# THE NOR-BU NEWS

**March, 2023** **Lodge web address www.norbulodge.org** Lake Telemark, NJ
Volume 19 issue 3

## NOR-BU LODGE SUPPORTS A DEMENTIA FRIENDLY SOCIETY

B.U.L Cabin
Lake Telemark, New Jersey
Pen and Ink Sketch by Don Tripp '94

**The mission of Sons of Norway** is to promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway and to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic countries, and to provide quality insurance and financial products to its members.

President ..... Audun Gythfeldt……. 570-646-3817
Vice President . Chuck Webber…. … .....973-347-6164
Secretary ..... Debbie Dirgo……....973-383-4070
Financial Secy . Grethe Zarnitz…….. ..908-269-5015
Counselor……..Joe Zarnitz ……. .....908-269-5015
Social Director Elizabeth Nilsen…… .908-283-1295
Cultural Director Deb Landvik-Larsen... .973-442-4642
Treasurer ..... Dawn Green……..……650-906-8520
Editor……..Anne-Lise Meisner…… 973-663-1070
P.O. Box 317, Hibernia, NJ 07842
**annemeisner41@gmail.com**

**Rental of the cabin can be made by contacting Barbara Samuelsen at 973-586-8454**
**Checks for rentals made out to BUL, Inc**

MEETINGS HELD AT BUL CABIN
21 Oslo Dr., Lake Telemark, NJ, **ONLY FOR GPS NOT MAIL**

***Deadline for submission of materials for publication is the 20th of the month prior. PLEASE NOTE!***

***Nor-Bu is on Facebook at* Nor-Bu Lodge.**

*Check our website. www.norbulodge.org*

## Coming Events

**March 5th, 2:00pm**
Sunday Dinner canceled

**March ,18th 6:30pm**
Irish Night
Corned Beef Dinner
see ad inside

**April 15th, 5:00pm (new time)**
Business meeting
**Alzheimer's presentation 6:30pm**
Refreshments will be served

**April 18-23 all day**
Bunad classes
see ad inside

**April 30th 1:00pm**
Spring Food Sale
**April 30th 2:00pm**
Zone Scholarship Dinner
See ad next column

## *Zone Scholarship Dinner*
## *April 30th, 2:00pm*
## *Nor-Bu Lodge*

*This is a ZONE fundraiser*
*Reservations required contact*
*Grethe Zarnitz at 973-975-9524*
*or email gzarnitz@yahoo.com*

*MENU*
*Pork Roast, asparagus, roasted potatoes, salald, dessert & coffee*
*Cost $18.00 BYOB*

# Fra presidenten

## March 2023 MESSAGE

Sons of Norway is going through changes, radical changes you may say, reason being the need to change from a delegate model of governance to a Board model. Sons of Norway being an insurance company, did not have much choice but to make the change since we are closely monitored by the regulating authorities in Minneapolis, who wanted a change. While understanding the need for a change, I was critical to how it was done, especially the lack of information given to the members. But the delegates approved the change, and the International Board is now the highest decision-making authority. All well and good. But more needed to be done since the organization has been losing money both in 2020 and 2021. Various measures to improve the financial situation were implemented. I told you last month of the reduction in Headquarters staff. While I dislike losing staff members that have been of great help to me and many of our member over the years, I do understand the need to cut costs. It appears that the measures taken is having a positive effect. A few days ago, I received an email from the Home Office telling District Leaders that an early review of the financials for 2022 indicates a profit of $3.941 million, assets of $233.3 million resulting in a surplus of $13.5 million. The organization explains surplus to be a measure of solvency equal to owner's equity in accounting terms. The surplus had been reduced to a crucial level over the past several years, and required action to restore it to a level that is required by the regulators. Further measures are being taken to support growth and stability in the surplus level. It is also encouraging to see that the organization has returned to profitability when the previous two years resulted in losses of $1.797 million and $ 3.611 million respectably.

I have criticized our leaders for the way things were handled in the past. In all fairness therefore, I am pleased to see that the financial operation appears to be headed the right way. Many of us joined Sons of Norway not for the insurance, but because of our connection with Norway and therefore, the fraternal part of the organization was the most important part for us. However, I do understand that we must be financially healthy as an organization to be able to have a meaningful fraternal program. The International Board have indicated that changes are forthcoming. It appears that more of the work is going to be loaded on the districts, but let us see what they come up with. I do have my concerns though since the resources of the districts are not unlimited, but as I said, let us see what the plans are.

For Nor-Bu, we have to be ready to take on whatever changes are coming. A very positive, and welcome development is that we have new and younger members taking important positions on our Board of Directors. New blood on the Board is a must for us to survive as a lodge, and I certainly welcome this development, hoping it is a trend that will continue.

Fraternally,

**Audun**

# March Third District President's Message

March is here, spring is around the corner and the Third District Board will be having our spring board meeting in person. I look forward to hear what all the Directors and Committees have done since our October meeting as each will be making their reports on their progress. I know that they have all been very busy as I have attended many of their zoom meetings over the past months.

