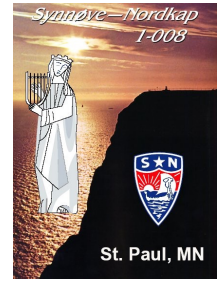




# SynNor Brevet

Synnøve-Nordkap  
Lodge #1 - 008

December 2020  
Issue Number 20 - 11



## President's Letter

December 1, 2020

Hilsen alle sammen,

I hope you all had a pleasant and safe Thanksgiving Day. For many of us, it was a day absent of the family and friends we have been accustomed to being with in past years. Jean and I spent a quiet day at home preparing our mostly traditional meal with only one or two things missing. Why cook 13 side dishes when one or two are sufficient?

This is my last president's letter. Lowell Johnson will be assuming the position of Lodge President on January 1, 2021. I wish him success as he guides our lodge throughout the next two years.

It has been an interesting and rewarding two years for me personally and for the lodge in general. The last many months have been particularly challenging as we have struggled to cope with the stresses of the COVID-19 Pandemic while striving to keep you, our valued members, engaged in all things Nordic.

I wish to thank the lodge members and the board of directors for their cooperation and support during my time as your president. Our lodge is great not because of any one person but because of all of you, our members.

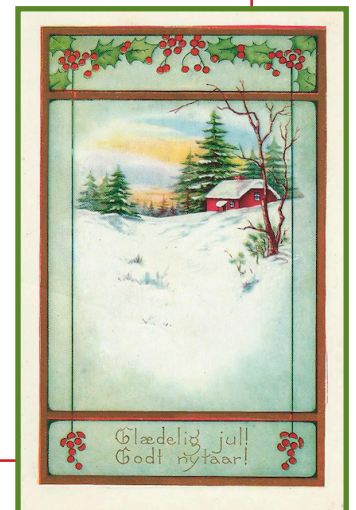
We have been and will continue to host virtual meetings via the Zoom platform. Our communications guru Sasha, has been setting up these meetings and we are grateful that she continues to do this for us. Zoom is easy to use. Sasha provides a link, via e-mail, to the Zoom meeting a few days before the scheduled event. If you do not have video capability on your computer, laptop, or mobile phone, you can still join in via regular telephone by calling into the number listed in the e-mail.

Check out this month's Brevet for details on our December 8, 2020, virtual lodge meeting. I am looking forward to seeing the results of your creative endeavors in the world of gingerbread.

Jean and I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a happy and prosperous New Year.

Fraternally,

President Chuck



# Secretary's Report

## **Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge #1 – 008, Online via Zoom, 11/4/2020**

Members in attendance: Sasha Aslanian, Dianne Anderson, Connie Chrissis, Chuck Draheim, Jean Draheim, Lynn Hoffmeyer, Lowell Johnson, Dave Mutchler, Mary Beth Mutchler, LaRee Opdahl, Susan Stow, and Ron Stow.

President Chuck Draheim called the meeting to order.

**SECRETARY'S REPORT:** Approved as printed in the Brevet.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:** Report accepted as presented.

**HEALTH AND WELFARE REPORTS:** No reports of anyone knowing people with Covid-19 at this time.

**COVID-19 RESPONSE-Lowell:** With no further comments being received, Lowell made the motion that the Covid-19 preparedness plan for our lodge, which has been given to membership for input and comments for 30 days, be adopted. LaRee seconded. Motion passed. GA church is having no activity until at least January 16, 2021.

**JR LODGE-Susan:** Sent an email to participants that contained a word search puzzle activity for the kids to do. Has a video from Norway featuring a gingerbread display to share with them. Is sending pieces of straw and red embroidery thread for them to make a 5 point star, and has patterns for making homemade wrapping paper. Susan especially wants to keep in contact.

**D1-Ron:** Regarding our lodge's award as Family Lodge of the Year for 2018, Karl Hella has invited Susan and Chuck to an event to receive the plaques in person. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, they have chosen not to attend.

