

# SynNor Brevet

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**Synnøve-Nordkap  
Lodge #1-008**



District 1 Family Lodge  
of the Year 2006, 2008

**September 2012  
Number 12:8**

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

**Voice Messages: 651-762-7872**

## **International Convention, August 22-25: “Bringing Good People and Great Ideas Together!”**

### **International Election Results Announced**

The newly elected Sons of Norway International Officers for the next biennium have been selected!

**Our new International President is Marit Kristiansen from District 2.** Marit is from Alaska and is a friend of our Lodge President Ron Stow's sister, Beverly from Bernt Balchen Lodge in Anchorage. Marit and her husband, Kjell actually hosted some of our Peer Gynt group when they traveled to Alaska to represent Norwegian immigrants in the 25th anniversary of their Alaskan statehood celebration.

The new International Vice President is Ralph Peterson from District 3. The new International Secretary is Jon Tehven, former District 1 International Director. The International Treasurer is Bill Fosmoe.

Congratulations to these new officers! We wish them much success in their new roles in our Sons of Norway Organization.

See page 6 for a full report from our Lodge representative, Ron Stow, who attended the Conference together with Susan. Congratulations to them, and Thank You to all the Sons of Norway members for their commitment and dedication demonstrated by this level of participation

### **September Lodge Meeting :**

#### **“Dose Yohnsons” and an Ice Cream Social**

Lodge member Lowell Johnson and his sister Pamela (Pringle) will entertain us with some old time Scandinavian music and good ol' Norsky humor at our Lodge Meeting on September 11, 2012. The accordion, guitar and harmonica will get your toes tapping! The silly stories, corny jokes and funny songs will get you laughing and knee slapping! Lowell brings the Norsky and Pam the Norwegian. Together they are carrying on a tradition of “Yohnsons” that played for house parties in the farm country of southern Minnesota many years ago.



# Norwegian Culture and News

by Judy Stanke

## *Norwegian Knitwear*

It's the woolen sweater and cardigan that have made Norwegian textile industry world famous. Knitting has a strong tradition in Norway and the technique found in today's wool sweater has been practiced since the 9th century. Traditionally, the wool from Norwegian sheep has been used to produce these sweaters, because it was practical for making warm garments for long and cold winters. Norwegian wool is especially suited for high-quality knitwear. The wool's fibers are long and curly, which when made into yarn give strength, lightness and warmth. Today, wool is popular not only for its practical advantages, but also because of the fine patterns and exclusive garments that can be created.

Although the finest sweaters are truly handknit, these are extremely expensive and difficult to find in today's markets. Most Norwegian sweaters sold today are machine knit but still based on lovely traditional designs.

If you plan to try knitting your own Norwegian sweater, patience and practice will be the key ingredients. However, there are many resources on the internet, including patterns, yarn and helpful instructions.

Some knitters meet regularly to get help and share their expertise. According to an article in the Roseville Patch, a group called "The Knitters" has met weekly for over 25 years, having produced countless sweaters and other knitted items during this time.

<http://www.norwegiansweater.info>

<http://roseville.patch.com/articles/the-knitters-stitch-sweaters-and-friendship>



### Interesting facts about wool

[www.nordre.pl](http://www.nordre.pl)

- Wool fiber is so flexible that it can be bent 30 thousand times without risk of creating permanent deformations.
- Sheep's wool contains lanolin, which coats every hair. It acts as protection against dirt, as it kills bacteria and saprophytes.
- Merino wool has the capability to shrink when it's cold, and to extend when it's cold.
- Merino wool has the highest felting capabilities, as it is very crimped and scaled.
- Wool fiber, thanks to its natural elasticity, may be stretched by up to 1/3 of its length, and get back to its original size without any problems.
- Wool, while growing on sheep skin, naturally groups into streaks of uncountable numbers of hairs.
- Lamb wool is obtained after 6 months, and adult sheep are sheared once a year.

Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge normally meets on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM At First Lutheran Church

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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

Like the start of the new school year, September has a similar significance for Synnøve-Nordkap lodge. We tend to need a pick-me-up to reinvigorate ourselves, and to get us back on track, participating in lodge activities after the summer hiatus.

