

The Fabulous Fourth Footnotes

Montana • North Dakota • Alberta • Saskatchewan



**SONS of
NORWAY**

April 2024



Presidents Message

2024 appears to be full of excitement across the country, provinces, and media stages. I had the good fortune of recently being in Greece and walked to the top of the Acropolis in Athens, viewed ruins on Crete and marveled at the brilliant white structures

and dazzling blue seas of Santorini. The ancient ruins found by archeologists are so telling of the history of the Mediterranean and the cultures that are believed to have inhabited this area.

Sons of Norway members are equally proud of our Viking heritage, but in relation to the Mediterranean, we are so young! With District lodges observing 100+ years of organization, we certainly can celebrate our “young” organization. But unfortunately, we are losing our base in the more rural areas of our district. Volunteerism and service clubs in general are feeling the pinch.

The 2024 Convention will be featuring novel ideas for lodges to try to build their lodges and grow membership and at the same time recognize the needs of their long-standing members and provide programming that is entertaining, insightful, and relatable to our 21st century communities. My hats off to all the lodges that are sending delegates and if your lodge missed a deadline, please contact me. With International lodge changes, we are going to have opportunities to bring our members together in ways that we feel will best suit our local and district’s needs.

I’m looking forward to meeting delegates in June in Bismarck and I intend to run again for a final term as District President of the Fabulous Fourth! Ha det bra.... Jerry Saude

What shall I bring to the Convention?

There is still time to talk about issues at your next lodge meeting that should come before the delegates meeting June 27-29. Draft a resolution, be sure your lodge votes on it and bring a copy of each to the Convention. And remember to forward it to the District Secretary by the May 15th deadline. The resolutions committee will be vetting the ideas and giving their report on Friday June 28th. If your next lodge meeting is later in May, let us know that something is coming after the official local lodge meeting.

Lodges are asked to bring an item for the auction. We are discussing if the proceeds will be used for scholarships or other district uses. Celebrate your lodges heritage or home-grown artisan craftsmanship or a general practical item that might be donated by one of your local businesses. Silent auctions and anonymous bidding add a bit of excitement before the banquet on Friday night.

How is your knitting and carving, rosemaling and painting, is your camera in focus? Enter your cultural skills items in the competition or bring something for someone who can’t attend in person. Delegates love to walk through the display hall and dream...” if only I could do that!” This district wide showcase only comes around at convention. Don’t miss out.

If you have any questions about Bismarck ND or the convention, please contact the Sverdrup Lodge Convention committee, they will mail the packets soon, if you have not already gotten them. They will also be displayed on the District IV website, under FORMS.

Sons of Norway’s Mission

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

www.sofn-district4.com



Lodge Calendar and Other Deadlines 2024

May 15

- D18 property association financial form due
- IRS filing deadline for tax form 990. Lodge treasurer needs to notify SofN Headquarters when it has been submitted

May 17 Syttende Mai

June 6-9 Trollfjorden Language and Cultural Camp

June 26-29 *District IV Convention-Bismarck*

December 16

New member enrollment forms **MUST** be into Sons of Norway Headquarters by December 16 to be counted for year-end totals and the Recruitment Contest.

December 31

Lodge Officer Update/D63 information is due to Membership Services at Sons of Norway Headquarters.

Any new members joining online must sign-up to be included in year end totals.

Application deadline for:

Lodge Helping Hands to Children Grant

Lodge Culture and Heritage Grant

Lodge Vitality Grant

January 15

Deadline — International travel scholarship applications due to Sons of Norway Foundation:

February 15

Deadline — Domestic scholarship applications due to Sons of Norway Foundation:



Flo Kallenbach

Culture and Publicity

It's my last issue of the Fabulous Fourth Footnotes, and I can't lie--I won't mind not having to meet the deadlines and encourage others to work with me to get it done in a timely manner. I do love being up front to read what all of you have been doing and report the good news. There are so many good ideas that pass my way.

I want to join Jerry and the rest of the board in encouraging you to take in the District IV convention in Bismarck. There is so much to learn and great people to meet. Also, the camps. If you haven't attended one of the District IV camps by yourself or with other family members, you are missing out on some great fun. And have you seen the accommodations at the Metigoshe Retreat Center where the Trollfjorden Camp is done? The rooms are fancier than most motel rooms. Each one has a special theme. The food is some of the best anywhere. You can learn some language, sing some fun Norwegian songs, do crafts such as woodcarving, knitting, rosemaling, and lots more. Grab a friend or a grandchild and head for camp this summer.

