



Sons of Norway

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

Blue Earth
River
Minnesota River

June Lodge meeting At the May Lodge meeting, those in attendance approved having the Convention (June 12-14) act as our June meeting. All are encouraged to visit the Heritage & Culture Fair as well as attend the Friday evening banquet (pre-registration required). The next scheduled Lodge meeting will be Sept. 13th at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Hilsen fra Presidentene Paul Olson og Phil Wold: We hope you're as excited as we are about hosting the upcoming Sons of Norway District 1 Convention (from June 12th to the 14th). What an opportunity for all lodge members to experience at least part of this event! Hopefully you've registered for the banquet on Friday, June 13th. At least, do take in the vendor fair and consider coming for some of the cultural classes. Such a convention won't be in "our own backyard" again for many, many years. This is a perfect time to meet fellow SON members from the entire Midwest - from International Falls, Minnesota, to south Texas. You might even hear a little "Norsk" spoken with a southern drawl! This special event will substitute for our usual June meeting. We thank the planning committee (Karen Abbott, Joel Brude, Curt Eidhammer, Audrey Morken, Dick and Kris Norland, Clancy Olson, and Jodie Wallschlaeger) and all those who have helped them for the tremendous work they have done!

We had an interesting and well attended (with over 100 present) May meeting. It gave us a chance to "experience" just what Scandinavians endured when their countries were conquered by Nazi Germans, rendering their own governments and laws nonfunctional. Thankfully the Nazis were eventually defeated. Can you imagine how different things might be today had they not been? The dining hall at Bethlehem Lutheran Church worked well for the May meeting. The food and fellowship were great. Thanks to those who set up for the dinner meeting, especially those who prepared and served the delicious meal, including Pam Borchert, chair, Janice and Duane Ahlness, Ann Carlberg, Lois Kitmann, Audrey Morken, June Nelson, Lyllah Mae Norland, Kris and Dick Norland, Phyllis Olson and Dorothy Viker.

Also thanks to those who, being unable to actually serve, contributed their share to cover the expense of the meal. If you helped and we accidently omitted your name, let us know.

As we prepare for the resumption of monthly meetings in September, we thank you for your help in making these events happen. When your assistance is needed, be sure to respond, "Ja!"

Elvesvingen Lodge Cookbooks are still available. This cookbook contains 400+ tried and true recipes from our members. Purchase yours for \$12.00 each. The cookbooks are on sale at Bethany College Bookstore and at Bathrooms and Beyond 1804 Riverfront Dr or call Irene - 387-7045, Clancy - 345-7818, or Linda - 388-7139.

Midsummer's Eve. In Norway, Midsummer's Eve is also called "**Jonsok**." The Scandinavian customs date back to pagan times when tribute was paid to the powers of the sun god with bonfires signifying the defeat of darkness. Midsummer is the most popular festival in Norway together with Christmas. It is a celebration of the Summer solstice, the longest day of the year ([June 21](#)).

The Norwegians also form processions early in the evening, usually led by a musician. Meeting friends and family is as important as having plenty to eat on the table. Midsummer traditional delicacies are fresh potatoes with pickled herring or smoked fish from the nearby lake, the first strawberries of the season for desert, and some schnapps and beer to wash down the herring.



District 1 - 2008 Convention

MANKATO SONS OF NORWAY
ELVESVINGEN LODGE 1-582
PO BOX 1091
MANKATO, MN 56002
www.sonsofnorwaymankato.org

June 12-14, 2008, Alltel Center, Mankato MN son2008convention@yahoo.com

The convention is just around the corner! We couldn't have planned such an event without the great volunteer help in our Elvingsvingen Lodge!

If you haven't already done so, please send a \$5 donation to PO Box 1091, Mankato MN 56002 for "convention fruit" - volunteers will purchase/prepare the fruit for the convention delegates!

