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ZONE DIRECTORS' REPORTS

Second Quarter 2011

# Zone Reports

## Zone 1 Report

### LODGE VISITS:

Skogvannet Lodge - 658 at Walker. The lodge is very active and has several events with more coming: silent auction, Scandinavian show & tell, kinship partners, anniversary dinner and Christmas Party. They have a good membership attendance with 32 members at a meeting I attended. They are working on recruiting younger members

Tusenvann Lodge - 659 at Isle. This lodge is very active with new president and have a very active membership that is working to recruit younger member's. They have cultural programs, support the Foundation, and have brat stand that is used to make money and is doing very well at festivals, fairs, & parades. They also have a Viking Ship that they take to several parades. The Losge is very visible in the area, with an average of 35 members attending.

Terje-Viken Lodge - 017 Two Harbors. I visited this lodge on June 14<sup>th</sup>. They have a very nice facility, equipped with two 55" flat screen HDTV sets. They have a very active membership, with several events upcoming. The goal is to increase the membership with younger members. Some of their events have been a Norwegian Food Event, shared heritage stories, and the Lutefisk Bowling. There were 37 members in attendance at the meeting.

Heimsyn Lodge - 015 Cloquet. They have elected a new president and treasurer. There new president is very enthusiastic about the lodge and has very impressive goals to move the lodge forward. I have discussed a MAPS dinner and would be willing to help with one to try and bring in some younger members. There were 22 members at the meeting. I was very impressed with their outlook and their officers.

Nordsjermen Lodge - 563 Grand Rapids. I visited the lodge on June 23rd at Bovey. They have program of cultural skills and activity classes, Heritage programs, fund raisers, & work with youth groups. I have suggested they do a MAPS dinner and program to attract younger members. Thirtytwo members attended.

Bemidji Lodge - 500 Bemidji. I was scheduled to visit there on June 30, but had to cancel.

Sagatun Lodge - 018 Brainerd. I was unable to visit the lodge since they do not meet during the summer months. I will reschedule for this coming fall.

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# Zone Reports

## Zone 2 Report

Many of the lodges in my zone are busy preparing to participate in their communities' summer activities. I have been trying to encourage the lodges in my zone to advertize their events with our publicity director. Here are some of the community events taking place in my zone this summer. Beginning in July we have Norway Day set for Sunday July 10, at Minnehaha Park in Minneapolis. In August Syttende Mai Lodge and the Viking Age Club planned a Viking Age Activities Day at the Danish American Center at 3030 W. River Pkwy, in Minneapolis. Unfortunately it is cancelled due to a lack of interest.

The lodges have scheduled picnics and are participating in parades.

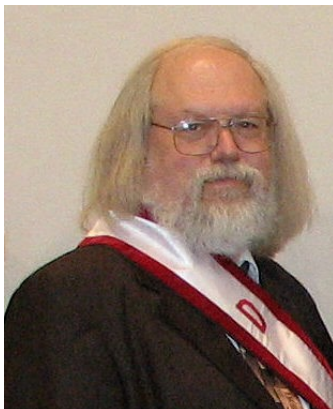
I hope lodges have started thinking about the fact that the convention will be happening next year and that lodges should be thinking about delegates to the convention, and any bylaws or resolutions that they wish to submit. I will give out more detailed info as the event gets closer. Information on the convention can be found at <http://www.sofn-1conv2012.com>

I am looking forward to resuming my visitation schedule with the lodges beginning in September.

Finally, I hope everyone has a pleasant summer and see you in the fall.

Fraternally

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# Zone Reports

## Zone 3 Report

### Hilsa Fra Zone 3

With the 4<sup>th</sup> of July fast approaching the variety of summer activities for Lodges in Zone 3 will give ALL members a great variety of choices. Please check your newsletters or contact an officer so you can participate. This is just a short list of activities that are taking place in various communities: Community Parades (a great way to advertise your Lodge), Potluck Picnics, Golf Tournament (Park Rapids – August 13<sup>th</sup>), Community Events, Mystery Trips and this is just a short listing of the events.

Various area Lodges did acknowledge Syttende of Mai. President Bob Hoover and wife, Dorothy, my husband, Delroy and myself attended a dinner with Tordenskjold at Halstad, MN – a very pleasant evening for all of us. Tusen Takk! Tordenskjold was instituted in September, 1905. Bemidji Lodge had a Syttende Mai Celebration at Skogfjorden – Concordia Language Village. Snorre Lodge 0-70 served “Scandinavian” goodies at a local bank!!!