According to the rules, I can't run for this office anymore. Being on the District IV Board has been one of the highlights of my life. I encourage all of you to run for office and have some fun.

Thank you all for giving me the chance to do this. All good things must end. I'll still be around. God bless each of you.

Flo Kallenbach



*Ha det bra og må den gode
Herre holde deg koselig og glad!*



Susan Gecho Gobbs
Vice President

**District IV Academic
Scholarship Winners**

Our winners are Hume Eide from Kringen Lodge in Fargo, ND and Annika Johnston from Normanden Lodge in Missoula, MT

Hume says. "Tusen takk!" "I am honored to have been selected for the District IV Sons of Norway Academic Scholarship!

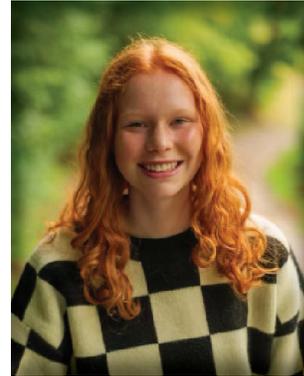
Thanks to everyone on the committee for this scholarship. This generous scholarship is greatly appreciated as I begin the fall at State Moorhead, where I will double-major in Mathematics: Actuarial Science and Mathematics: Computational Emphasis. I am very proud of my Norwegian heritage and have enjoyed all my experiences in the Sons of Norway Youth Club and look forward to continuing my support of Sons of Norway as an adult."



everyone on the committee for this scholarship. This generous scholarship is greatly appreciated as I begin the fall at State Moorhead, where I will double-major in Mathematics: Actuarial Science and Mathematics: Computational Emphasis. I am very proud of my Norwegian heritage and have enjoyed all my experiences in the Sons of Norway Youth Club and look forward to continuing my support of Sons of Norway as an adult."

Hume lives in Fargo with his parents and one sister. Congratulations to Hume Wallace Eide, a member of Kringen Lodge.

Annika tells us that "I've lived in Montana my whole life, able to explore my interests and heritage through my community. My parents always encouraged me to spend ample time in the natural world and stressed the importance of the arts, up playing crocheting, about forms. out of camps, I at the local As a high became a leader,



so I grew the violin, and learning Nordic art Once I aged summer volunteered art center. schooler, I blood drive volunteered

at local schools, helped various local non-profits, and learned about environmental management through a geologist, analyzing data on a government project."

Annika plans on getting a master's in environmental design and attend an institution outside of the country if viable. She is enrolled at Montana State in the fall. Annika is a member of Normanden Lodge in Missoula Montana. We proudly congratulate Annika Johnston.

Congratulations!

Each of our two winners will receive a \$1500 scholarship from our District IV foundation.



Betty Dhuyvetter Secretary

Hilsen!

The past months have been a busy time with the updating of officers and the directory, and then handling mailings to the lodges with the directories and for the upcoming convention. Two directories were mailed to each lodge for the president and the secretary. If your officer lists were not updated, please contact the former officers to get your directories.

Thank you to all lodges who reported your new officers in a timely manner. This information is essential for the promotion of good communication between lodges, and from the board to the lodges.

As far as mailings have gone, we've encountered problems with email addresses that don't work, or members who do not list an email address (or don't even list a phone number), or officer lists which haven't been updated. Because of these problems communicating by email, I also sent the same materials out by USPS, which was an additional expense. It is also very difficult to tell how long it will take for materials to reach their destination by our traditional mailing system, especially to our Canadian lodges. We will continue to try to reach you by numerous methods.

The latest endeavor was the submission of names of delegates and alternates for the upcoming convention in Bismarck. Lodges didn't have much time for meeting to decide on their delegates, so fewer than half of the lodges had reported by the April 1 deadline.

We wanted to make sure that all lodges had ample time to submit their delegate names, so we extended the deadline by a few days. Jerry sent out an email reminder, and I began calling all the lodges for updates. It was a pleasure to visit

with many of you by phone during this process! We were able to secure quite a few additional delegates, making the convention much more successful.

Unfortunately, I won't be able to attend the District IV Convention this summer because I will be on a family heritage trip to Norway from June 11-28. The trip was set before the convention dates, and I was unable to change the plans. My fellow board members will have to take over my duties at the convention, and for that I am very thankful in advance!

