

FLYGEBLAD

FRA PRESIDENTEN

Hei alle,

It was a great pleasure to be one of the lodge's delegates at the recent District 4 Convention in Fargo, North Dakota. It was a long drive there and back but I did manage to get in a few stops along the way to visit with some family members. Of course the main reason for attending in person was to represent our resolution for an all-Canadian district in Sons of Norway. The resolution was passed with a near unanimous vote and it will now be forwarded to the International Board for them to determine what will happen next.



The International Convention is at the end of August so hopefully we will have some idea of what the next steps might be sometime after that. Any district realignment will likely take significant time to happen.

Do you know someone who is planning to attend a post-secondary or trade school in the fall? Perhaps you want to take a cultural type course yourself. Check out the various bursaries and grants available from the Sons of Norway Foundation in Canada at their web site <https://www.sonfic.ca>. **The deadline for bursary applications for the coming year is August 31.** Application forms are available on their web site. Winners will be announced at the Foundation AGM in mid-September. Don't forget to consider the Foundation as a recipient of your charitable donations. More information and the donation form are available on the website.

There are two more things in particular that need attention over the summer. One is finding a film from Norway that can be presented at the Calgary European Film Festival in early November. I would really like others from our lodge to be involved in finding a suitable film so if you would like more information or have ideas please get in touch with me at president@sofncalgary.ca. We need to begin negotiations for screening rights very soon as that typically takes time.

The other topic to address through the summer is the idea of a lodge picnic. There was little interest shown for a Sankthansaften event so perhaps a picnic sometime in late July (after Stampede) or early August will be more appealing to more people. If it is to be in a city park, we may have to reserve a picnic spot well in advance to ensure a spot. Perhaps there's a site outside the city that is more appealing. Again, ideas and suggestions can be directed to me at president@sofncalgary.ca or to Alison at secretary@sofncalgary.ca.

We look forward to in-person meetings beginning in September. On behalf of your Lodge Executive, vi håper du har en trygg og sunn sommer.

Beste hilsen
Ron



Eileen Bantjes' come-and-go brunch was in Red Deer on June 5th. She was in hospital and unable to attend, but it was a joyous time of sharing memories. Here is a youtube video made for her and for others who couldn't be there, giving an idea of the many, many ways she gave of her time and talents. Eileen passed away on June 17th.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BMerX_HRadU

Proud grandpa Dick Closson writes:

We are so proud of Kalysha's achievement and appreciate all the effort she put in to achieve her Ph.D. in medical research. I met several of her professors when she received her master's degree and they all spoke very highly of her achievements. She has had at least two papers published in the medical journals, which is rarely done before achieving your Ph.D.



Kalysha, centre, and the Judicial Panel tasked with determining that she achieved all the necessary requirements of the program.

DISTRICT IV CONVENTION IN FARGO



The 2022-2024 District Board – many new faces: President Jerry Saude, VP Susan Gobbs, Secretary Betty Dhuyvetter, and two Zone Directors. Claudia Berg was selected as International Director.



Bill Erickson and Ron Reine with their voting paddles, lodge sign, and horn symbolizing Prillar-Guri, the young woman who blew a horn to warn of approaching Scottish mercenaries in the battle of Kringen (the name of Fargo's S/N lodge). A 3-D printer was used to make the paddles and horns.

CONVENTION REPORT – Alison Wiigs

What a great time of year for a road trip. Everything was green. The trees in North Dakota, especially the richer farmlands in the eastern part, have rebounded well after two very dry years. The convention hotel was across the street from Fargo's major shopping mall, and the vendors present at the hotel on Friday had Scandinavian items people were eager to buy.

But down to business: Steve Halverson, International Director, noted that Sons of Norway is the last or second-last fraternal benefits organization to change from the Convention model to a Board of Governors model. In 2024 all S/N product holders will be eligible to elect members to the International Board. This year, as in the past, only the 100 or so International Convention delegates have a vote. The number of agents selling S/N products (only in the U.S., so far) has increased dramatically, resulting in an increased number of S/N members. Profits are temporarily down, though, because overhead costs and commissions result in new policies taking a few years before a break-even point is reached.