One example is The Third District Youth Camp which will be held at Camp Koinonia from July 16th to the 22nd. Please get your applications in to camp director Tom Bakos as soon as possible so he knows how many children to expect for camp. Camp applications and detailed information about camp has been emailed to each Secretary and Editor. If we do not have enough children enrolled in camp by the beginning of April, camp will have to be canceled for this year and that is something I do not want to have to do, as the youth are the future of our organization. We have to remember we no longer have Land of the Vikings anymore and the flexibility of owning our own campsite, so we are beholding to another organization to rent their facility, therefore campers can't wait to sign up for camp until the last minute as had been done in the past.

Continuing with my highlighting the members of the Third District Board, I would like to introduce you to Bill Browning Zone 7 Director. Zone 7 includes lodges in Georgia, North and South Carolina and Virginia and with that said here is what Bill has to say. Although new to the Board, Bill has been a very active Board member and never says no when asked to help.

Bill was born in Brooklyn and grew up in Brooklyn (Bay Ridge and Flatbush), Queens (Bayside) and spent his high school years on Long Island, attending Smithtown Central High School. Bill moved to Georgia in 1991 while working for Barnes and Noble in the book company's B. Dalton division. Within a few years he was working for NationsBank and then Bank of America as a fraud analyst.

In 2013 Bill, while starting to become interested in exploring his Norwegian heritage, had joined the Vennekretsen lodge in Atlanta. By 2015 he had begun organizing the Trondheim lodge in Roswell, GA. In January 2017, the two lodges, Vennekretsen and Trondheim, merged and Bill was elected president of the lodge. By membership vote, the lodge name was changed to Norskevenner the following month.

Bill has had a lot of previous experience with group building and event staging. In Roswell he worked as the special events director for Barrington Hall, an historic house museum, staging several very successful Viking and Civil War reenactments. He also planned and managed Barrington Hall's history lecture series and cooking class series. Currently Bill is organizing the nation-wide book club for Sons of Norway. He is also the Zone 7 Director and president of Norskevenner Lodge in Roswell, GA.

In 2022 Bill began holding Zoom meetings for the lodge presidents and vice-presidents in Zone 7 and plans to continue doing so, on a quarterly basis, throughout 2023. These meetings are meant to be not only information sharing meetings but also brainstorming sessions open to any subject of importance at the lodge level, i.e.: membership growth, fundraising, community outreach, etc.

In 2023 Bill also plans on at least one Zoom meeting with the Zone 7 lodge newsletter editors. He will also be contacting the other Zone Directors in District 3 to see if there is any interest in holding regular (quarterly) information sharing meetings and will be looking at the possibility of forming another two or three satellite lodges in Zone 7. Under long term projects, Bill wants to set up a scholarship fund in Zone 7.

Thank you Bill, as you can see the District Board has very talented officers. Until next month I wish you all a great month of March.

Fraternally,
Stephen Helmold

## LANGUAGE CLASSES

Here is the class schedule :
Thursday March 2, 6:30 PM. Beginner class at the Lodge.
Thursday March 9, 6:30 PM. Advanced class on Zoom.
Thursday March 16, 6:30 PM. Beginner class at the Lodge.
Thursday March 23, 6:30 PM. Advanced class on zoom.
Thursday March 30, 6:30 PM. Beginner class at the Lodge.

Class starts at 6:30 PM. It lasts until 8:00 - 8:30 PM .
The Beginner Class meets at the Lodge in the upstairs room. The Advanced Class meets on zoom and the zoom invite goes out the day before (we try).All are invited to either class. Beginners are free to listen in on the Advanced Class.
For more information or to sign up for classes, please contact Kari Brescher at 973-627-6334

small world Travel

**92 W Shawnee Tr.**
**Wharton NJ 07885**
***973-663-1070***
**anne@smallworld-travel.com**

Vacation planning is in full swing. Cruises are booking up for 2023. and 2024.
Whatever vacation you may have in mind.
We can help. Give us a call.

Anne-Lise Meisner,
owner

# IRISH NIGHT

**At Nor-Bu Lodge**

March 18th 6:30pm

Corned Beef and cabbage by
Ken Arntzen $18.00 **BYOB**

Reservations a must call Kari Brescher **973-627-6334**
or email at karifbrescher@gmail

Kevin and Elve Defeo will be entertaining us
with some Irish minstrel songs and parodies

# BUNAD CLASS

Are you interested in making adjustments to your **Bunad?**

Do you need a new bunad blouse?

We are having a **Bunad** sewing class at **Nor-Bu lodge**. The dates are Tuesday, April 18th to Sunday April 23rd. Please contact Debbie Landvik Larsen at 201-317-3459 or by email at djfrmnj@aol.com for more information.

**GOD BEDRING**

**We would like to send get well wishes**
to Henny Henriksen, Peter Johanson, Roy Selland,
Hessie Kjekstad, Stuart Anderson,
Ellen Tonnessen, and
Maude Ceruso

**NOTIFY Your Sunshine Lady** , Sister Evelyn Hammaren, **973-584-8249 ASAP** if you know of anyone who is sick, or if you wish to extend congratulations to someone, For whatever reason It only takes a minute to call.

