

**SONS OF NORWAY VALHALLA LODGE #4-341, Calgary, AB, Canada**

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**September**

# FLYGEBLAD

## FRA PRESIDENTEN

Hei alle,

I hope all have had a good summer, in spite of the heat and drought in July and August. Hopefully fall will bring some relief. In three months this summer I was able to attend two District conventions, the District 7 Convention in Kelowna and the District 4 Convention in Fargo. With the International Convention being virtual this year I was able to watch the proceedings with Alison, our Zone 4 delegate from District 4. Look for delegate reports either in this newsletter or in the next issue.



September also means the AGM for the Sons of Norway Foundation in Canada (SONFIC). This meeting will also be virtual again this year and I will be attending as the lodge's delegate. Please remember to consider the SONFIC as you prepare to make those year-end tax-deductible charitable donations. Donations to the foundation can be directed to the charities of your choice or to the various Foundation programs. October is Foundation Month so look for more information at the October lodge meeting or check out the website at <https://sonfic.ca>.

September also means getting back to lodge meetings and other activities. Sons of Norway International and District executives often talk about the three F's of the organization, Finance, Foundation and Fraternal. International President Ron Stubbings suggests that there are three other F's that make many lodges successful. Those are Fellowship, Fun and Food with the occasional Firewater included. This year I personally would like to see more of the Fun, Food and Fellowship part of our lodge. To that end we will strive to keep any business at a meeting to a minimum, if any at all. For that to happen though we need to know what will make a meeting fun for you. Please share your thoughts and ideas with [president@sofncalgary.ca](mailto:president@sofncalgary.ca) or [secretary@sofncalgary.ca](mailto:secretary@sofncalgary.ca).

November will see the 11<sup>th</sup> edition of the Calgary European Film Festival take place November 5-13, 2022. There will be both in-theater and online viewing of films from approximately 25 European countries. This will be the 6<sup>th</sup> year that our lodge has sponsored a film and this year it should be available for viewing online from anywhere in Canada for the duration of the festival. More information regarding tickets and film schedules will be available sometime in October on the festival website at <https://calgaryeuropeanfilmfestival.ca>.

We look forward to in-person meetings beginning in September.

Beste hilsen

Ron

## **2022 DISTRICT CONVENTIONS IN KELOWNA, BC AND FARGO, ND – Ron Reine**

The District 7 Convention was held in Kelowna at the end of May this year. It was the first of the eight District Conventions for this year and it was an in-person event. I attended as a guest wanting to observe their proceedings, and was afforded an opportunity to address the 40 plus delegates providing an update on our efforts regarding the pursuit of an all-Canadian district in Sons of Norway. The assembly passed a motion in support of our resolution and the motion passed unanimously. I was able to renew some acquaintances from my involvement in the Canadian Foundation and from contacts made with work on our resolution, as well as meeting many new people.

In mid-June I was very honoured to attend the District 4 Convention as a delegate representing our lodge. I grew up in southwestern Manitoba but this was my first trip to Fargo. The trip did provide me the opportunity to visit with relatives in Winnipeg and Regina. The trip involved two and a half days driving to Fargo and another two and a half returning home. The daily mileage is somewhat less with only one driver. In all, just under 4000 km driven and eight days away from home.

On Thursday evening there was a reception at the Kringen lodge in downtown Fargo. The business part of the convention was completed in a single day, Friday June 17 with a banquet and installation of the new District Board on Friday evening. Congratulations to the newly elected Board members and many thanks to the outgoing Board members for their service.

Saturday morning was back to the Kringen lodge for four workshops and lunch before departing Fargo for home. If you are interested there will be a copy of the Convention booklet available at the next few meetings (Sept. And Oct.).

Valhalla was the only Canadian lodge with in-person representation while other lodges did have delegates attending virtually. Given that our lodge had submitted the resolution proposing an all-Canadian District, I personally felt that it was important that we had in-person representation at the convention to support our resolution and to be available to answer any questions or concerns raised by other delegates.

The District Board and the resolution committee both recommended that the resolution be passed. When it came time for the vote I only noticed one dissenting vote from my seat in the assembly. The resolution passed and will be presented by District 4 at the International Lodge meeting (convention) in August. The passage of this resolution at our District level assures us of nothing more than it being presented to the International Board. We have just completed the first few steps in our quest for an all-Canadian district. I am sure there are more steps and hurdles ahead. If you are presented with an opportunity to offer an opinion or comment on the topic in the coming months, I urge you to take advantage of that opportunity.

All in all attending the convention in person was a positive and valuable experience for me personally. The effort over the past year or more to get to this point, including the preparation for a presentation of our resolution at the convention and comments received after the vote was taken, was very rewarding. Many thanks to all who contributed to the discussion in any way to help move this topic forward.

Respectfully submitted,  
Ron Reine, President Valhalla Lodge 4-341, Calgary, AB

## INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION – Alison Wiigs

At the District Convention in Fargo I was chosen to represent AB and SK lodges at the Aug. 31-Sept. 1 International Convention.

