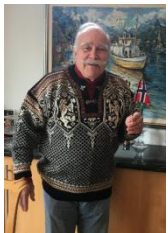




VIRGINIA VIKING

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

Lodge News: Our Sons of Norway Lodge was well represented in the recent NATO Parade of Nations, part of the 70th annual Norfolk NATO Festival. As you know, Norfolk is home to North America's NATO Headquarters, and the parade featured floats

from each of the 31 NATO Member Nations. The Norway Viking Ship Float, spectacularly colorful as always, was accompanied by Norwegian NATO military members and their families. Our enthusiastic Lodge marchers, led by the Sons of Norway Banner, were followed by our own Viking Boat looking sharp with its new sails. We had a great time representing Norway and our Lodge.

Annual Laying of the Flowers. On May 17, Syttende Mai, Norwegian Constitution Day, we have our annual Laying of the Flowers at the graves of the two Norwegian sailors who died in an accident in Norfolk during World War II. This is our way of remembering and honoring the service members that died overseas, away from their own country and loved ones. Following the Laying of Flowers ceremony, we will meet for a fellowship lunch at the Chrysler Museum. Afterwards members can view the Museum's Special Exhibition Galleries featuring work of acclaimed glass artist Preston Singletary that tells the Native American story of Raven and his transformation of the world—bringing light to people by means of the stars, moon, and sun. **Last Lodge meeting.** May 18, our last HR Lodge Membership Meeting until September, will be at Bayside Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach at 7:30 PM.

Come and catch a great program by Adriana Kamosa: "History of Bunads" several Bunads will be on display. Adriana's program will also be available on Zoom. Look for the Zoom invitation sent by Elizabeth Kahl.

Midsummer Lodge Picnic. This year's Midsummer Picnic will be on June 17, from 12 noon until 4 pm. We are looking for a location to hold the picnic, all we need is a reasonably large yard. The Lodge provides food, beverages, tables and chairs. As usual, we will hold several games, especially for the children. It's a great gathering for the whole family.

NORWAY NOTES: 22 year old soccer phenomenon Erling Haaland is widely regarded as one of the best players in the world. The Norwegian star plays for the English Premier League club Manchester City and the Norway national soccer

May 4, 2023

Board zoom meeting
at 7:00 p.m.

May 17, 2023

Lay flowers at Forest Lawn
Cemetery at 10:30 am.
Lunch to follow at noon at the
Chrysler Museum.

May 18, 2023

Membership Lodge Meeting at
Bayside Presbyterian Church at
7:30 p.m. Program: Adriana
Kamosa: "History of Bunads."

May 22, 2023

Norge Norsemen meeting at Viking
Hall at 6:30 p.m. Program: The
Traditional Norwegian Bunad by
John Dannon.

team. Haaland is a prolific goal scorer, known for his speed, strength, and finishing touch close to the soccer goal. In 2020, at age 20, he was named the Norwegian Sportsman of the Year, one of the youngest ever. He has broken Premier League scoring records with Manchester City, and in 23 matches for Norway he has scored 21 goals. And he's just getting started!

All the Best, Mike

Fra Presidenten, Steven Helmold, 3rd District President



At our spring Third District Board meeting, the board saw a PowerPoint on Governance from Kevin Cassidy in his role as counsel to the International Board. It explained the various duties and fiduciary responsibilities that each Board member has once installed on an International, District, or Local Lodge Board. Each Third District Board member got a printed copy of the PowerPoint to refer to when needed in the future.

Tom Bakos the 3rd District Camp Director came and talked about Youth Camp for this summer. The Board has decided to extend the age for campers up to 17 years old as there was no camp for the last 3 years due to Covid and the

children missed out on camp when they were younger and still eligible to attend camp. So, if your child or Grandchild is 17 years old and would like to go to camp it is still possible for them to attend and Tom is still taking all applications for all children from 8 to 17 years old.

The Family Cultural Weekend has been postponed until next year, a date will be announced by the end of this year. The first of the Local Lodge Leadership Training sessions will be held in Zone 1 on May 6th, the other Zones will follow after that. I will be working with your Zone Director to set-up Local Lodge Leadership Training Sessions in your Zone. The Leadership Training sessions are very important for all members to know what the roles, duties and responsibilities Local Lodge Officers have in Sons of Norway.

The Lodge Revitalization Committee has worked on programs to enhance lodges. The Zone Directors will be visiting lodges to help them in these endeavors as part of their duties along with helping with the Leadership Training in their zones. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact your Zone Director or any District Officer. At this time Karen and I would like to wish you all a very Happy 17th of May.

