



# Nordkapen

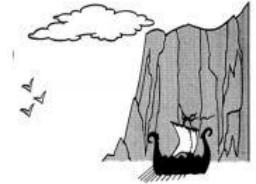
Nordkap Lodge 5-378 - Sons of Norway

The North Cape 71° 10' 21" North Latitude – The Top of Europe

A Congenial Society of Sons, Daughters and Friends of Norway

Organized August 10, 1929 – The first Sons of Norway Lodge in Michigan

<http://www.detroitnorwegians.com>



June/July/August 2018

Volume 88 Issue 4

## NORDKAP CALENDAR

**June 23**– Midsummer celebration, Farmington Heritage Park, 6 p.m.

**September 9** – Steak & Corn Roast, 1 p.m., the Swedish Club

**October 28** – Lodge meeting, 4 p.m., the Swedish Club

**November 10** – Scandinavian Market, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., the Finnish Center

**November 18** – Lodge meeting, 4 p.m., the Swedish Club

## 2018 Officers

### **Co-Presidents:**

Louise Giles & Haley Vingsness

**Vice President:** Mark Eelnurme

**Treasurer:** Marge Sorensen

**Secretary:** Mary Morehead

### **Financial &**

**Membership Secretary:**

Carol Jehle

**Scholarship Director & Store Director:**

Natalie Flessland Vaal

**Cultural Director & Sports & Recreation Director:**

Merete Stenersen

**Youth Director:**

Heather Vingsness

**Foundation Director:**

Derrick Hendricks

### **Greeters:**

Connie Hart & Cathy Johnson

**Historian:** Geir Gronstad

**Publicity Director:**

Louise Giles

**Editor & Counselor:** Bob Giles

### **Contact us:**

[Nordkap@detroitnorwegians.com](mailto:Nordkap@detroitnorwegians.com)

Photos by Bob Giles, unless otherwise indicated

## **June 23 Midsummer Fest at Heritage Park**

Nordkap Lodge will mark the beginning of summer with a festive Midsummer celebration beginning at 6 p.m. Saturday, June 23, at Heritage Park in Farmington Hills.

**Midsummer Eve, Sankthansaften or St. John's Eve in Norway**, celebrates the longest day of the year in the Northern Hemisphere, the summer solstice. The day has particular importance in Scandinavian countries, which endure long dark days of winter, with the sun barely rising above the horizon in their northernmost regions.

**Holding to Norsk traditions**, Nordkap members and guests will:

- Take a "Viking Walk" through the woods at 6 p.m.
- Roast hot dogs over our bonfire in the fire pit at 6:30.
- Burn a twig-and-straw witch for good fortune.
- Throw fish in the Cod Toss for distance and prizes.
- Play the Viking lawn game of Kubb, with blocks of wood.

**Heritage Park is at 24915 Farmington Road** south of 11 Mile. Meet at the Campfire Ring in front of the Nature Center.

**Please bring side dishes or desserts** to share and lawn chairs.

*Last year's Viking Hike and hot dogs*



Bob Giles Photo

Bob Giles Photo



## SUNSHINE UPDATES

Congratulations to **Russ and Debbie Simms** on the birth of their fourth grandchild, Cayden Micah Simms (above). Cayden is the son of former Nordkap Scholarship winner Justin Simms and his wife Colleen.

Best wishes to Nordkap member **Erik Vingsness**, who broke his ankle earlier this spring in a fall.

We sadly note the passing of:

- **Emil M., Berentsen**, age 99, of Trenton. Emil had been a Nordkap member for 48 years.
- **Sue A. Hendricks**, age 99, of Hartland, paternal grandmother of Nordkap member Derrick Hendricks. A remarkable, independent woman, Sue drove well into her 90s.
- **Eric C. Hojberg**, 84, of Indiana, Pa., and South Lyon, Mi. Eric was a Chrysler retiree and the son of Karl and Agnes Hojberg, who helped found Nordkap Lodge.

## GRATULERER MED DAGEN!

### June Birthdays

David Ray Bryhn, Sheryl Dalton, Ernest Halvorson, Jeff Hatteberg, Maureen Hatteberg, Samuel Trupiano, Edward Vingsness

### July Birthdays

Monica Dowhan, Michael Duffy, Arnold Hagen, Christina Hart, Mary Morehead, Ana Gjesdal Skidmore, Jeannine Sturgeon, Erik Thomassen, Erik Vingsness

### August Birthdays

Derrick Aardal, Louis Amundsen, Karin Arneson, Tove Bruning, Alexa Francis, Peggy Gjerpen, Geir Gronstad, Øystein Gjertsen Hekneby, Lynn Herche, Richard Hole, Marina Kozlova, Georgia Roed, Margaret Sorensen. Michele Thomassen, Olivia Vaal

## Vikings & Scots Pack Hefty 'Punch' at Gleaners



*Vikings ( right) face off against the Scots in fight against hunger.*

The “Vikings” of Nordkap Lodge and the Swedish Club went to “battle” with the Scots of the St. Andrew’s Society of Detroit in packing food for the needy. Knowing that the real “enemy” was hunger, however, the groups joined forces to sort over two-tons of food for distribution to soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, and other agencies throughout southeastern Michigan.