I'm finding myself very busy with numerous boards and organizations, as well as my additional grandmother duties. Additionally, I have recently decided to throw my name on the ballot as a ND state legislative candidate, so if anyone out there is interested in taking over this job as District IV Secretary, please let me or Jerry know! :)

We have several meetings scheduled between now and June, so we will continue to be very busy.

We hope your lodges continue to be active as you plan your *Syttende Mai* and *Midsommer* activities.

Remember to apply for the \$3-400 grant for New Member Events, as well as the \$100 grant for Charitable Causes. Please contact your zone directors for more details.

Ha det bra!

Betty Dhuyvetter
District IV Secretary





Claudia Berg
International Director

The Foundation Board of Governors (BOG) met April 12-13 in Minneapolis. As an appointed International Board representative on the Foundation Board of Governors I attended the meeting. District IV is well represented with our own District IV Merv Eriksson as board president and Elaine Nelson as an elected member of the Foundation. Our SON Foundation discussion was excellent. To summarize, support from local lodges and financial donors is critical to the future of our grant and scholarship mission. Foundation Director Amy Tuchenhagen and VP of Fraternal & Foundation Development Connie O'Brien are working hard and doing an impressive job. They will be splitting responsibilities to attend district conventions. Amy will be attending the District IV convention and presenting important and helpful information and training regarding the grant and scholarship programs, the annual *Together We Are the Future* campaign, and other development opportunities.

As you may have read in the March/April *Viking*, page 24, Dan Seyfried, CIO and VP of Operations, had an informative article on Sons of Norway insurance. Although most members are probably focused on the cultural and social benefits of our organization, we are foremost an insurance company. It is what funds the mission. The challenge is, however, that only one-third of our members have a financial product. This is a very low percentage compared to other fraternal organizations of similar size. Legacy Sure is a new insurance product, and the digital delivery method is also new. The digital component will be an asset to our insurance agents.

Remember to check the Crossings, Norway & America, 1825-2025, website at <http://crossings.norwegianamerican.com>. Check out the

Resource and Calendar tabs. What partnerships can your lodge develop to develop impressive programming for lodge and community members? What can provide ensuring value beyond 2025? The SON grant program offers financial support, start thinking about writing a grant and developing partnerships to bring additional resources to your lodge. This 200th commemoration is a marketing opportunity to grow Sons of Norway memberships and raise visibility in your community.

Egg Coffee

Scandinavian immigrants popularized this distinctive brewing method in certain parts of the United States, and it remains a regional favorite to this day. The egg does not flavor the coffee, but instead clarifies it by filtering out bitterness and impurities. The result is an unusually smooth and mild brew.

Want to learn more about the science, history and recent revival of egg coffee? Check out this article from *Eater*.

Ingredients

5 Tbsp. coffee (medium grind works best)

1 egg

Instructions

Beat egg in a small bowl with a fork. Add coffee grounds and mix until you have a sludge.

Bring 7 cups of water to a boil in a large coffee pot or saucepan. Add coffee/egg mixture. Continue boiling until the foam disappears – about 3 minutes. Remove from heat.

Add 1 cup of cold water to the coffee pot. This will help settle the grounds.

Pour coffee through a strainer to catch any loose grounds. Serve.

From Sons of Norway's online **Recipe Box**



Dues Change

Recently word was received from the International Board of Directors that there will be a dues change for our members. Below is the letter that was received from Ron Stubbings, International President, explaining the change.

Dear District Leaders,

Last week you received an email regarding a change in membership dues effective July 1, 2024. This message is to clarify the changes and hopefully help answer any questions you may have, specifically related to the portion going back to the lodge and to the district.

- Single member dues will increase by \$2 per month for a total annual increase of \$24. Effective July 1, 2024, single member annual dues will be \$84. One dollar of the annual increase will be given to the local lodge and the district. The district lodge portion of the annual dues will increase from \$14 per individual member to \$15 per individual member. The local lodge portion of the annual dues will increase from \$14 per individual member to \$15 per individual member.
- Family membership will increase by \$4 per month for a total annual increase of \$48. Effective July 1, 2024, the family member dues will be \$144. The district portion of the annual dues increase for family membership will increase from \$25 per family membership to \$27 per family membership. The local lodge portion of the annual dues will increase from \$28 to \$30 per family membership.
- Dues for members in Canada and Norway will increase based on the percentage increase for US members. (40% increase for single members, 19% increase for family members)

The dues increase will be effective on July 1, 2024, therefore renewals from that date forward will be at the new rate. If the members' dues were due before July 1, 2024, and payment is received after that date they will still be under the old structure. Likewise, if a renewal is due after July 1 and the member paid it early in June it should be at the new increased rate. A message will be added to the invoices regarding the dues increase starting with the July 2024 invoices.

