

EDMONDS LODGE 2-130 SONS OF NORWAY



July 7st 2020 * Nyhetseksplasjon
Lodge Picnic Postponed!

Fra President

I hope folks had a chance to celebrate the 4th in a quiet, reflective way this year.

More news from your president's **nyhetseksplasjoner** (news blasts) during these pandemic restrictive times, informing you of current events and activities with our Lodge and SON. Edmonds Lodge is planning for a regular, full size Newsletter later this summer and would like to include stories from our members on how they have/are coping with the pandemic and limited social activities. Please send your short stories to EdmondsLodgeEditor@gmail.com. Any member of our lodge may submit a story or letter to the editor for inclusion in the newsletter. The editor has the right to accept or decline submissions. We are looking for positive thoughts and ideas.

This month I am highlighting the activities of our Historian and Webmaster Donna Stewart.



Donna Stewart - member since September 2018.

Hello to all my friends and fellow members. I have missed seeing your smiley faces each month, though I know this time apart is the right choice during the pandemic. We all hoped to see each other for summer activities, but it looks like we will be tucked away a bit longer. I was asked to share what I am doing to keep busy as I stay at home. I can sum it up into these categories: my job, my yard, myself and community.

My job: I work at PricewaterhouseCoopers as an operations director, and I have been working from home for the last four years. I normally travel a few times a year, so that has stopped, but the work has not slowed. In fact, the hours have been heavy during this time. We are encouraged to take "staycations" so we don't burn out.

My home: Beautification of the yard is so fulfilling and hard work. We are creating an oasis of flowers and fountains so, as we continue to stay at home, we will have a wonderful place to rest and be creative. We take it one bit at a

time, since yard work can be a bit back breaking. We are also exploring old recipes of our family's Polish and Norwegian heritage (lefse in July anyone?).

Myself and community: This one is the most important. It is my intention be a positive force of change to end systematic racism in our communities. I know there is a lot of work to be done and so I find something each day I can do to support change. Some days it is giving to organizations at the front lines of the issues, some days it is educating myself (Sons of Norway CEO Chris Pinkerton sent some good suggestions - <https://www.sofn.com/minneapolis/>), and some days it is engaging in conversations with my family and friends about how we can be a part of change together.



My hope is that when we emerge from our homes, my time in isolation will not have been in vain. I miss you all and look forward to seeing you once this pandemic has subsided.

CANCELLATION OF DISTRICT 2 EVENTS: Recovery in Washington and elsewhere in our country and world continues to be slow or even backsliding, especially with efforts to reopen social activities. With that in mind both the District 2 Steak Fry at Trollhaugen and the Golf Tournament in Leavenworth have just been cancelled. It is hoped we can schedule some District 2 social activity later in the fall.

And what is happening in Edmonds? Snohomish County remains in Phase 2 of recovery. Governor Inslee has recently placed a moratorium on any state from going to a higher phasedue to the increase in cases throughout Washington. When Snohomish went into Phase 2 June 5th, it was experiencing about 17 cases per 100,00 people. Today it has risen to around 50 cases per 100,000 people. And Snohomish county has been considering whether it should go back to Phase 1. So, our **Lodge picnic**, originally scheduled for Sunday July 26, has been, well let's say, postponed. We are hoping we can have a fall gathering. We have even thought of having our September Lodge Meeting being held outside in one of Edmonds parks.

A Thor work party to move boat over to new trailer is in the works! Our project leader Xander Siqueland is planning a small work party to get the boat transferred on July 12th. "For safety procedures during the work party: People will need to stand 6 feet apart, wear a mask, and the work party shouldn't be larger than ten people." Since we are limiting the work party, if you are interested in helping, please e-mail Xander (bakuson11@hotmail.com) for more information on time and place.

Sweden has been left out of border reopening agreements with Denmark, Finland and Norway. From 15 June, the Nordic countries have reopened their borders to allow travel between the countries. This reopening does not include Sweden, but you can travel between the other Nordic countries.

While Norway, Denmark, and Finland imposed social restrictions within their countries, Sweden went another route. Sweden, unlike the rest of Scandinavia, chose not to close schools

and businesses to fight the spread of the virus. Mask wearing and social distancing was voluntary. More than 5,300 Swedes have died compared to around 250 in Norway, 600 in Denmark and 325 in Finland, all of which have populations around half the size. Now, with the highest death rate among Scandinavian countries, Sweden is rethinking their response.

Hopefully, this provides additional confirmation that wearing masks and social quarantining works!

A Message on Racism from Sons of Norway CEO Chris Pinkerton

Sons of Norway was founded by Norwegian immigrants on the principles of community support and solidarity in times of hardship. These values continue to form the bedrock of our organization, and as we reflect on the events of the past two weeks it is clear they are no less relevant today than they were at our founding 125 years ago.

We are deeply troubled by the senseless murder of George Floyd in our organization's hometown—a product of unchecked systemic racism and violence, and a direct assault on the values we hold most dear. We mourn with our neighbors and community members in this time of nationwide distress and injustice; when our communities suffer, we all suffer. It is our collective responsibility not only to hope for a more just, peaceful, and inclusive society, but more importantly to strive for it through our words and actions.

The fraternal purpose of Sons of Norway is to strengthen our communities. With 50,000 members, we are uniquely situated to be a positive force of change, healing and hope in communities nationwide—starting with our own. Here at headquarters, we are dedicating time each month to educating ourselves on the topic of anti-racism and pushing ourselves to do better every day. See below for a list of suggested actions and resources for combating racism individually or with your lodge.

Thank you for joining me in this important work.

—Chris Pinkerton

Go to <https://www.sofn.com/minneapolis/> to follow up on these suggested activities

To follow up on protests in Norway, consider subscribing to the Norwegian American (newspaper) or checking it out at <https://www.norwegianamerican.com/>. An article published June 30, 2020, “Why Norwegians take to the streets in protest” talks about Norwegians support the US movement and make comparisons between US and Norwegian police in dealing with minorities.

Fraternally, *Norma Jean Sands, President*



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Fall Meeting Schedule:

Wednesday September 9th 4:30 pm Social, 6 pm dinner 7pm meeting and program Edmonds Masonic Center
Wednesday October 14th 4:30 pm Social, 6 pm dinner 7pm meeting and program Edmonds Masonic Center
Wednesday November 11th 4:30 pm Social, 6 pm dinner 7pm meeting and program Edmonds Masonic Center
Saturday December 5th Christmas Party 1 to 4 pm Edmonds Masonic Center

These nyhetsekspløsjoner (news updates) are going out by email only. A quarter of our members do not supply an email address to SON when renewing their membership. If you know of a member who only received postal mail, let them know, and if they have an e-mail we could use, let Melissa Johnson, Newsletter distributor know (missyinedmonds@outlook.com). Remember that you can also view our newsletters, updates on Lodge events, and current news on our website at www.edmondssonsofnorway.org/ Thank you.