The groups gathered for the fight against hunger at the Warren distribution center of Gleaners Community Food Bank on Saturday, May 19. In two and a half hours, together they sorted some 4,366 pounds of packaged food collected the previous Saturday by U.S. Post Office carriers.

Vikings from Nordkap Lodge included Sheryl Dalton, Stacy Torgerson, Marina Kozlova, Haley Vingsness, Mary Morehead, Carmen Collins, and Bob and Louise Giles. Dan Nelson represented the Swedish Club.

*Viking ‘Shield Maiden’ Haley Vingsness sorts packaged food into cardboard bin.*



## ***Garage Sale Raises over \$400 for Nordkap Scholarships***

**Congratulations and a huge thank you to Carmen Collins and Mary Morehead (pictured right).**

The two-day garage sale they hosted at Mary's house to benefit the Nordkap Scholarship Fund raised \$420.40. Carmen presented a check for that amount to Treasurer Marge Sorensen for deposit into the scholarship account.

**Items for the sale were donated by Nordkap members** and stored in Mary's garage until the event on June 1 & 2. More than half of the items sold—a great success rate for any sale of this sort. Items that didn't sell were donated to a Royal Oak Boy Scout troop for their own garage sale, in effect extending the reach of our members' donations.

## ***Consider a Donation to Nordkap Scholarship Fund; Scholarship Applications Due June 30***

**Each year, Nordkap awards multiple scholarships** to qualified students seeking to further their education after high school. Our Nordkap Scholarship Fund is supported by fundraising activities that the lodge sponsors, by donations from our members, and by memorial gifts in honor of departed family members or friends.

**Our lodge recently made a gift to the fund in memory of Oddny Viik**, our late longstanding member. In response, Oddny's daughter wrote:

*We wish to extend a deep appreciation and thank you to the members of Nordkap Lodge 378. What a beautiful way to commemorate Oddny's life by making a donation in her name to Nordkap Scholarship Fund. Thank you for your thoughtfulness. --Eli Anita Steyskal*



**Oddny Viik**

**If you have not already contributed** goods or money to the fund, we ask you to consider making a gift. Please make it payable to Nordkap Lodge Scholarship Fund and mail to Natalie Vaal, 25718 Skye Court, Farmington Hills, MI 48336.

**Meanwhile, scholarship applications are due June 30** and are available at <http://www.detroitnorwegians.com/scholarship.html> or by contacting Natalie at [nordkap.scholarships@gmail.com](mailto:nordkap.scholarships@gmail.com). Applicants must:

- Be a lodge member or child/grandchild of a member for minimum 1 year prior to scholarship application submission
- Be 17-23 years of age
- Be working towards a bachelor's or associate's degree from an accredited educational institution
- Be in good standing at school, with a Grade Point Average of 2.0 or better



## **FROM THE ARCHIVES: Ninth in a Series by Geir Gronstad**

**This article is from *Norwegians in Michigan*, by Clifford Davidson**

*Technically trained engineers from Norway were widely welcomed to America, and between 1870 and 1950, some of the most distinguished came to Michigan to build bridges and tunnels, besides contributing to the motor car industry in Detroit.*

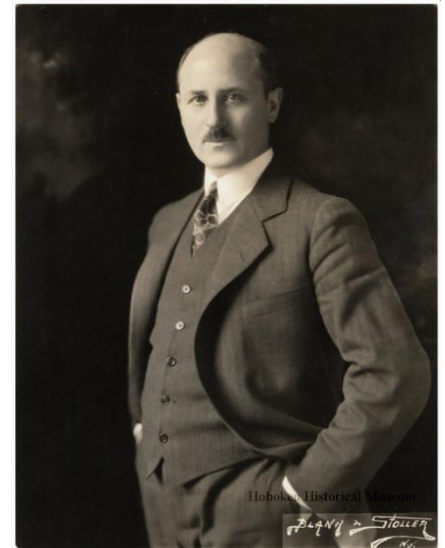
**Ingolf Erdal**, who had studied at Trondheim, was associated with a Chicago firm as chief engineer when, in 1938, he designed and built a bridge over the Saginaw River at Bay City that was given a prestigious award for incorporating the most advanced design for an elevated expressway. In this bridge, which had three spans, allowance was made to permit river traffic.