The District 1 Board of Directors met last month. Ron has received a copy and will pull out what pertains to our lodge and send to Board members.

The 2022 Convention will be held at Cragun's Resort. We should be thinking about delegates from our lodge. Voting will be open to all member online.

The International Board has decided that all youth directors need to have background checks.

Scholarships were discussed. The Board voted to award \$150 per qualified applicant to the language camp next year.

Member Jana Stow Velo conducted an interview with award-winning filmmaker George Tombs ahead of the virtual screening of *The Blinding Sea*, a documentary film on the life and loves of explorer Roald Amundsen (1872-1928).

**SCHOLARSHIPS-Sasha:** Sasha has updated the applications and will send them to Ingrid for putting them on the website. She invited our two scholarship recipients to our January meeting. Lexi Hanson has responded that she will attend.

**NORDIC EXPERIENCE:** LaRee thought we should establish a rolling amount for that fund. Discussion was held.

Sasha moved that we have a rolling application process communicated to members keeping the amount at \$1,000 added per year with unused funds being rolled over to the next year. Lowell seconded. Motion passed.

Sasha made the motion to fund Jean Draheim's Nordic classes at the Marine Mills Folk School in Marine on St. Croix in the amount of \$163.50. LaRee second. Motion passed. Jean did not vote on the motion.

**NOMINATIONS-Ron:** The committee included Sheryl Hove, Lenore Jesness, and Ron Stow. The nominations for 2021 lodge officers will be listed in the November Brevet, and voting will take place at our December 8 virtual lodge meeting with December 15 being the voting deadline for members.

**VOTING BY BOARD MEMBERS:** Discussion was continued about which Board members are authorized to vote.

Lowell will look into amending the by-laws to include adding two additional Directors at Large who have voting rights. This will be added to the December Board agenda and voted upon at that time.

**NOVEMBER MEETING-Ron and Sasha:** The topic will be the sharing of stories. It was suggested that we wear Norwegian sweaters to this meeting. In observance of Veterans Day, Chuck will try to locate a video salute to our Armed Forces.

**AUDIT-Mary Beth:** Clayton and Mary Beth determined everything looks good, and they have signed off on it.

**2021 CALENDARS-Mary Beth:** Has received a few orders. Deadline to order is November 20.

**VIRTUAL ANNIVERSARY WRAP-UP:** We will be creating a short video from our lodge to send to Headquarters congratulating them on their 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Suggestion was that we wear our Norwegian sweaters for this video.

**SUGGESTION FOR DECEMBER MEETING TOPIC-Jean:** Suggested that we share our creation of gingerbread houses or gingerbread men. Susan will be sending out a gingerbread recipe to her junior lodge members and offered to share it with all members.

Next Board of Directors meeting will be Tues, Dec 1 at 7p via Zoom. (cjc)

(Secretary's Report continued on page 3)

## Lodge News

(Secretary's Report continued)

### **Lodge Meeting for Synnove-Nordkap Lodge #1-008, 11/10/2020 at 7 pm via Zoom**

**November birthdays:** Jean Draheim, Susan Stow

**November anniversaries:** None

Minutes were approved as printed in the Brevet.

**Veterans Day:** President Chuck presented a video of Armed Forces military anthems in recognition of Veterans Day

**Nominations:** Ron said there is a list of officer nominations for 2021 on page 3 of the Nov Brevet. Voting will occur in Dec.

We created a short Zoom video wishing the Sons of Norway organization a Happy 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary which will be sent to the District Office. Our Lodge, Synnove-Nordkap was founded in 1902. That makes us 118 years old and the 8<sup>th</sup> oldest in the Order.

Members shared stories, jokes, letters, and pictures which gave us an entertaining, funny, and informative evening. Much fun! (cjc)

### **Gingerbread Adventures Lodge Meeting**

ZOOM into a ***Gingerbread Adventure*** on Tuesday, December 8th at 7:00 p.m. for a delightfully yummy Synnøve-Nordkap show & tell meeting.

