



SONS OF NORWAY

3D

September, 2009

Third District Today

Fra Presidenten Ralph Peterson

September 2009

Kjære Venner,

Well time does fly. I can't believe that summer has come and gone. When I was attending grade school, summer just shot by. When I was a parent with children in school, summer was very long and now, well I must be getting younger because summer has again shot by.

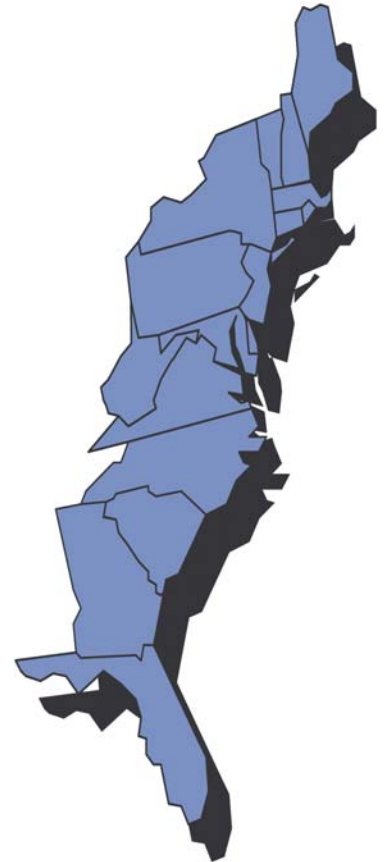
My congratulations and thanks to Maine Nordmenn for hosting their Hummer Fest and a special thanks to Charlie and Sally Abrahamson for their efforts in hosting the event. There were 16 lodges represented in Maine to help put away the 150 lobsters that were available. It was a great event and it was fraternalism at its best. Put it on your schedule for next year.

There were a lot of great events in D3 this summer and more are scheduled for this fall. We have regattas, anniversaries, bazaars, special meetings, cultural events and more coming up. Check out the District web site to see what is scheduled.

<http://www.3dsofn.org/eventscalendar> Remember to post your events on the web site and send your event pictures in to be posted on the web.

Hats are off to the Nansen Lodge for a great membership month in June. They signed up 10 new members. That is a great membership month anytime and for June, that is a real accomplishment. Keep it up!!!! There was a great story about Gateway to Florida in the last Viking. Please read it if you haven't done so already. I can't say enough good things about that active lodge and its leaders. We will be putting the status of our District 2009 goals onto the web site. One goal where we are ahead of schedule is in signing up new benefits members. Our goal was to sign up 75 new members and as of July 31 we had 42 new benefit members. If we keep up our pace we will exceed this goal. This goal is being helped because of the additional Financial Benefits Counselors that have been assigned to our District. Check out the web site for full details on the goals and to get a list of our Financial Benefits Counselors click here. <http://www.sofn.com/financialapps/prepareReview.do?distFromMap=3>

Sons of Norway CEO John Lund retired on July 31. John is a long time SON member and has faithfully served the order for many years. John will be sorely missed and we wish him well in his retirement. The International Executive Board has started a search for a replacement CEO. Fraternal Director Eivind Heiberg has been named interim CEO, we wish him well in his new position and he has our unwavering support in his new role.





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I have received several emails from members who sailed on the Hurtigruten's Norway Coast Cruise this summer. They were all glowing reports and 4 of our members, who will be recipients of the winning tickets from our raffle, will be making the same cruise shortly. The two winning tickets will be drawn at LOV September 5. The results will be posted on our web site <http://www.3dsofn.org> ASAP after the drawing.

As we enter the fall season we need to increase our membership efforts. The SON is facing a decline in membership across the board. In D3 we have had fewer members joining this year than last year and we have had more local lodge members leave voluntarily this year than last year at this time. A bright spot in the big picture is that we have had fewer 999 members leaving voluntarily than at this time last year. In both groups the number is still way to high. We need to be communicating more with our present members. Contact them and invite them to a meeting or a function. At the Atlanta lodge charter presentation we were introduced to a member who joined 2 years ago but had not attended a meeting. The membership committee sent him a hand written note inviting him to attend that meeting. He told me that when he received the hand written note he felt that he had to attend. He had a great time and I am sure he will be back for more meetings. Whatever it takes, we need to keep our current members in the order. Let's get our membership committees working and let's help our membership committees do their job by looking for new members and communicating with our current members. I am convinced that we can recruit enough new members to grow; we just need to keep our current members on board.

