



Vestafjell VANDRER



Vestafjell Lodge 6-146
Western Slope of Colorado

November - December

Sons of Norway
Vol. 26 No. 6

Vestafjell Calendar

November 2, Monday 1PM. Reading group at Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church, 3133 F/Patterson Rd, Grand Junction, CO (referred to as SOV in this newsletter.) Open to all. Library will be open. Call Leader Linda Lynch at 433-4113 for more info.

November 8, Sunday 2 PM Lodge Meeting & Election of Officers for 2016 at SOV. We will be honoring our Veterans with ceremony and a group photo. New member Charles Barth will share photos of his fishing trip to Iceland and Norway. Thanksgiving Potluck, turkey & gravy provided by the lodge. Please bring generous side dishes, salads, fruits or desserts for the potluck. Bring canned food or \$\$ donation for Community Food Bank.

November 10, Tuesday 9AM, Board meeting at SOV.

December 3, Thursday 9AM. Ladies Breakfast, men at their own table, Denny's in Clifton. (Marge 434-0803) **(NOTE: Combined holiday breakfast, no regular scheduled breakfast for Nov and Dec.**

December 7, Monday 1 PM Reading group at SOV. All are welcome. (Linda 433-4113) The library will be open.

December 13, Sunday 2PM Lodge Meeting at SOV & Annual Christmas Cookie Sale. Join us in celebrating the traditions of the Christmas season. Potluck Dinner with ham provided by lodge. Please bring generous side dishes, salads, fruits or dessert for the potluck. We ask that you bring unwrapped gifts (or gift cards) for our annual donation of Christmas gifts for Children to the Salvation Army. In addition to potluck dish, please make your favorite cookies or treats, packaged by the dozen for our Christmas Cookie Sale.

December 15, Tuesday 3PM Board Meeting at SOV.

January 4, Monday 1PM. Reading group at SOV. All are welcome. (Linda 433-4113) and the library will be open.

Location, date and time of Vestafjell Lodge Meeting in January, 2016 will be decided by the Board after members present at the November 8 meeting have voted

on proposed changes.

All lodge meetings begin promptly at 2PM and are adjourned by 4PM. Members are reminded to always bring their own table service to reduce costs and waste. To carpool, call Barb at 245-5649, or Annette, 858-6702.



Important letter from our Lodge President

October 20, 2015

Dear Members of Vestafjell Lodge,

As your president, your Board of Directors has asked me to make you aware of a difficult situation in our lodge. During the past 2 years, the board has noticed that attendance at our monthly lodge meetings has been steadily dropping off. We also have noted that all of us are getting older, and less able to volunteer for tasks that require lifting, carrying, and standing for long periods. These issues have resulted in a very small group of members 'doing all the hard work' of operating our lodge.

At the October board meeting, we discussed this situation, and decided a drastic change in the way we operate is needed. We discussed ways to decrease the physical work, and came to the conclusion that we really need to remove all the physical work before this core group either can no longer do the work, or decides to no longer be involved in Vestafjell Lodge.

We decided to approach you members, via this letter and an article in the next newsletter, with our best suggestion at this time, provide time for suggestions in the next two months, and have a plan for operating in a different manner, starting in January, 2016.

Our suggestion is to replace our regular lodge

meetings at Shepherd of the Valley (and other churches) with a week day lunch meeting at an area restaurant. We think this type of meeting will appeal to you members who like to socialize, enjoy food, and keep in touch with old and new friends. We would continue our monthly breakfast get-together. After the board meeting, I contacted our Zone Director Bev Moe to find out what Sons of Norway actually expects of us. She told me this lunch meeting, along with board meetings, and submitting annual volunteer hours and financial statements, would satisfy the requirements.

This situation could have been brought up before, maybe years ago, but now is urgent because this is the time of year we elect our officers and committee chairs for next year. In working with the Nominating committee, I have been told that many of the current officers and board members are unwilling to serve next year if we continue with the way we operate now. These faithful board members have expressed their hope that the lodge members are willing to change from our very "volunteer-heavy" schedule to something more casual and social that will not require the effort we now expend in conducting our meetings.