We are baking gingerbread houses, gingerbread men, reindeer, trees or even ugly sweaters to decorate and share with our lodge viewers. The more frosting and candy, the merrier (and tastier)! Gingerbread kits are available at grocery stores or make your own gingerbread. Lykke til! (Good luck!)

If you are interested in seeing more gingerbread creations, you can visit Norway House, in-person or virtually. For more information, visit: <https://www.norwayhouse.org/gingerbreadwonderland/visit>



### **A Genealogy Note**

Bygdelags, or Lags, are organizations made up of descendants in North America of emigrants from specific regions in Norway. There are Lags in America that are composed of people from the various Fylker. The previous number of Fylker (sort of like counties) changed on January 1, 2020 from 19 Fylker to 11. The link to the areas on the map in Norway is: [www.fellesraad.com/fell\\_roots.htm](http://www.fellesraad.com/fell_roots.htm)

You can join a Lags for usually about \$15/year. The Lags have conventions, called Stevner, each summer. However, this year due to the Coronavirus pandemic the Stevner have been postponed to 2021 or 2022. You might even meet some distant relatives.

~ Sheryl Hove

**Synnove-Nordkap 1-008 St. Paul, MN, Nominations for Election**

Voting for 2021 lodge offices will take place at the lodge meeting on Tuesday, December 8th at 7 PM via Zoom.

**Board of Directors**

President - Lowell Johnson  
Vice President Pro Tem- Ron Stow  
Secretary - Connie Chrissis  
Treasurer - Jean Draheim  
Counselor - Chuck Draheim  
Membership Secretary - LaRee Opdahl  
Junior Lodge Director - Susan Stow  
Social Directors - Pat Carlson and Dianne Anderson  
Cultural Director - Ron Stow  
Scholarship Director - Sasha Aslanian  
Foundation Director - Audrey Waage  
Sport/Recreation Director - TBD  
Director-at-large - Lynn Hoffmeyer  
Newsletter Editor - Ingrid Bjorum  
Webmaster - Ingrid Bjorum  
Advisory (ex-officio) - Mary Beth and Dave Mutchler

**Appointed Officers**

Trustees - LaRee Opdah and Dave Hegdahl  
Marshall - Kathy Kaluza  
Assistant Marshall - Doug Peterson  
Historian - Lenore Jesness  
Musician - Jan Allen  
Greeters - Maureen Austinson and Mary Beth Mutchler  
Librarian - Ingrid Bjorum  
Sunshine - Mary Beth Mutchler  
Newsletter Staff - Don Halvorson, Lynn Hoffmeyer, Dave Mutchler, Mary Beth Mutchler  
Publicity - Leif Erickson and Jana Velo  
Technology - Sasha Aslanian, Chuck Draheim, Dave Mutchler, Lowell Johnson  
Genealogy - Cathie Reasoner and Fred Matson  
Norse Language Classes - Sheryl Hove  
Auditors - Mary Beth Mutchler and Clayton Lance  
Financial Benefits - David Okeson  
Nominating Committee - Ron Stow, Sheryl Hove, Lenore Jesness

### **Sons of Norway Foundation Scholarships**

Dear members. Do you have a child or grandchild in the ages 17-26 looking for assistance with college funding? Check out the many scholarships available through the Sons of Norway Foundation.

Almost all the scholarships are for undergraduate study and range between \$1000 and \$5000. Some of them pertain to graduate school or study abroad. A couple have emphasis on technical or vocational schools. All but one require membership in Sons of Norway by a parent or a grandparent.

Most scholarships require study in the USA with a few involving courses at schools in Norway, such as the International Summer School in Oslo. The Lund Fund allows study in any country.