Vikingland Lodge participated with the Senior Fest (a community event) on June 16<sup>th</sup> with a great display table of Sons of Norway literature and artistic crafts by our Lodge members. On June 23<sup>rd</sup> Vikingland Lodge participated in the DL Library Midsummer Program “One World Many Stories”.

A reminder to Membership Committees – do complete your MAP application with President Hoover.

May your summer days be filled with pleasant experiences and fond memories.

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# Zone Reports

## Zone 4 Report

### More News from Zone 4

It's the season to be outside and at the lake living in a 'stuga' like is done in Scandinavia! It's quite the same here in Minnesota in the Lakes Area --- there's music and dance, there's fishing, smoking fish and eating fish! Parents and grandkids are visiting 'the lake' and the grandparents for that special time when traditions of the past are revisited and passed on to the next generations and, maybe without conscious effort, the traditions of those immigrants from the past are still being passed down within our families. Enjoy the traditions of your family and keep those traditions alive in your family. Everyone is so busy, busy, busy. It really comes down to our priorities and knowing what and how much each of us can do. I hope you can find time this summer to celebrate your Nordic traditions while enjoying your family, friends, summer and have received news from several lodges. I'm including those I have received. Be sure to check out the future events in case you can attend some events.

**Willmar's Fedraheim Lodge** worked and won lodge promotion West Central Sanitation and KWLM Radio of Willmar sponsored a contest for a 45 second free radio ad for non profit organizations. The lodge applied for it and won a spot ad. Three officers went to the radio station and recorded an ad promoting Fedraheim Lodge. The ad told about the local lodge and Sons of Norway. It was run 5 times a day on KWLM radio each day for a month. This ad promoted the lodge was heard by many many people in the Willmar area. It was worth \$2500 but completely free of charge to our lodge. Signs along each side of a stretch of highway advertise that this stretch of road is picked up by Fedraheim Sons of Norway Lodge thus advertising our lodge. The lodge 'cleans' the hiway area twice per year. With information gained sharing at a zone training session in we have committed to and scheduled a Waffle fund raiser for our lodge. Contact president Andy Berg for more info and how successful it was. Also, the lodge collects food for the Willmar Area Food Shelf.

**Canby's Vennskap Lodge** is spreading its wings and taking some risks to grow --- using grant money from the SON Foundation the lodge has offered six folk dance classes for their own members and the community. Marilyn Syverson, recreation director for the district, was the instructor. Will there be interest for ongoing classes? This lodge will celebrate the 25th anniversary in September with a banquet and dignitaries in attendance! During the summer Vennskap is picnicking with the nearby Danish Community building Scandinavian togetherness in the area. Gordy 'CRAZY FINGERS' Lindquist in concert will be presented Monday evening, August 8.

**Glenwood's Mjosen Lodge** celebrated and honored deceased members in May. The memorial service was directed by Randy Pederson, cultural director, Gordy Jacobson and Carl Listug for the following: *Gerald Steele, Ann Hanson, Paul Ranum and Lloyd Vindedahl*. The lodge members joined in signing "Day by Day". The tradition of an annual Memorial Service is held in some lodges remembering and honoring members who have died during the past year or period of time. Mjosen Lodge serves rosettes and krumkake each year at the local nursing homes for the residents there to celebrate Syttende Mai!

**Morris' Norkfødt Lodge** held a Syttende Mai Lunch for the community. Many members and people from the community came to lunch on Norwegian foods and desserts. It was a busy time introducing the foods to some who had never had the experience plus satisfying those who know about these treats.

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# Zone Reports

## Zone 4 Report (Cont)

**Vining's Leif Erikson Lodge** is selling lefse at the Phelps Mill Festival in July as well as presenting the "Ole Olsson Old Time Orkestra" in Battle Lake on July 12. In August is the Crazy Fingers Concert on July 9. The lodge recently started the twice a year cleaning of the Hiway near Battle Lake. Parading the Viking Ship and carrying the five flags of Scandinavia is planned for Henning, Ashby, Battle Lake, Parkers Prairie, Vining and Underwood parades. In September the star of Norway's Reality Show, Grant Aaseng, a pastor in Alexandria, will tell about his experiences on the show and his tour, with his family, of Norway. The date is September 12 at 7 pm at the Vining Community Center. Are you thinking ahead to Sons of Norway District 1 Convention for 2012? The in-progress-website is now available for viewing. And here is the link: <http://www.sofn-1conv2012.com>

### EVERYONE IS INVITED TO ZONE 4

**Aug 8** - Vennskap of Canby is presenting Gordy 'CRAZY FINGERS' Lindquist in concert on Monday, August 8, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, an accessible facility. The church is located at 108 Haarfager Avenue No., Canby, MN. Refreshments will be served. Adult advance tickets \$7.00; at the door \$8.00. Children under age 14 tickets \$5.00