Since the midsummer picnic in June, many of our members have been busy, doing the work of the lodge. The board of directors has met to prepare for activities which will carry the lodge through the end of the year. Members of the committees involved in the lodge's Landmark museum display have been in the process of winding up the writing of text, selecting photos and gathering artifacts. Delegates to District One and International Lodge conventions have dedicated time to keeping up-to-date on any changes that may be made to the Sons of Norway by-laws, and to learn of ways to better serve the local lodge and its members. The Torsk and Meatball dinner gang will be getting together for a planning session at the end of this month.



That in mind, I would like to remind all of our members to consider joining the above mentioned groups in order to help continue the success of Synnøve-Nordkap lodge. It's time to start thinking about being an officer on the board, such as Secretary, Cultural Director or Vice President. Why not volunteer for the various committees which always need help, such as Torsk and Meatball dinner, or silent auction!

It is always a thrill when we can tap the multitude of talented people among our members, so that we don't have to look far and wide for this help. A fine example of this will be evident at our September lodge meeting when the program will be presented by our own Lowell Johnson, who, along with his sister, Pamela, will entertain us with music and humor from our Norsky heritage. I am certainly looking forward to their program. And don't forget the ice cream social aspect of the evening.

Speaking of social, let's all remind ourselves to be more sociable with one another. At each lodge meeting, please try to talk a little with someone you don't know.

Ha det bra! All the best! Ron

## Sunshine News

Congratulations to Jeanne and Lauren Pearson on the birth of their grandson and nephew, Grant James Hubbard.

Condolences to Judy Stanke and family on the death of her mother, Evon Younghans.

Our sympathy to Gary, Libby and Craig Hanson on the death of their mother and grandmother, Dorothy Hanson. Dorothy was a member of Synnove-Nordkap, also.

Our sympathy to Bruce and Linda Bjornson on the death of Bruce's mother, Grace. Grace was a former member of our Lodge and our Sunshine person.

Best wishes to Len Carlson as he recovers from hernia surgery.

### HELP US KEEP TRACK OF OUR MEMBERS!

**Mary Beth Mutchler is our new sunshine person. If you know of someone who is sick, has had surgery, etc., please call her at 651-484-8872 or email her at mbe43@q.com and she will send a card from the lodge. Thanks**

# Lodge News

## **Board Meeting Minutes, August 7, 2012**

Attendees: Ron Stow, Sue Halvorson, Sharon Kalmes, Dave and Mary Beth Mutchler, Kathy Stevens, and Susan Stow.

Everyone felt that the picnic went well and the magician was a hit with the children attending.

The Torsk and Meatball Dinner committee will hold a planning meeting on Monday, August 27 at 7 pm at Trudi Johnson-Richard's home.

The boom box used by the Junior Lodge died. Susan Stow requested monies to purchase a new one for around \$50. Kathy Stevens made a motion to grant the funds. Mary Beth seconded the motion. The motion passed.

Susan informed the board that Cindy Olson is trying to increase the communication among leaders of junior lodges via a round robin email system in order to share ideas.

Lodge programming for September through February was reviewed. Suggestions were made for possible programs for meetings that did not have anything scheduled.

Museum Project Update: The text committee is meeting on August 8. Kathy Stevens is working on scheduling craft and cultural demonstrations for selected weekends during the exhibit at the Landmark Center.

Ron asked board members to be thinking about officer nominations for 2013, in particular vice-president, secretary and cultural director. He also would like ideas for increasing lodge membership recruitment and retention.

Dave brought up his concerns about the rejection of the resolution put forward at the district convention by our lodge for the Sons of Norway to restore programming for children. Filing a formal protest by the lodge was discussed. A more proactive suggestion was made to find websites on the Internet for children with content about Norwegian culture and history and put links to them on our lodge website.

Submitted by: Sue Halvorson, Secretary

The September board of directors meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 4, 2012, at the Maplewood Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr. (west side of Maplewood Mall) in the community program room.

