



# VIRGINIA VIKING

## SONS OF NORWAY HAMPTON ROADS LODGE NO. 3-522

President: Michael Solhaug Vice President: Jerry Blau Secretary: June Cooper Treasurer: Ragnhild Zingler



### The President's Corner

Greetings. In my first President's Corner, I want to extend the heartiest thanks to outgoing President Lenny Zingarelli. Lenny has always given us solid, devoted leadership and a steady hand on the tiller. During his "extended" tenure, our membership steadily increased while other lodges have been struggling, and, due to his visionary guidance, we expanded the lodge by welcoming our Norge

Norsemen colleagues, and perhaps most importantly, he continued the "spirit" of our fellowship and the celebration of our shared Norwegian and Scandinavian heritage. As I accept the torch (well the while making sure that all members feel personally involved and informed. NOW FOR THE NEWS. Our membership continues to expand on the strength of the enrollment of new members at both the Hampton Roads and Norge Norsemen Christmas bazaars, according to membership chairman Ralph Peterson. In particular, the Norge Norsemen enrollment was way beyond expectations. I'll give you the numbers from Ralph in the next Newsletter. I attended the January Norge Norsemen meeting which had a great turnout. We continue to grow under the leadership of Melody Loftheim. John Dannon gave an excellent presentation about Norway's "Sovereign Wealth Fund" built on the proceeds from the prosperous North Sea Oil income. As we continue to find interesting topics for the "cultural" presentations at lodge meetings, we will look for ways to share these with all interested members, perhaps using digital capabilities. Look for the "Zoom" streaming of the presentations at the Hampton Roads Lodge Meetings. As an example, at the February 16 meeting, Elizabeth Kamosa Kahl will discuss "Sámi: The Indigenous People of the Nordics", a fascinating topic lots of us would like to see. As for upcoming events, please mark your calendar for March 26, at 1:00 for the Norwegian Lady Ceremony at the Virginia Beach Boardwalk on 25th St. There will be a reception at the newly renovated Virginia Beach Surf & Rescue Museum at 2401 Atlantic Ave.

#### February 16, 2023

Membership Lodge Meeting at Bayside Presbyterian Church Fellowship Hall. Program is Sami: "the indigenous people of the Nordic" by Elizabeth Kahl at 7:30 p.m.

#### February 25, 2023

New Member "Egg Bistro" Breakfast for SON Hampton Roads Tidewater area. Breakfast starts at 9:00 a.m. at our meeting church Bayside Presbyterian in the large Fellowship room.

#### February 27, 2023

Norge Norsemen Meeting at Viking Hall in Norge at 6:30 pm. Program "Trolls" and a soup cook-off.

#### March 26, 2023

Norwegian Lady Ceremony at 1:00 pm on 25<sup>th</sup> St., with a reception following at the Virginia Beach Surf&Rescue Museum on 2401 Atlantic Avenue. Formerly known as the Coast

NORWAY NOTES. Names in Norway have undergone a sort of globalization. The “traditional” names still predominate. Boys: Jan, Bjorn, Per, Ole. Girls: Kari, Marit, Ingrid, Liv. But these contrast with the most “popular” names in Norway for 2022. Boys: Noah, Oliver, Lucas, Isak Girls: Nora, Emma, Sophie Olivia. Maybe we’ll have to start telling Noah and Olivia jokes. *Mike*

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## **Fra Presidenten, Stephen Helmold, 3rd District President**

As I Travel and visit lodges in the District I find each lodge is different and unique in it’s own way even though we are of one order in Sons of Norway. Though the lodges are different, they are all warm, friendly, and sociable with visitors and their own members. During January, I had the honor to install the officers of two lodges; Loyal Lodge on Long Island and Washington Lodge in Fairfax Virginia. Both lodges had a full slate of officers and their installations were well attended. This is such an encouraging sign since many lodges in the Third District struggle to fill their officer positions. While Karen and I get to attend most of the meetings of Loyal Lodge, the same is not true for Washington lodge. It was nice to see and meet so many old and new friends.

While we were in Virginia, Karen and I had the opportunity to meet with the 2024 Convention Committee at the Hyatt Hotel where the 2024 Third District Convention will take place. I can honestly say that the hotel is impressive. We had lunch there and the food was excellent. The committee did an excellent job in finding the perfect place for our 2024 convention. We were able to speak with the committee members in great detail about the upcoming convention and we all left excited to continue to work together to make this convention a great experience for delegates and guests. You will be hearing from the committee in the future. I hope you make every effort to attend, even if you are not a delegate. Having the convention right outside of Washington DC gives everyone an opportunity to take a side trip to visit our nation’s capital.

