

SynNor Brevet

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**Synnøve-Nordkap
Lodge #1-008**



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WEB SITE: <http://synnove1.com>

Voice Messages: 651-762-7872



Our delegates at the District 1 Convention in Rochester, MN were Kathy Stevens, Susan and Ron Stow, Ron Kvaas, and Sharon Amann. Ron and Susan were chosen to attend the International Convention in Coeuer d'Alene, Idaho in August.

Scandinavian Culture and News

The Emigrant Novels

Author **Vilhelm Moberg** (1898-1973) was born in Småland, an area in Sweden from which over three hundred thousand people have emigrated to North America during the second half of the nineteenth and first part of the twentieth centuries. Many of Moberg's relatives were among those who emigrated. Even Moberg himself had dreams of emigrating, but his dreams were never realized. Vilhelm Moberg became a famous author in Sweden during the 1920's and 1930's. He focused his literary talents on writing about the poor and ordinary people in the land of his birth. After the Second World War, he spent a decade of his life diligently researching the lives of some of the people who left Småland for the shores of the New Land. His research was conducted both in Sweden and the United States, especially in Minnesota including Chisago and Washington counties. The completion and publishing of four novels were the result of his historical research. All four novels were translated into English by Gustaf Lannestock.



The Emigrants is the first book in the emigrant series. This is the story of Karl Oskar Nilsson, his wife Kristina and their children as they struggle to make a living farming a few acres in Småland in southwest Sweden. Food shortages and financial problems are all too frequent for the Nilssons and their neighbors. Also, the state Lutheran church does not tolerate deviations from the official doctrine and practices. In 1850 a group of people from the local parish decide to immigrate to America over the objections of the local church officials. Moberg describes in great detail the ten weeks of horror as they sail across the Atlantic in a brig that had seen its better days. Much sickness and even death are confronted. This book is Moberg at his very best because he knew so much about life in Sweden during the nineteenth century.

Unto a Good Land describes the Smålander's long and tedious journey by land and water as they attempt to reach Minnesota and the settlement options they hope will be available to them. Their voyage involves rivers, the Great Lakes, "steam wagons" and walking as they make their way to Taylors Falls, Minnesota. Finally they reach their destination and each family selects 160 acres upon which to become squatters. Thoughts of "home" and life in Sweden dominate Kristina at times in contrast to Karl Oskar who considers his new country and land as "home." One of the most interesting characters in the series is the prostitute, Ulrika, who joins various religious movements and changes her life.

The Settlers tells about the lives of the Smålanders in the New Land. They develop their farms and cultivate more and more land as the years go by. Each family works for the right to permanently settle and own a quarter section of land. The farmers have interactions with the native Chippewa people from time to time and those interactions are usually peaceful. Two of the younger settlers decide to journey to California in search of gold.

The Last Letter Home is the title of the final novel in the tetralogy. Moberg describes the progress made by Karl Oskar and Kristina and the other farmers in the community around what is today Chisago County. There are detailed descriptions of the responses of the farmers to the Civil War and also to the Sioux uprising in 1862. The author describes in a beautiful and poignant manner the problems facing Kristina and her eventual death. The Epilogue and the "last letter home" are somewhat poetic as Moberg describes the last days of Karl Oskar Nilsson (now Charles O. Nelson).

-Norman Vinnes

Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge normally meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM At First Lutheran Church
463 Maria Avenue (at 8th Street East, 2 Blocks North of Metro State University)
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55106 Voice messages: 651-762-7872 (See back cover for officers)
Web Page: <<http://synnove1.com>>
Sons of Norway International: <<http://www.sofn.com>>

Lodge News

Fra presidenten

Dear Members,

Wow, summer is here in full force with its best friend, high humidity! As I am typing this, perspiration is trickling down my back. Minnesota is definitely a study of contrast—with hot summers and cold winters. We were so blessed to have an absolutely perfect evening for our Midsummer Picnic in June.

We have lots of things with which to be involved over the summer, even though we are not having actual meetings.

Norway Day is Sunday, July 11th, at Minnehaha Park. It is an all-day event for those who want to make it so, but one can come for just the church service, the parade, peek at the exhibits and tables, or come for the pot luck meal in the main shelter.

