

S M Å S N A K K S O N S O F N O R W A Y

Volume 45 Issue 19 NOVEMBER 2019



SCANDINAVIAN JULEFEST SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8 from 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.



As we close out our lodge year, please plan to join us at our annual Julfest at a new location and with an outstanding buffet menu. River City Brewing Company is Jacksonville's premier riverfront restaurant on the Southbank of Jacksonville with the city skyline and St. Johns River as a beautiful backdrop. The address is 835 Museum Circle. This location will be used for one of our events during the District 3 Convention so you can see and enjoy it early along with other friends. We will be in the Bridge Room on the second floor. An elevator is available and parking is free. Your reservation with check made payable to Sons of Norway is due COB Wednesday, Dec. 4.

MENU

Carving Stations: Featuring 2 Meat Selections served with appropriate sauces, dinner rolls and butter.

Breakfast Station: Sausage & Bacon, Scrambled Eggs with Cheddar Cheese, Roasted Breakfast Potatoes, Muffins, Pastries & Assorted Breads

Salad Station: House Salad - cucumbers, tomatoes & croutons. Dressings - Ranch & Balsamic Vinaigrette. Fresh Fruit and Berries.

Lunch Station: Chef's Choice of Entree, Assorted Seasonal Vegetables.

Dessert Station: Key Lime Pie, New York Style Cheesecake and Chocolate Torte

Beverages: Preset Water. Unlimited Brewed Coffee, assorted Chilled Juices & Soda Products available upon demand.

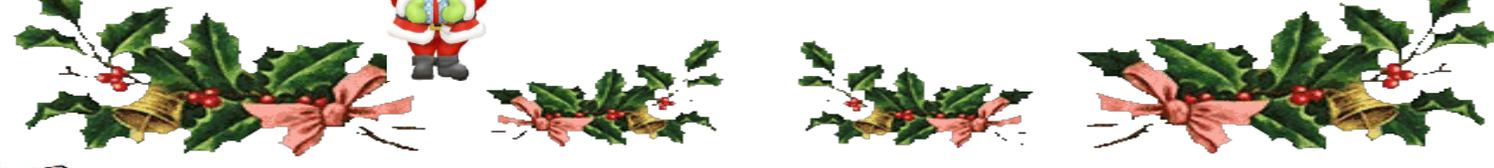
Bar: Cash Bar. Call Liquor, House Brewed Beer, Bottled Beer, House Red & White Wine

