



North Carolina Vikings

February 2010

<http://www.northcarolinavikings.org>



Sons of Norway

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NC Vikings Lodge 3-675

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President's Message

The January Lodge meeting was really a great time for those who braved the nasty weather! We elected the lodge's officers for 2010 (see article in newsletter) and we had a blast with the one-pound auction. The members who attended were really creative in picking their 1 lb. items – Don Kloe, with a bid of \$10 on the last item, came away with a trip for 2 on the Hurtigruten (courtesy of Eric & Laura Wiik). I had a great time encouraging/ embarrassing people to bid on the items that came in an amazingly creative collection of wrapping material. We will certainly have to hold this event again!!!!

I need each of you to continue to participate as well as step up to the plate as volunteers to keep our Lodge going and help distribute the tasks to more than just a few! We have many things coming up in the first half of 2010! The New Bern, NC Drammen Lodge Institution is on Feb. 20th, and Norm Miller and I will be attending. The February meeting will include the installation of the 2010 lodge officers, and a presentation on the man who was "behind" two of Norway's famous composers/ writers. In March, we will have our version of March Madness - Norwegian Movie Madness. April will bring us a genealogy topic for the lodge meeting hopefully followed by a genealogy workshop on the following weekend. In May, we will join the Friends of Scandinavia for the traditional Syttende Mai celebration followed by our lodge meeting with a discussion on a yet to be determined Norwegian custom/tradition. June starts off with the Sons of Norway District 3 Convention in Harrisburg, PA, followed with our lodge meeting being led in conversation/learning by the lodge's group of Norwegian students, and wrapping up with Midsommer event with Friends of Scandinavia.

Please share your commitment and presence at these meetings as you are what make the North Carolina Vikings Lodge! Never forget to promote the Sons of Norway membership to friends and associates. Involvement in the lodge will certainly be worthwhile for you and your families but it is truly all about what "we make of it for us and each other".

Takk!

Mike Tilder

President North Carolina Vikings Lodge 3-675

Upcoming Vikings Lodge Programs and Events

Please join us as we celebrate the culture of Norway and meet with others who share an interest in all things Norwegian. Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month. A coffee social follows each meeting, so please bring a small snack to share!

February 18th – Lodge meeting with installation of 2010 officers and a program on the man who was “behind” two of Norway’s famous composers/writers.

March 18th – Lodge meeting with March Norwegian Movie Madness.

April 15th – Lodge meeting with genealogy topic followed by genealogy workshop on the weekend.

May 15th – Syttende Mai celebration with Friends of Scandinavia.

May 20th - Lodge meeting with Norwegian traditions/customs topic.

June 17th – Lodge meeting “hosted” by our Norwegian language students.

June 19th - Friends of Scandinavia’s Midsommer celebration.

New Officers Elected

At the January meeting, we elected some new and some returning officers for 2010-2011.

- President - Mike Tilder
- Vice President & Secretary – Norm Miller
- Treasurer - Kjell Ottesen
- Social Director – Kari Crenshaw
- Cultural Director – *Open. We are looking for someone to fill this position.*
- Membership Secretary – Frank Bell
- Newsletter Editor – Cory Quammen

Changes to Membership Dues for Next Year

There have been some changes to our lodge's member dues by the Sons of Norway Headquarter staff that highlighted the fact that our dues did not reflect the structure that the Board had agreed to back in 2007 (I believe it was my error in not communicating our structure to the HQ staff). During the February 18th meeting, we will ask the membership to vote on the new membership dues structure for our lodge:

Primary membership – \$44.50
Spouse membership – \$37.50
Youth membership – \$23.25

Norwegian Food Items for Sale

Our lodge has for sale a variety of food imported from Norway. These items will be available for purchase at the meeting on February 18th.

- White Cabbage (Surkal) \$3.00 each
- Fir-Klover Hazelnut Bar \$4.50 each
- Norwegian Fishballs \$7.00 each
- Herring Cocktails in wine sauce \$2.75 each
- Sardines in olive oil \$3.00 each
- Fish cakes \$3.75 each

Upcoming Area Events

Finnish Night with the Friends of Scandinavia

Saturday, February 20th, 2010

St. Giles Presbyterian Church, Raleigh 7:15 pm

Please join the Friends of Scandinavia to hear two exchange students from Finland speak about their homeland! For more information, visit <http://www.ncnordic.org>.