I am very pleased with the number of visitors to our new web site. We had over 65 visits a day in June and 55 in July. The most visited pages tend to be the District and LOV events pages. In June the most visited page was the newsletter and I believe that was because we sent an email notice to Lodges 999/000 advising them that the newsletter was posted. The newsletter is normally posted the first week in the month so look for it.

I am excited about the fall and the great opportunities that we have to meet each other grow our lodges and have fun together. I am looking forward to the many great activities that we will have in District Three and I hope that you will take part in as many of these lodge functions as possible. Hopefully I can meet you at some of these functions. One event that I am really looking forward to (and it is out of the country) is the 25th anniversary of Eidvsoll 8-9 which will be held in Eidvsoll, NO 11-13 September. Eidvsoll is at the foot of the valley that my mother's parents came from and part of AnneGrete's family came from the next valley so it will be a bit of a homecoming for both of us.

Fraternally

Ralph Peterson
President
District Three
Sons of Norway





Fra Vise Presidenten Gail Ekloff



September Newsletter

September – time to prepare your Nominating Committee so that in November, when your elections take place, you have a full slate of officers. Post the positions with a brief description of what duties each officer has; new and veteran members will know how to fulfill the office.

Fall is a busy time of year for most lodges with Fair/Bazaars & Julefest in the making. Have membership information displayed at these events. Ask your financial advisor to attend; have him/her available to answer any questions prospective members might have on the benefits that Sons of Norway has to offer. Contact members who haven't attended meetings recently to come to a social event; reach out to 000-999 members in your area, invite them to visit your lodge.

Advertise your event in your local newspaper. Contact them about writing an article on things your lodge is doing; does your choir sing in a nursing home?: do you support a local neighborhood pantry with a food drive?: tell them about the school your lodge has adopted and what you do there (read stories; help kids with school work): show how Sons of Norway members participate in the nurturing of the community.

The Third District Membership Committee will be bringing great information to the District by year's end – so all the lodges and newly elected officers will have ideas and suggestions for membership growth and retention.

Alt for denne gangen,

Gail

*Medlemskap scorer bord**

LODGE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	TOTAL
Nansen # 410	1									
Washington # 428	1									

*number of 999 members that transfer to a lodge- source activity report /Minneapolis

**REMEMBER THE 2 A'S TO GET NEW MEMBERS--- ASK AND ADVERTISE
AND, TO KEEP MEMBERS, THE 2 M'S -----MENTOR AND MINGLE**



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EXPLORE YOUR HERITAGE
2010 Third District Convention Committee Suggests



Check <http://www.3dsofn.org> for any additional information.

We hope you will enjoy the amenities of the convention hotel, the Harrisburg Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center, a friendly full-service hotel located just 5 minutes south of Harrisburg in the suburb of New Cumberland. The hotel has easy access to Interstate 83 and Interstate 76 (PA Turnpike); just 11 miles from Harrisburg International Airport.

Along the shores of the Susquehanna River, Harrisburg has grown from a modest ferry outpost to a picturesque capital city. A burgeoning center for the region's arts and culture, the community offers all the pleasures of an urban metropolis while maintaining the warmth and caring associated with Pennsylvania.



PRIDE OF THE SUSQUEHANNA Come catch a summer's breeze on a 45 minute cruise. Enjoy the beautiful, air-conditioned main salon. Grab a root beer or an ice cold beer at the galley and take it topside to the partially covered deck. Listen to the

recorded program telling about the history of the area, or just sit and enjoy the sun and breeze as you check out the beautiful Harrisburg Skyline or our majestic Susquehanna River.

GOLF:



CULTURE:



RELAX:





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Free Things To See & Do!

Budgets. Not always the most welcome word when planning time away but just because your funds may be limited, doesn't mean your fun has to be! The greater Hershey-Harrisburg area offers an abundance of activities at a price everyone can afford. Here are some picks for free!



For a bit of history in the making take a trip to the [Capitol](#) itself Free guided tours of this striking facility showcase architecture inspired by St. Peter's Basilica and the Paris Opera House as well as an up-close look at state government. If you would like to take a free tour of Pennsylvania's Capitol building, call or write the General Assembly's Office of Capitol Visitor Services at 1-800-TOUR-N-PA (800-868-7672). You will want to reserve your tour as far in advance as possible. Allow 40 minutes for a tour.