The field of study requirement is open with a few exceptions. The Dan and Betty Rude Scholarship applies only to elementary education degrees. The King Olav V Norwegian-American Heritage Scholarship requires Scandinavian Studies.

One of the highest awards, the Nancy Lorraine Jensen Memorial, is for female students in the field of sciences and engineering. It carries a stipend of 50%-100% tuition for one year. Most all are for one year except for the Bernt Anker Scholarship which is renewable for 4 years at \$3000 per year.

Adults over 40 years of age may be interested in applying for the Helen Tronvold Adult Learner Scholarship, which offers up to \$3,000 for courses in Norway learning Norwegian craft. It does require the applicant to have had Sons of Norway insurance membership for at least one year.

One of the questions on some applications involves activities in the Sons of Norway by the applicant. Please talk to your children or grandchildren about being involved in Sons of Norway, or at minimum to think about what their Norwegian heritage means to them.

The deadline for application concerning courses in Norway, and for the Lund Fund, is January 15, 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students should check with the Norwegian school to verify that foreign students will be allowed to study in Norway in 2021. Foundation scholarships will cover fees for distance learning courses. Students are encouraged to apply when on-campus learning resumes.

March 1, 2021 is the deadline for Sons of Norway Foundation scholarship application concerning study in the USA.

For information, visit the Sons of Norway website here: <https://www.sofn.com/foundation/scholarships/>

### **A Friendly Reminder**

As the months roll by and the winter holidays are upon us once again, please remember that your fellow Synnøve-Nordkap lodge members are here to help. If you are in need of assistance, a ride or an errand or just someone to listen, please reach out. We are here to help. If your needs are beyond what we can safely provide, we will help you find a community resource to offer assistance. You can find some contacts and information on how to access the member directory on page 7 of this issue.



### The Tradition of the Yule Log

by Don Halvorson

The burning of the Yule log originally was part of the ancient European rite of Yule, a pagan ritual celebrating the beginning of the winter solstice. Begun during the longest, darkest night of the year, this twelve-night rite marked the end of a brutal winter and the return of the Sun God. The word Yuletide was recorded in Latin writings as early as 726. Known as *guil* on the Roman calendar, the festivities lasted through the months of December and January. In the Fourth Century, Pope Julius I set the date of the Christmas feast to December 25<sup>th</sup>. Seven centuries later, in Scandinavia, the Old Norse midwinter festival, *jol*, would finally become a Christian holiday after the conversion of Scandinavia to Christianity.

For the Scandinavian people of this period, the forest was spiritual. The wood of each tree was unique and contained magical properties. The aspen was chosen for its endowed spiritual understanding. Oak was a symbol of strength and wisdom. People hoping for a year of prosperity would choose pine, while a couple hoping for a child would look to birch.

Today during Christmas, the English traditionally prefer to burn oak. In Scotland the tradition is birch. In France cherry is preferred, often with a sprinkling of wine to add to the aroma. In the English counties of Devon and Somerset a large bunch of ash twigs are used instead of a log. The belief is that when the shepherds found Joseph, Mary, and the Christ child during that Christmas Night, they built a fire there to keep them warm.

The Yule Log was burned over the customary twelve days. On the first night of Yule, the large log was brought into the house and placed into the hearth, while the remainder of the log was left lying in the room. There it continued to burn until the Yule period was over. During that time it was considered bad luck if the Yule log burned up too soon or the fire went out.



The selection of the log was also steeped in tradition. It could only be harvested from one's own family property and was cut down exclusively for the Yule celebration. It could be gifted

to someone from a friend or neighbor, but no money could be exchanged. A Yule log could never be bought or poached. The lighting of the log was also a ritual. To begin, saved pieces from the previous year's log were brought out and used as kindling. Once lit, it remained lit. At the end of the Yule period, it was put out, and a portion of the log was stored for the next year. Those saved pieces were tied up in a cloth and kept under the bed of the woman of the house where they acted as an amulet, assuring its owner fertility, strength, and protection against bad luck for the year to come.