Delegates were well prepared beforehand. A 'Welcome Box' arrived in the mail with the agenda, annual report, national anthem lyrics, and convention 'goodies' – pin, tote bag, and cookies. The President's report, detailed agenda, financial reports, auditor's report, candidate bios, and list of delegates were available on-line.



A huge possible expense was averted by deciding on a virtual convention before hotel commitments had to be formalized at the end of February, when Covid status was still uncertain. The virtual version retained many aspects: a color guard presentation, national anthems (sung by H.O.'s Jana Velo), Norwegian fiddle music by Robin Fossum, and a moving memorial service led by Mark Agerter.

*On the business side*, the 168 delegates got better acquainted with CEO Chris Pinkerton, as he talked about his background in the insurance industry. Sons of Norway is offering good products at good prices. Under his leadership the number of agents and sales has increased exponentially. Now steady growth is the aim, along with an eye on lowering fraternal expenses to satisfy the insurance regulators.

*The Charter and Bylaws/Policy and Procedures* have been the subject of thousands of hours of reworking. Now organized by topic, they will be posted soon on the Sons of Norway site. New lodge bylaws will be next.

*Redistricting!* The all-Canadian district idea will be taken under advisement. The new Board will be forming a committee to look at the whole organization, with a decision to be made by the end of the biennium. How many districts should there be? Should District 8 (Norway) be merged with another due to its small membership? Is District 3 (Eastern Seaboard) too long? Having an all-Canadian district may make it easier to interest a third party in selling S/N insurance in Canada.

*The new International Board:* All positions except treasurer were by acclamation. Votes, using Survey Monkey, went to the parliamentarian, who submitted the results to the president.

President: Ronald Stubbings (D7)  
Vice President: Mark Agerter (D2)  
Secretary: Robin Fossum (D5)  
Treasurer: Mary Andersen (D3)  
District 1 Director: Dennis Rusinko  
District 2 Director: Christine Hicks

District 3 Director: Kathy Dollymore  
District 4 Director: Claudia Berg  
Directors for District 5-8 continue until 2024, except for District 6 where alternate director Luella Grangaard is taking over for Mary Beth Ingvaldstad

*Thoughts for the future:* President Ron Stubbings raised the possibility of a fraternal meeting every couple of years, a celebratory event with workshops, vendors, socializing, and a banquet. It will be discussed at the next (District) Presidents' meeting and with the new board.

The Convention was conducted with remarkable efficiency, each day's business winding up before the time allotted. Thanks to Ron Reine and Russ Wiigs for viewing the proceedings with me and offering their input.

### **SUMMER ACTIVITIES**

St. Olav picnic July 29 at North Glenmore Park – a very warm afternoon, enjoyed beanbag toss game and visiting.

Marie Forester led a tour of Bowness Park for Historic Calgary Week. She remembers SON picnics there when she was young. She also served as M.C. at the Historic Calgary Week presentation of "CARL'S WAY," the film about Scandia pioneer Carl Anderson, showing the creativity and resilience of rural people in overcoming the economic devastation of the depression.

### **SONFIC NEWS**

Our Foundation AGM is Saturday, September 17 starting at 1:00 pm, BC time/2:00 PM AB/SK time. The meeting will be virtual (by Zoom) as was done last year.

AGM Items of Note:

- an election to fill three expiring National Director spots
- recipients of Post-Secondary and Trades Bursaries will be announced

The AGM is open to all members of Canadian SON Lodges and Affiliate groups – and we encourage all those interested to join us – the only restriction is that only Designated Representatives can participate in the decision processes. (Valhalla's Representative is Ron Reine.)

Our Foundation is part of and belongs to all of us and our number one objective is to serve our Canadian Nordic community.

Tore Pettersen,  
President

### **BOOK TALK**

September 11 at 6:30 p.m., Scan Centre. Why did many Finnish North Americans move to Karelia in the 1930s, and what was that like for them? Author Samira Saramo will talk about her just-published book "Building that bright future – Soviet Karelia in the life writing of Finnish North Americans".

**FYI:** Scandinavian Society of Nova Scotia has an interesting Facebook page

## SCAN CENTRE ACTIVITIES RESTARTING

Scan Choir, 7-9 p.m., Sept. 14. Nordic Folkdance, 7-9 p.m., Sept. 15. More participation is welcome! Youth choir and Seniors' yoga are starting too – see [scancentre.ca](http://scancentre.ca) for details.

## HØSTFEST – Minot, ND

Nagel Tours and Getaway Tours are offering package deals to this great Scandinavian festival which takes place from Sept. 28-Oct. 1. Links to detailed brochures are at [sofncalgary.ca](http://sofncalgary.ca) under Events.



Photo credit: Pete Ladendorf

## FROM THE S/N NEWSLETTER SERVICE

### Trolling the Internet



Through the magic portal of Netflix, an ancient Nordic creature is scheduled to awaken and wreak havoc on our screens and imaginations. Director Roar Uthaug's much anticipated film, "Troll" is set to stream into homes sometime in 2022.

