SONS of NORWAY DISTRICT 7 in BEAUTIFUL BRITISH COLUMBIA

leiflette

December 2023

Next deadline January 10. 2024



Rondane Ladies Aux Meeting, Nov 2 / 23. L-R: **Kirsten Brawn**, **Karin Smale** & **Synove De Dreu**



Gloria Benazic, **President District 7**, & **husband Cal**, at **Dawson Creek 60th Anniversary Party**





North Star Member, Linda Harvey gave a presentation on **Wood-carving, &** showed some of her carvings.



Helen Mosdell of **Varden Lodge** celebrated her **97th Birthday**



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SONS of NORWAY

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Gloria Benazic
Zone 3 Director
Rondane 71 Dawson Creek 79 Skjonne Dal 142

Lori Barsi
Zone 4 Director
Nordic 76, Hardanger 109, Heimdal 141

Editor's Message

Merry Christmas everyone!



As there will be no Leiflette in January we can all have a break, although getting ready for Christmas isn't always restful, is it?

I hope everybody managed to find sugar for their Christmas baking. I was in Save-On yesterday and there wasn't any sugar on the shelf. What would we do without Christmas cookies!!

Have a nice holiday season with family and friends & tell us about it in the February 2024 Leiflette.

Next Leiflette deadline is January 10, 2024

Check out: Sons of Norway www.sofn.com ; District 7 webpage www.sofn7.com ; Facebook "Sons of Norway District 7" and "Official Sons of Norway Facebook Group"

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President's Message

God Jul

Sons of Norway Members!

May the Festive Season ahead be filled with Family and Friends and Fellowship! I always look forward to baking cookies, lefse and julekaker with my children and now my grandchildren. Shopping has never been that enjoyable for me at any time of the year but finding that one special thing that brings a smile and a twinkle in ones' eye is worth the effort and thought.

For Sons of Norway members, this is often a time to help in our communities – the Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Campaign; preparing food hampers for struggling families; adopting a community family and shopping for gifts and treats; or maybe helping someone with personal assistance or even a visit – the lists are endless. If you have never participated in any Community Christmas projects before, might I challenge you to check out your community and get involved this season.

For those members who are running and elected to our Lodge boards, "Welcome", and to those who are retiring, "Thank you for your service". Volunteer work is rewarding and usually a lot of fun. Make sure you understand your role and workload, and job descriptions can be found in many places such as District 7's Resource Book and Officers Mandate book. If you still are unsure, please get in touch with someone in your lodge or get in touch with me. We want to make your job easier and that usually begins with knowledge of what it entails as well as time schedules to get things accomplished.

As we close 2023, my wish is for a healthy 2024!! Stay safe, be happy! End each day with thanks for how lucky we are and be thankful that we have the ability to achieve more tomorrow!

Hilsen, Gloria

The Sons of Norway Foundation in Canada accept tax deductible donations from Sons of Norway members and others living in Canada.

Please check out our new website: www.sonfic.ca for more information including donation and application forms for bursaries and grants.

Pease make cheques payable out to:
SONS OF NORWAY FOUNDATION IN CANADA
and mail to C/O 32412 Ptarmigan Drive
Mission, B.C. V2V 5R5

Lodge Updates

Sleipner Lodge 8

Vancouver, B.C.

We have a couple staying in our clubhouse at Hatzic over the winter. They aren't really caretakers. John and his partner, Linda, have been lodge members for many years. Last year they spent much of the winter in their trailer while their apartment building was in the process of being rebuilt after a fire. Last winter, as the story goes, he and Linda were trapped inside their trailer one morning because of frost sealing the doors shut.

So this is just a temporary solution. We are still looking for permanent park managers.

The lodge has been busy. It looks like all of our planning and organizing has paid off.

Seterskveld was a huge success. There were 90 or so people there. The food was excellent. It was sort of like the end of Covid celebration. David Moulton, the MC, commented that he had to talk above the din of people catching up with each other. Then there was the Leaseholders Meeting at Hatzic which was well attended.

Welcome to Norway looked like a success. I believe that there were 16 tables set up this year.

On cleanup day at the park there was a turkey lunch for all of the volunteers. The on again off again project of dredging the creek is off again. There has actually been salmon in the creek. I have seen them.

The date of the Border Festival has been changed to June 30th of next year due to planned renovations on the park pavilion. Stay tuned.

Our next event will be in January. There are no dates set but there will likely be a lodge meeting on Jan 18th.

Happy Holidays
Larry.



Everyone enjoyed getting together at Seterskveld.



The Hatzic Leaseholder's meeting was well attended.



Ellana Flynn & Diane Barnhill looking after registration at Leaseholder's Meeting.