Please spread the word that the Heritage and Vendor Fair is open to the entire Mankato community - many vendors and cultural skills presenters will be offering a wide variety of Norwegian products for sale - see demonstrations of cultural crafts such as hardanger and rosemaling - listen to programs on heritage, genealogy and drama. **Support this event & bring your family - free admission! Thursday June 12 (noon-9pm) - Friday June 13 (9am-9pm) - Saturday June 14 (9am-6pm)**



Elvingsvingen Members at the Hanska Stabbur and Zion Lutheran Church

Hanska Syttende Mai

A great evening of fellowship & entertainment was enjoyed by those who attended the Hanska Syttende Mai celebration. Both the meal at Zion Lutheran and the "Jukebox Jamboree" program were excellent. Classic music & dancing from the 50's & 60's rock & roll era along with a hilarious Ole & Sven duo made for a fun night.

HERITAGE STORIES

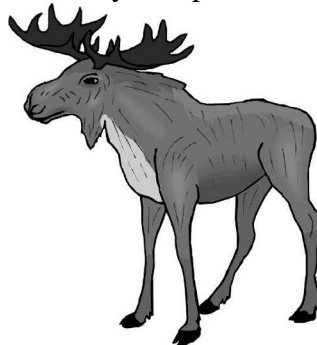
A primary purpose of Elvesvingen Lodge is to celebrate our culture & heritage with one another. Factual stories from the past history of one's own family can not only be fascinating, but educational for others as well. Although completely voluntary, we hope that each of you will give thoughtful consideration to this worthwhile project. The goal would be to have all stories submitted **by late fall or early winter**. The collection of stories will be compiled in booklet form & made available to members at a later date.

Format suggestions

1. Create a TITLE
2. SUBMITTED BY (your name)
3. WRITE your story
 - A brief INTRODUCTION provides a "setting" for your story
 - > time period (year or range of years)
 - > location of events described
 - > relationship (if known) of the person(s) in the story to you
 - > the source of your information (if known)
 - The MAIN BODY should be kept reasonable in length (Readers Digest format)
 - **It is possible that some of the submitted stories may need to be edited for length. If a story is edited, it will be re-submitted back to the writer for approval prior to printing.

When completed, please SUBMIT to Paul Olson

- Preferably in either MS WORD 97-2003 or MS WORD 2007 formats
 - > e-mail attachment (po224@charter.net) **OR** on a CD
- A handwritten or typed document is certainly acceptable but will be re-entered on a computer.



Too Many Moose Nowhere else in the world can as many moose be found as in Scandinavia. Since the early nineteen hundreds, the population has at least tripled. Since last winter we have heard much about the huge numbers of moose that have been run down on the roads and railways. But how do the so many hungry herbivores affect the rest of the environment? During the winter moose love to gorge themselves on rowan, aspen and willow. Where these trees are found as young bushes, the moose can have a good time. The problem starts when the plants are bitten back so hard that they cannot recoup with new growth. The amount of available food then shrinks from year to year, with severe consequences for the moose themselves, as well as all insects, lichen, fungus and birds which need these trees. There's never been a better time to be a wolf in Scandinavia's forests. With such enormous quantities of meat wandering around on four legs, predators can just help themselves. Nonetheless they will not manage to reduce the number of moose so much that the vegetation can recover. For the plants to come back again can mean only one thing: the moose population must come down.



May 2008 Sons of Norway Meeting at Bethlehem Lutheran Church



Language and Culture

Lodge Names

In the earliest years of Sons of Norway, Norwegian was the first language of the vast majority of members. The organization, then known as Sønner af Norge, chose Norwegian names for its lodges. The lodge names in many ways reflected the hopes and dreams of the membership, many of whom had themselves left their homeland behind to begin a new life. As the years went on and the organization became more Americanized, the connection to Norwegian culture and language remained strong. In this edition of Språk og kultur we will take a look at some interesting lodge names

and what they mean. Many lodges have chosen local place names partially or wholly translated into Norwegian:

Grønnvik 5-632 (Green Bay, WI) Grønn (green) + -vik (bay)

Myrmarken 5-609 (Marshfield, WI) Myr- (swamp or marsh) + -marken (field)

Bitterrootdalen 4-656 (Hamilton, MT) The -dalen element means “the valley.” This lodge is located in Montana’s Bitterroot Valley, and has been appropriately condensed into a single Norwegian word.