Please note that in the April Leadership Resource email lodge leaders will receive communication regarding this dues change. This is scheduled to go to lodge leaders on April 18th.

Fraternally,

Ron Stubbings
International Chair





Zone Reports



Zone 1 Becky Gunderson

4-021 Gyda-Varden-Grand Forks ND, 4-078 Mjosen-Mayville ND, 4-178 Heim-Devils Lake ND, 4-203 Fagerlund-Manfred ND, 4-478 Mollargutten-Maddock ND

Gyda-Varden 4-021 of Grand Forks

As the Zone Director, I attended the March 14 Board Meeting and Lodge meeting. The Board meeting dealt with the business of the Lodge and also in planning their activities. Activities such as celebrating the 100th Birthday of their member Else Rike on March 23, Syttende Mai celebration, and Sankthansaften on June 23. The Lodge meeting program was on Bunads given by Therese Hugg. As Cultural Director she also presented Cultural Pins to Donna Remer and Emily Midkiff.

Mjosen Lodge 4-078 of Mayville

Members held their “Annual“ meeting January 18 with a build your own sandwich bar. Members started the meeting with the singing of the 3 National Anthems and learning the “Sign of the Order”. Members approved the 2024 Budget, helped choose cultural programming and watched the video presentation of the 2023 recap of activities.

For their February meeting, the Mjosen Lodge members watched the movie “John, The Last Cowboy”. This movie was featured in the 2023 March/April *Viking*. This movie night was cancelled during the 2023 winter.

The March meeting started with a business meeting to select the 3 Delegates to the District IV Convention in Bismarck June 27-28. Plans for Syttende Mai include a “Car Parade” and potluck

picnic on May 16th. The Lodge plans to host Coffee and Norwegian Goodies at the Mayville Public Library with displays promoting Norwegian Constitution Day. The cultural program was on Hardanger Fiddle and Bud Larsen.

Heim 4-178 Devils Lake no report submitted.

Fagerlund 4-203 of Manfred

In the last District IV Newsletter, the article for Fagerlund shared that our Julefest was held January 8th as a membership event. The weather held for this fun and interesting festivity, and again for the Waffle Supper held February 13th. Both regular waffles for the main course and vaffelhjerter for dessert resulted in a tasty meal. Most members had to reacquaint themselves with their regular waffle makers that had been long stored away, and several members have acquired waffle heart makers ready for action.

A very interesting program took place March 12th given by Peder Gjovik and his grandson Reed McConnaughey on the topic, “Denying Hitler the Atomic Bomb: Norway and the Heavy Water War.” Lunch of rømmegrøt, vaffelhjerter, and frukt was provided by Fagerlund members. Many positive comments from the public were received by those attending and from those who did not attend wishing they had.

We invite you to follow Fagerlund’s Facebook page that began recently. Since our restart in 2023, the order of how we do our monthly gatherings has reversed. The activity and lunch are first, followed by a brief meeting. This order is proving successful, and our newer members and seasoned members are all enjoying the various activities and meeting time together. For more information on Fagerlund and its upcoming events please call 701-870-4627. Hjertelig Velkommen til alle!



Mollargutten 4-478 of Maddock

The Mollargutten Sons of Norway lodge started the New Year with a fun game night. A variety of games were played along with cards. We were served open faced Norwegian sandwiches for lunch. Our February meeting was a potluck sweetheart dinner. Our girls' basketball team made it to the play-off games for state tournaments so we watched the game on the big overhead screen. Our culture day was making Valentine cookies and decorating them for the residents at the Memorial Home. We also made Valentines for each resident. In the afternoon we took the cookies to the residents and enjoyed coffee and visiting with them. What a fun activity! At our March meeting we learned about the Samis of Norway, they are indigenous people to Norway. We watched several short stories about their life years ago and their present life in Norway. Our culture day was learning the colors in Norwegian and painting barn quilts using the Norwegian language to refer to the colors of paint. Lots of beautiful barn quilts were painted.