Our International President, Ron Stubbings & Susan Strang, both of Varden Lodge, at Sleipner's Seterskveld.

Varden Lodge 19

New Westminster, B.C.

Season's Greetings to all! I hope you are getting ready for the holidays. Varden certainly is. We are doing something different this year. We are partnering with the Norwegian House Society and the Scandinavian Business Club to hold a Christmas party on Sunday, Dec. 10th at the Scandinavian Community Centre from 2pm to 5pm. There will be light refreshments maybe even pickled herring. We are Norwegians after all. We plan to have crafts for the children and a visit from Santa. So we hope to see you there.



Rebekkah Stainton (left) with Edina Beeby, Varden's newly elected Trustee.



L: Honora Cooper, Varden's new Secretary

Another event we are holding is our Annual Meatball Dinner on Jan. 26th, 2024. Bring your appetite as we all know Norwegian Meatballs are the best. There also will be other tasty treats to round out the meal. Plus we have entertainment so bring your dancing shoes. All in all, it will be a wonderful evening so we expect to see you there.

On a sad note, a good friend to many of Varden's members, Marge Kirsebom passed away, we extend our condolences to her family and Viking Lodge.

Lastly, there will not be any meeting for Varden until Jan. 9th, 2024 so I wish you a Happy Holiday Season and we'll be back for the February issue of the Leiflette.

Krista Solie, Publicity



Leslie-Anne Frostad-Eriksson, center, (pictured with Vivian Bates & Krista Solie) is Varden Lodge's new Social Director



Karen Schilbach, newly elected Youth Director for Varden Lodge, (pictured with her children Connor & Penelope).

North Star Lodge 63

Nanaimo, B.C.

God Jul! Yes, we are planning our Jul Party for Dec. 17th starting at 1:00 p.m. It was decided to have an afternoon Christmas party this year. Many people do not like driving in the dark evenings. I'm one of them, especially in the rain or snow! This year's party is entitled: "Ekte Norsk Jule Fest" med kaffe, kaker, julebrød, ost, sjokolade, frukt, og andre overraskelser. We shall see!! We have invited an accomplished pianist who happens to be Norwegian, to play Christmas music. We sing the carols in Norwegian and some in English too. There will be stories and a nisse dress up station. Camera fun!! Everyone likes to visit, drink coffee, and eat!!! Hopefully, it will be an enjoyable afternoon with all sorts of fun and laughter set in a truly Norsk decked out room.

Our November meeting was well attended. We had the results of the nominating committee in regard to filling lodge positions. Thank you to all who let their names stand for another year and to those who stepped up to begin their time as a lodge committee member. As the English said during the war, " Do your bit".



Display of Linda Harvey's Woodcarving.



L-R Unni Madsen, Joan Lemky , Marilyn Anderson at Oct 19 General Meeting



Ladies Aux Mtg. Nov 2, L-R Marlace Susut, June Chamberlain, Joan Lemky & Anna Mytting

We also welcomed two new members to the lodge. It is fun to expand our "family" with new and willing members.

Elisabeth Vikran shared her childhood Christmas experiences while living in Oslo. It was a wonderful story of sharing Christmas with her extended family. It was as if we were walking down the Oslo streets with her and her parents to her aunties house and then enjoying Christmas eve with them. What a joyful childhood memory!

I think that there are a lot of stored up memories in the minds of our members that must be shared. This sounds like a project we are thinking about developing.

As part of the Cultural Skills Program, I had to present my woodcarving to a group of people and discuss woodcarving and the "Woodcarving Cultural Skills Program". This was one of the prerequisites of receiving my woodcarving medal. That is what I did after the meeting. It was met with several questions and hopefully more members will go to the Cultural Skills page in the Sons of Norway website and enroll into one of the many skills available. Take the challenge. Pictured (on front page), are members of North Star and myself after my presentation.

At our December 4th meeting, Maren Breivik is taking on the task of "host leader". We will see what she has planned. Two other members will be bringing kaffe mat, Sonja Cole and Linda Harvey. We will be making pinecone nisser as part of the evening's entertainment as well.

Enjoy the holidays and decorate your home in an "ekte Norsk" fashion!

God Jul og Godt Nytt År
Linda Harvey

Rondane Lodge 71

Prince George, B.C.

A moment of silence was held in the memory of Rolf Austad, who recently passed away. He had been a Sons of Norway member since 1968.

