

May 2009 President's Message – Grete Davidsen-Kidwell

Danish Evening was lovely. It was good to have our German and Austrian friends, Bob Bunn and Johannes Hofinger from the Maennerchor as our guests. The Dinner Committee outdid themselves and the program was charming.

I took a trip outside, and to my delight, saw our babysitter, Emily Skarsten, on the playground with several kids. They were having so much fun. I would like to thank Emily for everything she does to keep our youngest members entertained. Emily, you are doing a great job, and I hope you'll be able to continue for a few more years☺

By having our required 3 new Board Members, I am now able to breathe easier. I am disappointed by the lack of enthusiasm from most of you and I wonder if our hard work really matters and is appreciated. I'm sorry, but I had to get this out of my system. It's a year until we need three new Board Members again so please start to consider volunteering for next year.

On behalf of the Board I would like to extend a huge welcome to Keith Gilbertson, Marilyn Paulsen and Trygve Skarsten. We thank you for volunteering and look forward to working with you and finding out your ideas to enhance our Club.

As a native Norwegian, the month of May is my favorite month the Club celebrates. The food is always great, and the program for this month, Norse Mythology, is going to be excellent. There will also be a raising of the Norwegian Flag at the Statehouse on the 15th. I'm going to ask that anyone with a Norwegian National Folk Dress (Bunad) to please wear it to either event.

The past few weeks, with summer temperatures and still early spring, has been quite a shock on the system for us with Nordic blood. However, I love the longer days and it is wonderful to see everything coming back to life. I spend hours outside this time of year tending to my flower beds and find it very rewarding seeing the fruits of my labor.



May 16, 2008 Norwegian Flag raising
Singers: Andy/Sara Garnes, Bob Holm, President Grete

I want to wish you all Happy Spring and hope to see as many of you as possible at the May Dinner.

Grete



The flag of the Kingdom of Norway will be raised and flown over the Ohio Statehouse in honor of Syttende Mai - Norway's Constitution Day. Come and attend the flag raising ceremony hosted by the Governor's Office on Friday, May 15, 2009. Meet at 11:30 on the West plaza of the Capitol. The flag will be flown for the weekend (Friday noon until Monday morning). Tell a friend about this special event! Arrange a carpool with a friend! After the ceremony, we will all go to lunch together. Help spread the word about this special event.

NORWAY FIRST AT SOUTH POLE...AGAIN!! A 2-man team from Norway has beaten British rivals in a ski race to the South Pole, nearly a century after Norwegian explorer **Roald Amundsen** outpaced Britain's Robert Scott to reach it. The grueling contest began Jan. 4, 2009 with six teams was billed as the first race to the South Pole since Amundsen conquered it in Dec.1911. Norwegians **Rune Malterud** and **Stian Aker** covered the 478.5 mile route across the Antarctic icecap in 17 days and 11 hours to reach the pole a day before the three Brits. The competitors camped out in tents and pulled 154 pound sledges behind them. The route did not replicate those taken by Scott and Amundsen, but the racers faced the same timeless dangers of frostbite, temperatures of -50 C. and hundreds of miles of icy crevasses.

(from Scandinavian Press, Spring 2009)

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For a **FREE subscription** contact the Embassy (202) 333-6000 or by email: subscription@norway.org

***Geir Skeie Norway's World Champion Chef** - Geir, age 28, is from Fitjar on the west coast of Norway. He has won the world championship for chefs – *Bocuse d'Or 2009*. The competition is held every 2 years in Lyon, France, and is the most recognized competition in the business.

*The Norwegian film "**O'Horten**" will start showing in movie theaters *in the USA in May 2009*. A mixture of melancholy and comedy, the movie tells the story of train conductor, Odd Horten, who contemplates his future as he steers his last train across the mountains of western Norway before he retires.

Both above excerpts are from **News of Norway, Spring 2009 issue**. Go online to www.norway.org This website also features movies that can be viewed on your home computer.

Jamestown, NY SCANDINAVIAN FOLK FESTIVAL July 18, 19, 20, 2009

The Wickstroms and Holms both attended last year, neither knowing they would run into the other! It was fun, good food, entertainment, crafts, folk dancers and musicians from Sweden Norway, Denmark. Last year I met the granddaughter of Swedish Artist Carl Larsson (her 1st trip to USA) - she lectured about her grandfather & the Larsson Family. Schedule has not been finalized for this year yet. I plan to include more in the June Scandinews. www.scandinavianjamestown.org



Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, Denmark

The flags of the Scandinavian countries, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Finland, and Iceland are all based on the Crusader's Cross. In each case the upright part of the cross is closer to the hoist than the free end of the flag. Each uses a combination of the colors **white, red, blue & gold**. All of the flags have their origin in the *Dannbrog*, the Danish cloth which goes back to 1219 A.D. King Valdemar II had a vision - he saw a white cross in the blood-red sky as he went into the Battle of Lyndanisse.