Compared to the Carlisle Barracks, Harrisburg's Capitol Complex barely scratches the surface of history. Chosen by George Washington in 1757 to house the country's first arsenal, it's now the nation's second oldest active military post. Tour the 1777 Hessian Guard House (Memorial Day - Labor Day), the Omar N. Bradley Museum (year 'round) and the grounds of the Carlisle Barracks

Thrill to the excitement of thoroughbred and harness racing every Monday through Saturday afternoon at Penn National Race Course. Fans enjoy full card simulcasts from across the country in the comfortable surroundings of the fourth floor clubhouse. Free admission and parking for afternoon simulcast cards.

Harrisburg's center city shopping complex also attracts crowds with a regular schedule of free entertainment in its atrium.

You don't have to be an athlete to take on this hike -- just have an appreciation for stunning views. Check out Peter's Mountain, north of Harrisburg, near Rt. 147. Twelve miles of the Appalachian Trail await.

Take a walking tour of the city's impressive mansions and restored townhouses. Front Street parallels the Susquehanna's Riverfront Park and architecturally makes the city proud. Shipoke is nestled at the very beginning of Front Street and tends to remind visitors of narrow, European style streets with detail and historic accuracy evident in its restorations. Visit the City Government Center, One Market Square, for a brochure.

**Sway to the beat of reggae, soak in sounds of jazz or country's latest hits. Harrisburg's free summer music festivals at Reservoir Park offer great musical entertainment, as well as an excuse to walk the grounds of a city park



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**The two-block stretch of Harrisburg's Riverfront Park from Emerald Street to Maclay Street is a sanctuary dedicated to the pursuit of peace and the preservation of the Earth. Known as the Peace Garden, it features bronze plaques with quotes about peace by renowned statesmen and other dignitaries. Three wrought-iron sculptures by Dr. Frederick Franck are also there.

**To see one of the country's largest collections of Civil War memorabilia, as well as peek into the Commonwealth's past, tour the three floors of the State Museum of Pennsylvania in Harrisburg (Third and Forester streets)

The Hurtigruten Raffle

Click on the link

Ask your lodge President for information about the Hurtigruten Raffle and support the 3D fund raising efforts!

Embark on the vacation of a lifetime aboard Hurtigruten through the majestic Norwegian fjords and discover why we're known as "The World's Most Beautiful Voyage."

For over 116 years, Hurtigruten has navigated the 1,250-mile, fjord-filled west coast of Norway calling on 34 ports between Bergen in the south and Kirkenes in the north near the Russian border. Visit tiny fishing villages in the Lofoton Islands, experience the Sea Eagle Safari through Trollfjord, or simply relax and enjoy the awe-inspiring scenery of Geirangerfjord. Hurtigruten's Norwegian Coastal voyage immerses you in authentic Norwegian culture and history in this amazing vacation.





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Don't forget to:



Publicity

by Mary Andersen

My goal last year was to consistently publish the TDT; my goal this year is to consistently publish it at roughly the same time each month (wish me luck!). As noted in previous emails to many of you, the way events are entered in the TDT is by me reading the newsletters that I receive and comparing it to the previous TDT to see if it is a new event. It is a process prone to error and often delays the publication of the TDT. Therefore, starting with the October TDT, if you want an event posted in the TDT, let me know by the 15th of the preceding month (e.g., September 15th for the October TDT) Send your email to publicity@sofn3d.org with TDT event in the subject including the month.

Website statistics

As our President noted, the most visited pages on our website were LOV and the events page; here's your chance to attract new members! The only way lodge events get on our website is if the local lodge enters the information; directions were distributed on 3/31/2009. If you can't find them, let me know and I will send them again. If you are not sure who is responsible, ask your lodge officers!

Financial

Life happens; read this interesting article regarding the value of life insurance and remember Sons of Norway can help with your life insurance needs <http://www.lifehappens.org/media1/Now-More-Than-Ever.pdf>. Contact your Financial Benefits Counselor for more information.



Celebrate Culture

Excerpt from the Suncoast News written by Wendy Copeland, Cultural Director

Getting Started with Genealogy

The first thing you need to do in getting started searching your family tree is to talk to your family. Ask your parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, anyone who is willing to share with you.