Karen and I will be bringing back many of the details of our conversation to the Third District Board at our March in person Board meeting. At that time, we will also be discussing the District’s responsibilities regarding the upcoming Convention. Many times, as we visit lodges, we are questioned about the Third District, the International Lodge, the Foundation, and the relationship between these entities, not to forget to mention how our own Third District Charitable Trust fits into the mix. I will be working with the members of your Third District Board to develop a Leadership Training program that will be available to all to answer those questions and many more. On a more somber note, I recently learned that our beloved Sherry Gorse is no longer with Sons of Norway. Sherry has been a wealth of information and a tremendous help to many lodge officers for many years. She is and will continue to be missed by us all. I wish her well and want to thank her on behalf of the many Third District members who came to know her and rely on her. **THANK YOU, SHERRY, FOR ALL YOU HAVE DONE FOR SO MANY IN DISTRICT 3.** Connie O’Brien and Any Tuchenhagen are there to answer our questions. They will be doing their work in addition to picking up Sherry’s responsibilities, so we need to be patient if we don’t get the answers we are looking for as quickly as we did in the past. I am looking forward to the upcoming Board meeting to hear what all our committees have accomplished since October. Stay tuned for the details.  
*Fraternally, Stephen Helmold, District 3 President*

## Gratulerer Med Dagen (Happy Birthday) To the Following Members in February

|                  |                    |                    |                      |
|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
| Virginia Ballard | Timothy Bergan     | Peggy Carnes       | June Cooper          |
| Susan Pincus     | Walter Hoff        | Britt Kausland     | Jared Lindenberg     |
| Garrett Eittreim | Keith Goesel       | Cindy Harris       | Robert Stanzione     |
| Elin Hayes       | Karen Larsen       | Maddy McCoy        | Malin Miles          |
| John Zimmerman   | Robert Berg        | Christine Tremblay |                      |
| Robert Winters   | Kaitlyn Gardner    | Ingrid Kross       | Anna Marie Ljungberg |
| Martha Silano    | Richard Sletten II | Axel Sletten       |                      |

### Installation of new officers





## World's oldest dated Runestone discovered in Norway -- with a mysterious inscription



Archeologists in Norway have discovered the world's oldest dated runestone, featuring runic inscriptions from up to 2,000 years ago. Researchers at the University of Oslo's Museum of Cultural History found the stone while investigating a burial ground in the municipality of Hole in eastern Norway in fall 2021, according to the museum. The stone has been named "Svingerudsteinen," or "the Svingerud Stone," after the site where it was found. Burnt bones and charcoal from the cremation pit where it was discovered revealed that the writing was carved into the reddish-brown sandstone boulder, measuring about a foot in height and width, between 1 and 250 AD. "It provides first clear evidence of the occurrence of rune-stones in Scandinavia in the first centuries AD, thanks to the possibilities we have had in this case to carry out radiocarbon dating of the grave in which the stone lay," she added. **Ancient language** Runes are the oldest known form of writing in Scandinavia, and the alphabet was widely used from the beginning of the Common Era (CE) and throughout the Viking Age until the late Middle Ages, according to the university. Scandinavia has several thousand runestones from the Viking Age -- between 793 and 1066 AD -- but there is less evidence of runes from earlier times. Of the runestones found in Norway, only about 30 are believed to date from earlier than around 550 AD.

Svingerudsteinen is the only stone found by archeologists that dates to before 300 AD. It contains the first three letters of the runic alphabet -- "f," "u" and "th" -- on one of its sides, according to the museum.

"Runestones with runes from the older futhark (the runic alphabet) are very rarely found in dateable, archaeological contexts and we understood that this had the potential to give us new knowledge about runes," Steinar Solheim, archaeologist and excavation manager at the Museum of Cultural History, told CNN Wednesday. He said the discovery was "something unique." "This means that the rune-stone tradition is older, maybe even by a few hundred years, than we have previously assumed. But this also makes us wonder what else we may not have known about regarding the use of runic writing in the early Iron Age Scandinavian society," Zilmer said.

### Who is Idiberug?

The stone has a "very special" Zilmer, featuring an "unexpected" shallow runes, rune-like characters and inscriptions are zigzag-shaped, while Eight runes on the front face of the converted into Roman letters.

According to Zilmer, this could be the "Idibera," it could be referring to a kin named "Idiberung," or it could say, "for Idibera." Since the way of writing inscriptions varied a lot, and the language changed considerably over time, interpreting the messages is a challenging task and there is still a lot of research to be done, the museum said. Zilmer said they are now working with a team of scholars on a joint academic publication, to be released this year, in which they will present their main findings. The runestone will be on display at the museum from January 21 to February 26.



appearance," according to mixture of thinly incised, other visual motifs. Some others form a grid pattern. stone spell "idiberug" when

name of a woman called



# Virginia Viking

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