Trip to Norway with Charlotte's Norsk Carolina Lodge

July 26th-August 5th, 2010

This summer, our sister lodge in Charlotte is planning the trip of a lifetime to Oslo and Sandefjord, Norway. Though the trip itself is still a few months away, it's not too early to start planning! For more information, contact lodge president Carol King (704-674-2778).

March in the Raleigh St. Patrick's Day Parade with the Friends of Scandinavia

Saturday, March 13th, 2010

For many years, the Friends of Scandinavia have marched in Raleigh's St. Patrick's Day Parade. If you are interested in marching this year, please contact Chris Christiansen (jocmpc@att.net) by February 15th and let him know.

5th Annual Golf Tournament at Land of the Vikings

April 30th – May 2nd, 2010

Spend the weekend playing in the LOV Open! The Land of the Vikings is usually fully booked for this event so get your reservations in early. To secure your place in the tournament, the green fee of \$65.00 must be received by April 10th. Call Bev or Rick at 570-461-3500 (vikingland@tds.net) for more details.

Pins and Tote Bags for Sale

The Norwegian American 17th of May Committee is offering the following items for sale – if you are interested in purchasing some, please contact Mike Tilder @ 919-460-9214 or mmtilder@bellsouth.net

Lapel Pins - This year's pin depicts children in the parade prominently displaying the Norwegian flag. \$5.00 each.

Tote Bags - Dark blue with crossed American and Norwegian flags, this tote bag is an attractive way to carry groceries and packages. \$5.00 each.

Third District Convention Update

The convention is scheduled for early June 2010 in Harrisburg, PA. We are eligible to send three delegates. The board will confirm what assistance the lodge will be able to provide the delegates. Hotel rooms will be \$99 per night and sleep up to 4 people per room. Our lodge delegates will vote on new district policies and procedures or amendments on existing policies brought before the convention delegates by Third District Lodges. Our delegates will also vote for the new Third District Board of officers. The event concludes with a banquet and huge raffle. Members may also go as non-delegates. This is a great way to make new friends from other lodges or visit with old friends! Find out what is out there, what other lodges are doing! Can you go?? Let Mike Tilder know if you can possibly attend and how you can represent our lodge at this event! We need to reserve and let the District know by end of February 2010.

Lost and Found

At our June 2009 lodge meeting, *Godt Sagt*, a book on Norwegian proverbs, was borrowed and has yet to be returned to Martha Arnum. Martha would be grateful if whoever borrowed the book would return it to her as soon as possible. Martha thanks you.

The Oldest Town in Norway

Tønsberg is a town and municipality in Vestfold county, Norway. The administrative centre of the municipality is the town of Tønsberg. The town of Tønsberg was established as a municipality on 1 January 1838 (formannskapsdistrikt). The rural municipality of Sem was merged into the municipality of Tønsberg on 1 January 1988.

The population of the entire urban area, regardless of municipality borders, and following the guidelines set by Statistics Norway, was 46,862 as of 1 January 2008, making Tønsberg the tenth most populous urban areas in Norway. Tønsberg is generally regarded as the oldest town in Norway.

The Old Norse form of the name was Túnsberg. The first element is the genitive case of tún (n), meaning fenced area or garden. The last element is berg (n), meaning mountain. The name originally referred to the fortifications on Slottsfjellet. The old spelling has been retained in the name of the diocese, Tunsberg bispedømme. The coat-of-arms is an old city seal from as far back as 1349. The seal shows Tønsberg Fortress surrounded by a

ring wall on a mountain with the sea in front. There is also a longship in the water in front of the fortress. Around the seal are the words (in Latin): This is the seal of Tunsberg.

The Oseberg burial mound (Oseberghaugen) from early Viking age. According to Snorri Sturluson, Tønsberg was founded before the Battle of Hafrsfjord, which, according to Snorri, took place in 871. What year the battle took place is disputed, however, and most current historians believe the battle took place closer to 900. However, if the battle did in fact take place in 871, this would make Tønsberg the oldest present Scandinavian town. However, archeological excavation seems to show that Tønsberg is established in the last part of the 11th century. The first time the town is mentioned by a contemporary writer is in year 1130.