## GRATULERER MED DAGEN

Holly Midkiff-Weber
Laura Treutlein
Deborah Landvik-Larsen
Ilene Jacobus
Marcus Gokan
Scott Tonnesen
Barbara Samuelsen
Hilary Walaas
Bill Nostrand
Robert Anderson
Marie Ross
Maria Trujillo
Sigrid Bjelland
Lars E Roerkoll
Gunvor Satra
Debra Arntzen
Karl Peter Thorsen
Richard I Tonnesen
Edward Bakos
Thomas P Bakos
Danielle Osvold
Ellen Crane
Peter Johanson
Vincent Basile
Karen frelinghuysen

## Sons of Norway 3rd District

Golf and Social Outing June 2-4, 2023
Sunny Hill Resort and Golf Course
352 Sunny Hill Road, Greenville, NY 12083
518-634-7642 www.sunnyhill.com

Paul Kornbrekke Sports Director – longship50@aol.com
718-356-8395

I am trying to get the District Golf Outing started again. Covid really caused us to miss several years. This is opened to all, not only golfers. Sunny Hill has many activities for all. This is an all-inclusive weekend with all meals, Just for Fun Rides, golf greens, daytime activities, evening entertainment and use of resort amenities. This weekend also lists the Craft and Jewelry Show.

Prices are for 2 adults/2 nights $897 - $1012 depending on building. Plus 8% tax, gratuities (5% check or cash discount) They require a $75 per person deposit

Please let me know if you are interested. It will be great to get together with old friends and make new ones. You can get in touch with Sunny Hill to make your reservations, when you do let me know how many and who will be playing golf.

# SPRING FOOD SALE
## NOR-BU LODGE
## APRIL 30TH, 1:00PM

We will have Kransekake, nøkkelost, norvegia, gjetost, snøfrisk, kaviar, lefse, solo, fishballs, tyttebær, surkål and gaffelbiter, makrel I tomat. Hopefully there will be chocolates, firkløver, melke sjokolade, droning, Freia selskap sjokolade, mokkabønner, marzipanbrød & seigman.

*The folks that help bring you the newsletter.*

## Booster Club Members

Norman & Nancy Ambjor.....3/2023
Stuart Anderson.....6/2025
Karen Ausland..... 5/2023
Dorothy Furst Bahnatka.....7/2023
Kari & Frank Brescher.....10/2023
Anne-Lise Henriksen Carew.....3/2023
Artie Crane.....4/2023
Ellen Crane..... 4/2023
Jeff & Debbie Dirgo.....9/2024
Kim Dwyer.....5/2023
Marit Fosstveit.....11/2023
Dawn Green..... 12/2023
Audun Gythfeldt.....5/2023
Norman Halls.....8/2024
Barbara Hanenberg.....5/2023
Ellen Hantho.....3/2025
Vega & Arthur Hendela.....4/2024
Stan & Hessie Kjekstad.....2/2024
Erik Lafko..... 4/2023
Deborah Landvik-Larsen.....11/2023
Joe & Barbara Lehner.....8/2023
Bjorg Lema..... 11/2023
Gerda Lindstrom.....3/2023
William Nostrand.....3/2023
Karen Oren.....2/2025
Charly Pedersen.....4/2024
Judy & Eugene Randazzo.....12/2023
Ray and Carol Schutz.....9/2023
Joanne Schaper.....12/2023
Barbara & Roy Selland.....2/2025
Kevin Smith.....2/2025
Mari Svensen .....2/2023
Angie Thompson.....1/2024
Austin Thompson.....1/2024
Joanne Thompson.....1/2024
Robert & Mary Thompson.....1/2024
Gwyn Anne Thompson.....1/2024
Mary Ellen Thompson.....1/2024
Garth Eric Thompson.....1/2024
Gindy Dale Thompson.....1/2024
Garon Keith Thompson.....1/2024
Gayle Elaine Thompson.....1/2024
Heather Thomson.....1/2024
Jason Thompson.....1/2024
Laura Thompson..... 1/2024
Thelma Thompson.....1/2024
Barbara & Karl Peter Thorsen.....4/2024
Richard & Ellen Tonnesen.....12/2023
Ruth Weaver.....4/2023

**You to can be a booster too! Adding your name to the booster list helps to pay for mailing and printing. $ 10.00 donation to the Treasurer will put you on the list! Make Check out to Nor-Bu Lodge.**

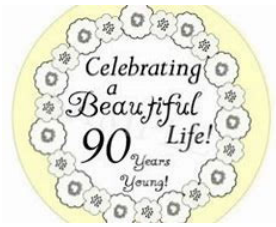
**Mail to:**
**Nor-Bu Lodge P.O. Box 317, Hibernia, NJ 07842**

## Memorial Boosters

| | |
|---|---|
| Margaret Gythfeldt | October 2024 |
| Daniel Lema | October 2023 |
| Arne Landvik-Larsen | December 2023 |
| Arnt & Solveig Walaas | April 2028 |
| Louise Scantlebury | June 2024 |
| Ruth & Ivar Skavnes | December 2023 |
| Eileen Anderson | June 2025 |
| Evelyn & Oscar Tonnesen | December 2023 |
| Arne & Ingeborg Strom-Henriksen | June 2023 |
| Kari Liseth | October 2025 |
| Irma Lafko | September 2024 |
| Glenn Green | December 2023 |

