



One of our 2004 lodge goals was to increase our membership by 35 new members - we achieved 40! Congratulations to all members who have helped us achieve this goal - we are now nearly 200 strong!

Fra Presidenten, Dick Norland:

Our January meeting was postponed because of the flu virus at the Mankato Lutheran Home - the re-scheduled date will be announced soon.

February 12th - The monthly lodge meeting will begin at 5:30pm at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in the First Floor Lounge (note room change). Pastor Richard Buege will present some interesting facts on Presidential Homes. Members whose last names start with H to K will provide the meal. Jodie and Joe Wallschlaeger, chairs of the serving committee, will contact each server beforehand. For a ride, please call 625-6060.

March - A representative from the Norwegian American Historical Association (NAHA) will present the program and will tell us all about their organization and the wonderful books that they have published.

Missing Items - There are a few missing items from the Julebord - some serving pieces and serving bowls went home with "different" families - please call Kris Norland 625-6060 to help find the "correct home" for these items.

Nametags - To help lodge members connect names with faces, we encourage everyone to wear nametags, which are available at each meeting. Some long-term members have permanent nametags and some members have saved their nametags from past events - in any shape or form, it will help everyone!

Did you Know? - Norwegians have the world's best sick-leave regulations. Norwegian workers have full sick-leave protection from their first day on a job. They can decide for themselves if they are sick during the first days without a doctor's statement. The hours worked during a year in Norway are the shortest of all the countries that are similar to ours. For example, the work time of the average Norwegian is annually 300 hours fewer than the same worker in the United States.

Genea-snooping - For those who enjoy genea-snooping (genealogy), local folk museums in Norway now keep copies of all local church books, censuses, and much more to help you trace your heritage.

Volunteers - There are on-going volunteer opportunities with our lodge's Adopt a School Program - contact Kris Norland, 625-606, if you are able to assist 1-2 hours a week. Extra hands are also needed to trim stamps for Tubfrim - stamps and instructions are available at each meeting.

WE NEED GREETERS! - There will be a sign up sheet for those willing to help out as greeters/welcomers at meetings. If you would like to be a greeter at any one or more meetings, please contact Audrey Morken at 387-2223. A big thank you goes out to Morgan Trusty who, for the last years, has been the lodge's greeter/welcomer at all lodge meetings.

District Leadership Workshop - Four of our members will be attending the February 19th Sons of Norway District Leadership Workshop in Windom along with lodge representatives from Austin, Pipestone, Windom, Hanska and Estherville, IA.

Fra Vice Presidenten, Audrey Morken:

It is with great pride and honor that I write to you as your new Vice President! To tell you a little bit about myself, I am a first generation Norwegian (on my father's side) and have traveled to Norway twice. I grew up, like most Scandinavians, proud of my heritage. My father and his immediate family (except for the eldest daughter and eldest son) emigrated to America (Ames, Iowa, to be exact) in 1956 from a little farm in **Manger, Norway**, just northwest of **Bergen**.

Growing up in a Norwegian family, there was always someone speaking in their native tongue at family gatherings. I have learned how to say "hello," "goodbye," "thanks for dinner," and all those polite phrases one can learn in a book. Although I can understand Norwegian better than I can speak or write it, my language base is sketchy at best. Yes, there are a few words that I picked up along the way that I probably shouldn't have heard, but.... we won't get into that!

I joined **Sons of Norway** last April because I wanted to learn more about the history and culture of Norway and to carry on its many wonderful traditions. I was pleasantly surprised when asked to be an officer of the lodge. I am rising to the challenge and look to all of you for support, camaraderie, and friendship. We should be proud of our local lodge after being featured in a recent publication of **Viking** magazine for having the biggest percentage of growth in membership last year! As your Membership Chair of the lodge, my goal for the **Elvesvingen Lodge** is to continue its membership growth. If we all work together, it can be attained!

Tusen Takk! Se dere neste gangen! (Thanks and see you next time!)

SONS OF NORWAY
Elvesvingen Lodge 1-582
P.O. Box 1091
Mankato, MN 56002

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Norway in the News - Norway was ranked the "World's Best Place to Live" for the fourth year in a row by the United Nations! It is based largely on average levels of education and income combined with expected length of lifetime. The United States ranked 8th. Norway also has the largest per capita contributions to charities such as the recent disaster in southeast asia.

Moose - "Flying Moose Lands on Car's Roof" - A leisurely Sunday ride came to a halt for a couple in Southern Norway when a fully grown moose suddenly landed on the roof of their car. The moose had apparently been running through the forest when she suddenly came upon a cliff leading down to the highway. Unable to stop, the moose seemed to literally fly off the cliff, landing first on the car before catapulting further into an oncoming lane!

SONS OF NORWAY ELVESVINGEN LODGE 1-582 CALENDAR

February, 2005

- February 1 (Tuesday) – Deadline for applications for district and local lodge scholarship funds for camps at Skogfjorden, near Bemidji, MN and Masse Moro, near Eau Claire, WI. Applications must go through our local lodge first. Contact Dick Norland, 625-6060, norland@hickorytech.net, and/or Florence Netland, 952-473-3180, jnorseke@hotmail.com.
- Through February, every Tuesday at 12:30 pm & every Thursday at 5:30 pm - Know Your Community - Interview with current and past president of Elvesvingen Lodge – CCTV Public Access, Channel 13
- February 4 (Friday) – 7:30 pm – Swedish Club at Grace Lutheran Church, 320 East Main. Visitors welcome!
- February-March "Don't Hug Me" performance has been extended to March 27th in Minneapolis MN
- February-May, performances of Ibsen's "The Wild Duck" at "Winterfest & Ibsen Festival" in Lanesboro MN - various dates/times 800-657-7025 or www.commonwealththeatre.org
- *February 12 (Saturday) – 5:30 pm – Elvesvingen Lodge meeting at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 720 South Second Street, Mankato. Program about United States presidents' homes by Pastor R. L. Buege.*
- *March 4 (Friday) – 7:30 pm – Swedish Club at Grace Lutheran Church, 320 East Main. Visitors welcome!*
- *March 12 (Saturday) – 5:30 – Elvesvingen Lodge meeting at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Program about the Norwegian American Historical Association.*
- April 10 -- International Festival at East High School
- April 28 – May 1 (Thursday – Sunday) – Norwegian Adult Weekend at Concordia Language Villages near Bemidji, MN. 1-800-450-2214
- June 14 – August 18 (8 sessions) - Skogfjorden Language Camp near Bemidji, MN for ages 7-18. See information about deadlines and contact personnel in February 1st entry above.
- July 17 – July 30 – Masse Moro Heritage Camp near Eau Claire, WI for ages 9 – 15. Cost \$520.00. See information about deadlines and contact personnel in February 1st entry above.

Be sure to stop at the information table at the next meeting. Check out sale items (calendars, books, stationery). Pick up membership forms for friends or relatives (invite them as guests to the February meeting!). Take home brochures on events or tours: