



VIRGINIA VIKING

SONS OF NORWAY HAMPTON ROADS LODGE NO. 3-522

President: Mike Solhaug Vice President: Gerald Blau Secretary: June Cooper Treasurer: Ragnhild Zingler



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Dear Sons of Norway Lodge Members,

The Lodge Christmas Julebord dinners were great success. Over 90 members, families and guests attended the Hampton Roads Christmas Julebord on December 3 at the Holiday Inn Norfolk. After a short program, including the recognition of the dinner organizers, Vivian Zingarelli, Peggy Carnes and Pam Geisinger, membership pins were awarded to 18 members including Alec Pincus for 20 years, and Mona Denton for 30 years. After a delicious buffet dinner and dessert goodies brought by members, a large group circled and danced around the lovely Christmas tree in the middle of the room to the singing of songs in Norwegian and English led by Astrid Gulas with Mary Zimmerman on the piano. To close the evening, 19 door prizes assembled by Vivian, Peggy and Pamela were distributed. A great evening of Christmas celebration Norwegian-style and wonderful fellowship came to an end.

The Norge Norsemen Christmas Julebord was held on December 11 at Viking Hall, with an attendance of over 80. In spite of losing power, the event was a big hit, lit by candle light. Members provided a huge buffet with special desserts. After a report of News from Norway, a lovely Santa Lucia made an appearance, and several excellent door prizes were distributed by raffle. The candle lit ambiance and the amazing air of fellowship made this a special evening indeed.

EVENTS

January 4 at 6:00 p.m.

**Zoom Board Membership Meeting
NOTE THE TIME CHANGE**

January 18 at 7:30 PM

**Membership Lodge Meeting in-person at
HR Lodge Meeting at Bayside Presbyterian
Church,
Program Brian Grili, "Exercise in Norway"**

January 20 at 10:00 a.m.

**Norge Norsemen New Member Breakfast:
at James City County Library 7770
Croaker Road, Williamsburg, VA 23188**

January 22 at 6:30 p.m.

**Norge Norsemen Satellite Lodge meeting,
Viking Hall, 6:30.
Program: Steve Dartt, "Norge Train Depot"**

New Year's Eve in Norway. New Year's Eve is a festive time across Scandinavia. Norwegians welcome the new year with the cry of "Godt nyttår!" Many Norwegians make New Year's resolutions (nyttårsforsett), Spectacular fireworks are the main feature of the Norwegian New Year's celebrations, along with family gatherings and parties. Coastal communities hold "north to south" ship parades greeting the new year. A Norwegian New Year's Eve isn't just about fireworks and parties. The King of Norway also appears on national television in the early evening. In his New Year Message welcoming 2024, King Harald used his traditional New Year's speech to highlight global troubles, welcome new refugees to Norway and encourage everyone to look after one another.



Have a Blessed New Year
Mike Solhaug



Membership Pin Recipients

Fra Presidenten Steven Helmold, 3rd District President



I hope everyone had a very Merry Christmas and I wish a very happy and healthy new year to all.

2024 is going to be a very busy, productive, and fun-filled year for the Third District.

First however, there are certain business items that must be attended to. Considering the new lodge disbandment policy developed and implemented by the home office, it is imperative that lodges file their paperwork on time. Also, our 2024 District Lodge meeting and convention near Washington DC is shaping

up to be an exciting event, so you want to be sure that you register for everything on time. Below are just a few deadlines that you should be aware of.

In **January**, District Secretary Karen Olsen-Helmold will inform lodge secretaries and presidents of the maximum number of delegates that each lodge will be permitted to send to the District Lodge meeting. This is based on the number of members you had on December 31, 2023 and the formula in our bylaws. As soon as Karen gets the official membership numbers from the home office, she will inform lodges of the number of delegates that they are allowed. I hope that all lodges will send the maximum number of delegates they are allowed as well as many nondelegates to participate in the events being planned.

In **February**, lodges should vote on their delegates and alternates and complete the delegate report that must be sent to Karen as District Secretary by **March 1st**. The form will be sent to all lodge secretaries in January.

March 15th is the deadline for lodges to file their D-17 Local Lodge Financial Statement with the home office. The home office is no longer accepting snail mailed or emailed forms, but instead lodge treasurers must sign onto the Sons of Norway website and use the home office's electronic program.

