



VIRGINIA VIKING

SONS OF NORWAY HAMPTON ROADS LODGE NO. 3-522

President: Leonard Zingarelli Vice President: Mike Solhaug Secretary: June Cooper Treasurer: Ragnhild Zingler



The President's Corner

We are quickly approaching another summer season. Since so many of us are away or doing outside activities during the summer, we always change up our lodge's routine a little to accommodate. For example, we do not hold any business lodge meetings during the summer and suspend our Virginia Viking newsletter.

Both will resume in September. We do however continue to hold monthly Board meetings that are opened to the general membership. These board meeting dates and times can be found on our lodge's schedule of events. With only a few weeks left in this spring season, the lodge does have several events that you would enjoy. Starting with the Laying of the Flowers at the Forest Lawn Cemetery in Norfolk. A remarkable story and how we honor two Norwegian sailors that died and buried in Norfolk back during World War Two. We are also invited to attend the celebration of the Norwegian National Day at Princess Anne Country Club. And once again, we kick off our summer by having a lodge picnic called Mid-summer Night picnic at Ralph Peterson's home on the 22nd of June. Details for all of these events can be found in the Schedule of Events, Facebook and my e-mails.

Again, you can view our lodge's schedule (with additional details) by reading it in our Virginia Viking Newsletters (cut it out and place on your frig), attached to my membership group e-mails once a month, and found on our web site (hrson.org) and Facebook page (Hampton Roads Sons of Norway Home-Facebook). If you have any questions about these, please ask me.

LENNY

MAY 16, 2019

Membership Meeting at Bayside Presbyterian Church at 7:30 pm. The program is "the First Shot – Norwegians sink the German Heavy Cruiser SMS Bucher.

May 17, 2019

Lay Flowers at Forest Lawn Cemetery at 10:45 am. Membership Lunch at noon at Freemason Abbey Restaurant in Norfolk.

May 23, 2019

Norwegian National Day Celebration at the Princess Anne Country Club in Virginia Beach. Hosted by the Norwegian Nato Group from 7 to 9 pm.

June 2, 2019

Brannboll Tournament (våger dere) at Red Wing Park at 2 pm. Including Picnic.

June 20, July 18, Aug 18, 2019

Board Meeting (members invited) at Bayside Prebyterian Church at 7:00 p.m.

June 22, 2019

Mid-Summer Night's picnic at Ralph and Anne Grethe Peterson's house from 3:00 – 9:00 pm.

Fra Presidenten, Kathy Dollymore, 3rd District President

There are many days to enjoy and remember in the merry-month-of-May: May Day, Kentucky Derby, Mother's



Day, Armed Forces Day, Memorial Day, even National Burger Day. But, as Spring starts to appear and the days get longer there is a day that we as Norwegian's and Norwegian American's look forward to and prize and that is syttende mai (17th of May), Nasjonaldagen (The National Day) or Grunnlovsdagen (The Constitution Day). No matter what name you use, what title you give the day, this is the day to fly the flag and make a lot of noise and shouting "Hurra!".

We look forward to flying our Norwegian Flag, singing "Ja vi elsker dette landet", wearing our bunads, ribbons of the red, white and blue of the Norwegian Flag, enjoying some traditional foods, marching in parades, and generally celebrating the day.

For just a little history of the day, the [Constitution of Norway](#) was [signed](#) at [Eidsvoll](#) on May 17 in the year 1814. The constitution declared Norway to be an independent kingdom in an attempt to avoid being ceded to Sweden after [Denmark-Norway's](#) devastating defeat in the [Napoleonic Wars](#). We can thank the poet [Henrik Wergeland](#) with making May 17th a celebratory day. He is credited with giving the first public address on behalf of the national day, when there was a Royal decree forbidding celebrations.

Now, here we are 205 years after the signing, and 114 years since the union with Sweden was dissolved. So, on May 17 be proud to fly that Norwegian flag and however you celebrate the day know there are thousands, rather hundreds of thousands, across the world who are flying their Norwegian Flags and enjoying the festivities also. One can add that the day should be regarded as an expression of thankfulness, on behalf of the old values of [freedom](#), [equality](#) and brotherhood, the ideological basis for the constitution, and also on behalf of the circumstances that led up to the constitution. So Gratulerer med dagen and Hipp Hipp Hurra !!