Around 10 virtual attendees 'sat' on a screen in view of the District Board. The hotel was a big help in arranging that technology. Head Office's Emily Stark (International Foundation) and Amy Tuchenhausen (Member Engagement) were a pleasure to meet in person. Read about Keynote speaker Greg Tehven (yes, related to Past International President Jon Tehven) at this link. [connecting-fargo-greg-tehven-helps-shape...](#)

On our way back to Calgary we experienced Minot's warmth and Midsummer celebrations at the Scandinavian Heritage Park. Highlights were Thor lodge's root beer floats, a welcome treat as the temperature reached 99°F on Saturday, and a well-attended Sunday service at the stavkirke.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent Valhalla lodge at the District Convention.



KARI WRITES:

Hi from Norway! I have been in Kazakhstan and spent 2 + weeks with my son. His school is impressive! He has doubled the intake of students since he came 2 years ago, and added grade 11 and 12, and I was privileged to attend the first graduating class of 10 students who got 2.4 million US in scholarship offers from 19 top universities in US, Canada, UK, Australia and EU! He has 42 different nationalities represented at the school, and they held an international day when I was there, to end the school year. Lots of fun!



Before I left Norway I went to Oslo for the first 17 mai parade since the pandemic, and enjoyed seeing 30000 kids parade in front of the royal family for 5 hours! After fighting my way through 100 000 folks in the street, I did get up to the front line in view of the palace and had the pleasure of seeing my own old high school going by, the school leavers, russen, in full flight of joy!

I came back to full spring and flowers everywhere. Having spent the first 3 weeks clearing up outside, it was now a spectacle of blooms. Tomorrow the church service is way up in the hills on the other side of the lake, the annual outdoor June service. I did a trial run to find the place, 16 k away and after 4 tries and asks I did find it. Fortunately the sun is still forecast.



Still feeding the wood stove in the mornings and sometimes at night, wood is free, electricity far from it now here. The power may come from Norwegian waterways, but the price is pegged to the European market. Too early to swim in the lake yet, but hopefully when I get back in mid-July it will be warm enough.

Review of a documentary about an underappreciated Norwegian painter (once you're past the ads)
https://www.hollywoodreporter.com/movies/movie-reviews/images-of-a-nordic-drama-review-1235142458/?fbclid=IwAR3sTOTSbACEI22_FIEBcV6edjlaDHR7enBpC1r8VS13SCokhulwzTQ90jl

LITT PÅ NORSK

Disse fuglene flyr halve kloden rundt uten pause. Nylig fløy en kjempehavørn seg helt bort og havnet på feil side av jordkloden. Men for terner og spover er det helt vanlig å fly halve kloden rundt to ganger i året. I november i år dukket en rufsete kjempehavørn opp på østkysten av Canada. Den hadde flydd seg vill, og havnet omtrent 7.500 kilometer bort fra sitt naturlige område. Vanligvis lever den i Kina, Japan eller østkysten av Russland. Fugletittere strømmet til fra alle kanter for å se den sjeldne gjesten. Det er vanlig at noen fugler forflytter seg over veldig lange avstander. Det er typisk for de fuglene som vi kaller trekkfugler, forklarer John Atle Kålås. Han er fugleforsker ved Norsk institutt for naturforskning, NINA. Kålås tror ikke kjempehavørnen noen gang kommer til å finne veien hjem igjen, for den har hav på omtrent alle kanter.

Utrolig lange reiser. Mange av våre trekkfugler flyr «bare» til Spania eller Kanariøyene hvor de liker å være om vinteren. Akkurat som mange norske besteforeldre. Og om våren kommer de tilbake til Norge.– Mange fuglearter kommer helst tilbake til dit de ble født og vokste opp, sier Kålås. Men noen trekkfugler flyr veldig langt, to ganger i året. – Det er mange nesten utrolige eksempler på slike lange reiser, sier fugleforskeren John Atle Kålås.

Flyr over åpent hav uten å mellomlande. Terner fra Norge flyr helt ned mot Sydpolen om høsten og blir der over vinteren. Det er nesten fra den ene polen til den andre. Lappspover kan fly helt Alaska og helt til New Zealand, utenfor Australia. Det er en strekning på over 15.000 kilometer. Rekorden ble registrert i fjor, skriver CTV News. Da flyr de over åpent hav – uten å mellomlande en eneste gang for å ta en pause. Det er over åtte ganger så langt som Norge på langs fra Nordkapp til Lindesnes.