**Aug 9** - Leif Erikson of Vining is presenting Gordy 'CRAZY FINGERS' Lindquist in concert on Tuesday evening at 7:30 pm at Battle Lake High School Auditorium in Battle Lake. (Located where State Hiways 210 and 78 intersect in Otter Tail County) about 20 miles east of Fergus Falls. Adult ticket \$5, students \$2; may be bought at any First National Bank---Battle Lake, Henning or Ottertail. For more info: leiferikson32@gmail.com

**September 26th** Exciting news from Alexandria, Runic Vennskap just announced that they will be hosting the Løiten Sangforening, a men's choir from Norway at the First Lutheran Church in Alexandria at 7:30 pm. Montecello, Jaabeck Lodge, suggests interesting places in their area of our zone Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 & 2 the big art event for the area is 'The Meander', a chance to visit local artists. We can all become aware of the charm of Milan with its Village School that holds classes by the master craftspersons from Norway and around the country. There's the Trestuen Gallery with Master Rosemaler Karen Jensen's rosemaling items on display, plus the elegantly rooms that can be rented. There is the Rosemaled Norwegian double room and the single Swedish Room with kurbitz painting. The beds are built-in as in the 'old country'. The whole town of 300 residents, celebrates Syttende Mai big time with many guests for the Norwegian activities, parade and foods. The local church is a repository of Norwegian history with rosemaling, hardanger paraments, woodcarving . . . and the town museum shows the city's history on a huge mural, from the Norwegian immigrants arriving till today. Chippewa City and the Swenson Farm--both are supported by the Chippewa County Historical society and places of interest for visitors.

# Zone Reports

## Zone 5 Report

With the current exchange rate in Norway you have to think outside the box to save a little money and to explore the culture of modern Norway. When I travel to Norway some of my favorite shopping spots is the local hardware store, grocery store and the Fretex. The Fretex is the same as Salvation Army stores here in the U.S. In Norway people take their unwanted sweaters, pewter, books, bunad shoes and other treasures. On my last trip to Norway it was one of my first stops after checking into the hotel. The hardware store is where I get my vimple. In Norway they fly the vimple everyday and the Norwegian flag only on flag days. I can also get an electric goro iron there. It is also fun to look at the tools. Think outside the box. There might be a tool that you can't get here. I know that a foam sanding drum for knife making is on my list for the next trip. At the grocery store I get my lemse, and of coarse horn-salt. You need that to make vestland lefse, Steinkjer cookies and other favorite Norwegian goodies. Think outside the box, you never know what you can find. Vanilla sauce packets that you just add milk are wonderful on strawberries. When it comes to membership ideas and programming ideas for your lodge think outside the box. Ask your lodge members for ideas. They might know of someone that has that good program waiting to be discovered. Look at other organizations in your community and see what they are doing to get new members or advertise events. You might be able to use it in your lodge. One such idea is to join your local Chamber of Commerce. They will put you on their web site and help advertise your lutefisk dinners, bake sales and meetings. See you at the Fretex. I will be the one checking out the sweaters.

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# Zone Reports

## Zone 6 Report

Another officer workshop was held with several lodges attending. In both workshops, the lodges from out of the location had limited participation. The second workshop did generate good discussion and sharing of ideas. To date two lodges were not able to attend the two workshops. A third lodge is well away from the two and will need to be held in the coming year. Two more lodge visit have been made before the lower activity of the summer. Visits will be scheduled for the fall as lodges gear up for the season. The last lodge visited is a small lodge with limited number of members and activity.”

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# Zone Reports

## Zone 7 Report

I can't believe it's been a year since I was elected Zone 7 Director at the Sons of Norway District Convention in Rochester! I have visited all the lodges in my zone. I have learned so much! I have met so many wonderful people who are so proud of their heritage. I would never have believed I would be attending so many Syttende Mai celebrations!!

I went to my first District 1 Board meeting in April. I really enjoyed meeting with the other Zone directors, the officers, and involved in the business of the District. I feel very privileged to be a part of this group! I also wonder, how can I share all this information?

A funny thing happened on my way to Decorah in April. A snow storm!! My husband called me as I was driving north of Des Moines and told me the news. So I contacted the Des Moines Marsteinen lodge president and asked if I could visit them instead. The evening was a real eye opener about the Resistance movement in Norway during World War II, from the view point of two women from Norway! I was totally in awe!