We are celebrating our 90 plus members for March

William Nostrand 93
Gunvor Satra 91



# 2023 Nor-Bu Lodge Calendar

**March**

| | |
|---|---|
| Irish Night, Corned Beef Dinner | Saturday, March 18th at 6:30pm |

**April**

| | |
|---|---|
| Zone Meeting | Sunday, April 2nd at 2:00pm Noreg Lodge |
| Business Meeting, Alzheimer's Program | Saturday, April 15th at 5:00pm **(time change)** |
| Bunad Sewing Class | Tuesday-Sunday April 18-23, 2023 |
| Spring Food Sale | Sunday April 30th from 1:00 to 200pm |
| 3rd Zone Scholarship Dinner "Pork Roast" | Sunday April 30th at 2:00pm |

**May**

| | |
|---|---|
| Morris County Historical Society | Sunday, May 7th at 2:00 to 5:00pm |
| 17 May Celebration | Saturday, May 20th at 6:30pm |
| Bus to Brooklyn Parade | Sunday, May 21st at 11:30am |
| Picnic after Parade | Sunday, May 21st at 5:00pm |

**June**

| | |
|---|---|
| Golf and Social Outing | Weekend June 2-4, 2023, Greenville, NY |
| St. Hans Bonfire | Friday, June 23rd at dusk |

**September**

| | |
|---|---|
| Sunday Dinner | Sunday, September 3rd, at 2:00pm |
| Business meeting | Saturday, September 16th at 6:30pm |
| Zone meeting | Sunday, September 17th at 2:00pm Bernt Balchen Lodge |

**October**

| | |
|---|---|
| Zone Memorial Service | Sunday, October 1st at 2:00pm Nansen/Fredheim Lodges |
| Cultural night program | Saturday, October 14th at 6:30pm **(date change)** |
| Alzheimer's Walk-a-thon | Saturday, October 21st at 9:00am |

**November**

| | |
|---|---|
| Tricky Tray | Sunday, November 12th at 2:00pm |
| Business meeting | Saturday, November 18th at 6:30pm |

**December**

| | |
|---|---|
| Food Sale | Sunday, December 3rd at 1pm |
| Annual Pork Dinner | Sunday, December 3rd at 2pm |
| Julefest | Saturday, December 16th at 6:30pm |
| Children's Julefest | TBD |

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

508 Green Pond Road • Rockaway, NJ 07866
973-625-0110
HTLchurch@gmail.com
www.rockawaylutheran.org

**Sunday Worship Sunday School 11 am**
**Pastor Jack DiMatteo**
Communion is celebrated every Sunday.
The 2nd Sunday of each month is our Contemporary Service.

**Morris County Historical Society**
**Immigration Celebration**
**Nor-Bu Lodge May 1st, 12:00-4:00PM**

**Vendors and crafts and displays of Norwegian culture**
Check flyer in April newsletter

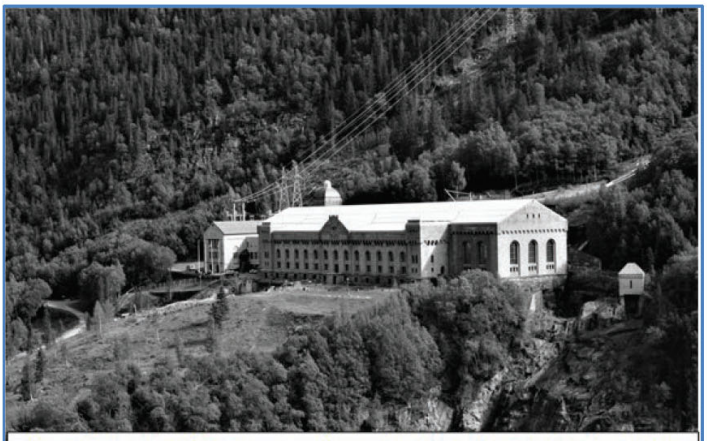
# 2023: The Eightieth Anniversary of Operation Gunnerside

**By**
**Jeff Dirgo – Nor-Bu Lodge 3-427**

This year 2023, marks the Eightieth Anniversary of one of the greatest sabotage raids in all of World War II. British Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill, called the Operation Gunnerside raid that occurred in February 1943 as, "The most successful act of sabotage in all of World War II." This operation is part of our history as Norwegians and it took place in Vemork, Norway on the night of 27-28 February 1943.

When Nazi Germany invaded and annexed Norway on 9 April 1940, it marked a dark day in Norwegian history, yet it brought out the best in Norwegians and the Norway World War II Resistance. Germany initially wanted access to the North Sea for their Kriegsmarine Navy and U-Boats and access to neutral Sweden's iron ore through the port or Narvik in northern Norway.