## **There was no Lodge Meeting in August!**

**Kathy Stevens wants to thank the lodge for the opportunity to attend the Convention, "I'd like to thank the lodge for allowing me to go to the District 1 convention in St. Cloud. It was a valuable experience and I appreciate the opportunity."**

## **IT'S TIME TO PLAN FOR THE SILENT AUCTION AND BAKE SALE!**

**With the Silent Auction and Bake Sale coming up on Saturday, October 13 at the Torsk and Meatball Dinner and Fundraiser, you should be thinking about what items you can donate, make, or bake.**

**The success of this fundraiser depends on our member's willingness to donate items or time to this important event.**

# Calendar of Coming Events

Tuesday Sep. 4	<u>Synnøve-Nordkap Board Meeting</u> Maplewood Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr. (west side of Maplewood Mall) Community Program Room	7:00 PM To 9:00 PM
Saturday Sep 8	<u>Genealogy Group Meeting</u> Roseville Library Hamline and County Road B, in the Community Program Room	10:00 AM To Noon
Tuesday Sep. 11	<u>Synnøve-Nordkap Social Event</u> Ice Cream Social and Entertainment by "Dose Yohnsons" - Lodge Member Lowell Johnson and Pamela Pringle	7:00 PM
Saturday Sep. 15	<u>Junior Lodge Meeting</u> Our Savior's Lutheran church, to paint bird- houses ("Fuglehuser") and learn a new weav- ing dance, Vevingdans. Boys and girls age 7 to 18 are welcome as guests and members	7:00 PM
Tuesday Oct. 2	<u>Synnøve-Nordkap Board Meeting</u> Maplewood Library, 3025 Southlawn Dr. (west side of Maplewood Mall)	7:00 PM to 9:00 PM
Tuesday Oct. 9	<u>Synnøve-Nordkap Social Event</u> Museum Committee Presentation on Our Exhibit Next Year	7:00 PM
Saturday Oct. 13	<u>Torsk and Meatball Dinner</u> Start Planning Now!	5:00 PM

## SAVE THE DATE!

Nov. 9, 6:00 PM at Temple Israel, Minneapolis. Talk by Irene Levin Berman, author of "We are Going to Pick Potatoes", the untold story of Norway and the holocaust.

## Genealogy Group

Normally meets the first Saturday of the month from 10 am to 12 noon at the Roseville Library Community Program Room.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Interested members should contact Cathie Reasoner at 651-646-8483 or harrie1030@netzero.com for more information.

**Next meeting September 8<sup>th</sup>**

## Norwegian Language Classes

(1) "Norwegian In Five Minutes A Month" series. Class 6:30-7:00 PM Tuesdays before lodge meetings. September 11: Lessons 35 & 36.

(2) "Norsk Nordmenn og Norge" Class 6:30-7:45 PM Thursdays, 1/mo. SunRay Library, 2105 Wilson Ave., Between McKnight Rd. & Ruth St.  
Date: September 13: Chapter 24 p. 405.

For information, contact class co-facilitators: Sheryl Hove [651-738-4908](tel:651-738-4908) and Crystal Bloecher [651-774-8545](tel:651-774-8545).  
New participants welcome!

### Cultural Skills Unit 7: Language and Culture Group

Date: Tuesday, September 11 following the SON Meeting.  
Location: Eat lunch together at the back corner table.  
Plan monthly words for Brevet and discuss individual plans.

Norwegian/English Word Of The Month is contributed by Judy Linder of the Unit 7 Group. See page 7 for this month's word!

## Mindekirken .

### September Open House:

Sep. 11 Jørgen Kjærgaard: Hymns and Verses in Church Inventory

Sep. 18 Michael/Shirley Santoro--Violin & Piano Concert

Sep. 25 Jackie Henry--What's New at NAHA? (Norwegian-American Historical Association)

## President Stow Reports from International Convention

With the theme of “Bringing Good People and Great Ideas Together”, the International Lodge of Sons of Norway convened in Fargo, North Dakota on August 23, 2012 at the Ramada Plaza Hotel. 133 delegates from the eight districts of Sons of Norway joined the twelve members of the International Board to discuss and to vote on resolutions and changes in the by-laws.



Two resolutions of note dealt with a study of the name of our organization, and the development of a regular communication to replace the “Viking for Kids” magazine. After considerable discussion, both resolutions were passed and will be instituted by the International Board. Any member of Sons of Norway, who would like to offer positive suggestions for the committees which will deal with these topics, may contact members of the International Board. Our newly elected District One International Director is Bob Hoover of Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. Former District One Director, Jon Tehven, has been elected as the Secretary of the International Board.