Yes, I did go to four Syttende Mai celebrations!! In Forest City, The Nordic lodge enjoyed a delightful musical program by a former music teacher from North Branch, IA. The festive air was enhanced by many women and men wearing Norwegian costumes! This lodge meets at Waldorf College in a formal dining room!

Then I made a trip to Kansas City to celebrate with the Maihaugen lodge members and 25 high school students from the Bergan area! They all spoke very good English and we all bombarded them with questions! When I showed the list of Sons of Norway lodges in Norway, one of the students saw an officer who lives on the same street! It was so much fun to see the Kansas City Scandinavian Folk dancers teaching the young students some folk dances! They really helped out with the sing along of folk songs—a good way for the Norwegian class to get credit!!

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# Zone Reports

## Zone 7 Report (continued)

How lucky can one be than to celebrate Syttende Mai, in Decorah on the 17<sup>th</sup> of May?? What a dinner! What a program! What a turn out!! There were guests from Des Moines who brought along guests from Norway! The program was all about engagement and marriage customs from the 1800's in Norway! The "bride" wore her wedding dress, and was so excited to wear a "bride's crown", which she had not done for her own wedding. The preacher looked like he had stepped out of an old photo. Carol Hasvold did an excellent job on research and finding items.

In Omaha we had a parade, our parade "Viking ship" float, and lots of food. The Elveby lodge was entertained by the Stark family from Madison, Wisconsin singing folk songs as well as hymns in five different Scandinavian languages! They will be in Decorah for the Nordic Fest in July—check them out!!

Kong Sverre lodge in Story City hosted Janet Letnes Martin for their Syttende Mai celebration. They had a delightful time including a "Jello contest". Did someone really do the "Scream" painting in Jello?? (Wish I could have been there!)

It sounds like all the lodges will be busy with parades, festivals and ethnic fund raisers this summer. Thank you for being so gracious to me when I visit your lodge. Thank you for sharing your heritage with each other! I love the variety of meeting places, creative programs, and interesting people.

# Zone Reports

## Zone 8 Report

Greetings from Sunny Texas!! I am pleased to be one of the newest members to District 1. Let me introduce myself. I have been a member of S.O.N. for more than four years and have loved partaking with my husband and three children. We have enjoyed learning and sharing with others about Norway. I am 50% Norwegian and my Mom (Cecelia Femrite) is 100% and grew up in Farwell, MN outside of Alexandria. I grew up in Richmond, VA and have lived in Minneapolis & Rochester, MN; Cary, NC; and now Georgetown, TX for 8 years.

After being invited to be Zone Director beginning in May/June, I started off my service by visiting the Waco, TX. lodge on two occasions. On the first occasion, we had nice fellowship dinner and an excellent speaker, Betty Tindall, sharing the latest news on the huge endeavor she has overseen as chairperson in recent years. This is the restoration of the Jens Ringness House in Bosque County, Texas. The home was built by the Ringness family from Norway in the 1850's. For more information regarding all the work that has gone into this project, go to these websites: [http://www.bosque-norsemen.com/Ringness\\_Project/history\\_of\\_ringness\\_structure.htm](http://www.bosque-norsemen.com/Ringness_Project/history_of_ringness_structure.htm) (still in development) <http://cliftonrecord.smithmediainc.com/news/local-news/175-vintage-pump-organ-donated-to-the-jens-ringness-house.html>

On that same evening, the Canuteson-Reierson Lodge gave a gift of \$1000.00 in honor and for the aid of the project. It was a very festive evening and a good time was had by all. The Honorable Judge Derwood Johnson, a member of the Lodge, presented the check to Mrs. Tindall.

The following month, the crowds were a bit smaller at the Waco Lodge, but it was nice to get acquainted with each of those in attendance and hear their history with Sons of Norway. John Drivdahl does a great job of keeping these gatherings running smoothly and regularly and it is obvious that friendships have been forged over many years in this group. They continue to meet at Rosati's Pizza each month in the banquet room.

In the coming months, I plan to visit as many of the Lodges in Zone 8 that I am able before year's end. I also look forward to attending the October meeting in MN and meeting many of the other Board and Directors. I have two meetings scheduled already: One is with Gus Melendez & friends/members of the Palmedal Lodge in McAllen, TX. The other is with Randy Ice & fellow S.O.N. friends/members to gather at Christmas with the Oklahoma City-Hundreårsjubileum Lodge.

I am pleased to share that former ZD-Anne Adkins will serve as the ZD-Alternate and she will also be attending meetings and giving reports on these. I am looking forward to meeting many Norwegians throughout Texas and Oklahoma in my future service as Zone Director.

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