Following the German annexation, interest quickly shifted to a hydro-electric plant about 100 miles west of Oslo near the town of Rjukan. In 1911, Norsk Hydro built, in Vemork, what was then the largest hydroelectric generating station in the world. The plant, three miles west of Rjukan, was constructed in the style of a medieval fortress atop a 700-foot outcropping of vertical rock. Three sides plunged deep into one of the most spectacular gorges in Norway. The mountains rose another thousand feet or more above the plant so steep that for six-months of the year sun never reached the bottom of the gorge over the Måna river.



Norsk Hydro August 2017. Now part of the Norwegian Industrial Workers Museum.

With the hydrogen plant that was added in 1927 the main purpose of the facility was to fix nitrogen through the electrolysis of water to produce fertilizer at the agricultural nitrogen facility in nearby Rjukan. The electrolysis process required vast amounts of water and electricity both of which Norway had in abundance at Vemork. It was discovered at Vemork that a by-product of this operation was the production of small quantities of Deuterium Oxide ($D_2O$), also known as Heavy Water.

Heavy water played an important role in nuclear reactors to stimulate atomic fission and the production of Plutonium a critical component for the development of an atomic bomb. Germany demanded a ten-fold increase in the production of Heavy Water to over 3,000 pounds per year.

Since the discovery of the neutron in 1932 and later Nuclear Fission in December 1938 the concept of creating an atomic bomb was being discussed and researched in Germany, Great Britain, and the United States. By April 1939, Germany Atomic Bomb Research began as Unranverein (Uranium Club). In England they began research under the name Tube Alloys in Early 1940, and the United States Manhattan project officially began in August 1942, although Roosevelt began some action in October 1939 because of Albert Einstein's letter.

With Germany occupying Norway and having access to the only facility in the world producing heavy water as an important catalyst in the process it was critical to the Allies to neutralize and destroy the heavy water plant. Norsk Hydro produced up to 300 pounds of heavy water annually during the 1930s,

and when Germany showed tremendous interest in obtaining it, sales by Norsk Hydro were being strictly controlled. With Germany now controlling Norway they ordered ten-fold increase in production to 3,000 pounds annually. Further alarm spread to England when it was learned in May 1941, that Germany ordered a further three-fold increase to 10,000 pounds annually. Per the German Uranium Club, Uranverein, five -tons of heavy water were needed to construct a fissionable reactor in Germany.

British Special Operations Executive (SOE) was formed in mid-July 1940 with the purpose to conduct espionage, sabotage, and reconnaissance in occupied Europe and Southeast Asia against the Axis powers. SOE was the intelligence arm of the British government that later evolved to MI6 today. Nazi Germany referred to this organization as Gangster Warfare. In England it was referred to as the Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare. In all, it was a highly secretive operation with many Norwegian Resistance Fighters escaping to Great Britain via the Shetland Bus. The Bus was a nickname for a clandestine special operations group of disguised fishing boats and other vessels transiting the North Sea mostly at night in the winter months with no navigation lights to avoid German Naval ships and aircraft. Then as trained fighters looking to return to their homeland to disrupt and fight the Nazi's.

Among these resistance fighters were Leif Tronstad (1903-1945), a professor of chemistry at the Norwegian Institute of Technology. Tronstad conducted domestic resistance for a year before fleeing Norway in 1942 for England as German secret police were closing in on him. In England, Tronstad shared intelligence with SOE on the German interest in Heavy Water at the Vemork plant that he had helped to design. Beginning in 1943 Tronstad planned the development of Operation Gunnerside. Although Tronstad planned the operation he was never part of the commando unit that conducted the raid, but he did provide critical details about the facility at Vemork that lead to the success of the operation.

Joachim Rønneberg (1919-2018), the last surviving member of the Gunnerside team escaped Norway 10-months after the German invasion along with 10 friends. Through a friend in England, he was recruited to join the SOE team. Then a 22-year-old Norwegian Army First Lieutenant and resistance fighter Rønneberg was chosen to lead the Gunnerside Operation.

An advance team of four Norwegian commando's led by Jens-Anton Poulsson, with Knut Haugland, Claus Helberg and Arne Kjelstrup, parachuted onto Norway's Hardangervidda plateau in October 1942 operating under the code name Grouse.

The Hardangervidda is a 3,000 to 6,000-foot-high plateau, the largest on the European continent, and covers over 3,500 square miles. It is subject to artic conditions and extreme winter temperatures of minus 30° Celsius. Visibility can be near zero in heavy snow conditions and wind chills can kill in hours. When Germany invaded Norway they went around the plateau, and when it was necessary to enter it, they only ventured a half-day into it, to ensure they'd be off the plateau by nightfall.

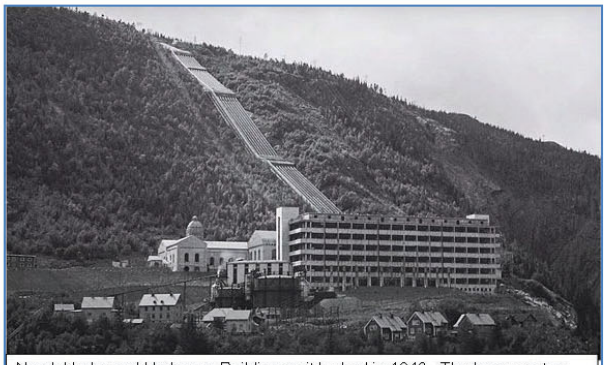
The Grouse team was the lead party to guide the Operation Freshman commando team and scout a landing site to make an assault on the heavy water plant. On 17 November 1942, SOE launched Operation Freshman as a team of saboteurs using two Horsa gliders over Norway to land and attack Norsk Hydro and the heavy water plant. Operation Freshman was a complete failure with both gliders and a Halifax Bomber tow plane crashing in heavy weather, extreme icing, and communication failures.