Slottsfjellet (English: the Castle Mountain), north of the city centre, makes for a near impregnable natural fortress. During the civil war era of the 12th century, it was fortified by the Baglers. The Birkebeiners besieged it for 20 weeks in the winter of 1201 before the Baglers surrendered. In the 13th century, King Haakon Haakonson set up a castle in Tønsberg, Tønsberg Fortress. The town was destroyed by fire in 1536, but Tønsberg remained one of the most important harbour towns in Norway.

During the German occupation of Norway in World War II, the Berg concentration camp was constructed near Tønsberg. In 1948, Tønsberg became the cathedral city of the Diocese of Tunsberg (Tunsberg bispedømme), created when the counties of Buskerud and Vestfold were separated from the Diocese of Oslo.

Tønsberg is still an industrial and maritime centre, with such diverse concerns as metal shops, shipyards, paper mills, leather processing, and breweries. It is noted especially for its silverware.

Tourist sites include ruins of the Tønsberghus, St. Michael's Church, the Royal Castle, Sem Church, and the Vestfold Museum. Tønsberg is also the site of Oseberghaugen, the location of a Viking era grave site (haugen from the Old Norse Word haugr meaning mound). The Oseberg ship was found near the city in 1904. The longship is now in the Viking Ship Museum in Oslo.

Perhaps the most important landmark in the town is the tower standing on the hill. It was erected in 1888 as a memorial to the old fortress, of which just fragmentary ruins remain today. Several streets in the town are named after old kings of Norway.

The city is served by the railway line Vestfoldbanen, which runs in a loop through the city before reaching Tønsberg Station.

- Excerpt from the Everything Scandinavian newsletter

From the District 3 President



Hei alle sammen,

For many of us the snow came and went but the cold weather stuck around a bit longer than many of us liked. The one good thing is we probably got rid of a few bugs that would have bothered us next summer.

Congratulations to **Gateway to Florida 3-541 and Dovre 3-232** for winning the Fall SON membership competition. **District Three swept both the large and small lodge categories.** Each lodge will get a \$500 check from SON headquarters and a lot of bragging rights. For both lodges it was a big step forward. For Gateway to Florida it was just a culmination of a lot of awards they have recently earned and for Dovre, it was one great giant step forward in their efforts to getting back on solid ground. January is always a great month. We have Officer Installation ceremonies all up and down the East Coast. We have new ideas being put forth and new members taking offices along with some experienced hands helping them along; it's a great program. Let me offer my congratulations and thanks to all of our new and returning officers.

Some of these new ideas that will be proposed may not always be well received but let's give them a chance. What kind of an organization would we be today if we didn't have women in our ranks or use English in our meetings? Those are two changes that were probably tough for many to take when they were proposed but they have helped make our organization the great one it is.

Above all, let's not forget that we are a fraternal organization that is based on rules that apply to all of us. District Three and the entire order had great positive membership months during November and December. January is doing ok but not as great as the past two months. Let's get our Membership committees up and going and institute/improve our mentoring programs.

Our web site <http://www.3dsofn.org/> averaged 97 visitors a day last month. As of Jan 18 the daily average for Jan was 138 visitors a day. That is a huge jump from our 64 a day in June 2009. Our D3 blog got a large uptick in traffic as well. Three of our Adopt a School lodges posted notes on their programs. I encourage more lodges to follow their lead. <http://3dsofn.org/blog/2009/11/12/adopt-a-school/#comments> We will be posting additional information on the convention as it becomes available. <http://3dsofn.org/blog/category/convention>

June Cooper, Hampton Roads 3-522, has produced a DVD of the 2008 convention. It is a great production, professionally done, 28 minutes long and covers all the events of the convention. The cost of the DVD including shipping, handling and taxes is \$20. It will be a great program for your lodge as well as your own personal enjoyment. Additional information on ordering the DVD can be found on the web or you can email June at Junecooper@mindspring.com

LOV recently had a major upgrade to the

heating system. The new equipment will improve reliability, safety and reduce the heating costs.

This is the time of year when we start electing Convention delegates, drafting resolutions and filling out Lodge of the Year forms. These are all important events for our lodges. They deserve our complete attention.

The Institution of the Drammen Lodge will take place at The Chelsea

Restaurant, 335 Middle Street, New Bern, NC. Festivities start at 5:30 on 20 Feb 2010. Check the web site for full details or call Arty Ellis at 252 637 7547.

Med vennlig hilsen

Ralph Peterson
President
District Three
Sons of Norway