Sunday, July 18th, is the First District's 100th Anniversary Picnic at Walbun Park in Minneapolis. The basic theme is the turn-of-the-century to the early 1900s highlighting events of those by-gone days.

A pot luck picnic lunch will be served with brats and beverages available for purchase. Games will be offered for willing participants that will run the gamut from checkers to three-legged races.

Our lodge will be participating in a walk through Swede Hollow on one of the last two Saturdays in September. We had hoped to do this in early August, but Karin DuPaul will be out of town. We so enjoyed the presentation in February that we want to have her actually take us through this historic neighborhood.

I hope you can make it to at least one of the events mentioned above, if not all. On September 14th our monthly meetings will resume with lots of fun and fellowship. In the meantime, enjoy our warm summer.

Blessings,
Sharon

Clay Keller has accepted a position at the national university in Qatar and will be leaving later this summer. Clay has been our Foundation and Scholarship Director, and wasted no time in becoming active in our lodge. His daughter Claire recently won a scholarship from Synnove-Nordkap to attend the University of Edinburgh University in Scotland, where she will major in Scandinavian Studies. We will miss both Clay and Claire, and wish them well.



Best wishes to Midred Stanke, who suffered a stroke this Spring, and to Bob Berndt, who is suffering from a serious eye disorder.

A speedy recovery to Len Carlson, who had emergency surgery on July 5th.

Longtime member Owen Engen, 88, died on June 24. Our sympathy to his family. Owen joined Synnove-Nordkap on April 5, 1946; he was a member for 64 years!

Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.

Lodge News

Board Meeting Minutes, June 1, 2010

Attendees: Sharon Amann, Rod Hale, Sue Halvorson, Sharon Kalmes, Clay Keller, Mary Beth and David Mutchler, and Kathy Stevens

The meeting opened with the board interviewing the one college scholarship applicant. The board voted to award a college scholarship to Claire Keller.

Plans for the district convention delegates were reviewed. Plans for the mid-sommer picnic were discussed.

Sharon announced that Norway Day will be on July 11 and the picnic celebrating the 100th anniversary of District 1 will be on July 18. The lodge summer event will be a guided tour of Swede Hollow sometime in August.

Kathy Stevens presented ideas for possible programs for the upcoming year.

Submitted by: Sue Halvorson, Secretary

The next board of directors meeting will be held at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, August 3 at the Maplewood Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr. (W. side of Maplewood Mall) in the community program room.

Lodge Meeting Minutes, June 15, 2010

51 lodge members and guests attended the June Mid-Sommer Picnic at Island Lake Park in Shoreview.

President Sharon Amann welcomed members to the picnic and introduced the lodge scholarship winner Claire Keller. Claire thanked the lodge for the scholarship.

Sharon read three proposals being brought before the District Convention. The proposals are to change the name of the organization to be more gender neutral reflecting current societal norms, to change in the way dues are arbitrarily assessed by the International organization with none of the increase going to the local lodges, and to change in the method of calculating the percentage increase in membership by not offsetting it with members who have transferred to another lodge or those who have passed away as it is currently done.

Sharon announced that Norway Day is Sunday, July 11, and the District 1 picnic is July 18. On a Saturday in August there will be a guided walk through Swede Hollow for the lodge.

Clay Keller announced that he is resigning his positions of Foundation Chair and Scholarship Chair as he has accepted a faculty position at the national university in Qatar.

Jean shirts with the American and Norwegian flags logo are available for purchase for \$20. The shirt is also available with the Sons of Norway logo for \$25.

Millie Hartleben, JoAnn Hogensen and Gene Hansen are celebrating summer birthdays. Elmer and Julia Kaardal are celebrating their 60th anniversary. Summer anniversaries are also being celebrated by Clayton and Char Lance, Loren and LaRee Opdahl, and Clay and Susan Keller. Judy Linder, Dana Carlson, Clayton Lance, Lenore Jesness and Gene Hanson each won a package of lefse in the door prize drawing.

A big thank you to Al Linder for serenading us with his accordion music. Members also sang along to some of the Norwegian songs that he played. A group of people also played Kubb.