The Allies didn't learn the fate of Operation Freshmen until 11 December when a message was intercepted stating German forces reported two gliders and one aircraft had been forced down in November and the crews were engaged, interrogated, and shot under Hitler's Commando Orders. Thirty-seven saboteurs, pilots and crews died in the crash or were killed by German forces.

Three months later and after two major weather delays, at 7:00 PM on 16 February 1943, Gunnerside was given the go ahead to proceed and took off from RAF Tempsford in England. . A leaner team of Norwegian Special Forces Commando's lead by Joachim Rønneberg (Team Leader), Birger Strømsheim, Fredrik Kayser, Hans Storhaug, Kasper Idland, and Knut Haukelid parachuted onto the

Hardangervidda into a five-day blizzard, landing twenty miles northeast of their target and forty miles from their objective.

The Grouse team now code-named Swallow survived on the Vidda for four months and rendezvoused with Gunnerside on 22 February. Hauling food, equipment, and munitions they arrived at a cabin above Norsk Hydro on 27 February. Rønneberg briefed the team on the operation, and they voted on how to best make the attack.



Norsk Hydro ard Hydrogen Building as it looked in 1943. The heavy water basement was at the lower left of the 7-story hydrogen plant

The German's had significantly increased security and coverage throughout Vemork and Rjukan after the failed Freshman raid including machine gun nests, land mines, increased troops, and searchlights.

At 8:00 PM on 27 February the assault began. Gunnerside skied in white camouflage ski suits towards the plant. At a checkpoint of their choosing, they shed their white camouflage and cross-country skis for the British uniforms they wore underneath. British uniforms were chosen by SOE to protect Norwegian civilians from retaliation should they be captured, as the German's would take this as a military operation rather than civilian sabotage. The team descended into the gorge to the Måna river 650-feet below. The loud hum of the hydroelectric plant and generators helped mask their sounds. Crossing over an ice bridge they began their climb to a railway line that was used to move equipment to the plant. The line was likely to be less guarded area. The nine-member team (two, 2-man demolition teams and a 5-man guard team) scaled over 600 feet of snow and ice covered cliffs to the rail line. Reaching the line by 11:00 PM, they waited until 12:30 AM, 28 February to allow the changing of the German guards at mid-night to settle into their watch shift.

Using bolt cutters, they cut the locked chain on the rail gate and the covering team moved into position. Rønneberg and Kayser, demolition team one moved past the German Guard Barracks along with Strømsheim and Idland, demolition team two. Team one, finding doors to the first floor and basement locked on the Hydrogen building they sought out a cable duct between floors that Leif Tronstad told them existed to gain access to the plant. The duct for pipes and power was large enough for a man to crawl through. Rønneberg led the way pulling his rucksack of explosives behind him, Kayser following close behind. Once over the basement they lowered themselves down and broke into the high concentration room startling the Norwegian workman and night watchman and identifying themselves as British soldiers.

Operation Gunnerside Team. Joachim Rønneberg, Team Leader seated right. Leif Tronstad, seated center.

Rønneberg began setting 20 nitrocellulose charges of Nobel 808 around the heavy water electrolysis units while Kayser kept guard on the workers. A sudden crash of breaking glass from Strømsheim and Idland trying to break in startled everyone. Rønneberg and Strømsheim elected to change the fuse from 120-seconds to 30-seconds and get out. They ordered the watchman and worker to go upstairs and lay down but keep their mouths open so not to blow their eardrums out. Rønneberg had severely cut his hand and purposely dropped a bloodied glove and a British paratrooper's badge as a calling card to be left behind for the Germans to find.

While both demolition teams ran from the plant there was a faint thud of an explosion at 1:15 AM, shielded by the reinforced concrete walls of the plant, no alarms were set off. Jens-Anton Poulsson on the guard team turned to Knut Haukelid asking, "is that what we came here for?" No shots were ever fired in the operation, as the team escaped back down the rail line and back down the cliffs they'd scaled earlier. Fresh snow was now starting to fall. Siren's started to shrill as the team reached the gorge, but searchlights hadn't come on. The German's had to get the Norwegian electrician to show them where the searchlight switch was after they'd been installed after the failed raid three months earlier. Back at the checkpoint Gunnerside redonned their white camouflage suits and skis and began climbing back to the top of the Vestfjord Valley and the Hardangervidda.

At the plant Alf Larsen, Chief Engineer at Vemork, was one of the first to survey the damage. He heard the explosion at 1:15 AM. The outside steel door had been blown off its hinges, the walls were scorched, and the high concentration room lay in ruins, and what remained of the heavy water swirled down the drains in the floor. The German heavy water project had been set back about eight months.