Before and after the business part of the meeting, members could view all the nice items for sale at our Silent Auction tables. Several people were happy to get some lovely Norwegian sweaters, as well as socks, mittens, etc. Some were machine knitted, but most of them were hand knitted. There were also many other nice, different items, so we



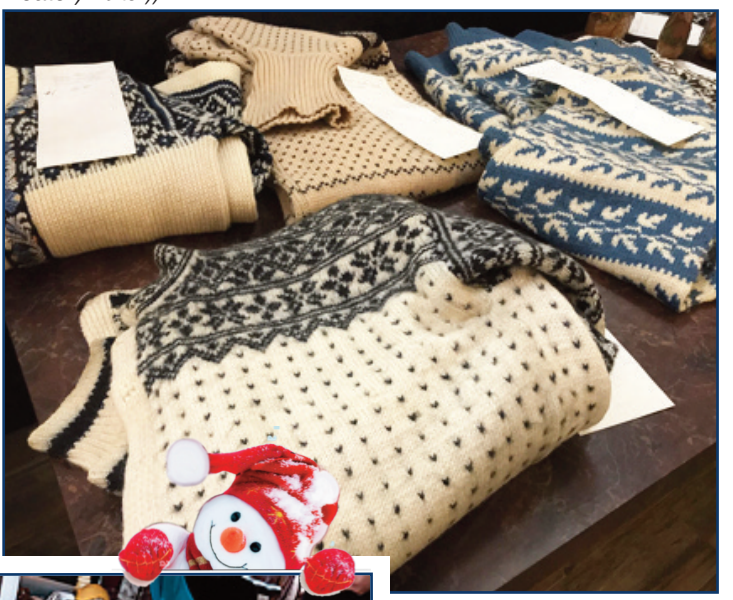
Ladies Aux Meeting, Nov 2, L-R Wencke Angelski, Edna Rouleau,Carol Schulte, Diane McLeod



Elsa Aase won door prize of a lovely shawl at Aux. meeting. (*It was black so I had to lighten it to be seen aginst her black sweater) Editor))*



Above & below, some of the Silent Auction items with proceeds going to Canadian Foundation



ended up with a profit of $296.00. This money will be donated to the Canadian Foundation.

Special thanks to Karin Smale and Christine Sullivan, who figured out who got what, along with how much each member owed for their purchase. It's a fun way to raise money, as most of us have things laying around, that we never use.

The Ladies Auxiliary meeting was held at the home of Kirsten Brawn, starting at 1:30 pm. with 14 members present. And, as usual, the table was laden with various delicious goodies, which everyone had brought. (No chance of dieting that day!) The Ladies Auxiliary always donate to local charities in December, as well as to the Canadian Foundation.



No get together can happen without lots of coffee & good things to eat

Like so many of our Sons of Norway members, Kirsten`s home is decorated with lovely, hand made, Norwegian items, which makes it extra cozy. I was lucky, as I again won the door prize: A lovely, long black lacy shawl.

The next Ladies meeting will be held at the home of Joan Skuggedal, 1768 Edmonton Street, on December 7, starting at 1 p.m. Its our annual Christmas meeting, where we sing Christmas carols, both in English and Norwegian. And the Auxiliary also buys about 6 - 7 gifts, which is drawn among the members. At this time we also have a silent auction, and last year we had so many items, it was hard to find enough places to display them.

Hilsen, Elsa Aase, Publicity

Dawson Creek Lodge 79

Dawson Creek ,B.C.

Hello again from the North. Our beautiful fall is disappearing and once again snow has made the scene. Because of the dry summer we had here this year, the farmers and ranchers are hoping for more snow for the coming year. Hay is in short supply, livestock is hitting the auction sales more



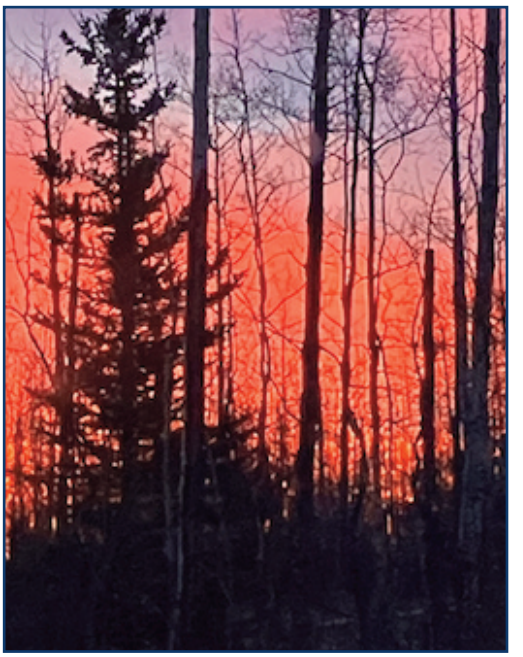
President Gloria Benzic & President Randy Carlstad Presenting Loretta Pratt with 15 year pin



Vern Braaten receives a 30 year pin. He was away for a few years



Gloria Benazic & Randy Carlstad presenting Charlene Dokken with a 15 year pin



Sunrise from the Pratt's home in Dawson Creek

and more.