You members will be asked to consider these changes at the November 8 meeting. You are encouraged to call any of the officers and other board members to discuss the current situation and express your concerns. (Names and phone numbers are listed on the back side of this letter.)

Our November 8 meeting is when we will enjoy an early Thanksgiving Dinner and Honor our Veterans. Charles Barth, will take us on his summer fishing trip with a friend to Iceland and Norway. We will vote to accept or reject the suggested changes in operating our lodge and will elect officers and board members for 2016. Hope to see you there!

Sincerely,

Barbara Firth, President



Delicious Turkey Dinner!



*Wishing you a blessed and memorable
Thanksgiving!!*

Where Is The List of Officers & Committees for 2016?

The short answer is that you members present at the November 8 Member Meeting will see two lists. And here is why.

Members that have been contacted by the Nominating Committee have been asked 2 questions.

- 1.) Will you serve if we continue to operate as we do now, with monthly Sunday afternoon meetings, potlucks, and special dinners?
- 2.) Will you serve if major changes are made, such as having lodge meetings on a week day at a restaurant, or another proposal that eliminates the issue of no longer having enough members who can do the physical work involved in operating as we currently do?

As a result, the Nominating Committee has two lists for members present at the November 8 Lodge Meeting to review before our Election of Officers can take place. Remember, nominations can be made from the floor, but only if the person nominated is present or can be contacted to confirm their willingness to serve.

Barbara Firth, President

Insurance information

The interest in our new Chronic Illness Rider has been growing. No wonder. As many of us have experienced the monthly cost of facility care or even home care for someone with chronic illness is staggering.

We have a rider to help in these situations that can be added to a new or existing Nordic Policy—our universal life policy.

It provides monthly payments if the insured is under medically prescribed long term care. The benefit may be used for at home care or nursing home stay.

Each monthly payment will be 2% of the death benefit amount of your policy. The elimination period for this rider is 60 days.

If you have an interest, please contact me at 720 971-0130 or mjohaneson@gmail.com

Michael Johaneson, Financial Representative

Vestafjell Lodge Meeting

September 13, 2015

The September Lodge meeting was held in Cory/Austin, CO at the All Saints Lutheran Church on September 13, 2015. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm with President Barbara Firth conducting. There were 18 members, 11 visitors and one guest present.

The 2016 District 6 Convention planned for June was reviewed by Barbara Firth. There will be a Folk Arts Competition and Exhibition that members can participate in. Please contact Kaye Wergedal or Barbara Firth.

An officer nominating committee for the upcoming year was offered by Bud Smock and they are: Marge Sehler, Joyce Theyson and Arletta Van Tassel. The members sustained this motion.

Sallie Thoreson was the only birthday member present, so we sang Happy Birthday to her and wished her a great day!

The Annual Torsk and Meatball Dinner and Silent

Auction was discussed. It will be October 11 at the SOV. The Silent Auction and the meal will be a major fund raiser for us. Proceeds will help several organizations.

Annette Helgelien received a recruitment pin for bringing 3 people to our lodge in 2014. She received a certificate and the recruitment pin.

Our financial Representative, Mike Johaneson spoke about the Sons of Norway annuity which is not tied to the stock market and what a good financial choice it is over the stock market.

Our program was presented by Brandy and Elmer Ferganchick. They brought five of their 13 Norwegian Fjord horses for us to see. A very interesting program by Brandy talked of the history of the horses. The Norwegian Fjord Horse is one of the world's oldest and purest breeds. It is believed that the original Fjord Horse migrated to Norway and was domesticated over 4,000 years ago. Norwegian Fjords, first domesticated and used by the Vikings, are a small, but athletic breed, with outstanding temperament and versatility, capable of being used for tasks as varied as land plowing, competitive carriage driving, jumping and dressage. The horses can live to be 30-35 years old and there is no Arabian breed in the Fjord horses like other breeds. They come in 5 different colors: Brown dun, Grey dun, White dun, Red dun and Yellow dun and each horse has a strip down their back from the tail to the head. We enjoyed petting and looking at the 5 beautiful horses as well as the informative program by Brandy.