March 15th is also the deadline for lodges to submit resolutions to be voted on at the district lodge meeting in June. Resolutions must be submitted using the format approved by the home office. Karen will send the template to all lodge secretaries with the January/February District Secretaries letter.

April 15th is the deadline to register delegates and nondelegates with the host committee. Registration forms will also be sent with January/February District Secretaries letter. These forms will also be available on the Third District Website in January.

While all this business is important and must be attended to, it should not be the be all and end all. We are a fraternal organization and should work just as hard to get together and celebrate our Norwegian heritage while spending time together enjoying each other's company.

Washington Lodge, the host for the 2024 convention, has many fun events planned for all to enjoy. Look for details on the Third District Website.

On **April 20th** the District will host the 3rd District Picnic at Nansen Lodge's picnic grounds.

We will also be holding two family cultural weekends for all to enjoy. The first will be at camp Koinonia in New York Thursday, July 25th to Sunday, July 29th and the second will be at Camp Lutherock in North Carolina Thursday, August 8 to Sunday August 11th. Details will be sent to lodges in the near future. Let's get together and have some fun!

Fraternally Stephen Helmold



Gratulerer Med Dagen (Happy Birthday) To the Following Members in January!

Rebecca Elton	Gerald Blau	Louis Nordstrom	Janice Petty
Richard Keever	Robert Larsen	Aaron Lindenberg	Katherine Benedict
Kitrian Meagher	Philip Petty	Karen Sciance	Carol McCarthy
Paula Hougen	Mbali Reynolds	Jerry Gillett	Aase Iversen
Jerry Johnson	Brian Kross	Mylie McCoy	Gregory Sabo
Richie Sanoba	Andrew Truitt	James Zingler	Caine Mason
Walter Wikan	Pamela Sherman	Bertrand Olsen	Brooke Porter
David Palmer	Rodney Ball	Mark Flavin	Kenn Lang
Sally Lapetina	Anthony Larsen		

THE MAN BEHIND THE PRIZE – ALFRED NOBEL



Quick facts

Born: 21 October 1833

Died: 10 December 1896

Known for: Inventing dynamite and holder of 355 patents

Professions: Chemist, inventor, engineer, entrepreneur, businessman, author

Will: Left 31 million SEK (265 million dollar today) to fund the prize.

Alfred Nobel was born in Stockholm on 21 October 1833. His father, [Immanuel Nobel](#), was an engineer and inventor who built bridges and buildings in Stockholm. In connection with his construction work Immanuel Nobel also experimented with different techniques for blasting rocks. Alfred's mother, born [Andriette Ahlsell](#), came from a wealthy family. Due to misfortunes in his construction work caused by the loss of some barges of building material, Immanuel Nobel was forced into bankruptcy the same year Alfred Nobel was born.

In 1837 Immanuel Nobel left Stockholm and his family to start a new career in Finland and in Russia. To support the family, Andriette Nobel started a grocery store which provided a modest income. Meanwhile Immanuel Nobel was successful in his new enterprise in St. Petersburg, Russia. He started a mechanical workshop which provided equipment for the Russian army and he also convinced the Tsar and his generals that naval mines could be used to block enemy naval ships. The naval mines designed by Immanuel Nobel were simple devices consisting of submerged wooden casks filled with gunpowder. Anchored below the surface of the Gulf of Finland, they effectively deterred the British Royal Navy from moving into firing range of St. Petersburg during the Crimean war (1853-1856). Immanuel Nobel was also a pioneer in arms manufacture and in designing steam engines threatening the city.

Successful in his industrial and business ventures, Immanuel Nobel was able, in 1842, to bring his family to St. Petersburg. There, his sons were given a first class education by private teachers. The training included natural sciences, languages and literature.

By the age of 17 Alfred Nobel was fluent in Swedish, Russian, French, English and German. His primary interests were in English literature and poetry as well as in chemistry and physics. Alfred's father, who wanted his sons to join his enterprise as engineers, disliked Alfred's interest in poetry and found his son rather introverted.

