

RUNESTONE

May, 2022

NEWSLETTER OF FEDRELANDET LODGE #2-23

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A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT, ROBERT LARSON

Greetings! Spring is here and we have much to be grateful for. Thank you Briana Drury for publishing such a nicely formatted and informative newsletter. Briana's husband Don has assumed the role of webmaster from Mary Ellen Anderson so stay tuned for a link to the updated web page.

The lodge has been much quieter than usual the past couple of years with very few hall rentals, a reduced bingo schedule and cancelled dinners. Thanks to Sally Dwyer, Rhoda Gilbert and others, we have received several grants to pay the bills and the hall is able to keep the doors open.

This lodge is blessed with a large number of dedicated members that have volunteered their time and talents so we all can enjoy the beautiful hall and the social and cultural activities that make this organization special. It takes many hands to decorate the hall, thaw the pipes, shovel snow, make baked goods, renovate and rebuild bathrooms and kitchens, wash the dishes, organize events; the list seems endless. Wendel Gilbert is the chief trustee and he and his crew keep the lights on and the water running. Thanks to you all, your work is truly appreciated.

In addition to promoting and preserving the heritage and culture of Norway and other Nordic countries, we should remember the organization also provides quality insurance and financial services. You can contact Susan Erickson, the local representative, to learn more.

We have been working hard at converting our non-profit status to a type where it is easier for us to apply for grants and is more cost effective for people to donate directly to the hall. Glo Wollen has been spearheading this effort. You should also say thanks to Sharon Wikan; has been a board member for the first nonprofit since 1972 and is a board member of the new corporation. An incredible length of service to this Lodge.

According to an article in a recent issue of Viking magazine, the Norwegian and Danish term hygge, pronounced “hue-guh.” Is becoming more prevalent. Because it means “appreciating and savoring the truly rich moments in life”, I'm wishing you and your loved ones enjoy hygge for the rest of this year.

Robert Larson, President



Clockwise from top: The SONS Hall on an icy winter evening last Fall, Trustee Wendel Gilbert sprays water on a frozen pipe under the Hall during this winter's record cold, President Robert Larson inspects the damage to a frozen pipe

Schedule of Events	
May 17, 2:00 -6:00 pm	Norwegian Cookie Baking, Sons of Norway Hall
May 20, Noon	Scandinavian Style Show, Sons of Norway Hall
May 21, 10:00 am	Kaffee Hus, Sons of Norway Hall
May 21, 10:00 am	Lil Fisk Derby, North Harbor
September 14, 6:30 pm	Monthly Meeting, Sons of Norway Hall
Friday Nights, 7:00 pm	Bingo! Upstairs at the Sons of Norway Hall

The Harvest Potluck and Lefse Class

After several delays due to COVID-19, members were able to gather for the annual Harvest Potluck. The potluck, which normally takes place in the fall, was held this year on March 20, 2022. Prior to the dinner, members were invited to join in a lefse making class to try their hand at cooking this classic Norwegian flatbread. The potluck featured a variety of homemade dishes showcasing members skills at hunting, fishing, foraging, and gardening. Thank you to everyone who attended the dinner. Special thanks to Grant and Lila Trask for organizing the set up and preparing the lefse dough. Special thanks also to everyone who took the time to help teach the new hands how to cook lefse!



501(c)(3) Status

Hurra!

The Board of Directors is happy to announce the Petersburg Sons of Norway Hall has been Federally recognized as an official 501 c 3 nonprofit corporation! A small group of members have been working to gain this status as an ongoing attempt to put in place long range planning for the security and stability of maintaining our beloved Sons of Norway Hall Lodge building.

Sons of Norway International supported the move by local lodges to take official ownership of their respective properties and buildings by recusing all responsibility by the home office for physical facilities in locations scattered across the world. Our building is recognized as an Alaskan Historical Landmark so it only made sense to the Board to take the time to set up a separate organization to receive tax exemption benefits and tax-deductible contributions to support the ongoing maintenance of the facility. The Bojer Wikan Fishermen's Park and adjacent parking lot were also put under the auspice of the new corporation to secure tax benefits and make eligible for maintenance donations.

The membership structure of the new corporation gives all members in good standing with Sons of Norway International automatic membership in the local Petersburg Sons of Norway Hall corporation with the same Board of Directors leading the organization. The membership will continue to be notified per bylaws at regular meetings and/or through written communication as the Board takes action on issues and future planning.

The Board is excited about future challenges and wants you to know that your membership is more important now than ever! Donations will continue to be accepted by members and non-members alike and those donations are now tax exempt! Non-profit grant opportunities where membership numbers are noted will be a viable option as ongoing maintenance projects are recognized and planned for.

The Board thanks you for your loyal support during this process and is eager to share with you a bright future for the Petersburg Sons of Norway Hall!

Tusen Takk!

- Glo Wollen

List of Officers

Fedrelandet #2-23 Officers

President	Robert Larson
Vice President	Sally Dwyer
Secretary	Larine Dunham
Assistant Secreatry	Tina Buschmann
Financial Secretary	Rhoda Gilbert
Treasurer	Sharon Wikan
Social Director	Ambre Burrell
Cultural Director	Brandi Thynes
Trustee	Wendel Gilbert
Trustee	Tom Rockne
Trustee	Jim Swainson
Trustee	Troy Larson
Councelor	Glo Wollen
Greeter	Stephanie Thynes
Historian	Jill Williams
Sunshine Committee	Sylvia Larson
Newsletter Editor	Briana Drury

Petersburg Sons of Norway Hall Corporation Board Members

President	Robert Larson
Vice President	Sally Dwyer
Secretary	Larine Dunham
Treasurer	Rhoda Gilbert
Financial Secretary	Sharon Wikan
Head Trustee	Wendel Gilbert
Past President	Glorianne Wollen



Sunshine
Committee Chair
Sylvia Larson,
Historian Jill
Williams, and Rick
Williams
help clean up
Sandy Beach
Road during the
Lodge's annual
Adopt a Highway
clean up that
took place on
April 30, 2022

Editor's Note

First, I would just like to say how excited I am to be a part of the Petersburg Sons of Norway, and to have the opportunity, through this newsletter, to highlight our Lodge's many activities and the hard work of the folks who make those events possible.

I will be out and about doing my best to get photos of the upcoming Little Norway Festival for our next newsletter and our website, so if you see me be sure to smile!

As Robert mentioned, my husband and I will also be updating the website. So keep an eye out over the next couple of months for changes there too!

In other news, our Adopt-a-School officer position is currently vacant. So if you or someone you know is interested, please reach out to Robert Larson or any of the Lodge Officers.

If you have news, events, reminders, or photos you want included in future issues of **RUNSTONES** please get your submissions to me by the end of the month for inclusion in the following month's newsletter.

On a personal note, my husband and I bought a home here (the old Olsen place) sight unseen in August of 2019 after several years of searching for what I called "Mayberry on the water." We could not be more pleased with our choice! Every morning I wake up and look out my bedroom window at the Narrows and Bear Claw Mountain and I can't help but smile and revel in a deep sense of peace.

I am deeply grateful to live, not just in a breathtakingly beautiful setting, but in a community of welcoming, hardworking, and deeply caring people.

Happy Syttende Mai!

Briana Drury

Announcements and Reminders

- The next Monthly Meeting is September 14, 2022
- The Adopt-A-School officer position is vacant, a volunteer is needed