**Knud S. Riser**, from Christiania (Oslo), had previously worked in Detroit before assuming the leadership of the Grand Rapids Bridge Company in 1901. The Transactions of the American Society of Civil engineers for 1932 sited Riser as being the final authority in every aspect of design involving steel in bridges.

**L. E. Sangdahl**, also trained in Christiania, was responsible for the layout of the bridge that provided a connection between the city and Belle Isle in the Detroit River.

In 1891, a railroad tunnel between Michigan and Canada was opened at Port Huron – which was disadvantageous to Detroit business. Plans were made to build a tunnel between Detroit and Windsor. Following preliminary design, Norwegian engineer **Olaf Hoff** produced a novel concept that refined previous plans and made an underwater tunnel possible. The tunnel was to be set in a trench that had been dredged in the river, into which parallel giant steel tubes would be lowered. These were encased in concrete, and after water was removed, another layer was introduced inside them. The entire process, including the pumping of water from the sections of the tunnel and the installation of the ventilation system, was called ingenious when the Michigan Central rail tunnel between Detroit and Windsor was completed in 1910.

The busy Detroit-Windsor automotive tunnel – 5,137 feet in length – opened to traffic in 1930 after being under construction for two-and-one-half years. This project benefitted from Hoff's pioneer work as well as that of another Norwegian engineer, **Ole Singstad**, who had also been responsible for the design of the Holland Tunnel in New York. The actual engineer of the Detroit-Windsor tunnel was **Soren A. Thoresen**, likewise from Norway. Seven hundred thousand tons of clay had to be removed by men – sometimes called “sandhogs” – who were protected by a shield that was thirty-two feet in height. Progress was no more than ten feet per day. The resulting trench in the river was 2,454 feet in length. Into this, nine sections of heavy structural steel tubes, 250 feet in length, were moved in place by barges, then lowered, and finally connected together. With the expectation of heavy motorcar traffic, huge ventilation fans were required in the Detroit-Windsor tunnel. The work took from the summer of 1928 until November 1930, when the first vehicles were able to pass through the tunnel. It was the greatest achievement in underwater tunneling up to that time and considered an engineering marvel.



**Ole Singstad, Chief Engineer**

## **From Caribou Gravy to Seaweed: Arctic Cookbook Wins Award**

A book featuring food and recipes of the Saami and other indigenous people of the Arctic took top honors in this year's Gourmand International Cookbook Awards. *EALLU – Food, Knowledge and How We Have Thrived on the Margins* won in the Best Food Book of the Year category. Recipes include everything from ones in Arctic Canada, like *nili gaih* (dry meat) made by the Gwich'in and caribou meat gravy made by Inuit, to Saami techniques for smoking reindeer and detailed explanations of the seaweed and plants used by the Yup'ik and Chukchi people of Siberian Russia. See details:

<http://www.rcinet.ca/en/2018/06/02/arctic-indigenous-food-culture-takes-the-day-at-international-cookbook-awards/>



Bob Giles Photo



Bob Giles Photo

*'Nordkap Fjord' floods the Swedish Club's backyard, as the Constitution Day parade is rerouted indoors.*

## ***A Letter from Nordkap's Co-Presidents: Flood and Fire***

### **Constitution Day Celebration**

We had quite the Syttende Mai this year, with our own fjord! The Rouge River flooded the Swedish Club's backyard, and torrential rain kept the activities indoors, with the parade rerouted inside to circle through the kitchen. We did sell Fjord Water at the imports table, but it was from Norway, not the backyard! We also now have a credit card reader for the imports table.

A highlight this year was the presentation of an award by Honorary Norwegian Consul Dennis Flessland to Norwegian native Holger Ekanger. Ekanger (seen on the right in photo with Flessland) was honored for his service to Norway in 1986 as part of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). The award was organized by Norway's Defense Staff/Veteran Association. Ekanger now lives in Michigan and works at Macomb Community College as the Workforce and Continuing Education Director for Engineering and Advanced Technology.



Bob Giles Photo

Luckily our plan for the day included a Hnefatafl (Viking chess) tournament. Connie Hart and her family had many game boards available so we could learn while we dried off. The outdoor games, such as the Cod Toss, have been rescheduled for Midsummer. Thanks for the excellent turnout despite the forecast!



Bob Giles Photo

*Viking Chess tournament keeps us dry inside*

Co-President Haley will sadly not be attending Midsummer this year, as she will be in Norway. (Less Cod Toss competition for the rest of you!) She will be taking an immersive Norwegian language class at the University of Oslo. It is 3 hours per day, 5 days per week, for 6 weeks. The University of Oslo offers 4 levels of Norwegian language classes, corresponding to the 4 levels of the Norskprøve test. Sons of Norway offers a \$1,500 scholarship, the Oslo International Summer School Scholarship, ***(continued on next page)***

**(continued from previous page)** equivalent to the tuition cost of this course. The University of Oslo also offers a number of other summer classes, such as Norwegian art, Norwegian literature, Scandinavian politics, and arctic studies. If you're interested in learning more about it, Haley's happy to share once she returns.