A major topic, which did not appear as a resolution or as a law change, was that of a future change of governance. In other words, how will Sons of Norway conduct its business? Currently, this is done by the convention/delegate method. It appears that this will change to a board method, with the approximate 15,000 Sons of Norway members and insurance holders voting to elect the board. This means that there may no longer be an international convention such as was just completed.

Sons of Norway CEO, Eivind Heiberg (a member of Synnøve-Nordkap), explained that this change of governance is being pushed by the federal insurance regulators. “It is a matter of when, not of a matter of if, it will happen”, said Heiberg in his address to the convention. Sons of Norway, along with all other fraternal organizations, will be making this change. Our organization has the opportunity to determine this change ourselves, before the insurance regulators do it for us.

The convention elected four district directors and four officers. Our International President is now Marit Kristiansen of Alaska. Ralph Peterson from Virginia was elected Vice President, re-elected as Treasurer was Bill Fosmoe from Washington. And Jon Tehven of Iowa is our new International Secretary.

On a personal note, Marit Kristiansen is a friend of my sister, Beverly, who with her husband, Wally Smith, is a fellow member of Bernt Balchen Lodge in Anchorage. Marit and her husband Kjell helped host our Peer Gynt dancers when they performed in Anchorage for the Alaskan 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of statehood.

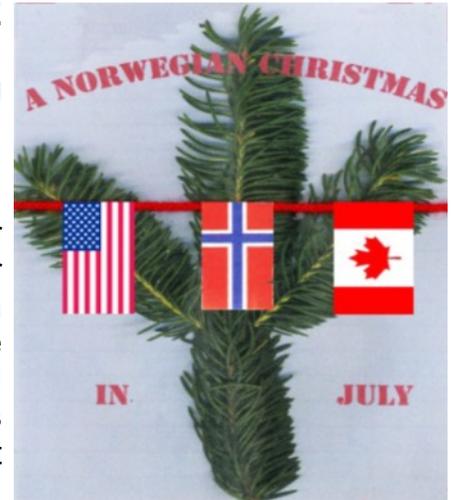
One of the highlights for Susan and me was a chance meeting with members of a Norwegian band which played dance music at an evening of entertainment sponsored by the convention host, Kringen Lodge of Fargo-Moorhead. We talked about Norway, especially about their hometown of Geilo in the Hallingdal valley. During the evening, they played and played and we tried to dance and dance.

I hope that some form of the convention method will continue, perhaps at the district level, so that more of you can also participate in this worthwhile event. The experience allows us members to learn more about the inner workings of our Sons of Norway. If anything, it allows us to meet new people and to find out how things are in their lodges. I encourage you to take part, when the opportunity arises.

# Lodge News

## LODGE MEMBERS ENCOURAGE OTHERS TO ATTEND STEVNE

Loren and LaRee Opdahl and Sheryl Hove attended the 7-Lag Stevne, "Christmas in July" in Oconomowoc, WI from July 18-21. On hand were genealogists from each of the lags (Toten, Telelag, Sigdsdalslag, Ringerike-Drammen, Numedalslagen, Landingslag, and Hadeland) to answer questions and further explore heritages for those still seeking information. Other fun things included a bus tour to "Old World Wisconsin", an open-air museum of early Norwegian immigrants, making sweet potato lefse, making Hardanger Lace, the movie "The Stavig Letters", a tour of the Telemark Canal by bike and boat, changing traditions in Norway and the U.S., singing Christmas songs in Norwegian and learning a folk dance and entertainment from Sven and Ole.



The Opdahls also attended the Vestlandslag Stevne June 21-23 in LaCrosse, WI. Interesting forums included the Sister City program with Forde, Sunnfjord. Several toured the Riverside Gardens later to observe the beautiful displays. LaCrosse also has sister cities in France, China, Germany, Russia, and Ireland. Dr. Erik Gundersen portrayed his grandfather and how he came from Norway and his journey in starting the Gundersen Lutheran Clinics. Dr. Kathleen Stokker, author and Professor of Norwegian from Luther College in Decorah, IA spoke on "Humor in Norway During WW II". She has written several books and journal articles and had many stories to share with us. There was a tour to Norskedalen, complete with dinner and entertainment by the Norskedalen Trio. The Sons of Norway Wergeland Dancers from LaCrosse also entertained us. LaRee is secretary of the Rogaland and Nordhordland/Sunnhordlandslag.