About five-hours after the raid the team was now at the top of the Vidda, Rønneberg called for a break as the sun was starting to come up. The Gunnerside team split up going in different directions to Rjukan to mix in with the civilian population, Oslo, and into the Vidda. Five team members including Rønneberg began skiing toward neutral Sweden, 280 miles away over 18 days and nights while avoiding any population centers, all while being pursued by German Troops. Rønneberg years later called it, "the best cross-country skiing of my life."

During interrogation at Vemork witnesses said there were three men in British uniforms who spoke flawless Norwegian. Nazi General Nikolaus von Falkenhorst, Head of the German Military Forces called the operation, "A most splendid coup. This was clearly a military operation and revenge killings would not change those facts." He ordered citizens of Rjukan released who were marked for execution by Nazi Reichskommissar for Norway, Josef Terboven.

Falkenhorst berated the German guards who were bundled against the Norwegian winter, "You look like a lot of Father Christmases. You can't see or hear saboteurs with all those clothes on! When you have a chest of jewels, you don't walk around it. You plant yourself on the lid with a weapon!" Falkenhorst left Vemork in a rage.

BBC monitoring picked up a Swedish radio broadcast on 1 March 1943 stating, "*…perpetrated against Norsk Hydro installations. Damages are said to have been extensive but at one point where the attack was made destruction was said to be complete. The attack was performed by three Norwegian speaking soldiers in British uniforms now being searched for.*"

Beginning 16 November 1943, the United States Army Air Corps sent 176, B-17 and B-24 bombers into Vemork and Rjukan on daylight bombing raids. Over 700 bombs were dropped with 37% hitting within 1,000' feet of the target. A number of these aircraft were diverted from other bombing runs due to weather conditions and bomb crews did not have fully accurate maps of the Rjukan/Vemork area. 29.5 tons of bombs hit the nitrate plant in Rjukan and only 2.5 tons hit Norsk Hydro damaging the top two floors of the Hydrogen building. Twenty-one Norwegian civilians perished in the bombing raid. Germany was convinced further raids could result in serious damage. They decided to abandon Vemork and move their remaining stock of heavy water to Germany.

In February 1944, Germany prepared to move rail cars loaded with barrels of heavy water to the ferry D/F Hydro at the port in Mæl about 7-miles from Rjukan for transport across Lake Tinnsjø one of Norway's largest and deepest lakes. Knut Haukelid was the only commando in the Rjukan area, and he recruited two locals to help sabotage the ferry. The night of 20 February 1944 they planted approximately 18-pounds of Nobel 808 explosive in the keel of the ferry armed with two alarm clock fuses to explode on the lake. The entire heavy water cargo was lost at a depth of over 1,400-feet in Lake Tinnsjø. The ferry sunk in less than five-minutes. Sixteen Norwegian and five German lives were lost in the sinking

Norwegian Industrial Workers Museum Heavy Water Cellar was excavated below the ruins of the old hydrogen plant. The cellar opened 18 June 2022 for tours at Vemork, Norway

Kurt Diebner, former leader of the German atomic bomb program said in his memoirs after the war that, "he believed he would have enough heavy water by the end of 1943 for an atomic reactor." He said, he would not have stopped there. "The obliteration of deuterium production in Norway is one of the major reasons Germany never obtained one." In 2016 at age 96 Joachim Rønneberg stated, "You have to fight for your freedom and for peace. You have to fight for it every day, to keep it. It's like a glass boat, it's easy to break. It's easy to lose."

❖ ❖ ❖

## *DRAXTEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND*

The DRAXTEN MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND is established in memory and in honor of Bersvend Draxten, the first President of Sons of Norway, by his daughter Nina Draxten.

This fund is established through the Sons of Norway Foundation for the purpose of providing scholarships to individuals under the age of 19. These scholarships are for youth who attend qualified camps or schools that teach and promote an understanding and appreciation of the Norwegian language, dance, history and culture.

These funds shall never exceed an award a student receives separately from his or her zone or local lodge and will be determined by the number of applications and funds available.

If you would like to be considered for one of these awards, please complete the form below and return to Karen Olsen-Helmold (address below) by JUNE 15.

Please include a short essay explaining why you want to go to Third District Youth Camp at LOV.

Name_____ Date of Birth _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Address _____

_____

Telephone # _____

Scholarship amount Received $_____

From Whom (Lodge, Zone or District) _____

Camp or School Attending _____

Please return this completed application and your essay no later than **June 1** to:

**Karen Olsen-Helmold**
**183 Evergreen Ave.**
**Bethpage, NY 11714**
**516 935 0751**

# Sons of Norway Youth Camp

## KOINONIA
## Highland Lake, NY

***July 16-22, 2023 for ages 8 to 16***

Activities include:

| | |
|---|---|
| Bonfire | Canoeing |
| Rosemaling | Language class |
| Hardanger | Kubb & more |

The completed application form, along with a $50 registration fee (deposit), must be sent to Thomas Bakos ASAP. The check should be made payable to District Lodge #3 Sons of Norway. You will receive camp materials including a health form when your application is received. $450 Sons of Norway members, $500 Non-members