You will note the 2nd & 3rd flags look identical in black & white printing. The 2nd flag from the left is Iceland with background blue and cross red & white. Norway's flag has a background of red with a cross of blue and white.



The **Icelandic Sheepdog** is one of the rarest and oldest pure breeds in the world, originating from the dogs brought to Iceland by the Vikings. It very much resembles dogs found in graves in Denmark and Sweden from about 8000 B.C. Plague and canine distemper destroyed over 75% of the breed in the late 19th century, leading to a ban on the importation of dogs to Iceland. This has resulted in the Iceland Sheepdog maintaining a very distinctive character. Epidemics, hunger periods and natural disasters have also contributed to making the breed tough and enduring. (**Scand.News Spring 09**)

Finland Builds World's Largest Cruise Ship EVER!!

Royal Caribbean International has ordered the world's largest cruise ship...*and the most expensive!* Project Genesis, from Aker Yards, in Turku, Finland, costing about \$1 billion. Actually 2 ships are ordered, the first to be delivered late 2009 and second in 2010. Each will carry 6400 passengers. To compare, the **Queen Mary 2 carries 2620 passengers** and Royal Caribbean's **Freedom of the Sea carries 4370 passengers**...the Genesis ships will be 43% larger than the Freedom of the Sea which was delivered just 2 years ago and was the largest cruise ship ever built.

DENMARK now has a national park. **Thy** was officially opened last year, to be followed by **Mols Bjerger, Skjern Å, the Wadden Lea & Kongernes Nordsjælland** that are considered to contain some of the most unique & valuable nature areas and landscapes in the country. (excerpt from **Scandinavian Press, Spring**) 2009

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of Columbus
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April 19, 2009 Board Minutes – Home of Päivi Rajala-Schultz

PRESENT: Grete Davidsen-Kidwell, Ed Kidwell, Michael Lindner, Marlene Kinsey, Carol & Harry Wickstrom, Katy Rasor, Päivi Rajala-Schultz, Carol Savolaine

PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Grete called the meeting to order. The minutes of the last Board Meeting were approved.

VICE –PRESIDENT: Marlene reported that Erik A. Evensen, a Columbus artist of Norwegian heritage will present the May program on Norse Mythology. The Board also discussed the June Midsommar Picnic.

SECRETARY: Sympathy cards were sent to Jean Lundstedt and Marian Clover upon the death of their husbands.

TREASURER: Harry reported the current Balance is \$12,688.99. Attendance at April dinner was 99, 8 “no shows”, 4 without reservations, for a net loss of \$80.42.

DINNER CHAIR: The committee prepared an excellent dinner despite a reduction in time, due to 2 funerals at the Church requiring use of the kitchen and hall.

MEMBERSHIP: The Club welcomes new members Elwin & Patricia Rasmussen, both of Norwegian ancestry. New and Renewal Membership forms will be updated by the Board. Members, in addition to serving on one dinner committee, will be expected to serve on one or more club committees.

CALLING CHAIR: Board discussed arranging rides for those members needing transportation to meetings. This service request would be mentioned to Callers at time of taking reservations for meetings, and then be relayed to the Calling Chairperson.

PROPERTY CHAIR: The Board thanked Michael for the runestone he designed and displayed on the stage at the April meeting.

SCANDINEWS EDITOR: Carol Scandinews deadline for news is April 27.

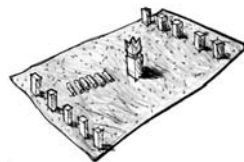
OLD BUSINESS: Grete requested assistance in making table assignments at dinner. Members seem to enjoy the opportunity to dine with a different group of people each meeting. There was discussion of the Spring Forward Event held March 29 – many good ideas & suggestions resulted. The Board is reviewing the Club's vision statement and will finalize it next month. A review of the Constitution and By-Laws is planned in reference to yearly membership dues and committee expectations.

NEW BUSINESS: New Board Members Keith Gilbertson, Marilyn Paulsen and Trygve Skarston will join the current Board at the May Board meeting. The Vice-Pres. will make arrangements to schedule a sitter/activity planner for children attending the meetings, and obtain a check from the Treasurer in advance. May Board Meeting will be held at Grete & Ed's house on May 17th, at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Katy Rasor, Secretary

*** A request from our
WEBSITE**

Wanted: someone willing to teach some simple Norwegian phrases to a couple traveling to Norway this summer to visit two of their Norwegian exchange students and their families. If interested, please contact: **Robert Horr**
8668 Hyland Croy Rd,
Plain City.
Email: rhorr@hotmail.com



KUBB Practice

**Whetstone Park of Roses
in Clintonville
(down by the river)**

Everyone Welcome!

**All ages, adults & children
Saturday, May 23, 2:30 pm
Saturday, June 6, 2:30 pm**