Sheryl and the Opdahls encourage everyone to investigate their genealogy and attend a Stevne. It is very interesting, and you won't be disappointed!

## Norwegian/English Word Of the Month: Folk Contributed by Judy Linder of Unit 7 Group.

### Folk:

Folk is derived from a Germanic noun, *fulka*, meaning people. Old Norse folk means people, but more so army or detachment. It was considered inelegant by the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. It re-entered academic English through the invention of the word folklore. This word revived folk in a modern sense of "the common people". It has opened up a flood of compound formations: folk art, folk-hero, folk-dance, and folk music to name a few.

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, Lowell and Linda

# Benefit News

## Life Happens

September is Life Insurance Awareness Month and now more than ever, it's essential that you understand the role life insurance plays in your financial plans. This year's theme "Life Happens" stresses the importance of being prepared for life events that can have detrimental and potentially overwhelming consequences for those left behind.

Unfortunately, far too many people are underinsured or uninsured, putting their family members at risk for economic disaster should they die unexpectedly.

- Although 83% of consumers believe most people need insurance, only 65% believe they need it personally – and only 59% actually own it.
- Nearly one-third believe they need more life insurance coverage than they currently have, while 28% wish their partner / spouse carried more life insurance.
- Surprisingly, fears about leaving dependents in a difficult situation upon premature death and burdening others with burial and final expenses are not top financial concerns



These numbers illustrate the ongoing need to communicate the critical function life insurance plays in financial planning and protecting your most important "asset" – your loved ones.

For more information schedule a complementary Sons of Norway financial review.

Reference: Broker World, August, 2012.

**Greg Hovland**

**Financial Benefits Counselor  
651-429-2304**

**ltcfinancial@msn.com  
www.LtcFinancialServices.com**

## Meet Our Members



Connie and Andy Chrissis joined Sons of Norway in 2010, after their children were grown and they had a little time of their own. With an interest in learning more about their Norwegian heritage, they became members of Synnøve-Nordkap lodge.

With mostly Norwegian ancestry, both have fond memories such as Andy's grandmother's stories about the "nisser". He also loved her lute-fish! A cup of strong coffee along with sweet desserts was always a part of visits to many old, Norse farm relatives in the Ulen-Hitterdal area of west-central Minnesota.

Connie's paternal grandparents farmed north of Bismarck, North Dakota and her mom's parents settled in Dilworth, Minnesota, near Moorhead. She says that she has a "LOT" to learn about Norwegian culture, since

her grandparents gave up much of their homeland culture as they were eager to become "Americans", blending in with their neighbors. Connie's parents were members of Sons of Norway and Andy always enjoyed reading their copies of the Viking Magazine.

Both enjoy the entertaining and informative monthly lodge meetings. Connie has been quick to volunteer to help with lodge activities. In her duties of keeping membership and mailing lists, she has been able to put names to faces at lodge meetings. Eventually, Connie would like to get started on a genealogy search. She will certainly find experienced helpers in our lodge's genealogy group.

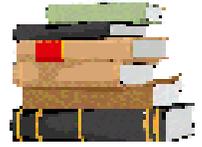
Andy works at 3M and in his spare time he can be found shooting Viking era archery with his longbow or making bows and arrows. Connie works at United Hospital, and as a Master Gardener, loves to dig in the dirt in their perennial gardens. Having discovered the joy of grandparenthood, they see their two little ones as often as possible.

Connie and Andy have not yet been to Norway, and the fact that they would love to go perhaps makes them candidates for the lodge's planned trip next year.

Connie and Andy Chrissis are fine examples of the new members which Synnøve-Nordkap lodge is seeking in order to continue its traditions and to create new ones.



# Corner Library



By Trudi Johnson-Richards

**Kristofer Janson in America** by Nina Draxten gives a vivid description of a career that touched the boundaries of immigrant life. Kristopher Jansen was a recognized poet in Norway at the time of his first visit to America in 1879 and a prolific writer in the following years.