Appearance by Santa Claus

Holiday Music Performed by our very own and Talented Maj-Britt & Louis Corbin

Christmas Viking Raffle

St. Lucia Procession



RESERVATION FORM FOR SCANDINAVIAN JULEFEST

NAMES _____

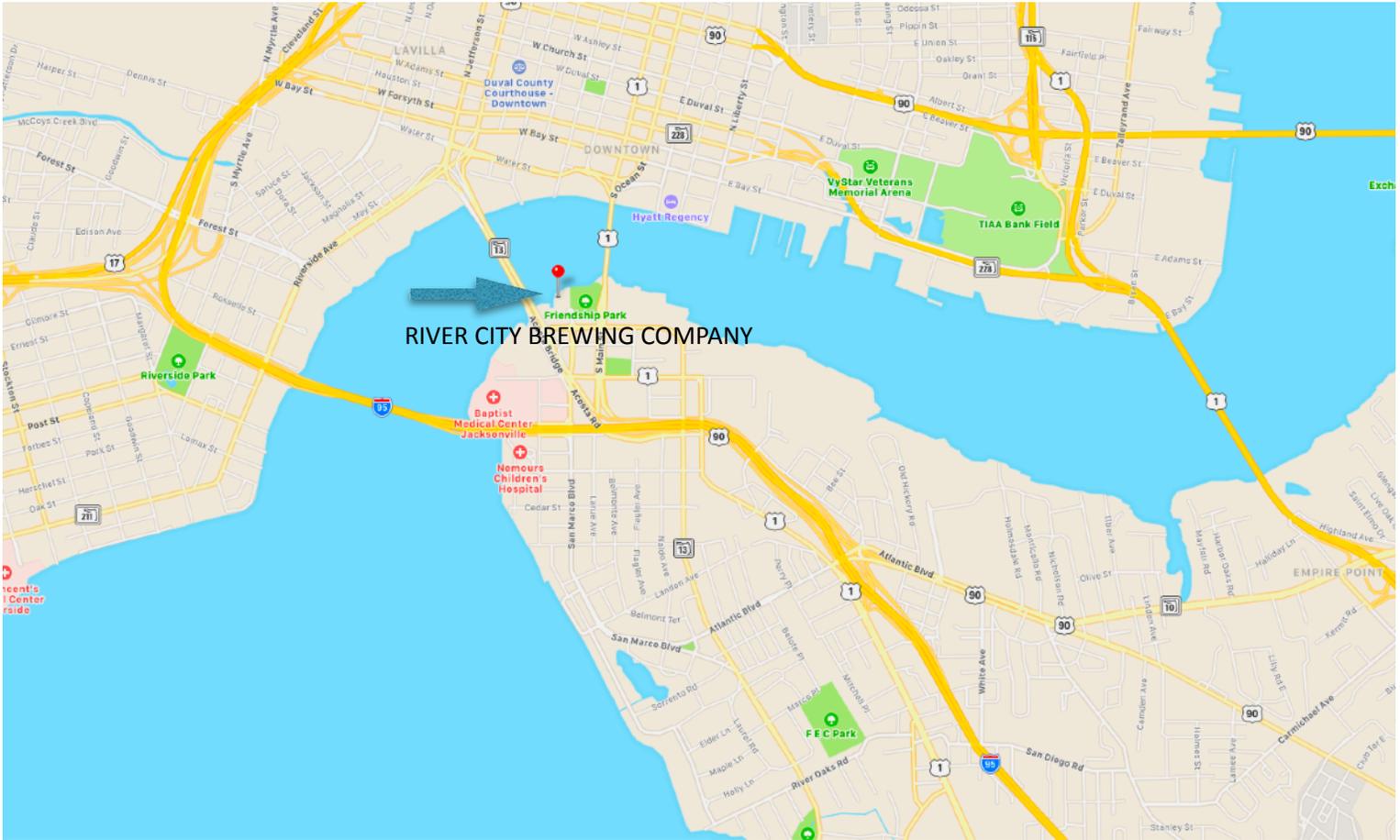
TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

AMOUNT ENCLOSED \$ _____ (\$39 PER PERSON) CHILDREN 12 AND YOUNGER PAY \$19.50 _____

Detach this form, complete and return with a check made payable to Sons of Norway.

Mail to Mr. Kent Larson, 4013 Moresburg Court East, Jacksonville, FL 32257

If you have any questions please contact Kent at 904-614-7111 or email kmlmal@bellsouth.net



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS GRATULERER MED DAGEN

- 3 Glenn Michael Banschbach
- 10 Mariann Hygren-Shae Gunhild
- 14 Katherine Barket
- 18 Allan J. Knutsen
- 30 Juliana Bockus



Starting our 2020 Lodge Year with a Bang!

Annual Lodge Strategic Planning Session
Continue D3 Convention Planning
Saturday, January 11 from 9:30 – noon

Lodge Business Meeting with Luncheon to follow
Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Faith Center, Shepherd of the Woods, Lakeshore
location, 6595 Columbia Park Court, Jacksonville, FL 32258.

Incoming/outgoing board members and the
convention planning team should plan to attend the
morning session. All members are welcome. Continental
breakfast at 9 a.m.

The luncheon fare includes sandwiches, chips,
assorted salads, dessert and beverage. Donation \$12.

RSVP to Kent Larson at 904-614-7111 or
kmlmal@bellsouth.net.

2019 LEIF ERIKSON REGATTA



Tapper Viking



Hagar



Falcon



Gulf Stream's Falcon and Jacksonville's Hagar sail for the buoy.



Regatta Committee Boat with Eugene & Stewart



"I was pleased to be on the boats. Eugene captained us to allow me to get on the (new) Hagar head (and) sail! It was a great venue, and such a joy to see you all again.