Thank you to all those present who brought the great food to share.

Submitted by Sue Halvorson, Secretary

Calendar of Coming Events

<u>Saturday</u> July 11	<u>Norway Day, Minnehaha Park</u> 78th annual	
<u>Sunday</u> July 18	District One Picnic at Wabun Picnic Area, Mpls Brats, "old" games, bring a potluck dish to share at noon	10:00 AM
<u>Tuesday</u> August 3	<u>Synnøve-Nordkap Board Meeting</u> Maplewood Library conference room; 3025 Southlawn Dr. (W side Maplewood Mall)	7:00 PM To 9:00 PM
Aug 29 to Sept 1	<u>Sons of Norway International Convention in Coeur d'Alene, ID.</u> Ron and Susan Stow will be representing our district at this convention.	
<u>Tuesday</u> Sept 7	<u>Synnøve-Nordkap Board Meeting</u> Maplewood Library conference room; 3025 Southlawn Dr. (W side Maplewood Mall)	
<u>Tuesday</u> Sept. 14	<u>Synnove-Nordkap Social Event</u> Pat Hill will present "Scandinavians in the Civil War."	7:00 PM
<u>Saturday</u> Sept 18 /25	<u>Lodge outing to Swede Hollow</u> With lunch at the Swede Hollow Cafe	
<u>Saturday</u> Oct. 23	<u>Annual Torsk & Meatball Dinner and Fundraiser</u> Again this year there will be a silent auction, so start setting aside the items you could donate!	

Summer Events/Activities:

July 18 - 9 to 3
District One Lodge Member Celebration
Wabun Park - east end of Mhaha Falls
Food, beverages, games & entertainment. All are invited.

July 22-25
Hardanger Fiddle Music and Dance Workshop
Madison, WI. Info: www.hfaa.org

July 22 - 24 - Nordic Fest
Decorah, Iowa. "Trekkin with Trolls"
Food, traditional crafts, colorful parade, entertainment, torchlight parade and fireworks.
Www.nordicfest.com

August 4-7-Tre Leg Stevne,
Stevens Point, WI.

Denim Shirts with our lodge name are available in sizes: S M L XL 2X, 3X, 4X (These are men's sizes, or unisex if you prefer.)

Two styles of embroidered logos are available:

1. The 2 crossed flags logo is \$20 or \$25 for 3X & 4X.
2. The SoN official logo is \$25 or \$30 for 3X & 4X.

If you have friends in other lodges who are interested in purchasing shirts, have them follow the instructions below **PLUS the name of their lodge.**

Please remember, no shirts will be made up unless the money/check accompanies the order. **Checks should be made out to KAREN KLEFSAS.**

Be certain to include the size of the shirt and your choice of logo.

Mail your choice of Logo, shirt size, and check to:

Sharon Amann
1575 2nd St. SW
New Brighton, MN 55112

International Vinland Seminar Chicago, IL October 15-17

International speakers centering on the Vinland site in Canada and cultural events the whole weekend in Chicago.

Info: www.vinlandseminar.com

American Swedish Institute

"My Paradise: Finnish and Finnish-American Summer Architecture"

June 11 to October 10.

For further information on either event, call 612-871-4907

Norwegian Language Classes

- (1) "Norwegian In Five Minutes A Month" series. Class 6:30-7:00 PM Tuesdays before lodge meetings. Future date: Sept 14: Lessons 10 & 11.
- (2) "Norsk Nordmenn og Norge" Class 6:30-8:00 PM Thursdays, 1/month. Sun Ray Library, 2105 Wilson Ave., between McKnight Rd. & Ruth St. Future dates: Sept, Chapter 19. (Classes resume in September.)

For information, contact class co-facilitators: Sheryl Hove 651-738-4908 or Crystal Bloecher 651-774-8545. New participants are invited to join the classes.

Lodge Activities

District Convention Reports

I really enjoyed our First District's Convention last month. It gives the delegates from our Lodge a time to communicate with other lodges, exchange ideas, and conduct business for our district. This was my third time to attend the District Convention, but it was a new experience for the other four members of our delegation.