The genealogy questions you will want to ask are:

1. when they were born and where
2. where did they grow up
3. when and where they were married
4. what were their parents names
5. when did their parents marry and where
6. where are their parents buried and when did they pass away (name of cemetery, city, state)
7. are there any other family members buried there or close by
8. who were their Aunts and Uncles
9. do they know when/where they were born, married, lived, buried
10. ask them who their oldest living relative is
11. make plans to visit this person as soon as possible!

When you go to ask genealogy questions - bring a notebook, pencil, tape recorder (with fresh batteries), lots of blank tapes, and a camera. When you go to visit, tell the person you are going to record it and place it close. It is important to ask about all the dates and places but don't forget to ask for the stories. A camera is another must have tool. Many people will be more than happy to let you see their old pictures but reluctant to let you have them to make copies. If you have a camera, you can take photos of them and no one has to worry that the photo place will lose them.

Write everything down, even if it seems trivial. That trivial piece of information may just be the clue you need 6 months down the line. Date when and where you got your information. The next step you will need to do is to transfer all of this information onto family history or pedigree charts or Family Tree software. Also you can begin grouping them by family. It is important to do this as later when you have tons of info you will not have to spend hours looking for where you put a certain record. Organization is a good thing.

What next? Take the info you know and now the detective work begins. Now you start looking for records. One of the first places you should start is with the census records. You will start to learn where your family lived and in what counties. Then you will take this information to search for other genealogy documents such as obituary notices, tax records, land records, wills etc... Each piece of information will add another piece to the puzzle.

Resources:

<http://homepages.rootsweb.ancestry.com/~norway/index.html>
<http://cyndislist.com/norway.html> <http://www.digitalarkivet.no>
<http://genealogysearch.org/free/forms.html> <http://www.familysearch.org>



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What's LOV got to do with us?

Sept. 25-27 2009 at Land of the Vikings!

This is a wonderful opportunity to get together and have fun while enjoying scrapbooking and sharing ideas with friends, new and old. This is for the novice as well as the experienced scrapper. Cutting tools and some templates will be available for use. No, you do not have to have all your photos organized before you come. Just pull out those boxes, pack your pajamas and be prepared to have a blast! There is NO cost for the scrap-booking lessons or help. All that is needed is that you reserve your room at LOV at 570-461-3500 or E-Mail Bev at vikingland@tds.net If you are new to scrapbooking and not sure what supplies to bring or have any other questions you can contact me and I will gladly help you. Email Doris Beck: dlb1716@verizon.net or phone number (215)542-7374.

“In the Zone” SON Summer Fun

Maine Nordmenn Hummerfest

The Location



The Food





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The Folks



Last but not least, the wonderful hosts!



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The Scholarly Side of SON

Hastings High School senior Sarina Spector (*granddaughter of Audun Gythfeldt*) was one of only 2,500 distinguished students who have won a National Merit college-sponsored scholarship. She has been awarded the National Merit Northeastern University Scholarship, and was chosen from a talent pool of approximately 15,000 outstanding Finalists in the 2009 National Merit Scholarship Program. *WTG Sarina!!!*



Dick Husher presenting a check from Scandinavian Forum to Norumbega President Andrew Paul Holman for the Norumbega Scholarship Fund.



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[Norsk Høstfest](#) is coming up at the end of September, so make plans to join Sons of Norway at North America's largest Scandinavian festival! Once again we are the presenting sponsor of Oslo Hall and we've got a lot planned for this year's event so you won't want to miss out.

For starters, Sons of Norway members are entitled to a [15% discount at En To Tre Norwegian buffet](#) (to get your discount, scroll down to where you see the Sons of Norway logo). Taste the finest flavors of Norway, put together by Norwegian chef and culinary genius, Willy Hanson. En To Tre uses only the freshest of ingredients and has been wowing the taste buds of festival-goers for the last three years. <

If you haven't been part of this dining experience yet, now is the time to do it—especially when you can get your discount!

Next, there's the newly renamed Sons of Norway stage in Oslo Hall, where festival attendees can enjoy the sights and sounds of some of Norsk Høstfest's most popular performers, like Bjørø Haaland, Williams & Ree and the Kentucky Riders. The best part is that all performances on the Sons of Norway stage are totally free! Seating is limited on a first-come-basis, so make sure to get there early.