Marianne Gruber (guest rower)

LEIF ERIKSON REGATTA A ROARING SUCCESS

The hearty Vikings of Florida, some “wannabees” and three replica Viking boats were quite the sight on the St. Johns River in Palatka Nov. 16 as the Leif Erikson regatta unfolded. Vehicles parked on the street running along the riverfront had drivers and cameras focused on the excitement. The *Palatka Daily News* had carried a front-page story complete with photos of the boats. Even the coolness and slight rain did not dampen spirits. As usual, competition was fierce between our lodge boats Hagar and Tapper Viking and Falcon, from the Gulfstream Lodge in Port St. Lucie. So, who won the race? You have to keep reading the story.

The weekend fun began late Friday afternoon with a hospitality/reception at the Hampton Inn. About 35 people from six lodges across Florida, including Gateway, joined in the fellowship and conversation. Of course, Vikings love to eat, so Kent Larson and his capable committee of Connie Lorey, Anna Large and Barbara Dworzecka had assorted appetizers, sloppy joes, holiday cookies, pickled herring and other goodies. President Marty did a great job bartending and of course, Eugene Yerkes, the SON International Brew Master, had the famous Hagar beer front and center.

Saturday morning the group assembled for coffee, hot chocolate and donuts at the St. Johns River Center across from the hotel and facing the St. Johns River.

At 10 a.m., the captains convened for their briefing while “wannabee” rowers were sprinkled along the dock as the boats were readied for the regatta competition. Off they went, with complete crews in the three boats to fight it out on the river. In the first heat, Hagar took first place, with Tapper Viking second. In the second heat, first place went to Falcon and 2nd place to Hagar. In the final race, Hagar was first and Falcon took second. The rowers disembarked feeling a bit “drippy” but exhilarated by the experience.

From the river to the restaurant, the group (about 45) trekked to Corky Bells for a celebration lunch and more fellowship.

Judging from the comments, everyone had a great time; the venue was perfect for such an event; the Friday evening reception was perfect (that’s why people stayed until midnight); the hotel staff and rooms were wonderful; the weather needed improving, but there’s always next year.

Stay tuned for regatta plans in 2020.

By Marci Larson



2019 Leif Erikson Regatta First Place Winners



2019 Leif Erikson Regatta Second Place Winners

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE BESKJED FRA PRESIDENTEN



Velkommen Members and Friends,

Our adventure in Palatka for our Viking Regatta was a great success. The hospitality Friday evening at the Hampton was great fun with about 35 attendees from our lodge and our sister lodges around Florida. We ate wonderful appetizers that Kent Larson prepared and coordinated; we sat around several hours and "chatted up a storm." We had members from five lodges and an international board member as well. Saturday was cool and overcast.

We had three boats: Hagar and Tapper Viking from our lodge, and Falcon from Gulfstream Lodge (many thanks Frank and Ingrid Hammen). We also had an abundance of rowers. Many were first time rowers having seen the front-page article in the *Palatka Daily News* so they wanted the thrill of being a Viking on the water. Then it was on to Corky Bells for a great seafood lunch with the river as a backdrop and 45 people attending. We added three new members.

Coming December 8 is our annual Jul Fest so if you have not yet reserved your spot, please send your bucks to Kent Larson as soon as possible. We have a new setting at River City Brewing Company located on the south shore of the St. Johns River. Here is a chance to dress up and bring out the bunads and folk dresses. We have a wonderful buffet and an afternoon of fun with family and friends. Bill

and Anna Large will have lovely items in our popular Viking auction and Santa should be appearing. If we have children attending we will do the Santa Lucia. To reserve, contact Kent at 614-7111 or mail in the reservation form in this newsletter.

Now onto 2020, which will be a biggie for our lodge as we plan and implement the District 3 Convention June 5-8. It is quite an honor that we can host this convention in the 125th year of Sons of Norway. Many helping hands will be needed. Cheryl Drabek is our volunteer coordinator so when she asks you to help, please say yes. We have administrative tasks, cookie baking, creative needs, sit-down jobs, hospitality jobs, Viking boat jobs, etc., so no matter what your interest we have something for you. Please remember this is a LODGE function and involves all of us.

We have our strategic planning meeting Jan. 11 followed by our business meeting and luncheon at the Faith Center at the Lakeshore location for SOTW. This is when we set up our programs and events for the year. This is open to all members, but we really appreciate having the incoming board attend. If you have ideas for events please come and participate. Remember this is YOUR lodge and its better when we all contribute even if it's just an idea.

Tusen Takk and God Jul. I hope to see everyone Dec. 8.