In order to widen Alfred's horizons his father sent him abroad for further training in chemical engineering. During a two year period Alfred Nobel visited Sweden, Germany, France and the United States. In Paris, the city he came to like best, he worked in the private laboratory of Professor T. J. Pelouze, a famous chemist. There he met the young Italian chemist [Ascanio Sobrero](#) who, three years earlier, had invented [nitroglycerine](#), a highly explosive liquid.

Nitroglycerine was produced by mixing glycerin with sulfuric and nitric acid. It was considered too dangerous to be of any practical use. Although its explosive power greatly exceeded that of gunpowder, the liquid would explode in a very unpredictable manner if subjected to heat and pressure.

Alfred Nobel became very interested in nitroglycerine and how it could be put to practical use in construction work. He also realized that the safety problems had to be solved and a method had to be developed for the controlled detonation of nitroglycerine. In the United States he visited John Ericsson, the Swedish-American engineer who had developed the screw propeller for ships. In 1852 Alfred Nobel was asked to come back and work in the family enterprise which was booming because of its deliveries to the Russian army. Together with his father he performed experiments to develop nitroglycerine as a commercially and technically useful explosive.

As the war ended and conditions changed, Immanuel Nobel was again forced into bankruptcy. Immanuel and two of his sons, Alfred and Emil, left St. Petersburg together and returned to Stockholm. His other two sons, Robert and Ludvig, remained in St. Petersburg. With some difficulties they managed to salvage the family enterprise and then went on to develop the [oil industry](#) in the southern part of the Russian empire. They were very successful and became some of the wealthiest persons of their time.

After his return to Sweden in 1863, Alfred Nobel concentrated on developing nitroglycerine as an explosive. Several explosions, including one (1864) in which his brother Emil and several other persons were killed, convinced the authorities that nitroglycerine production was exceedingly dangerous. They forbade further experimentation with nitroglycerine within the Stockholm city limits and Alfred Nobel had to move his experimentation to a barge anchored on Lake Mälaren. Alfred was not discouraged and in 1864 he was able to start mass production of nitroglycerine.

To make the handling of nitroglycerine safer Alfred Nobel experimented with different additives. He soon found that mixing nitroglycerine with *kieselguhr* would turn the liquid into a paste which could be shaped into rods of a size and form suitable for insertion into drilling holes. In 1867 he patented this material under the name of [dynamite](#). To be able to detonate the dynamite rods he also invented a detonator

(blasting cap) which could be ignited by lighting a fuse. These inventions were made at the same time as the diamond drilling crown and the pneumatic drill came into general use.

Together these inventions drastically reduced the cost of blasting rock, drilling tunnels, building canals and many other forms of construction work.

The market for dynamite and detonating caps grew very rapidly and Alfred Nobel also proved himself to be a very skillful entrepreneur and businessman. By 1865 his factory in Krümmel near Hamburg, Germany, was exporting nitroglycerine explosives to other countries in Europe, America and Australia.

Over the years he founded factories and laboratories in some 90 different places in more than 20 countries. Although he lived in Paris much of his life he was constantly traveling. Victor Hugo at one time described him as "Europe's richest vagabond". When he was not traveling or engaging in business activities Nobel himself worked intensively in his various laboratories, first in Stockholm and later in [Hamburg](#) (Germany), [Ardeer](#) (Scotland), Paris and [Sevran](#) (France), Karlskoga (Sweden) and [San Remo](#) (Italy). He focused on the development of explosives technology as well as other chemical inventions, including such materials as synthetic rubber and leather, artificial silk, etc. By the time of his death in 1896 he had 355 patents.

Intensive work and travel did not leave much time for a private life. At the age of 43 he was feeling like an old man. At this time he advertised in a newspaper "Wealthy, highly-educated elderly gentleman seeks lady of mature age, versed in languages, as secretary and supervisor of household."