Born in Lørenskog, about 11 miles west of Oslo, Uthaug is known as the director of 2018's "Tomb Raider" and the Norwegian thriller

"Bølgen" - "The Wave" inspired by the real life Talfjord tsunami of 1934. Of his newest cinematic venture, Uthaug muses, "Troll is an idea that has been developing in the back of my mind for over 20 years. To finally realize it with the enthusiastic and ambitious people at Netflix and Motion Blur is truly a dream come true. I can't wait to unleash this Norwegian monster on the world."

According to Variety magazine, the film's eponymous creature is awakened from a deep sleep under the mountains of Dovre. Understandably crabby, it explodes out of the earth and pounds its way towards Oslo, destroying everything in its path.

You can watch the teaser here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8XFfjkm1s>

## Velkommen, Baby Boom!

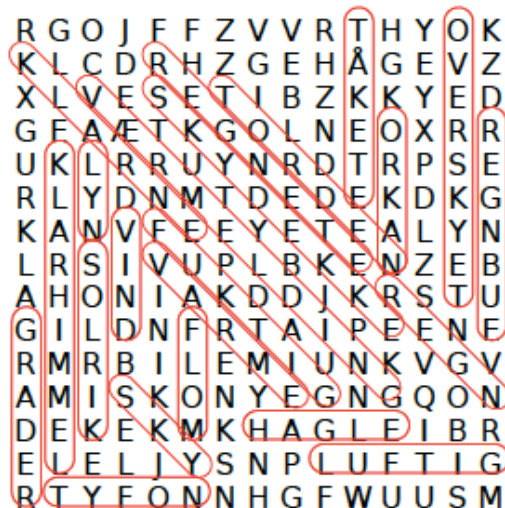
A pandemic-related baby boom has sent Norwegian families scrambling to find perfect names for their new additions. 2021 saw over 3,000 more births in Norway than in 2020. Thankfully, help has come from an entity with a long history flaunting imaginative naming skills: IKEA.

Employees at the Norwegian branch of the Swedish retail giant combed through its catalogs, curating a “name bank” overflowing with over 800 monikers inspired by over 70 years of flat-pack tables, chairs, chandeliers, desks, and a mish-mash of other household staples.

While many IKEA product labels are inspired by Swedish place names, several others have appellations associated with humans. They range from the more typical, such as Billy, a strikingly modern black and white chair from 1970, to the more exotic such as Ulrika, a dainty side table available in 1958. The names are accompanied on the website by a picture of the item, the year it was introduced, and a description in Norwegian. The descriptions can apply to both the furniture item and to your newest family member.

Solution to Word Find in July mini newsletter

## Summer Weather



VÆRMELDING	KLAR HIMMEL	OVERSKYET	LYN
SKYDEKKE	REGNETE	KLARNE	SKY
TORDEN	SOLRIK	FUKTIG	
GRADER	LUFTIG	TYFON	
VARME	REGN	HAGLE	
ORKAN	TÅKETE	REGBUE	
VIND	FLOM		

## BIRTHDAYS

### AUGUST

Anna Calvert  
Pamela Eike  
Bill Erickson  
Patricia Harrison

### SEPTEMBER

Fern Belanger  
Astrid Bell  
Kevin Eike  
Marie Forester  
Wayne Gjertsen  
Kris Head  
Deanna Jones  
Brian Mc Ivor  
Sonja Minchau  
Nancy Nadeau  
Jamie Sinclair  
Alison Wiigs  
Russell Wiigs





### **WE REMEMBER:**

Sonja Rieder, who passed away on August 16<sup>th</sup> at age 88. A member of Sons of Norway for 34 years, she loved her heritage, did a lot of Hardanger embroidery, and achieved Golden Membership status. The Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> funeral may be viewed on youtube at Hope Lutheran Church YYC.

## **N O R W A Y**

By Kaare Askildt

A land of giants indeed  
In red white and blue they bleed  
They drink mead not Chardonnay  
Norway

From the coast the Vikings sailed  
The British Isles they assailed  
The resistance they would blow away  
Norway

The Viking era is in the saga depicted  
As the way their life at that time existed  
The Viking chieftains did not stay  
Norway

Norway is a very sporty nation  
An achievement they brag about in  
moderation  
Sometimes they let other nations play  
Norway

Skiing is where they dominate  
And the other nations must await  
While their expertise is on display  
Norway

Norway is the country of my birth  
That's where I arrived on this earth  
Canada is now my home 'cause I didn't stay  
Norway

But Norway will forever live in my heart  
Even though I did the country depart  
I always toast the country on my birthday  
Norway

And now this poem must come to a close  
All the verses I did compose  
The thoughts just came my way  
Norway



The upcoming lodge meeting is  
in the Valhalla room at the  
Scandinavian Centre on Monday,  
September 12<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m.