Marty Iverson
Lodge President
Gateway to Florida 3-541

2019 Lodge Calendar (Subject to Change)

December 2 Convention Planning Meeting
December 8 Scandinavian JuleFest from 1 - 4 p.m., River City Brewing Company, 835 Museum Circle, Jacksonville, 32207

2020 Lodge Calendar

January 2 Newsletter Deadline for January
Jan. 11 Strategic Planning Meeting & Business Meeting @ SOTW Lakeshore
February 21 Lodge Dinner and Meeting



Gateway to Florida Lodge 3-541 Lodge Vice President & Membership Secretary Kent Larson welcomes new members William Townsend, & Don & Donna Deis.

FRA PRESIDENT 3 DISTRICT



As we are close to the end of 2019 and thinking about programing and membership in 2020, it can't be said enough that membership is the life blood of a lodge. Strongly encourage every member who has children or grandchildren to become heritage members, a membership level that is FREE to age 16. Kids will bring in their

parents, parents will join as members, those children will bring their friends, the trick is to get them into a lodge with a program to attract and then to keep bringing them back with attractions.

With the Christmas holidays coming upon us let's think about giving those grown children a membership into SON and show them what their heritage looks like with the Viking Magazine and lodge newsletters. Mentoring new leaders, promoting new ideas, giving new life to a lodge!!

New members join because they want to belong to something meaningful—and they want to know that their involvement is important. Help them feel valued and appreciated from day one.

These are some ideas for getting your new members engaged:

Assign a mentor. Mentors can answer questions, serve as a familiar face and help connect new members and answer questions about the lodge or get the answers for them.

Have a new-member ceremony.

Welcome new members with a new member welcome ceremony. (Found in the guide for leadership at sofn.com)

It's an opportunity to provide them with a better understanding about your lodge and learn about their skills, what they're looking for in the lodge by way of programs and interests. Members only get a "first time member" initiation once—so make it memorable. Help other members get to know the new member by including details about their life and interests in your introduction. This is also a good opportunity to show your appreciation to the sponsoring member.

Ask for their feedback. After new members are inducted, you might consider asking some of them to meet casually with some board members. A new person's input can provide a new perspective.

Show them they are needed. Assigning a new member to a committee can also help to engage special talents and interests. Alternatively, giving new members a simple task connected to a meeting or project can help them feel like part of the team. If they miss a meeting, follow up and let them know you noticed.

The holiday season reminds me to think about the people in my life. My family, my friends, and my Brothers and Sisters of Sons of Norway. They give me the opportunity to grow and succeed. As we close out 2019, I'd like to thank our members for making this a District I am proud to be part of.

I wish you all a very happy and healthy holiday season, Gledelig jul og glade nytt år.

Fraternally,
Kathy Dollymore
3D President



GATEWAY TO FLORIDA LODGE HONORS

2003	District 3 Lodge of the Year
2006	World of Nations First Place/Best Country
2007	District 3 Lodge of the Year, Membership Lodge of the Year, Founders Award for Membership Achievement, President's Gold Merit Award for Fraternal Excellence
2008	Founders Award for Membership Achievement, President's Gold Merit Award for Fraternal Excellence, Grand Overall Winner Jacksonville Boat Light Parade, First Place Palm Valley Boat Light Parade, Membership Lodge of the Year
2009	District 3 Lodge of the Year, Founders Award for Membership Achievement, President's Gold Merit Award for Fraternal Excellence, Third District Golden Newsletter Award for Medium Size Lodge Division, Grand Prize Best Overall St. Augustine Holiday Regatta of Lights, Winner of Fall Blitz Recruitment Contest in Large Lodge Category, Organized Club Winner Jacksonville Light Parade
2010	District 3 Lodge of the Year, Founders Award for Membership Achievement, President's Gold Merit Award for Fraternal Excellence, President's Special Recognition Gold, First Place Palm Valley Boat Light Parade, Organized Club Winner Jacksonville Light Parade, First Place Whitey's Fish Camp Boat Light Parade
2011	Founders Award for Membership Achievement, President's Gold Merit Award for Fraternal Excellence, President's Special Recognition Gold Award, Newsletter Honorable Mention
2014	Certificate of Recognition Newsletter Contest Third Place Category A, Gold Merit Award, Large Lodge of the Year
2016	First Place Category A Newsletter Contest

THE BIRTH OF AN INDUSTRY: SKIING IN THE U.S.