### **Sons of Norway Summer Camp**

Do you have children ages 9-15? Consider enrolling them in the Sons of Norway's Fifth District summer camp, Masse Moro! The registration deadline is June 29<sup>th</sup>. Camp Masse Moro will be held at the Eau Claire County Youth Camp near Fall Creek, WI, from July 15-28, 2018. Campers will learn about Norwegian language, woodworking, painting, leather work, and chip carving. The camp cost \$800 for the two-week period, about \$60/day, and scholarships are available, especially for first-time campers.

### **Bi-Annual Fifth District Convention June 27-31**

The Fifth District Convention will be in La Crosse, WI, from June 27 -31. Three Nordkap Lodge members will be attending as delegates: Dennis Flessland, Mark Eelnurme, and Merete Stenersen-Eelnurme. The agenda includes district meetings, district committee meetings, and cultural events. Here are some of the things they'll be voting on at the District Convention:

- Requesting the Sons of Norway International Board to develop a local and district level leadership recognition program and provide regalia as recognition.
- Reinstating Golden Members (over age 65 with 30 years of membership)

### **Fifth District Updates Lodge Listings**

In the two years since the last Fifth District Convention, five Sons of Norway lodges in the district have disbanded or are in the process of doing so. This includes lodges near Duluth, MN; Rhineland, WI; Manitowoc, WI; Fort Wayne, IN; and Chicago, IL. Thankfully, all of these lodges except Fort Wayne, IN, are in areas well-served by other nearby lodges, some in the same city.



**Western Golf & Country Club blaze (WDIV-TV screenshot)**

Nordkap Board is currently researching alternate locations for our Christmas party, and we'll keep you posted.

**Med vennlig hilsen (with best regards),  
Haley Vingsness and Louise Giles**

### **New Venue Needed for Christmas Party**

Redford's Western Golf and Country Club, where we typically host our Christmas dinner, has burned down in a tragic fire on June 1<sup>st</sup>. The 92-year-old clubhouse building has been deemed a total loss. Thankfully no one was in the club when it caught fire, and there were no injuries. As of this publication, the Redford Township Fire Department had yet to release details about the source of the fire. Your

## ***Nordkap Member Coaches Robotic Team to Success***

**Editor's Note:** *Robotics is not something we normally follow in this newsletter, but Nordkap Youth Director **Heather Vingsness** teaches high school physics and also coaches a winning robotics team. She and her team just completed an exciting year of multiple wins in the hard-fought robotics world. Here is Heather's account of their stunning success.*

**The CC Shambots robotics team**, coached by Nordkap member Heather Vingsness, had a record-breaking year.

**We had a hard-won underdog 1st place and semifinal victories** at our divisional tournaments. We have qualified for the Michigan State Championship each of our three years participating in FIRST Robotics, but this year we came away with something special. Partnering with back-to-back World Champions 2767 Stryke Force and 217 Thunder Chickens, the 5907 CC Shambots swept their division at the State Champion and made it to the semifinal matches for the Michigan State Championship.

**We ended the season 29th of the 508 powerhouse Michigan teams** and earned a coveted spot at the World Championships at Cobo Hall. We represented ourselves well against tough teams. Our 33 students made up a small fraction of the 15,000 robotics students present, and were just a drop in the crowd of 40,000 people that flooded the bleachers of Cobo Hall for the four-day World Championship event.

At the event, we had the opportunity to compete against Willem Hahr's team, the Greenhills Lawnmowers. [Willem is the son of Nordkap member **Sven Hahr**.] At the World Championship, we met the Norwegian teams and had a photo op.



***CC Shambots robotics team***

**Next year, we look forward to building our program** even stronger. As a third-year team with three blue, winners banners and two World Championship appearances, we are poised for success. We are excited to attend offseason events and start the year early training our students in technical skills. The FIRST Robotics team is graduating five seniors and is actively recruiting new members, sponsors, and mentors for next year.

## ***Swedish Club Refrigerator Named and Toasted***

Nordkap gave the Swedish Club refrigerator a Norwegian name, and we toasted it with a Norwegian drink. Norm Kirsch affixed the refrigerator magnet with the name “Iskaldt” (“Freezing” or “Ice Cold”) above the right door of the appliance at our April meeting. All in attendance joined Norm in raising glasses of Linie aquavit to a long life for the new fridge. Minors joined in with a non-alcoholic beverage.



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