Although the Yule Log tradition continued on with the arrival of Christianity, through the centuries, hearths eventually became smaller. Burning large logs became less practical. Smaller

hearths were perfect for baking, and one popular medieval solution was the introduction of the Yule Log cake. Used as a centerpiece, it easily brightened up any table. Judging by the ingredients, it appears to have arrived in the early 1600's. The base of the log was usually a sponge cake decorated with marzipan or meringue and topped with candles for the occasion.



The Yule log aganMagick [www.thegypsythread.org/yule-log](https://www.thegypsythread.org/yule-log)

What is the Yule Log? | Christmas Traditions | Old Farmer's Almanac <https://www.almanac.com/content/what-yule-log-christmas-traditions>

## Bulletin Board

### Sunshine News

Our sympathy to Russell Bailey on the death of his mother. She was a charter member of Tusenvann Lodge in Isle, MN. May her memory be a blessing.

### Sunshine News

Gene Hanson is having some health problems relating to back pain. This is making walking very difficult for him. We hope he can find some relief soon.

### 125th Anniversary Celebration

The virtual anniversary celebration for the Sons of Norway's 125 years will take place on December 8-10 and should include a video of our lodge's anniversary wishes taken during the November lodge meeting. Sons of Norway will send emails to members about how to connect to this event.



**Stay 6 feet from others.**



← 6' →



STAY SAFE LODGE MEMBERS

### Genealogy Group

Genealogy Group Meetings via Zoom:

- Saturday, December 5th, 10 AM - Noon
- Saturday, January 2nd, 10 AM - Noon

### Norway and Sweden Calendars For Sale

We have a few extra calendars available for sale @ \$15.00 each. If interested, email Mary Beth Mutchler at [mbe43@q.com](mailto:mbe43@q.com) or call her at 651 484 8872.

### Lodge Health and Safety

As we all continue to deal with COVID-19, lodge members are in the process of reviewing a document which will remain with the lodge as we move through this challenging time together. This document will coincide with CDC and Minnesota health and safety guidelines regarding in-person gatherings, food safety, and our high risk lodge population.

### Member Directory

Synnøve-Nordkap member directory is available on our website. You can reach the page by clicking on the link below. The directory itself, however, is password protected. If you are an active lodge member, you can request the password by contacting Connie Chrissis at [cjchrissis@comcast.net](mailto:cjchrissis@comcast.net).

<https://synn-nord.org/contact/member-directory/>

### For Information:

**Chuck Draheim**, President:  
[pres.synn.nord@gmail.com](mailto:pres.synn.nord@gmail.com)

**Lowell Johnson**, Vice President:  
[jhnsn7440@msn.com](mailto:jhnsn7440@msn.com)

**Ingrid Bjorum**, Brevet Editor: [ingrid@steinmetz.org](mailto:ingrid@steinmetz.org)

*The mission of the Sons of Norway is to promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic countries, and provide quality insurance and financial products to our members.*



Synnøve-Nordkap Lodge #1-008:  
District 1 Lodge of the Year in 2013  
Family Lodge of the Year in 2006, 2008, 2013, 2016, 2017, 2018  
Visit Synnøve-Nordkap online: <https://synn-nord.org>  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/synnor/albums>  
<https://peergyntdancers.wordpress.com/about/>  
<https://www.facebook.com/SynnoveNordkap/>

Date	Event	More Information
Tuesday, December 1, 7 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Saturday, December 5, 10 AM	Genealogy Group	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, December 8, 7 PM	Lodge Meeting	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Saturday, January 2, 10 AM	Genealogy Group	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, January 5, 7 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	Virtual meeting via Zoom
Tuesday, January 12, 7 PM	Lodge Meeting	Virtual meeting via Zoom

Synnøve-Nordkap Brevet staff wishes all of our lodge members peace and good health during these challenging times until we can meet in person again.