TRANSLATION

These Birds Fly Halfway around the Globe without a Break. Recently, a Pacific sea eagle flew completely off-course and ended up on the wrong side of the globe. But for terns and curlews, it is quite common to fly half-way around the globe twice a year. In November [last] year, a Pacific sea eagle appeared on the east coast of Canada. It had flown the wrong way, and ended up about 7,500 kilometers [4,600 miles] away from its natural area. It usually lives in China, Japan or on the east coast of Russia. Birdwatchers flocked in from all sides to see the unusual guest. It is common for some birds to cover very long distances. It is typical of the birds that we call migratory birds, explains John Atle Kålås. He is a bird researcher at the Norwegian Institute for Natural Research, NINA. Kålås does not think the Pacific sea eagle will ever find its way home again, because it has seas on almost all sides.

Incredibly long journeys. Many of our migratory birds fly "only" to Spain or the Canary Islands where they like to spend the winter. Just like many Norwegian grandparents. And in the spring they return to Norway. "Many bird species prefer to return to where they were born and grew up," says Kålås. But some migratory birds fly great distances, twice a year. "There are many almost incredible examples of such long journeys," says bird researcher John Atle Kålås.

Flying over the open sea without landing. Terns from Norway fly all the way to the South Pole in the autumn and stay there over the winter. It is almost from one pole to the other. Bar-tailed godwits can fly all the way to Alaska and all the way to New Zealand. It is a stretch of over 15,000 kilometers. The record was registered last year, writes CTV News. Then they fly over the open sea - without stopping once to take a break. This distance is over eight times the length of Norway from the North Cape to Lindesnes.

Sissel Receives Humanitarian Award

In April, Sissel Kyrkjebø received the first-ever Creativity award from the Roots of Humanity Foundation for her humanitarian work and the hopeful messages in her music.

Sissel has been a UNICEF ambassador since 2005. She has received *Spellemannsprisen* (Norwegian Grammy) in both *Årets spellemann* (Artist of the Year) and *Juryens hederspris* (Lifetime Achievement) categories. She has also been knighted by Norway's king as a Knight of the 1st Class in the Order of St. Olav.

After performing in Eurovision 1986, Sissel became a household name in Norway, known for her bell-like voice. She has recorded with the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Plácido Domingo and performed on film soundtracks such as *Lord of the Rings* and *Titanic*.

The Seven Pillars of Humanity are conferred in the subjects of knowledge, creativity, faith, love, unity, freedom and courage. "Sissel exudes all the qualities of human ability," said Tom Holdman, artist and founding board member of the Roots of Humanity Foundation. "We could not have been happier to honor her talent as a singer."



June birthdays: Emilie Bevan, Adrian Crawford, Kristin Jakobson, John Kamp, Velora Piltingsrud, and Anderson Ravlo

July birthdays: Gordon Braaten, Margaret Braaten, Gavin Head, Kathryn Jamieson, Thordis Kamp, Clarissa Peterson, Grant Peterson, and Harald Strom

Lots of versions of the Norwegian Happy Birthday song – here are two

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=norwegian+birthday+song&&view=detail&mid=ACB835CE28ABA5C07BCBACB835CE28ABA5C07BCB&&FORM=VDRVRV>

<https://www.bing.com/videos/search?q=Norwegian+Birthday+Music&&view=detail&mid=0A1E2092374D895360D30A1E2092374D895360D3&&FORM=VRDGAR&ru=%2Fvideos%2Fsearch%3Fq%3DNorwegian%2BBirthday%2BMusic%26Form%3DVDRSCL%26%3D0>

Trollhaugen Camp Wind-up

1-3 p.m. August 13th, with folk dancing, choir, special presentations and closing ceremonies. The Butikk, selling Norwegian items, t-shirts, souvenirs and crafts, will open at 9 a.m. If coming for Saturday lunch, please let them know how many by Thursday noon. Phone 403-358-4533 or e-mail trollhaugencamp@gmail.com. There is a nominal fee for lunch (cash or cheque only). Location and other information at trollhaugenalberta.com