Fraternally, Stephen Helmold

Norge Norsemen Happenings for May 2023

Greetings to you all from Norge Norsemen! April showers have definitely brought May Flowers and a feeling of anticipation and celebration! Our upcoming May 22nd meeting, 6:30 pm, will observe Constitution Day (17th of Mai) and celebrate independence for Norway! Formally, both Denmark and Sweden provided rule over Norway, so this day marks so much! For Norge Norsemen, we will celebrate the day with an ice cream social and both a presentation on 'Traditional Norwegian Bunads' (always worn on 17th of Mai), and also a short program on the Norwegian Forest Cat offered by two of our youngest members! So, if you own a bunad, please feel free wear it for the occasion together and celebrate the day!

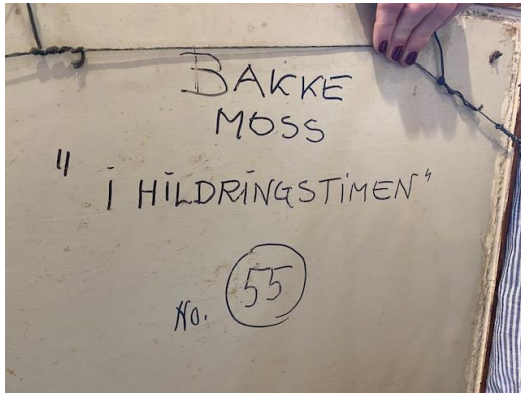
Med vennlig hilsen, Melody Loftheim, VP Norge Norsemen

Gratulerer Med Dagen Happy Birthday To the Following Members in May

Synnøve Quaglietta	Larry Aasheim	Roger Bynum	William Hovland
Betty Thomas	John Dretch	John Kise	Anne Mason
William Mason	Johnson Mihaly	Debbie Rathke	Terri Hewitt
Christine Powers	Todd Alspaugh	John Westland	Alexander Truitt
Aldwin Halvorson	Rosalie Wingler	Christopher Kahl	Victoria Ferro

Sons of Norway **Whole Life Insurance** products provide coverage for your entire life, with single or level premiums and guaranteed level death benefit. These permanent life insurance plans can provide you and your family with financial security no matter how long you live.





Dagfinn Bakke (16 August 1933 – 1 January 2019) was a Norwegian painter, illustrator and printmaker. We are not totally sure who painted the above painting but it was retrieved from the attic of the Virginia Beach Surf and Rescue Museum formerly known as the Coast Guard Museum where we have had the Norwegian Lady Ceremony Reception for years. The director of the museum, Dana Sizemore, brought several items on display that had been stored away for the last reception in March of this year. Several of us admired the painting above which I believe was painted by Dagfinn Bakke. On the back of the painting it

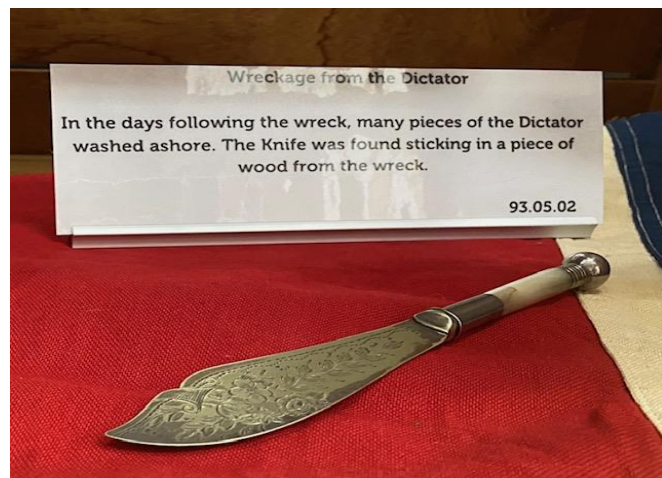
states "Bakke" and "Moss" and "Hildringstimen". "Hildringstimen" means the "Mirage-Hour" translated per Google. However, Hildringstimen was also a poem written by Erik Bye, a very much loved Norwegian who wrote poems, told stories and wrote many songs. When you search for Hildringstimen, Erik Bye's name appears several times. Hildring means when heaven and the oceans meets and it look like mountains and islands float in the air. Erik Bye states that it also means your "inner landscape" when there is harmony between yourself and your surroundings. I feel like the painting above certainly makes you feel harmony.



I believe these were the survivors of the wreck



A door from the Dictator



Norway welcomed more new citizens

April 24, 2023

Thousands of new Norwegian citizens filled up the Oslo Spektrum arena on Sunday, to be formally recognized and welcomed even though all have been living in Norway for years. They gathered for one of the many annual citizenship ceremonies held all over the country, and which have taken on a huge new scope after Parliament finally approved dual citizenship in 2019.

