Great Neck Rd.). The hours for the event will be from **9am to 3pm** for Saturday only. Set up will take place on Friday, November 13th at 3pm.

The Bazaar is the most important event we sponsor during the year. The proceeds made from this event help fund many of the things we do throughout the year. It is VERY important that you help support this event by giving of your time and talents. If you would like to help in any way, please contact **Harriet Lindenberg at 757-721-7594**. We need volunteers in all capacities.

Here is a short list of jobs that need to be filled for the Bazaar, please contact us if you can lend a hand!

- **Set-Up and Take-Down:** Must be available Friday and or Saturday at 3pm. Call Lenny Zingarelli 757-631-0362 or Jim Zingler at 757-482-2004
- **Kitchen Help:** Must be available during the Bazaar and/or before and after to clean up/ set up. Call Ranny Zinger at 757-482-2004 or Vivian Zingarelli at 757-631-0362.
- **Baking Help:** Must have baked goods to the Bazaar by 9am day of, baking will be at your leisure. Call Mary Zimmerman at 757-502-0846.
- **Vendor Relief:** Day of Bazaar help out where needed so others can take a break. Call Barbra Stehlik at 757-481-6142.



We will also have a consignment table, which will be accepting gently used items. We would prefer primarily Scandinavian or Christmas items. However, if you have some items that are exceptional Pam will also accept these. Please contact Pam Geisigner at 757-464-9139 if you have any questions. The lodge retains 25% of the final sales price and you will pocket 75%. All items must have a clearly marked price.

The raffle table is headed by Mona Denton (757-377-2370). If you have a talent in making baskets and would like to donate one, please let Mona know.

Finally if you would like to be a vendor and sell your goods at the Bazaar, please let Lenny Zingarelli know (757-631-0362). For lodge members, the cost of a table is \$35.

Thank you to all who help bring this event together each year. Please keep up the great work!

Summer Vacation

Our own Astrid Cox and Synnove visited the Norwegian town of Moss this summer. They took part in Christian Fredrik Day. This yearly celebration marks the date when peace was made with King Christian Fredriks in 1814 and later the Norwegian Constitution. The ladies took photos next to the Norwegian Lady statue and the King.





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Norwegian Immigration to the United States



In preparation for our program on genealogy in October, we wanted to give you a history of the migration of Norwegians over to America. Leif Ahlgren wrote the following article in April 1996.

The great immigration to the United States from Norway was a long exodus—a little over a hundred years to be exact. In relation to the number of people who came through, it was a quite short amount of time. Although the Norwegians weren't the first people to leave their land, they did so at one of the most feverish paces ever known. Norway lost a total of 45% of its natural population increase during its years of exodus. The only country to lose more of its population in the 1800s was Ireland. There are many questions as to why they Norwegians came; what kind of Norwegians they were, and where they ended up.

In 1821 a man named Klein Pedersen came to the United States to investigate for Norwegian Quakers if moving to the United States would be a good solution to their growing opposition in Norway. Cleng Peerson, as the Americans called him, assessed that the new world was a suitable place for the seekers of religious freedom. So in 1825 the Quakers sailed from Norway in their very own ship, called Restauration. These 52 Norwegians were from Stavanger and first settled in Kendall, New York, but after poor conditions and death, the survivors moved to the Fox River Valley of Illinois. There they established the first Norwegian settlement in the Midwest.



The movement to the U.S. grew slowly over the next ten years, but from 1843 on, no fewer than one thousand Norwegians left their homeland each year to come to America. Previously, Norwegians had to utilize the Swedish iron trade routes to travel to the U.S. Göteborg, Sweden was the main city Norwegians departed from, but after 1836, ships left from the main ports of Norway every spring. These ships usually went to New York City, where immigrants were inspected at Ellis Island to see if they were healthy enough to be allowed into the country. From there, if their destination was the Midwest, they had to take a boat up the Hudson River to the Erie Canal. There they took the ship further west through the Great Lakes and to cities like Chicago and Milwaukee. After England passed the British Navigational Acts in 1849, ships came in as far as Quebec. This gave Norwegians easier access to the Midwest, and once the railroad system was finished in the 1850s, virtually any U.S. port could be used by immigrants.

