



Sons of Norway

Elvesvingen Lodge 1-582 P.O. Box 1091 Mankato, Mn 56002

Vennlig hilsen fra presidenten (friendly greetings from president) **Dick Norland**. Godt Nytt Ar! (Happy New Year!) Hope all of you had a God Jul! (Merry Christmas!) The Elvesvingen Lodge is looking forward to a fun year in 2005!



January Meeting - Join us for an entertaining afternoon at our next lodge meeting, Saturday, January 15th at 2 pm at the Mankato Lutheran Home (note change in time and location). As an annual service project, our lodge is hosting a program for the residents. Adrian Lo will play his Hardanger fiddle and his Bethany Lutheran College string students will present a musical program. If you need a ride, please call me at 625-6060. Many cakes are needed for this event. The recipe was in the December newsletter. Please call Jodie Wallschlaeger at 388-2303 if you are able to bring a cake, and if so, purchase and freeze 2 bags of cranberries now. They may not be available later. Come at 1:15 if you would like to help prepare for serving.

Julebord - We had a joyous Julebord (Christmas Table) celebration in December. Over 100 members attended, donated food items, and contributed time to organize this event. Mange Takk (many thanks) to all for a special evening! The tables were filled with holiday and traditional Nordic foods. The room was very colorful – red clothing and Norwegian sweaters - and everyone was enjoying the good food and warm fellowship. Another thank you to the kitchen crew - to those who signed up for the task and to those who volunteered on the spot - many hands made light work. Mary Carlson and her young Suzuki violin students and parents presented a delightful program for our lodge - it was a festive atmosphere on a very professional level. Thank you, Mary! And some members went home with extra smiles on their faces - winners of several door prizes and the two King Harold medallions.

Special Thank You - A special thank you goes to Jodie Wallschlaeger for her service this past year as our president. Jodie has consistently worked hard to move the lodge forward on many issues and has been such a good ambassador for our lodge. We are glad to have her continue to serve on the board as our counselor.

Past Officers - At our December meeting, past lodge presidents were honored and the following out-going board officers were thanked: Joel Brude, Carol Budde, Ann Carlberg, Donna Resner, Curt Hanson, Morgan Trusty, Margaret Walsvick, Kris Norland and Delores Buege.

New Officers - We welcome new board officers in 2005 and look forward to working with them. Audrey Morken comes on as our new vice president and will no doubt add some fresh ideas and contribute to our lodge. George Orvick was kind to step up and serve as our Social and Cultural Director. He has also agreed to provide the April program for our lodge sharing slides and stories of his many trips to Norway. Mary and Barry Bliesmer have agreed to step into the position as editor and we look forward to having them serve on the board as well as publish our newsletter. The new officers were installed in December by Joel Botten, president of the Hanska Lodge. Please adjust your yearbook to include: President-Dick Norland, 625-6060; Vice President-Audrey Morken, 387-2223; Counselor (Past President)-Jodie Wallschlaeger, 388-2303; Secretary-Marilyn Bigbee; Financial Secretary-Linda Stelter; Treasurer-Irene Mickelson; Social and Cultural Director-George Orvick, 387-1498; Editor and Publicity-Mary and Barry Bliesmer, 625-9416; Non-board members include: Historians and Musicians-Delores Buege and Kris Norland; Sports/Rec Director-vacant; Greeter-vacant; Sunshine-June Nelson.

Norway in the News - Norway continues to be in the news. A Norwegian architectural firm was just awarded the job of designing the new museum on Ground Zero in New York honoring the many people who lost their lives on September 11, 2001. A Norwegian economist shared in winning the Nobel Prize. One of our past speakers, Lois Rand of Northfield, attended the ceremony just a few months ago. Another interesting story just came out of Oslo that the majority of Norwegians now favor accepting the Euro for their currency. The people of Norway had voted this down twice so this is a major change. And finally, Congress recently passed a spending bill which includes \$1 million for the Norwegian American Foundation. The foundation will use the money to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Norway's peaceful independence from Sweden in 1905. Former Vice President Walter Mondale is chairman of the foundation's Centennial Gift Committee.

Lodge History Book - Our lodge received a fantastic Christmas gift at the December Julebord. Delores Buege, Ann Carlberg, and Kris Norland gathered past lodge pictures and documents into bound books. As a new member or a long-term member of Elvesvingen Lodge, you may enjoy viewing the books at a monthly lodge meeting - check out what former members have accomplished to carry on our heritage. And if you can identify places or names, the books can easily be updated.

Volunteer/Member Service Hours - As a reminder, year-end volunteer hours are due by January 18th. Please submit your hours at the January 15th meeting or call Marilyn Bigbee at 387-2457. If you do not have a form, make a list of the hours you have volunteered for projects, activities and business for and with our lodge. Include travel and preparation time. Refer to the "Service Projects" and "Community Projects" in our yearbook for more information.

Profit from Bake and Craft Sale - With what was sold at our last meeting, our profit was a little over \$700.00. Mange tusen takk for everyone's help on that! Amazing! Ann Carlberg, Editor 507-388-7334

Winterfest and Ibsen Festival in Lanesboro, MN, Feb. 4-6 – Henrik Ibsen’s play, “Wild Duck,” Scandinavian arts demonstrations, Norwegian Tea and Bridal Fashion Show, Viking Knit Jewelry making class, concert, lectures, storytelling, snowmen display, children’s ski and more.

Swedish Institute - The American Swedish Institute's current display runs until January 9th. If you have a free afternoon, plan a wonderful visit to the ASI - just a few blocks off 35W in South Minneapolis. The museum, book shop, gift shop, and tea room are located in the family home of former newspaper publisher Swan Turnblad. You can view elegantly set tables and Christmas trees festooned in traditions that Scandinavian immigrants carried with them to the New World a century ago. Call for times, admission fees, or free admit days - 612-871-4907.

Membership Input - Planning for upcoming events and lodge programs is an on-going process. If you have suggestions or ideas for "your" lodge, please pass them on to George Orvick, 387-1498.

Christmas Stamps - For those members who saved Christmas stamps - thank you! Please bring them to one of our monthly meetings. Now volunteers are needed to trim the cancelled postage stamps for Tubfrim, the organization that sells to collectors and dealers to raise money for disabled children via the Norwegian Health Service. The Tubfrim history and trimming instructions are available at each lodge meeting. Stamps can be collected and trimmed throughout the entire year.

SONS OF NORWAY ELVESVINGEN LODGE 1-582 CALENDAR

January, 2005

January 7 (Friday) – 7:30 pm - Swedish Club at Grace Lutheran Church, 320 East Main. Visitors welcome!

January 15 (Saturday) – 2:00 pm – Elvesvingen Lodge meeting at Mankato Lutheran Home, 718 Mound Avenue. Program by Adrian Lo, playing his Hardanger fiddle, and his students. (Please note change in time and location. Also this is the 3rd Saturday of the month, not the 2nd, as usual.)

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 at 625-6060 or norland@hickorytech.net. or Florence Netland at 952-473-3180 or jnorseke@hotmail.com.

February 4 (Friday) – 7:30 pm – Swedish Club at Grace Lutheran Church, 320 East Main. Visitors welcome!

February 4-6 (Friday – Sunday) – Winterfest and Ibsen Festival at Lanesboro Play – “ Wild Duck”. See above.

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 12 (Saturday) – 5:30 – Elvesvingen Lodge meeting at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Program about the Norwegian American Historical Association.

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 on 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 on February 1st entry above.