At the picnic I read off three of the Resolutions we would be voting on to carry to the International Convention. The resolution regarding the establishment of a committee to explore a name change was defeated. The one about allowing the general membership deciding to raise dues was passed. The third one I mentioned was passed was concerning the formula for calculating membership growth.

We had a lot of activity in our Zone 2 caucus breakout sessions. As a matter of fact, our momentum was rolling so well, we have decided to meet again before the delegates leave for the International Convention in Idaho in August. Many of caucus had really great ideas on how to get Sons of Norway more "Name Recognition." In order for us to attract more members, we need to publicize ourselves.

The culmination of the Convention was the 100th Anniversary dinner for District #1. In addition to Ron and Susan Stow, Kathy Stevens, and Ron Kvaas; Mary Beth and Dave Mutchler, and Loren Opdahl attended the festivities. Our Lodge was given a Gold Merit Award for 2008 and a Silver Merit Award for 2009. We can be very proud of our Lodge for our great members and wonderful volunteers. Just a gentle reminder—keep track of your volunteer hours as those are how we get the merit awards, and how we were able to be Family Lodge of the Year.

Thank you for letting me be one of our delegates.

- Sharon Amann

Networking with other Sons of Norway members in District 1 was the best part of the Rochester Convention for me. That is the best way to gain ideas that have worked well in other lodges to share with Synnove-Nordkap. Most of the suggestions were about the kinds of programs that have been successful and membership drives that are effective. There were cultural meetings on Thursday that were great! I loved the two folk dancing workshops in the afternoon with Dorothy Hoover from Fargo. There were four, possibly five dances that were new to me that could work out for Peer Gynt if I can locate the music.

What totally surprised me is that out of the 84 lodges in District 1, I didn't find any others with junior lodges. Of course, I did not talk with a member of every lodge, but a fair sampling. Most said either that they had no children, or no leader. Sioux City, Iowa has a dance group of twelve, but no junior lodge. In Brookings, South Dakota, a very active lodge, there are twenty young dancers who come to the senior lodge meetings.

Liv Dahl's keynote speech about cultural skills was extremely well presented and motivating. She featured people from all districts of Sons of Norway who have pursued the cultural skills program medals. I intend to get the paperwork for the folk dancing program from headquarters and see what our junior lodge kids can do.

Everyone at the convention was of the opinion that membership is crucial to the continuance of Sons of Norway. Every member needs to carry cards that point the direction to our lodge for prospective members. Every member needs to invite future members throughout the year, not just for the membership dinner. Every member knows at least five people who would really enjoy Sons of Norway!

-Susan Stow

Stevne News

Loren and LaRee Opdahl and Sheryl Hove attended the Vestlandslag stevne in Rochester June 17-19. The More og Romsdalslag was celebrating their centennial. There were 161 in attendance, including 52 visitors from Norway. The genealogists were instrumental in locating ancestors for several of those attending, including the Opdahls. They discovered origins back to the great-great-great grandparents of Loren (Uggdal) and LaRee (Olson-Henderson-Bo-Naes). What an exciting time for them to locate their ancestors, and from the same areas in Norway, as well! Next year the Sunnhordlandslag and Rogalandslag will be celebrating their 100th anniversaries. The Opdahls belong to both of those bygdelags.

Lodge News

Taffy Storck Wins Award at Convention Folk Art Competition

During the District One Sons of Norway Convention, lodge members were encouraged to enter projects in the folk art competition which included rosmaling, hardanger embroidery, flat plane figure and wood carving, photography, knife making, quilting, knitting, and a general folk art category.

It was in the latter category that fellow lodge member, Taffy Storck, entered a cross-stitch needlework depicting the Synnove-Nordkap emblem. Her project won a second place red ribbon, which is marvelous considering the number of entries in the competition.

Taffy was also presented with a certificate of achievement. All entries were judged on the basis of general appearance, color, structural and decorative design, condition, materials used, choice and handling of finishes, and workmanship.

All projects were available for viewing by the delegates at the convention which took place June 17-19 at the Civic Center in Rochester, Minnesota.

Taffy has been doing cross-stitch needle work for 12 years and is a fine example of the many talented craftspeople in our lodge. All are encouraged to consider entering projects in the 2012 competition, when District 1 holds its convention in St. Cloud, Minnesota.

- Ron Stow



April Junior Lodge Update

By Susan Stow

The 2009/10 year for Junior Lodge has been very successful! What could be better? We have enthusiastic children, dedicated parents and the wonderful support of our Synnove-Nordkap senior lodge.

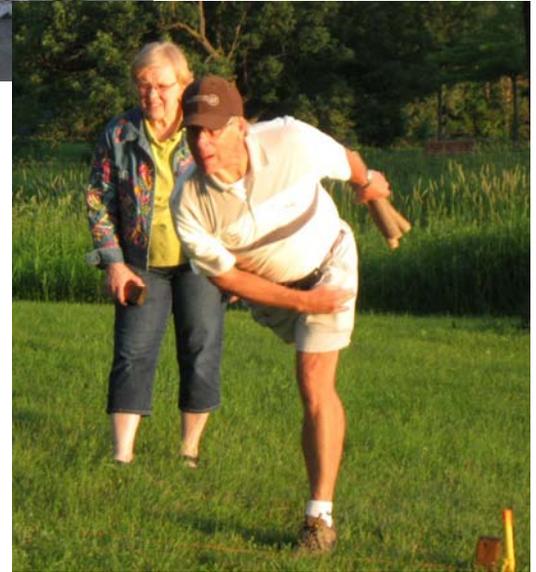
We ended the year with a power point show of Syttende Mai parades, bunads and festival activities. Also presented was the last episode of Peer Gynt's adventures.

The performance at Festival of Nations was outstanding. It was super to have the scene projected on the huge screen in back of our dancers, depicting a ship with the Norwegian flag waving, as the water on the fjord and the mountains in the background really typify Norway. There were forty Norwegian children who performed. Awesome!

Unexpectedly, we have been asked to perform for Norway Day at Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis at about 1:30 p.m. on Sunday, July 11th. We hope many senior lodge members will be able to come to the festivities to cheer us on.

If you know of children interested in Norwegian language, culture, music and dance, be sure to invite them to the first meeting of Junior Lodge on the second Saturday in September. Give me a jingle to get more information.

A Mid-Sommer Picnic Without Rain!



Benefit News

Health Insurance Reform

The following is a short report of what will happen and when:

1. Starting this year children may remain on their parent's policy until age 26.
 - a) This is currently the law in Minnesota.
2. People with pre-existing conditions will be eligible for a high-risk insurance plan funded by the government.
 - a) We currently have Minnesota Comprehensive Health Association (MCHA), so no change.
3. Small business starting this year could qualify for a tax credit of up to 35% of the new employee's premium.
4. Lifetime limits could be discontinued.
 - a) Some companies have no limit currently and others have 5 million dollars.
5. Companies will not be able to cancel the coverage of a policyholder.
 - a) Minnesota currently has guaranteed renewable coverage that cannot be cancelled.
6. Health plans will be required to accept children with pre-existing conditions.
7. Beginning in 2014 Insurance Exchanges will be established and no pre-existing condition limitations allowed on new applications. Medical assistance would begin covering more high-risk people.
8. In addition, there are penalties beginning in 2014 for not having insurance for individuals, and penalties for groups not providing approved coverage.

In effect, the immediate impact is negligible for four years in Minnesota.

For more information on Health Insurance go to my website at www.ltcfinancialservices.com and click on Health Insurance.

Greg Hovland

Financial Benefits Counselor
651-429-2304

ltcfinancial@msn.com
www.LtcFinancialServices.com

This and That

(We are always interested in members submitting articles on books they have read or movies or plays they have seen.)

The Corner Library by Trudi Johnson-Richards

For most Norwegians in the nineteenth century, America was a remote and exotic place until the first immigrants began to write home. Their letters were among the most valuable, accessible and reliable sources of information about the new world and the journey to it. For many immigrants, writing letters home was their most cherished opportunity to communicate their thoughts and feelings in their native language.