 **Hurra for syttende mai!** 

**Gratulerer Med Dagen (Happy Birthday)
To the Following Members in May**

Synnøve Quaglietta	John Kise	William Hovland	Aldwin Halvorson
Terri Hewitt	Christine Powers	Daniell Marsden	Todd Alspaugh
Gustavo Perrotti	Alexander Truitt		

NATO FESTIVAL AND PARADE



17TH OF MAY CELEBRATION IN NORWAY

Every nation has a national day but probably very few of them are so enthusiastically and uniquely celebrated like May 17th.



The unique tradition of the celebration of the 17th of May brings some complexities. That is the reason why it is often confusing and hard to understand for a new comer to Norway with all that is going on during this day. The local children carry flags and march together with bands. Ice cream, hot dogs and other goods to eat are abundant. The buildings are decorated with Norwegian flags and women and men of all ages dress in their Bunad, or national costume. Graduating high school students wear uniforms and celebrate the approaching school year's end. Children have a special role in the celebrations. The biggest part of the event is dedicated to them. The children's parades consist of marching, waving home-made Norwegian flags and carrying school banners. Parades can also vary in size from a few dozen people in the villages to several tens of thousands of participants in Oslo. Children in Oslo pass the Royal Palace, where royal family members wave back from the balcony.

The same applies to certain students ranging from kindergarten to high school, often including "Russ students". Other participating bands, municipality representatives and other social groups can march as well. Another significant tradition regarding 17th of May is the appearance of Russ students. Based on a Danish student tradition and celebrated in Norway since 1905, the Russ celebration involves the graduating class of high school. Each year, around 40,000 graduating high school students called "Russ" can be recognized with their Russ hats and uniforms. The traditional Russ celebration starts in spring and ends on the 17th of May, a day with much celebration for Russ students. However, many are exhausted after celebrating for days prior to 17th of May (especially the night before) and, thus, are more "passive" during the national day. Nevertheless, the day is marked by Russ parties, Russ buses, Russ newspapers and Russ Cards. The color of the uniform should match the graduate's line of study: Red for the students that are geared towards higher education (this is the most common color), blue for those going into business (also higher education in economics and management), white for medical and social studies, black for engineering (such as mechanics or electricians) and green for agricultural fields. May 17th is usually associated with hot dog, soda and ice-cream. Since there is a custom of "eat what you like"

on this day, junk food is commonly on the menu, and in large quantities. What is traditionally eaten at family tables, however, often depends on where people are living. For example, near the sea and rivers, eating salmon and trout is quite common. While in the mountain villages, it can be rømmegrøt og spekkemat (porridge and cured meat). Bunad is an umbrella term encompassing, in its broadest sense, a range of both traditional rural garments (mostly dating to the 19th and 18th centuries) as well as modern 20th century folk costumes. In its narrow sense the word Bunad only refers to garments constructed in the early 20th century and only loosely based on tradition. The word Bunad itself is a 20th century invention. The Bunad movement has its roots in 19th century national romanticism, which included an interest for traditional folk garments not only in Norway, but also in neighboring countries such as Denmark and in other countries, most notably Germany. However, in Norway national romanticist ideas have had a more lasting impact, as seen in the use of folk inspired costumes.

In Norway, it is common to wear a bunad at various celebrations such as folk dances, weddings and especially during the May 17th National Day celebrations. In recent years, its use has reached far outside folk dancing, folk music, and particular holidays. Now accepted as proper gala attire, it is increasingly common to see people, especially women, dressed in a bunad for other formal occasions. For instance, the former Norwegian foreign minister, Thorvald Stoltenberg, made history by presenting his accreditation as ambassador to Margrethe II of Denmark dressed in a bunad.

Despite all the enthusiasm during the celebrations, 17th of May has not always been a conflict-free day. On several occasions, certain immigrant groups wanted to carry their original countries' flags along with the Norwegian flag but they were encountered with a fierce opposition and a ban on the public display of non-Norwegian flags. Facing this opposition, some municipalities abolished the ban based on the demand of certain immigrant groups. Similarly, it was only until 2007 and after heavy debate that the Sámi Flag, which represents the Sámi people who are nationally recognized as indigenous to Norway, was allowed to be displayed in Oslo during 17th of May. Another significant conflict regarding 17th of May occurred in 1983. A Sagene School in Oslo, in an area known to have many children with immigrant background, received a bomb threat from ultra-nationalists of Oslo. The threat came from Neo-Nazi circles as they thought the children parade was too colorful. This event later triggered a social movement called "17th of May for all". This movement was a reaction and protest against those who wanted to abuse the national day by enforcing a national pride with racist ideologies. Hundreds of volunteers and artists have

been keeping this tradition alive for the past 25 years. Many Norwegians living abroad and those who have Norwegian roots also share this enthusiasm for the mother land. Particularly Norwegian embassies, churches, student organizations and other Norwegian institutions abroad organize local celebrations in different cities.