Skiing has deep roots in Norway, where rock carvings of ancient skiers date back as far as 4000 BC. Originally used for transportation across snowy and mountainous terrain, skiing for recreation gained momentum in Norway in the 1800s with the onset of organized tours, clubs and competitions.



In 1872, Norwegian immigrants in New Hampshire started North America's first ski club. A few years later, a Norwegian immigrant in Minnesota became North America's first ski manufacturer. But it was not until after World War II that recreational skiing became widely popularized in the United States.

The rapid growth of the U.S. ski industry after WWII was largely due to the 10th Mountain Division, a specialized U.S. military unit made up of elite skiers and mountaineers, including many Scandinavians. After fighting Nazis in the snowy mountains of Italy, veterans of the unit went on to teach skiing and establish dozens of ski areas in the U.S. Meanwhile, military surplus stores were flooded with low-cost skis, poles and boots, making the sport more accessible to newcomers than ever before.

FROM OLD NORSE TO MODERN ENGLISH

Scandinavia's influence is visible in many ways throughout our Sons of Norway communities, from our sometimes-controversial culinary traditions to our hearty work ethic and mischievous sense of humor. But even in parts of North America without strong ties to Norwegian heritage, there is still one area where the Norse influence has made its way to the mainstream: the English language. Historically speaking, languages like Latin, French and German get most of the credit for providing the origins of modern English—but Old Norse played an important role too, and it can still be seen today. The following are just a few of the many words inherited from the Vikings that we use every day:

axle – from öxull (axis)

bug – from búkr (insect within tree trunks) blunder – from blundrai (to stumble blindly) bylaw – from bylög (village law)

glitter – from glitra (to glitter)

haggle – from haggan (to chop)

happy – from happ (good fortune / fate / chance)

likely – from líkligr (likely)

thrift – from þríftr (prosperity)

Thursday – from Þorsdagr (Thor's day)

ugly – from uggligr (repulsive)

odd – from oddi (third number / casting vote) rotten – from rotinn (decayed)

stammer – from stemma (to hinder / dam up)

window – from vindauga ("wind eye")

CHRISTMAS EVE CELEBRATIONS IN NORWAY

As 5 p.m. strikes on December 24th in Norway, the church bells are ringing, families are gathering around the dinner table and Christmas medleys are playing in the background. Here are a few fun facts about how Christmas is celebrated in Norway.

Christmas Eve

Christmas Eve is the biggest day of celebration in Norway, bigger than Christmas Day itself. Houses and yards are cleaned and tidied up. The Christmas Tree is decorated with, among other ornaments, juletrekurv, or pleated Christmas hearts made out of colored paper. The hearts can also be filled with small ginger cookies, raisins, caramels or other treats.

Christmas Eve is also the day that the Julenisse, the Norwegian Santa Claus, makes his rounds to bring gifts to good children.

Little Christmas Eve

Less known in North America is the tradition of lillejulaften, or Little Christmas Eve. Lillejulaften is the day before Christmas Eve—that is to say December 23rd. It is celebrated in different ways, but one can have a little dinner, cookies, gløgg- drinking and maybe a small present that the children can open. Lillejulaften is a good way to prolong Christmas celebrations.



From all of us at Sons of Norway, Merry Christmas!



VIKING BOATS BOOSTER CLUB

BOOSTER NAME	DATE EXPIRES
ADMIRALS (\$100)	
Eugene & Gail Yerkes	October 2020
Marci & Kent Larson	December 2019
Stewart Svendsen	October 2020
Roger & Margaret Winslow	December 2019
Roy Hauge	April 2020
CAPTAINS (\$50)	
Bonnie Hardman	December 2019
Marty Iverson	January 2020
SEAMEN (\$25)	
Po Chu Svendsen	October 2020
Clint & Laura Sage	December 2019

WANT TO BE A VIKING BOATS BOOSTER?

Here's what you do!