The most qualified applicant turned out to be an Austrian woman, Countess Bertha Kinsky. After working a very short time for Nobel she decided to return to Austria to marry Count Arthur von Suttner. In spite of this Alfred Nobel and [Bertha von Suttner](#) remained friends and kept writing letters to each other for decades. Over the years Bertha von Suttner became increasingly critical of the arms race. She wrote a famous book, *Lay Down Your Arms* and became a prominent figure in the peace movement. No doubt this influenced Alfred Nobel when he wrote his final will which was to include a Prize for persons or organizations who promoted peace. Several years after the death of Alfred Nobel, the Norwegian Storting (Parliament) decided to award the [1905 Nobel](#) Alfred Nobel's greatness lay in his ability to combine the penetrating mind of the scientist and inventor with the forward-looking dynamism of the industrialist. Nobel was very interested in social and peace-related issues and held what were considered radical views in his era. He had a great interest in literature and

wrote his own poetry and dramatic works. The Nobel Prizes became an extension and a fulfillment of his lifetime interests.

Many of the companies founded by Nobel have developed into industrial enterprises that still play a prominent role in the world economy, for example Imperial Chemical Industries (ICI), Great Britain; Société Centrale de Dynamite, France; and Dyno Industries in Norway. Toward the end of his life, he acquired the company AB Bofors in Karlskoga, where Björkborn Manor became his Swedish home.

Alfred Nobel died in San Remo, Italy, on 10 December 1896. When his [will](#) was opened it came as a surprise that his fortune was to be used for Prizes in Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature and Peace. The executors of his will were two young engineers, [Ragnar Sohlman](#) and Rudolf Lilljequist. They set about forming the [Nobel Foundation](#) as an organization to take care of the financial assets left by Nobel for this purpose and to coordinate the work of the Prize-Awarding Institutions. This was not without its difficulties since the will was contested by relatives and questioned by authorities in various countries.

***Visit Our Lodge Site www.hrson.org or on
Facebook Sons of Norway – Hampton Road***

2023 SONS OF NORWAY HAMPTON ROADS Lodge 3-522

Questionnaire

We are trying to provide a better program for you so we have a few questions that we would like you to respond to either by mail or return email. You can circle an answer where possible and then fill in the blanks where applicable. Tusen takk!

Fellowship:

Hampton Roads Lodge Fellowship

1. Are you satisfied with the monthly **Hampton Roads Lodge** meeting location at Bayside Presbyterian Church, Virginia Beach? Yes/No

If not, do you have any suggestions as to where we should meet?

2. Are you satisfied with the times of our **Hampton Roads Lodge** in-person meetings 3rd Thursday of the month at 7:30 PM and occasional Saturday potluck? Yes/No If not, when would you like to meet?

3. Have you been to a **Hampton Roads Lodge** Fellowship lunch? Yes/No

a. Should we continue with the lunches? Yes/No

b. Do you have a suggestion as to future lunch sites? _____ -

Norge Norsemen Satellite Lodge Fellowship

1. Are you satisfied with the monthly **Norge Norsemen** meeting location at Viking Hall, Williamsburg ? Yes/No

If not, do you have any suggestions as to where we should meet.

2. Are you satisfied with the times of our **Norge Norsemen** in-person meetings 4th Monday of the month at 6:30 PM? Yes/No If not, when would you like to meet?

3. Have you been to a **Norge Norsemen** Fellowship lunch? Yes/No

a. Should we continue with the lunches? Yes/No

b. Do you have a suggestion as to future lunch sites? _____ -

Dues:

1. For all the benefits that the Sons of Norway organization holds, and the benefits of your **Hampton Roads Lodge** and **Norge Norsemen Satellite Lodge**, do you feel that the annual single member and family member dues are reasonable or not? Yes/No

2. Will the present dues affect your decision to stay in the SON? Yes/No/NA

Programs:

1. If you had a choice would you rather have a movie or a speaker for our monthly programs?
Movie/Speaker/either

2. Do you have any suggestions for future programs or future activities? _____

Communication:

1. What type of information would you like to see on our web site and/or Facebook page.

1. Have you been on our web site or Facebook page? Web site yes/no Facebook page yes/no

2. Would you like to see more pictures in our newsletter? Yes/No/its just fine now

3. What type of information would you like to see in our newsletter?

Other Comments:

Do you have any suggestions for improving our bazaar?

Please send to: Mike Solhaug 5203 Holly Rd. Virginia Beach VA. 23451 or email solhaumi@evms.edu

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



Virginia Viking

Mona Denton
3020 Watergate Lane
Virginia Beach, VA 23452