He devoted the better part of his time in the 1880's and 1890's as a minister, furthering the cause of Unitarianism among the Scandinavians in the Upper Midwest. He gave abundant energy and used both pen and pulpit to advance his liberal cause. None of his congregations were large, even his central church in Minneapolis failed to survive. The Nora Free Christian Church, which he organized near Hanska, Minnesota, continues as a vigorous memorial to his teachings. Janson's influence cannot be measured by the membership of the congregation. Immigrants, passing through the Twin Cities in route to farther west and north, crowded his Minneapolis church to hear his sermons and readings; others read his publications; even more heard his lectures when he toured the Norwegian settlements. Janson was perhaps the first and last a champion of the social gospel and of the oppressed.

When Janson arrived in the United States, people realized that, just as he fought for the common folk in Norway, so he was now their spokesman in America. For six months, he traveled through cities and settlements. Some people traveled thirty or forty miles to hear him. There were banquets and receptions; he was cheered. It was only at the conclusion of his final lecture that some persons came to see a different view. Some thought his "break with tradition" too radical view of religion. Janson was strongly influenced by Walt Whitman, whose work he knew and he most admired among new-world writers. In Whitman, Janson found the vice of new-world conscience.

The Norwegian immigrants, whom Janson visited in 1879-1880 were attached to Norway by ties with family left there and their own childhood memories, thus not fully assimilated into the main stream of American life. Norway had already felt the first tremors of the democratic ground swell that had resulted in the emergence of the Venste (the Liberal Party), in growing tension between the Norwegians and the Swedish crown.

The title page of the book has a figure shaped like an "M" with criss-cross sign. This figure is one of the 24 letters in the older Germanic runic alphabet used in the Scandinavian countries from 200 to 800 A.D. In addition to representing the sound "m" as in English, it also has a name, meaning "man" or "mankind."

Nina Braxten devoted many years to researching and writing Kristofer Janson's biography. The book has 401 pages which includes 12 chapters, notes and references, bibliography, index and photos. It is worth reading. The book was published for the Norwegian-American Historical Association in Northfield, Minnesota in 1976.

Trudi Johnson-Richards donated **Kristofer Janson in America** to the Synnove-Nordkap Corner Library on July 3, 2012. This book was found in a small bookstore in Bayfield, Wisconsin.

## YUST FOR FUN!

A road crew supervisor hired Ole to assist with painting the yellow line down the middle of the road. He was skeptical about hiring him, but he appeared enthusiastic and told him that he really needed the job. At least his wife Lena told him he needed the job.

He explained to Ole that his work day would be to complete 2 miles of line on the road, and he was set up with brushes and paint and his boss got him started. After the first day, the supervisor was pleased to find that he did an excellent job and was able to paint 4 miles of road in his 8 hour shift. He told him that he did an outstanding job and how pleased he was with his progress.

On the second day, Ole completed painting 2 miles of road. His supervisor was surprised that on day one, he had completed twice as much work, but did not say anything, as 2 miles of road was the amount that the job required anyway. He decided to just accept it, and to look forward to the next day when he was sure that he would pick up his speed again. On day 3, the supervisor was shocked to learn that in his 8 hour shift, Ole only completed painting 1 mile of road. He was called to the supervisor's office and asked what was the problem .. "On your first day, you completed 4 miles of road, on your second day, 2 miles of road, and now on day 3, you were only able to complete 1 mile of road. Can I ask you, what is the problem?"

"Vell," Ole replied, "I'll tell you vhat, but I tought you vould know. Every day I vas getting farder and farder away from da paint can."

**Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge #1-008  
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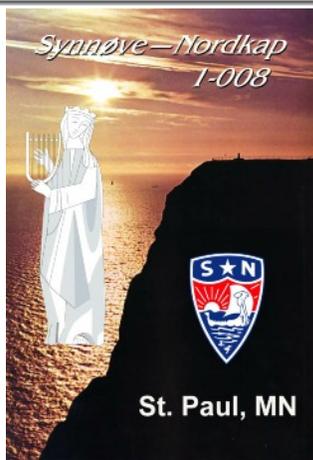
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(\* All area codes are 651 unless otherwise specified).

**Time sensitive material;  
please deliver promptly!**



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651-762-7872**



**St. Paul, MN**

**Upcoming Activities**

**Resume Lodge Meetings Sept. 11 with  
Ice Cream Social and "Dose Yohnsons"**

**Museum Project Program Oct. 9**

**Torsk and Meatball Dinner, Oct. 13**

**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.