Send to: Thomas Bakos
Sons of Norway Youth Camp Director
8 Bingham Drive
Marlboro, NJ 07746
tcbaconbits@optonline.net

**APPLICATION FOR**
**SONS OF NORWAY THIRD DISTRICT YOUTH CAMP**
**@KOINONIA, HIGHLAND LAKE, NY**
***July 16-22, 2023 8- to-16 year olds***

Please Print
Name_____Male_____Female____

Birth Date_____Age at camp_____ _____

Address_____ _____

City_____State_____Zip Code_____

Camper
E-mail_____Camper
Cell Phone_____

Parent/Guardian_____

Parent/Guardian
Phone Number_____Parent/Guardian
E-mail_____

Member Sponsor_____

Relationship to camper _____

Lodge of Sponsor's Membership _____

Emergency Contact (Name, phone and relationship) _____

Telephone: Day_____Evening_____

**Please identify roommate preference here:** _____

The completed application form, along with a $50 registration fee (deposit), must be sent to Thomas Bakos ASAP. The check should be made payable to District Lodge #3 Sons of Norway. You will receive camp materials including health form when your application is received.

Camp tuition is $450 per camper. The $400 balance is to be sent to **Thomas Bakos at the below address NO LATER than June 1.** Deposits are non-refundable if a cancellation is made after **June 15**. Any camper not related (child or grandchild) to a Sons of Norway member will pay $500. Non-members will be registered when members have been placed.

The SON Third District offers a limited number of partial camperships to those who qualify. To apply for this campership, the camper must write a full page essay stating why s/he wants to attend our camp. Completed essays must be submitted to the District 3 Secretary, Mrs. Karen Olsen-Helmold, 183 Evergreen Ave., Bethpage, NY 11714 no later than **June 1, 2023.**

## WELCOME TO SONS OF NORWAY YOUTH CAMP

### KOINONIA, HIGHLAND LAKE, NY

**JULY 16-22, 2023**

**CAMP PERIODS**: Arrival time is Sunday July 16 between 2 and 4 PM. Campers arriving before 2 PM will be the parent's responsibility. Transportation to and from camp is the parent's responsibility.

**REGISTRATION**: Upon arrival, parents should register their child at the main desk. Spending money to be used at the camp store and for additional activities must be left at this time. Money not spent will be returned at checkout time. Also, any medications must be left with the nurse.

**DEPARTURE**: Saturday July18 between **10 AM and NOON**. All campers must check out before leaving the premises. A parent should accompany the camper to the checkout table. At this time, all medication, insurance forms, and any remaining money will be returned. On Saturday, July 22, we must be out of the building by 1PM so that they can get ready for their next guests.

**BEDDING:** Campers must bring a sleeping bag or sheets for a twin bed, pillow(s), and towel: both for bath and for the pool. Also, each camper should bring a flashlight.

**TOILET ARTICLES**: Soap, wash clothes, towels, toothbrush, toothpaste, hair brush, combs, etc. Girls, please bring your own feminine hygiene products.

**MEDICAL SUPERVISION:** It is the parent's responsibility to ensure that their child is in good physical codition and can participate in an active camp program. The medical form must be completed appropriately, signed, and presented at the registration desk. Bring it with you when you bring the camper. No camper will be accepted into camp without the medical form filled out completely.
In the past, sick children have been sent to camp. This is this unfair to other campers and the staff.

**CLOTHING**: Your camper should participate in selecting and packing his/her clothing and equipment. Camp is a place good to wear old clothing. Bring clothes for cool evenings, and hot afternoons, and rainy days. Please put your child's name on all equipment and clothing. There are no laundry facilities so bring a dirty clothes bag.

**SWIMMING EQUIPMENT**: Bring one or two bathing suits, something to wear on the camper's feet walking to and from the pool, and a beach towel; also, an old pair of shoes to wear in the canoe. Also have something to hold glasses in place if they must be worn while canoeing.

**OPTIONAL EQUIPMENT**: Musical instruments, costumes, and music for the talent show, writing paper, envelopes, post cards, and **stamps.** Electronic equipment is discouraged and will only be allowed during free time. We are not responsible for anything that the camper brings to camp.

**BED WETTING:** Bed wetting sometimes happens in camp and is handled in a very casual non-embarrassing manner. Let us know on the parent information sheet if your camper is inclined to wet. If so, send a plastic sheet to protect the mattress and also an extra set of sheets.

**VISITORS AND CALLS:** There are no visiting days during the regular camp period. If an emergency arises and you must call or come to the camp call Thomas Bakos at 570-461-3500 at LOV. Campers are not permitted to call home and parents are not permitted to call campers except in an emergency.

**MAIL:** If you would like to write a letter to your child, mail a card or a short note the Friday before the camper arrives so they will be assured of receiving mail during the first days of camp. **The camp address is as follows: Kiononia, Sons of Norway Youth Camp, 165 Lakeview Drive Rd, Highland Lake, NY 12743**
Mail and packages received after the camp period ends may not be returned nor forwarded.