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The first Norwegians who settled in the Midwest initially settled in the states of Illinois and Wisconsin—then in Iowa and Minnesota, and later in the Dakotas. By 1860, 55,000 Norwegians were already living in the Midwest. Three out of every four were either born in Norway, or had Norwegian parents. Up to this time, 78,000 Norwegians had forsaken their homeland. Most of them were families from either eastern or western Norway.

After 1865 we see three gigantic waves of emigration from Norway. The first began in 1866 and lasted until 1873. These immigrants were the children born in the Norwegian baby boom of the 1820s. They were mostly families from the country communities who wanted a better life. They also were thinking about the well-being of their children. The emigrants had wanted to give their children a better opportunity to live than they had. Norway was in a recession and the farming was poor. With only 3% of Norway being fertile and the rapidly growing population, many poor families could not see continuing to live in Norway. Moving to the United States seemed to be the only good solution. In 1862 the U.S. Homestead Act was passed. It stated that all settlers were allowed 160 acres

free of charge, if they settled in certain areas of the Midwest. This proposal brought the Norwegians by the thousands. It was probably particularly attractive to younger men who had grown up on farms. It was customary in Norway at that time for the oldest son to inherit the family farm. Younger

brothers would have to either work on their brother's farm, or move out. In all during the first great wave, 110,895 Norwegians had emigrated—roughly 15,700 Norwegians per year. Norway's natural population increase had gone down 63.4% because of this.

In the 1860s Norwegians from the cities began to come also, and by 1876 they were in a majority. The people began coming from the cities as well as the country now. Just because they had lived in the city prior to leaving Norway, we cannot assume that they were all city folk. Many people from the country moved to cities before leaving for America. They did this to find work where they could earn enough to buy their ticket.

The second wave of emigration was from 1879 till 1893. In those years Norwegians traveled to the U.S. at a rate of 18,900 per year. In the years between 1878 and 1884, no fewer than 21,000 Norwegians left each year. That is approximately 1% of the population that moved away each year. The largest year of immigration occurred in this wave. It was in 1882 when 28,800 Norwegians left. That was the largest amount of people to ever have emigrated in one year from Norway, and it was more than the population of Norway's then third-largest city, Trondheim.

The third wave of emigration started in 1900 and lasted until 1914. Many people got their ticket paid for them before they came (as high as 40% of all immigrants in some years). Often, these were men who came as indentured servants of Norwegian immigrant farmers, who fronted them the money for the ticket. These farmhands were usually young. A third of them were between 15 and 25 years of age. Many men came and worked off their debts on the farm of the man who bought their ticket. Eventually they earned enough to buy their own land to farm themselves. Others who came intended to eventually go back to their homeland, after earning some good money. Often they stayed because the pay was too good and they enjoyed living in the young and diverse new country.

Although many Norwegians came to America, there were also many first- and second-generation Norwegians who returned to their homeland. Poor crop yields and harsh weather persuaded many to leave the United States. In Norway's 1920 census, approximately 55,000 Norwegians living in Norway were Norwegian Americans, and 7,600 of them were born in the United States. The great depression was also hard on everyone in America. Some Norwegians thought that a life back in the old country didn't sound so bad, compared to the conditions they lived under in those years. Between the years 1931 and 1940, 32,000 Norwegians moved back to Norway. In the years between 1891 and 1930, when the great migration stopped, a total of 155,000 Norwegians had moved back to their homeland.

The great Norwegian exodus was a truly overwhelming phenomenon. Rarely have so many people left their homeland to move to another country. In all, more than 800,000 Norwegians came to America—a number equivalent to Norway's entire population in 1801. Because of that volume of immigrants there are many Norwegian clubs and organizations in the U.S. today. Many American Norwegians enjoy visiting relatives and returning to their forefathers' land, and likewise, the Norwegians of today can find a place to stay with their American cousins when they come to the U.S. on vacation.

Upcoming Events

Lodge Meetings

We are back to our regularly scheduled program! Upcoming lodge meetings will be on the third Thursday of the month, September 17th and October 15th. All meetings are at **7pm at the Bayside Presbyterian Church** unless otherwise noted.



Bring something to the meeting for the FOOD BANK

Annual Holiday Bazaar

The planning is underway for this year's event. The Bazaar will be on Saturday, November 14th from 9am to 3pm. There is plenty of help needed before, during and after! Please get in touch with **Harriet Lindenberg** at **757-721-7594**.

Leif Erikson Day Celebration

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