Our lodge would like to invite everyone to our Syttende Mai celebration on Friday, May 17th with a community supper from 5:30-8:00pm. A traditional Norwegian evening will be held beginning with the food, Norwegian game room, local old-time music, crowning of a king and queen and a silent auction for our foundation. Come and enjoy!

Zone 2

Kay Halverson



All lodges in zone 2 are busy with spring lodge activities ...
*Selecting delegates for the

District IV convention in Bismarck in June

- *Planning Syttende Mai celebrations
- *Donating to the SON Foundation
- *Recruiting new members
- *Organizing fun, lodge programs

Wahpeton-Henrik Ibsen 4-565

Syttende Mai will be celebrated on Sunday, May 12 from 1-3 in the park at the Hughes Shelter. Members experienced better attendance at the event when it was held on Sunday. The lodge plans to send two delegates to the convention. New leadership in the lodge with Dale Anderson taking over from Mark Gronseth. Mark will be retiring in May, and we thank him for his years of involvement and enthusiasm for SON.

Jamestown -Wergeland -4-247

Lodge programming sounds fun!!! March was a meeting with speaker Jerry Ness, a woodcarver and storyteller. It was a fun, informative, entertaining evening. April will find lodge members packing boxes at the Orphan Grain Train. Much needed goods and supplies will be packaged and sent overseas. Plans for Syttende Mai will include a dinner at Shady's Restaurant on May 21. The evening will also include guitar and accordion entertainment. Wergeland plans to send two delegates to the convention.

Fargo -Kringen -4-025

Kringen will be sending 29 delegates to the convention - many of them first time delegates to experience a fun, learning experience about the workings of SON. Syttende Mai will be celebrated with a dinner, program, and dance in the Kringen ballroom. The lodge will be hosting



a new member program and dinner in April followed by a lodge program with Jerry Ness, woodcarver and storyteller. Sunday brunches continue to be successful. They are held on the first Sunday of the month and will resume in the fall. Kringen is hosting an event with the Nordic Cultural Club on May 21. This first event will feature Denmark as part of the regular lodge night.

Valley City- Hjemdahl -4-481

Valley City lodge meetings continue to be held at the American Legion. Plans are underway for Syttende Mai celebration at the regular lodge meeting. During March and April, the program included a speaker on the war in Norway. His presentation included pictures, videos, along with storytelling. Other family members including a grandson contributed to the program. Valley City plans to send two delegates to the convention.



Jotunheimen Lodge 4-499 Viking ship, the Njord, celebrated with the Irish in the Billings parade on March 16th.



Zone 5

Noel Birkland

Hello to all. I hope you are enjoying the spring weather.

The Lodges in Zone 5 have been staying steady for the winter and are getting things lined up for the spring and summer.

Snofjeldet 4-531

The Lodge has been having regular meetings during the winter. We will be starting to get the Viking ship ready for the fourth of July parade, planning for the Syttende Mai dinner celebration, summer picnics and the yearly garage sale.

Fjell Heim 4-524

The Fjell Lodge has a very busy Spring ahead of them, starting April 26 with Crazy Mountain Fiber Fest. They will sell lefse at that event. It is a two-day event dealing with the sheep industry.

Scheduled for May 22 is the Arnstein Killingberg Band from Trondheim, Norway.

On May 27 is the opening of Crazy Mountain Museum. The lodge will serve lefse, Norwegian cookies and coffee.

Sydney 4-489

The lodge has not been very active this winter. Their busy time is the yearly fair. It is with sorrow that I have to report their Secretary Janice Kallevig's husband recently passed away.

Jotunheimen 4-499

The Lodge is, as usual, very busy. On March 16th they floated their Viking ship, The Njord, down the streets of Billings in the St. Patrick's parade. (Photo to the left) They are busy planning for a Cultural Skills Event on May 18th.



Zone 3

Martha Elliot



Bjarne Lodge - Williston -
Bjarne Lodge held its monthly meeting on March 17 celebrating with an Irish dinner.

Irish stew, soda bread, ice cream with Guinness cupcakes were served.



Vennlig Lodge - Tioga - At our lodge meeting in January we had discussion on different foods that were served for Christmas from several countries. Most of our members think lutefisk and lefse are the best food for the Holiday.