A Koldtbord Potluck Lunch was served and enjoyed by all. After a hearty thank you to all who attended, the meeting was adjourned about 4:00.

***Respectfully submitted,
Janice Booth, Secretary***

Vestafjell Board Meeting

September 15, 2015

The meeting was held at the Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church and was called to order at 9:00 AM. Board members attending were: Barbara Firth, Bud Smock, Margaret Sehler, Elaine Nelson, Gladys Beals, Wayne Selfors, Arletta Van Tassel and Jan Booth.

The August board minutes were read, reviewed and

approved as well as the August Treasurer's report which has an account balance of \$2,109.14. The motion was presented by Elaine and seconded by Bud to approve the report given by Gladys.

The District 6 Convention will be June 19-22, 2016 in Loveland, CO. A few members from our lodge will go and represent Vestafjell. Kaye Wergedahl is in charge of registration at the convention and will count as one from our lodge.

The nominating committee for officers in the year 2016 will meet with Barbara after the board meeting. The committee is made up of: Marge, Ardy, and Joyce T.

The Lodge calendar for September, October, November and December was reviewed and discussed. Assignments were made for the Thanksgiving dinner in November, and the Christmas dinner in December.

The November, December newsletter will be turned back to Jan now that she is in the process of recovering from back surgery. Wayne has expressed his opinion to be released from his part in the newsletter after many years of being editor and co-editor. The officers expressed their gratitude to Wayne for the excellent job he did. Elaine will keep up the address data base and produce the labels needed.

The new lodge web page was discussed, although we have still some adjustments to make. There is also a lodge facebook page which is the public choice and is called Vestafjell Lodge 6-146. Comments/pictures can be added to this page.

We discussed the Mesa Public Library Annual Cultural Fest being held Saturday November 7th. It was decided that Marge and Arletta will make Flat bread for samples, and Jan will make a handout stating information about our lodge and the Sons of Norway organization. Those who will help with the display will be Marge, Barbara, Gladys, Arletta and Jan. Marge made the motion to approve this event and all present sustained her.

We were reminded to keep in mind our lodge activities and the required end of 2015 report that will be due the beginning of the year. The meeting was adjourned about 10:15 AM.

*Respectfully submitted,
Janice Booth, Secretary*

Vestafjell Lodge Meeting

October 11, 2015

Shepherd of the Valley Church, Grand Junction

Before the meeting, members and guests were encouraged to look at the items for auction and use their bidder number to put on the bid slips.

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm with President Barbara Firth conducting. There were 18 members and 20 guests present. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and Anthems were sung, being led by Duane Helgelien.

Happy Birthdays were acknowledged for three members, there were no Anniversaries this month. Barb announced the Library Annual Cultural Fest Saturday November 7th, the Board Meeting Tuesday October 13th, and Breakfast on Thursday October 22 at Denny's in Clifton.

This year our lodge will not participate in the Veterans Parade in downtown Grand Junction.

Everyone was encouraged to go back to the auction tables and bid on their favorite items. Ron Thoreson gave a brief history of Leif Ericson's explorations and accomplishments.

The dinner prayer was led by Duane. Everyone enjoyed the delicious Annual Torsk and Meat Ball dinner prepared by Arvid and the kitchen crew, and 'meatball makers', Elaine Nelson, Carol Selfors, Marge Sehler, and Ardy Van Tassel.

The next meeting is our Thanksgiving dinner on Sunday November 8. We will honor our Vets. The program will be about travel and fishing in Iceland and Norway by a new member Charles Barth.

Members and Guests picked up and paid for the items they bid on. The President Barb Firth thanked all the guests and members for coming. The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
Harriet Smock, Acting Secretary.*

Vestafjell Board Meeting October 13, 2015

The meeting was held at the Shepherd of the Valley Lutheran Church and was called to order at 9:00 am. Board members attending were: Barbara Firth, Bud Smock, Harriet Smock, Margaret Sehler, Elaine Nelson, and Gladys Beals.