In order to help defray maintenance and storage costs for our two replica Viking boats, the lodge has started a booster program similar to our newsletter booster program. It's very simple with three levels of annual giving: Admiral - \$100, Captain - \$50, and Seaman - \$25

Hagar and Tapper Viking have been a lodge "center piece" for many years. They have enhanced our visibility for Sons of Norway in North Florida as we participate in varied light parades, the annual Opening of the Beaches parade, zone regattas, festivals and farmers markets.

There are many expenses related to the maintenance, insurance, registration and storage of the Viking boats and trailers. Your generosity is greatly appreciated to help offset the costs. Your name will be listed in the newsletter as a Viking Boats Booster.

Sports Director Eugene Yerkes can answer questions and accept your donation either in cash or check made payable to Gateway to Florida SON Lodge. Mail to 1742 Lord Byron Lane, Jacksonville, FL, 32223. Eugene can be reached at eugene.yerkes@att.net or 904-268-9924.

SUNSHINE NEWS

Cheryl Drabek, Co-Cultural Director and Sunshine Committee, has mailed birthday cards to members wishing them a happy birthday in December.

To report sunshine news please contact Cheryl Drabek at ceejay611@gmail.com, 904-860-3174 or Anna-Rita Perkins at annarita@bellsouth.net, 904-396-7692.

WHERE DID THE JULENISSE COME FROM AND WHY DO WE BRING A FIR TREE INTO THE LIVING ROOM?

Christmas tree

There are several theories about how this tradition came to Norway, but the very first Christmas tree that was observed in this country was supposedly at Nes ironworks owned by Jacob Aall in the 1840s. This is not a Norwegian or Scandinavian tradition, but it probably came from Protestant Germany. It was not until 1870-1880 that it became commonplace in schoolhouses for the teachers to decorate a tree.

The smell of fresh trees and the green color was, however, part of the festival in older peasant culture. You washed the floors with lye and sand, and to create a party atmosphere, you topped it with finely chopped spruce or juniper that you sprinkled on the floor.

Julenissen



Julenissen [the Christmas pixie/Santa] is a figure made up of several different traditions. As a supernatural creature, he has many names. Fjøsningen [the barn pixie] was a little fellow; he often had a beard and was clad in gray, and he lived on farms. At Christmas you needed to leave

porridge or a splash of beer in the barn so that he would not pull pranks the rest of the year. If he did not receive these gifts, he might make knots in the horse's mane or do something to hurt the cows.

The Anglo-American tradition originates from St. Nicolas of Europe who is a well-known saint. During Advent, he distributed gifts to those who had been kind, and punished the bad ones. And then we have the Coca-Cola Santa, the advertising version of St. Nicolas from the interwar period.

The julenissen [Christmas pixie] as we know it often has several of these characteristics.

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Asst. Treasurer	Pete Hopkins
Co-Social Director	Connie Lorey
Co-Social Director	Barbara Dworzeka
Co-Cultural Director	Anna Large
Co-Cultural Director	Ellen Wallwork
Sports Director	Eugene Yerkes
Asst. Sports Director:	Rich Brew
Asst. Sports Director:	Eric Nord
Asst. Sports Director:	Tammy Mayer
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Trustee III (4 yrs):	Peter Evenson
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Auditor	Peter Evenson
Communications Director:	Marci Larson
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Tubfrim:	JoAnn Hareide Banschbach
Insurance Rep:	Ann Krause
Volunteer Coordinator:	Marci Larson
Volunteer	Karen Madrigal

BOOSTER NAME	DATE EXPIRES	
Pete & Launi Evenson	December	2019
Bonnie Hardman	February	2020
Roy Hauge	December	2021
Jay Vogeley	October	2020
Ellen Wallwork	May	2020
Roger & Margaret Winslow	December	2022

SMÅ SNAKK BOOSTER CLUB MEMBERS

Your donation is a voluntary act. The Små Snakk booster fee is \$20. This donation helps pay for publication and distribution of the Små Snakk newsletter. Make your check payable to Sons of Norway and mail to Gail Yerkes, Editor. Tusen takk for your support.

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GOD JUL OG GODT NYTT ÅR!



The mission of the Sons of Norway is to promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic countries, and to provide quality insurance and financial products to its members.
 Sons of Norway misjon er å fremme og ivareta norske kulturtradisjoner, å feire vårt forhold til andre nordiske land og samtidig tilby de beste forsikrings og finansprodukter til våre medlemmer.