Our lodge has been fairly busy in the last month. We celebrated our 60th anniversary and are now in preparations for our Christmas party in December. Today is our monthly meeting and we will complete the list of things to do. We are still searching for a few executive positions to be filled.

Every year, we bring in the Norway calendars to sell. They make a good gift and are collectable for many. This has been a fall ritual for many years and members look forward to it. Our cookbooks are still selling , we have a few left for sale. These cookbooks also make a good gift.

Christmas is a time of donating monies to help out the local missions and food banks. This year the need seems to be greater. This will be in discussion at the meeting.

We are hosting a rosemaling class at the end of November. Dorinda, one of our members, will lead the class. She has done this before and does beautiful work. There are also Cultural Skills Program metals for Rosemaling. Member, Karen, who is our Cultural and Sports coordinator, will share this information at the rosemaling session. for anyone who may be interested..

We remember all those who are sick among us and we also remember those that have lost loved ones. They are in our thoughts and prayers.

Remembrance was celebrated in the area again this year. We are losing many of our elders but we must acknowledge their contribution. We honour the sacrifices they all made in the past and to all those serving today. Lest We Forget.

We are all looking forward to Christmas and all that it has to offer. It is a time of sharing with family and friends. Remember the true meaning of Christmas!!

Until Next Time,
Loretta Pratt, publicity

Viking Lodge 81

Surrey, B.C.

Once more this year, our Lodge was notified of the passing of a member. This time it was our long standing, and former President, Margaret Kirsebom, who passed away on November 1, 2023

Looking back, I recall the wonderful times we had at

the Lodge parties which both Peter Kirsebom and Marg helped to organize over the years. When it came to recalling things we needed to know from the past, including the name and how to contact them, Marg was often the source who had this information. In the past few years, Marg was our "go to" person when telephone calls were needed to contact members and she was very good at getting people to sign up for tickets for our annual fundraiser, "Pizza Night & Silent Auction".

When Marg sold her car, I became her chauffeur to our Lodge meetings and to anything else we both wanted to attend at the Scandinavian Centre, or other events. Often someone would come up to our table to greet Marg, who she hadn't seen for a while, or just to say hello, as she knew so many people from the Scandinavian community.

There was a very well attended memorial service for Marg, held at Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Surrey, on Friday, November 24th, 2023 followed with lunch and lots of visiting with family and friends.

We continue to hold our monthly Lodge meetings at Tynehead Hall in Surrey, and although we may be fewer in number, we still enjoy coming out and spending time with each other.

Our Lodge is looking forward to a Hot Food Xmas Lunch on Thursday, Dec. 7 at noon, which the members contribute to with their favorite recipes. We have been asked by our Social Committee to bring along a tree decoration to be hung on the Xmas tree, as well as a Xmas gift to be drawn for each person attending. I don't know if Santa is going to hand out the gifts; you'll have to come and find out and remember, he may want to know if you have been "naughty or nice"!



Marg Kirsebom passed away on Nov. 1, 2023.
Marg was well known to many of us & she will be so missed.
This photo was taken on her 90th Birthday!

Wishing each and everyone of you members of District 7 Sons of Norway, a very God Jul og Godt Nyttår!

Dolores Fossum, Publicity

Hardanger Lodge 109 Kelowna, B.C.

Our October meeting was held at the German Canadian Harmony Club and it turned out to be a satisfactory location for our group. For now, this is where we will be meeting. The movie 'The Lutefisk Wars' was enjoyed after the general meeting. Members in attendance contributed $95 to the Sons of Norway Foundation in Canada.

Gary Goplen organized a Viking shield workshop at his home one Sunday afternoon in October and eight members completed the first step in making their shields. Another workshop will be held in November.

On Remembrance Day Lloyd Coltman laid a wreath at the Rutland Cenotaph on behalf of Hardanger Lodge.

Our Christmas dinner is planned for Friday, December 15 at Dakoda's Sports Bar and Grill. There will be a sing-a-long and gift exchange after dinner.

Bev Akerlund, Publicity



Sofn7 Membership Contest

The contest will end and close at midnight on April 30, 2024. The draw will be made at the District 7 Convention 2024 for a $200.00 prize.

Each new ADULT member that joins Sons of Norway provides one "ticket" in the draw for the person doing the recruitment. Please note that a newly recruited member gets the same rights as any member, so they can also join the contest by recruiting a new member as well.

Each Lodge Membership Secretary must keep documentation of names of each member who signed up a new member, with multiple listing of that person if they sign up multiple people, and then submit a final listing to District Vice- President **Jim Tore Breivik.**

Best regards, Jim Tore Breivik,
Publicity Director District 7.
Vice President District 7.

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