Shastafjell 6-108 (Redding, CA) The -fjell element means “mountain.” This lodge is located near California’s Mount Shasta. There are a number of lodge names like this including Blåfjell, Snøfjeldet and Hvite Fjell, to name just a few.

Summer Sizzle 08

Add a little sizzle to your summer recruitment efforts by participating in Sons of Norway’s Summer Sizzle! From June 1 – August 31, 2008, for every three qualifying members you recruit, you’ll receive a rosemaled coffee mug. Recruit 12 members and we’ll throw in a pound of gourmet coffee to go in your mugs! Summer usually marks a slower time for our lodges, but that doesn’t mean that new member recruitment needs to slow down, too! Consider some of these ideas to kick-start summer member drives:

- Throw a Midsommer celebration and invite family, friends and the community! An event is a great way to showcase the fun we have celebrating our heritage and culture. Make sure there’s a member on hand dedicated to answering any questions about membership and inviting non-members to join.
- Have a picnic! We Norwegians love to eat. Why not throw a membership picnic instead of the typical dinner or breakfast? Throw in a couple games or activities to make it a festive atmosphere.
- Get involved. Many communities have a plethora of events, like parades and festivals. Involve your lodge somehow (food booth, volunteers, activity sponsors, etc) and have those applications at the ready.
- Remember – the most effective way to get someone to join Sons of Norway is simply to ask them to join, so don’t be shy. Have an application on hand for at the pool, in the park, or sitting on the porch with some non-member friends. Don’t forget, Sons of Norway has tons of tools for you to use to get the word out about your lodge. You can order posters, marketing brochures, membership benefits booklets, and, of course, more applications, from the Supply Department (supply@sofn.com or 800.945.8851x645). For brainstorming and assistance or to receive the monthly recruitment and retention emails, you can also contact the Membership Coordinator (nneuman@sofn.com or 800.945.8851x697).

Need even more incentive to recruit? Each dues paying member you recruit still qualifies you for the Norwegian Experience 2008 contest!

- Recruiters must be current members of Sons of Norway, excepting Sons of Norway Headquarters staff, Financial Benefits Counselors and International Board members
- New members must be dues-paying members (this includes spousal members and some Unge Venner members)

To qualify for entry, completed membership applications for new members, with the recruiter’s member number indicated, must be received at Sons of Norway Headquarters by August 31, 2008. On-line applications count as well. Remind members to provide their member number to the applicant for inclusion on the online form.

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P.O. Box 1091
Mankato, MN 56002

NONPROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT NO 36
MANKATO MN 56001

«F_Name» «L_Name»
«Address»
«City», «St» «Zip»

SONS OF NORWAY ELVESVINGEN LODGE 1-582 CALENDAR
June, 2008

- Jun 12 – 14 - Sons of Norway District 1 Convention, Alltel Center, Mankato, MN**
June 27 - 29 Hjemkomst Festival - Fargo/Moorhead - visit
<http://www.scandinavianhjemkomstfestival.org/>
July 24 -26 - Nordicfest - Decorah - visit website at <http://www.nordicfest.com/2006.asp>
Sept 13 – Lodge Meeting, Bethlehem Lutheran Church 5:30 pm Program TBA

Check out the Information Table at our monthly meetings - pick up information on area events, travel, or SON financial products; sign up for lodge events/volunteer opportunities; view a copy of recent lodge minutes/treasurer's report; check out the SON magazine for children under 15; purchase gift items offered by the District One Sons of Norway fundraising committee; or simply ask questions.

Visit us on the web - www.sonsofnorwaymankato.org or www.sonsofnorway.com