Solveig Zempel, author of **In Their Own Words: Letters from Norwegian Immigrants** has thoughtfully selected and translated letters rich in personal description and observation. The letters cover a wide range of experiences from 1870 to 1945. In letters to family and friends, nine immigrants ranging from a teacher to a railroad worker, an unmarried mother to a politician, recount their experiences of immigration during a period of mass immigration to this country. Zempel's introduction is brief and to the point.

Zempel has chosen these groups of letters to represent a broad sample of Norwegian-American life, here are both men and women, people from cities and from the countryside, married and unmarried. Many letters began with an apology for not writing earlier and often had a series of addresses. Few of these letters report desperation and hardship. The traditional explanation for this is that immigrants hide such experiences from relatives back home, creating a rosier picture of reality than it actually was for them. Though some of these writers had a hard life in America, there is little sense that they thought life was unfair or worse than they would have had in Norway. The letters also reflect the immigrants' struggle to maintain their Norwegian heritage; several apologize for having given their children American and not Norwegian names.

The variety and scope of the letters from America to Norway make for fascinating reading; they also provide informative insights into the minds and thoughts of new settlers on American soil. The reader will come away from this book with a deep awareness of the importance of "American letters" in understanding the American experience. Readers will feel close to these writers, engaged as they are in private communications with family members they left behind in the homeland.

Solveig Zempel is a native Minnesotan and teaches at St. Olaf College. She has written other books, scholarly articles and presentations. **In Their Own Words: Letters from Norwegian Immigrants** is available at Ramsey County Libraries.

SAVE USED POSTAGE STAMPS FOR TUBFRIM

INSIDE THE ZONE

ZONE 2 DIRECTOR FOR DISTRICT 1 S/N - June 2010

- Highlights of the District Lodge #1 Convention in Rochester, Mn.
- We were greeted by the Mayor of Rochester
- The keynote speaker for the convention was Liv Dahl she spoke on the Medals programs offered by the Sons of Norway.
- There was one bylaw change and four resolutions presented to the Convention check with your lodge representatives to the conventions of the results.
- There was nor change in the officers on the executive board. President: Robert Hoover, Vice President: Gary Anderson, Secretary: Karl Hella, and Treasurer: Arlene field.
- The board directors were as follows: Cultural/Heritage Norm Carlson, Publicity Louise Bakken, Sports/Recreation Merilyn Syverson, Youth Director Chris Larson
- The following people were elected as Zone Directors: Zone 1 Richard Berg, Zone 2 Dennis Rusinko, Zone 3 Liz Mathison, Zone 4 Barbara Olson, Zone 5 David Susag, Zone 6 Richard Phillips, Zone 7, Maryanne Johnson, Zone 8 Anne Atkinson.
- The delegates and alternates were elected to represent District Lodge 1 at the International Convention in Cor de Laine, Idaho in August.
- The next District Convention will be held in St Cloud, Mn. In 2012
- The District Convention for 2014 will be held in Duluth, Mn.
- The International convention for 2012 will be held in Fargo, ND.
- The convention closed on a positive note of enthusiasm with delegates wanting to go back the their respective lodges and try to do more for sons of Norway.
- As an Added attraction at the convention a special banquet was held to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of District Lodge #1. It was well attended by more than 200 people.
- I also want to let the lodges in Zone 2 to know that I have a new Alt Zone 2 Director she is Diane Halvorson of Vennekretsen Lodge, Anoka, Mn.
- I will be sending out press releases for the sale of 100th Anniversary items still available for purchase.
- I will be sending out the next Inside The Zone Report in August.

DENNIS RUSINKO

ZONE 2 DIRECTOR 612-789-2272

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The deadline to submit items to the Brevet for the coming month is normally the 20th of the previous month. Please keep this time frame in mind, and keep those news items coming!

**Thanks,
 -Dave dmutchler@q.com or 651-484-8872**

SYNNØVE-NORDKAP
SONS OF NORWAY
LODGE #1-008
First Lutheran Church
463 Maria Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55106
651-762-7872



Upcoming Activities

District One Picnic - Sun. July 18
Scandinavians in the Civil War - Tues. Sept. 14
Swede Hollow Tour - Sat. Sept. 18 or 25

More Info Inside

The Mission of Sons of Norway is to promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic countries, and to provide quality insurance and financial products to its members. Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge welcomes visitors and new members.