In Stockholm, Sweden, 17th of May celebrations have turned into a tradition for several years now, where over ten thousand Norwegians and Swedes come and celebrate together. There are also 17th of May programs in other Swedish cities including Gothenburg, Luleå and Lund.

Norwegian-Americans also celebrate the day with Viking helmets, cowboy hats, Norwegian flags, sweaters and homemade costumes in the area of Bay Ridge in Brooklyn, New York on the closest Sunday to the 17th of May. Similarly Seattle, WA has hosted celebrations every year since 1889 and other large celebrations are held in London, Singapore, Florida and Canada.



“The Longest Day”. It’s about time— The Past, The Present and The Future and the teachings of Sankt Hans

Like other Midsummer Day celebrations, the St. Hans (St. John) Festival in Norway combines both pagan and Christian customs. This festival was originally held in honor of the sun god, for the ancients believed that the sun’s change of course at the Summer Solstice was an important event. The gates of the upper and lower worlds stood wide open at this time, and supernatural beings such as trolls and goblins roamed the earth. After Christianity was introduced, the Norwegian midsummer festival was linked to the birth of John the Baptist and it became known as **Sankt Hans Dag**, or **St. John’s Day**. But some of the ancient customs and superstitions surrounding Midsummer Day have persisted. Only a century ago it was still common for Norwegians to hide their pokers and to carve a cross on their broomsticks as a way of warding off witches who might otherwise use these household items for transportation. The present-day custom of deco-rating with birch boughs also has its roots in ancient times, when the foliage was considered a symbol of the life force that awakens in Nature in the spring and early summer. The festival of St. Hans is still celebrated in Norway much as it has been for hundreds of years. On *Jonsok*, or St. John’s Eve, Norwegians who live near the fjords head out in their boats, which are decorated with green boughs and flowers, to get the best possible view of the St. John’s bonfires on the mountains.



“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son,” (John 3:16)

John shows us that the Biblical concepts of “love” and “gift” are inseparable. In fact it is impossible to understand one without the other. Therefore, because God’s love is gifted love, our love must be expressed through giving back as well.

The 3rd District is fortunate to be able to celebrate this year’s Sankt Hans Dag by honoring The Past in the form of Donations to the **3rd District Charitable Trust**. This fund is unique in all of Sons of Norway and demonstrates how the spirit of generosity of our District 3 members has been evident since the very beginning of our Fraternal Order. **The Sons of Norway Foundation** insures The Future for our members and families with the numerous scholarships, disaster relief for our members and by funding our efforts to promote and maintain our Scandinavian Cultural Heritage.

Lastly, the 3rd District acknowledges the needs of The Present by actively participating in this year’s “Longest Day” fundraising campaign for **The Alzheimer’s Association**. Are there any of us or are there any of our Lodges in the 3rd District who have not been affected by this disease? According to the World Health Organization, out of 183 countries, Finland ranks #1 in mortality rate for Alzheimer. The US ranks 8th, Iceland 15th, Sweden 17th, **Norway 21st**, Canada 22nd and Denmark 31st.

On June 21, 2019, The Longest Day, while participating in the District 3 fundraising drive for Alzheimer’s, please consider dividing your charitable gifts budget 3 ways and honor the Past, insure the Future and contribute to a better world now by taking a few minutes of your time and donate to **all 3!**

The link for “The Longest Day” (Alzheimer’s Association) is; **click below**

http://act.alz.org/site/TR/LongestDay2019/TheLongestDay?team_id=539887&pg=team&fr_id=11896

It will take you right to our Sons of Norway Third District Team Page, Once you donate you will be able to track our District 3 results– we are shooting for \$12,500 and this should be no problem. Your gift will also be posted on the website and a very nice letter will follow.

The link for the Sons of Norway Foundation donation page is; **click below Be sure to watch the video**

<https://www.sofn.com/foundation/>

The link for the 3rd District Charitable Trust is: **click below**

<http://3dsofn.org/charitable-trust/>

Tusen takk Dirk Hansen, District 3 Foundation Director

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Virginia Viking

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