Our February meeting was a good discussion on how far we drive to attend our monthly meeting with a lot of laughter involved.

In March we had a New Year's Quiz to test our intelligence on the country of Norway. Our members realized they know more about the country than they realize.

Our April meeting will be held on the 22nd. and we will honor new members and members that have belonged to the Lodge from 5 years up to 50 years.

No plans for the 17th of May. Will talk about that at our next meeting. On the 27th, we will have our special Memorial Service for members that passed away in the past year. We invite family members to join us for a program and meal.

Vidda Lodge - Crosby - Vidda Lodge held monthly meetings and socials. In February the lodge met at the assisted living/care center. Residents were in attendance for the program on paper woven heart baskets. Each resident was presented with a red and white basket containing a treat. Everyone enjoyed coffee and goodies while visiting. In March the Lodge participated in an Easter Craft and Bake Sale. The Lodge is looking forward to their Syttende Mai event.

Thor Lodge - Minot - We had a class on making klubb with 10 members attending. We made klubb and served at the social on the 18th of March. A treat for all attending the social.



We are working on our Syttende Mai with the parade, a lunch of hot dogs, salad, and chips, followed with ice cream sundaes. We will have a program of learning how to dye products to make our own colors using leaves, and many other outdoor items. Then we can knit with our new colors. We have been invited to 1st National Bank to meet and greet and serve goodies. We are encouraged to wear our bunads.



Our big event of the summer is the Midsummer Festival. It starts on Friday evening with a Parade of Flags. There will be a bonfire on both Friday and Saturday evenings.

Saturday is packed with many activities. Making lefse - some eating contests - lawn games - tour of all buildings - food available all day with most of the food Scandinavian theme. Over 3,000 people attended the festival last year. There will be services in the Gol Stave Kirke on Sunday.

Our Lodge reported events and hours on our report to S/N. We had 74 community events for a total of 800 hours. We had 620 Fraternal events which totaled 1,500 hours.

The Heritage Park keeps us busy. We have 10 members volunteering each week from June - September.



Pictured on the right are Marius Lerstad from Oslo and Elna Claus from Barcelona, Spain. They are exchange students at Ray High School. They both hoped to go to a school in a much bigger community on the east coast. However, after attending school in Ray, they would not exchange areas. Elna saw snow for the first time. Marias got his driver's permit and liked driving. Both attended the prom and that was an experience for them. Nothing like a prom in District IV.



In the bottom photos, Sverdrup Lodge in Bismarck had lessons in Norsk Mythology.





Zone 6

Paul Christofferson

Hallo Alle (Hello Everyone)!

This is one phrase in Norwegian that is the same as the German I learned in high school. It also works in English too. Imagine that! Of course, with differences in pronunciation.

Well, we made it through another winter in western and west central Montana. Not the worst in the record books but we had some of the extreme cold the state is known for. Unlike North Dakota we normally have chinooks so the cold doesn't stay as long but the higher altitudes can lead to even lower temperatures. The lowest reading ever recorded in the lower 48 states was in Rogers Pass Montana, between Helena and Lincoln (the town no longer exists but the pass does), at 70 below zero Fahrenheit. Because of the chinook effect, the largest temperature change of 103 degrees Fahrenheit in 24 hours, officially recorded on earth, occurred in Loma Montana (between Great Falls and Havre) in the winter of 1972. Enough about the winter weather!

My report on activities in Zone 6 follows:

Great Falls (Lodsen 4-138) - A movie night with a showing of "The Kings Choice" was included in the Lodge's January social meeting. March's activity included a family game which included a game of Bingo/Norge and desserts. I need to learn how to play Bingo/Norge! Their April activity will be a movie night social with Fools in the Mountains playing. They are running into an issue with the fair booth normally manned during the Montana State Fair because of a new requirement for a fire suppression unit. Planning for volunteers to assist in the Salvation Army Christmas bell ringers for Christmas 2024 is already underway for the lodge. Like many lodges they are struggling to find volunteers for all their officer positions.

Kalispell (Fedraheimen 4-140) - In January I ice skated my way to Kalispell to attend a special board meeting they scheduled to fall the day before the Polson board meeting. Since their cities are only 60 miles apart this allowed me to attend meetings in both lodges while I was in the Flathead Lake area, saving me hundreds of driving miles. Thank you! While the weather forecast was good, the actual weather was not, with freezing rain the entire time of my visit. The board meeting was somewhat abbreviated as their Treasurer had just passed unexpectedly. They are planning a May meeting to celebrate Syttende Mai and provide a brief presentation on Norway's independence amid the periods of domination by Sweden and Denmark.