The allowance of dual citizenship set off a flood of applications from tens of thousands who'd already been granted permanent residence status but weren't allowed to become Norwegian citizens unless they gave up their existing citizenship. Many weren't willing or able to do so. If they came from outside the European Economic Area, they also had to renew residence cards every two years, and remained unable to vote in national elections.

All that changed when, after **years of political debate**, Members of Parliament finally joined most of the rest of the world in **allowing dual citizenship**. It took effect from January 1, 2020, unleashing the flood of applications that seemed to overwhelm immigration officials. New computer systems meant to streamline the process, which involves passing various tests and costs several thousand *kroner*, didn't function properly until February and then came the Corona crisis, resulting in **further delays**.

It's taken as long as two years to finally get through the process of testing and scheduling appointments with the immigration police, and then again to obtain a Norwegian passport. That made the citizenship ceremony in Oslo an enormous relief and festive occasion for the more than 6,000 attending. Invitations had been mailed to everyone in Oslo and its surrounding county of Viken who'd been granted citizenship by the end of February. Many were dressed up, smiling and even wearing a traditional Norwegian *bunad*.

Many of those hosting the occasion were also decked out in their own bunad, including *Statsforvalteren* (County Governor) Valgerd Svarstad Haugland. She's a former government minister from the Christian Democrats party who'd clearly followed guidelines from the state agency IMDi, which oversees integration and diversity in Norway, when preparing her speech. It stressed how the ceremony is meant to "strengthen bonds between the new citizen and Norwegian society" and to make new citizens feel welcome.

Haugland and Oslo Mayor Marianne Borgen also thanked those attending for wanting to become Norwegian citizens. They spoke of how citizenship involves both rights and obligations, and how immigration can enrich the nation. Borgen even made a point of noting how Oslo now has a wide array of restaurants offering dishes from all over the world: That's in sharp contrast to the situation in the late 1980s, when there were, for example, only two sushi restaurants in the Norwegian capital. Now sushi has become a popular part of the national diet.

Haugland and Borgen also invited new citizens to take part in their communities, volunteer organizations and even in local politics. They'd been advised by IMDi to speak clearly and to avoid long sentences and difficult words, so that they'd be easily understood by those who don't have Norwegian as their native language. At Sunday's ceremony in Oslo, however, neither Haugland nor her assistant Ingvild Aleksandersen spoke the standard *bokmål* version of Norwegian and used words not taught in Norwegian language classes for foreigners. They

did speak clearly, though. **Citizenship ceremonies vary from region to region** in Norway, but all include formal introductions of dignitaries present (in Oslo, that included many mayors of nearby municipalities from Halden in the south to Drammen and Lillestrøm in the west and northeast) and a variety of cultural performances. The Oslo ceremony featured music, young dancers from Quick Style Studio, popular performer Jonas Benyoub and *Det Norske Jentekor*, a girls' choir with all members wearing various bunad and accompanying the thousands attending in singing the first and last verses of Norway's national anthem.

All new citizens also received a gift book about Norway, small bars of Norwegian chocolate and a bottle of water. Towards the end of the program they were asked to rise and recite a short pledge of allegiance to their new (or additional) homeland, in which they also promised to support democracy and human rights, and respect the laws of the land. There were smiles, lots of photo-taking, applause and some tears of joy. Organizers stressed how the ceremonies are intended to mark an official transition in the participants' lives. "The transition to new citizenship will for the majority represent a major and important step, both for the individual and others around them," writes IMDi in its guidelines.

Earlier citizenship ceremonies were much smaller events, and the venue in Oslo was always the Norwegian capital's ornate City Hall where the Nobel Peace Prize is also awarded. New citizens could bring along several guests. Food and drink were even served afterwards, as a symbol of hospitality. That was replaced by the chocolate bars and water, and City Hall simply isn't big enough to handle the thousands now joining the ranks of citizens in Oslo alone. Even with Oslo Spektrum as the venue, the number of guests had to be restricted.

"Because of the numbers (of new citizens), it wasn't possible for us to arrange a traditional ceremony," the country governor's office wrote. "Therefore the county governor (Haugland) invited new citizens and their guests to a citizenship party." Given all the congratulatory greetings exchanged between complete strangers in the audience, the undersigned can report that those accepting her invitation seemed to find the "party" meaningful, memorable and fun.

EDITOR'S NOTE: The writer was among all the new citizens choosing to take part in Sunday's ceremony, 34 years after arriving in Norway from the USA. She admits to shedding a few tears of joy and relief herself. [NewsinEnglish.no](https://www.newsinenGLISH.no/)/Nina Berglund



Virginia Viking

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