The September board minutes were read, reviewed and approved as well as the August Treasurer's report. The motion to accept both was presented by Bud and seconded by Gladys.

The Mesa County Library Annual Cultural Fest on Saturday November 7th was discussed and it was decided we would participate. Barb and Marge to coordinate.

There was a discussion of the future of the Lodge and a concern of all the board members as to the direction the Lodge should take. Barb and Bud are to put together a letter to members explaining our concerns and outlining the board's suggestion to have monthly meetings at a local area restaurant instead of potluck and fund raising dinners at churches.

At the November 8 lodge meeting, members present will vote to approve the board's suggestion, or reject same. Many board members are not willing to continue if the suggestion is rejected, resulting in 2 lists of proposed officers and committees, one list for those who will only serve if the suggestion is approved, and a second list of those will serve if the suggestion is rejected. Members present will vote on the appropriate list, after the suggestion has been approved or rejected.

The November 8 Thanksgiving dinner was discussed with Ardy, Bud, and Elaine bringing turkeys. The program will be presented by Charles Barth. Decorations for the Christmas party were discussed and each board member is to bring something from home for a centerpiece.

Barb handed out the email from Kaye Wergedal regarding the District 6 Convention next June. It was decided we would approve ordering another 25 jars of jam and approved paying for a one quarter page ad in the convention program book.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:40.

*Respectfully Submitted,
Harriet Smock, Acting Secretary*

Joyce T, Jennifer O and Elaine N. at the Silent Auction table. The proceeds help fund our charitable partners



Christmas time is a good time to catch up with family and friends!

SONS OF NORWAY FOUNDATION KLUBB"

The Sons of Norway Foundation is now offering a new way to make a lasting commitment to supporting lodges, assisting those affected by natural disasters and helping students achieve their educational dreams. By joining the Klubb, and becoming a recurring donor at the \$250, \$500 or \$1,000 annual level, you can help ensure the Foundation's continued ability to make a positive difference in the communities it serves. Envelopes will be available at the lodge meetings to sign up. Please see Elaine Nelson.

Submitted by Elaine Nelson



Love was born at Christmas!!



Det Norske Sellsak I Vestafjell



A blessed time of the year! We wish you and your family a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

We still meet the 1st Monday of each month at the SOV Church at 1pm and we still encourage anyone interested, to come on by.

Linda Lynch, Facilitator

TUBFRIM

Please clip your postage stamps and bring them to the the next lodge meeting. Give your stamps to any of the lodge officers. Thank you!

PLEASE SEND ALL SUBMISSIONS FOR THE VESTAFJELL NEWSLETTER TO THE EDITOR, jbooth@bresnan.net,

SAVE THE DATE

“Mining our Heritage”

SON District Six Convention 2016

to be held at the Embassy Suites

in Loveland, Colorado

June 19-22, 2016

Hosted by the 7 Lodges of Zone 8 Colorado

More information to come

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS**November**

Peter Crow	9
Jerry Trudell	9
Halvor Jacobson	10
Arvid Koppang	13
Charles Barth	14
Ronald Thoreson	14
Johnathan Carpenter	17
Layne Brones.	20
Sandra Tessem	21
Joyce Fluckiger	23
Mary Ann Tapey	27
Eulalia Skinner	28
Joyce Theyson	29

December

Janice Koppang	4
Thor Grosword	7
Annie Haugen	12
Elinor Knutson	12
Shirley Spansberg	13
Kiyah Woodward	14
Dale and Sharon Lund	15
Larry Carpenter	19
Lyle Huwe	19
Troy Clawson	26
Janice Booth	31

VESTAFJELL VANDRER

The official newsletter of Sons of Norway

Vestafjell Lodge 6-146

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Vandrer newsletter is in color on the web site

Clip Stamp for Tubfrim

VESTAFJELL LODGE 6-146

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