Missoula (Normanden 4-424) - In January their social meeting included the annual memorial ceremony. February's meeting included a presentation about Norwegian and other Scandinavian Authors. In February they also held a pancake breakfast with the proceeds going to the Missoula Aging Services. March included a social meeting with a potato bar dinner and a membership event. I drove (as opposed to ice skated) to Missoula to participate in their well-attended membership event. In April they will have a presentation on the "Kon Tiki" and work on Vikings for next summer's Missoula County fair. All of this while having their rosemaling, cooking stitchery and language groups meeting in the background!

Cut Bank (Normont 4-507) - Cut Bank moved their normal January 13th meeting to the 27th because on the regular meeting date it was colder in Cut Bank than in Antarctica. In addition to making donations of hats and mittens they donated money to the Cut Bank schools for hot lunch programs and the schools in Sunburst and Shelby for personal care/hygiene products. In their March meeting they awarded their local scholarships for 2024.



Helena (Hovedstad 4-528) - Like Cut Bank the Helena lodge was unable to hold their January meeting at the normal time due to the extreme cold weather. Rather than rescheduling the activities planned for January these were moved to the February meeting. In February the Helena Tiernan Irish dancers performed for the lodge. About 50 guests also attended their performance held at the beginning of the meeting. The March meeting included the annual memorial service along with a presentation on the Sons of Norway Foundation. April's meeting consisted of awarding the longevity pins and a game night of Uffda Bingo.

Libby (Norhaven 4-536) -Each month their meetings are preceded by a Norwegian language class. The lodge is currently planning an April 20th open house and May 18th dinner, both to celebrate the lodge's 50th anniversary. Unfortunately, I will probably not be able to attend either of these events because of scheduling conflicts.

Polson (Nordmanns Vis 4-542) -The day after meeting with the Kalispell lodge in January, I drove (ice skated) to Polson for their lodge meeting. Even with the bad road conditions a large group of hardy Norwegian stock attended. A good potluck was served! Thanks for the hospitality. The primary topics for the meeting included providing continued support for Ski for Light and the need to move to a new meeting venue. They will likely move to the local VFW.

Bozeman (Fjelldal 4-453) - Their January program centered around a Norwegian language lesson for the lodge members. Something I could really use! Valentine's day provided the topic for their February meeting and in March they enjoyed a program presented by two lodge members, Joseph and Cedar Mikkelson, providing highlights from their recent trip to Norway. Their April program will include a presentation about Porsgrunds porcelains.

Dillon (Beverhode 4-589) - Their lodge will not meet again until May so there is nothing to report for this article.

Hamilton (Bitterrootdalen 4-656) - I did not receive an update for the last quarter from the Hamilton lodge so have nothing to report for this article.

I hope everyone has a great summer!

Calling All Campers

The District IV webpage has 2024 registration forms for Trollfjorden Camp. District camp for lodge members and children/grandchildren. June 6-9 at Metigoshe Christian Center on the shores of Lake Metigoshe, just 14 miles north of Bottineau ND. Check it out and share in your lodges. with Montana camp on hiatus, we welcome Montanans to ND!

www.sofn-district4.com



Trollfjorden Culture and Language Camp

June 6-9



District IV Album



Lodsden Lodge members and guests enjoying a game of NORGE/Bingo. Our Bingo cards have NORGE at the top. Takes some getting used to, but it is fun all the same. Lodsden Lodge is in Great Falls, MT



More photos of Bjarne Lodge of Williston holding its monthly meeting on March 17, celebrating with an Irish dinner. Irish stew, soda bread, ice cream with Guinness cupcakes were served.



Vinterfest - Bismarck ND

Sverdrup Lodge



Sverdrup Lodge was a lead partner in Vinterfest, a winter celebration in Bismarck- Mandan area. A generous grant from the American Scandinavian Foundation supported several Norwegian cultural events throughout the month of January 2024. Jim Paulson conducted two chip carving workshops



Pieper Bloomquist conducted a day-long rosemaling workshop



Evergreen wreath crowns were part of the very chilly opening event.



Carol Thompson's presentation included Nordic wooden instruments she made by hand.