There's going to be a lot going on at this year's festival, so come to Minot and be part of the total experience! If you can't make it to this year's event, be sure to follow along as we blog and tweet throughout the week!

You can read all about this year's Norsk Høstfest by going to the Sons of Norway blog at sonsofnorwayblog.blogspot.com, or by following us on twitter at www.twitter.com/sonsofnorway



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Upcoming Events

August

- 1st Maine Nordmenn [Hummerfest](#)
- 9th Garbog - Picnic
- 9th Hudson Valley - 3 month picnic at Elvedal
- 16th Loyal - Family Picnic
- 16th Nor-Bu - Annual Picnic
- 22nd Blåfjell - Scandinavian Culture/Norway
- TBD Bernt Balchen - Annual Lodge Picnic
- 23rd Zone 1 - Lobster Fest

September

- 11th Loyal - Sister's Eve
- 11th Norge - Game night
- 11th Sun Viking Cultural Night Viking Auction & Craft Fair
- 12th Bernt Balchen - Annual Scandinavian Craft Fair
- 13th Hudson Valley - Soup Day; close Elvedal
- 19th Nor-Bu - Anniversary Month (67th)
- 17th Bernt Balchen - Financial planning
- 24th Loyal - Ladies Auxiliary
- 25th Loyal - Little Vikings
- 27th Loyal - booth at St. James Fair

October

- 2nd Roald - Viking Auction
- 9th Loyal - Oktoberfest
- 9th Norge - Brother's night
- 9th Sun Viking - Lapskaus Dinner
- 9th-10th - Gulfstream Lodge - [Leif Erikson](#) weekend
- 10th Hudson Valley - Leif Ericsson Dinner
- 11th Lauderdale - Jensen Beach Viking Ship Regatta
- 15th Bernt Balchen - Leif Erikson celebration
- 17th Nor-Bu - Heritage/Foundation Month
- 17th Henrik Ibsen - yard sale
- 18th Loyal - 85th Anniversary Dinner
- 22nd Loyal - Ladies Auxiliary
- 23rd Loyal - Little Vikings
- 24th Blåfjell - 13th Anniversary Dinner
- 24th Henrik Ibsen Oktoberfest
- 24th Lauderdale - Halloween Party
- 25th Norden On the Town

November

- 6th Loyal - Thanksgiving dinner
- 9th Hartford - Scandinavian Heritage Day
- 13th Sun Viking - Soup Dinner
- 14th Loyal - Bazaar
- 14th Bernt Balchen - membership drive luncheon
- 14th Hudson Valley - Men's night at Maennerchor
- 19th Bernt Balchen - Ellis Island presentation
- 20th Loyal - Little Vikings
- 20th Henrik Ibsen - Sisters night
- 21st Nor-Bu - Fall Dance
- 21st Blåfjell - Grandin Holiday Parade (10 am)
- 21st Blåfjell - Traditional Seven Cookies (3pm)

December

- 4th Loyal - Initiation
- 5th Bernt Balchen - Annual Christmas Party
- 5th Loyal - Deck the Halls Glogg Party
- 5th Lauderdale - Christmas Party
- 6th Loyal - Children's Christmas Party
- 11th Sun Viking - Juletefest
- 12th Hudson Valley - Christmas Dinner
- 12th Loyal - Adult Christmas Party
- 12th Henrik Ibsen - Children's Christmas Party at 1
- 12th Henrik Ibsen - Adult's Christmas Party at 7:30
- 13th Hudson Valley - Children's Christmas Party
- 19th Blåfjell - Julefest
- 19th Nor-Bu - Julefest



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3D Officers

President, Ralph Peterson
Vice President, Gail Ekloff
Secretary, Marci Larson
Treasurer, John Gregg
Counselor, Louis Olsen
Youth Director, Evelyn Karpack
Sports/Recreation Director - Phil Nelsen
Publicity Director, Mary Andersen
Cultural Director, Karen Doty

Zone 1 Director, Kris Rasmussen
Zone 2 Director, Judith Mack
Zone 3 Director, Joan McKillop
Zone 4 Director, Arnold Johnsen
Zone 5 Director, Carol Anderson
Zone 6 Director, Kathy Dollymore

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