



BREVET

Olympic Lodge # 37,
Sons of Norway
131 West 5th St., P.O. Box 835,
Port Angeles, Washington, 98362



JANUARY 2019 email articles to: offermann@mindspring.com, by the 20th of the month

YUM!!!

The Presidents' Messages

It is three days before Christmas as I write this. Yesterday was the winter solstice, the day with the fewest daylight hours of the year. From here we begin slowly to add to the length of the day. The trouble is that the daylight time accumulates very slowly. Only a few seconds at first. One can hardly notice it. By the middle of March, there will be something like 3 minutes additional daylight each day. By then each week brings noticeable change in our activities.

In this dark time of the year in the northern hemisphere, is it any wonder that the Scandinavian countries cherish the traditions of Christmas? My cousin's wife posts regularly on Facebook -- pictures of their house in the snow, taken in the evening with the lights of the lamps in the window, pictures of the dining room table with candles lit, pictures of the Christmas tree decorated and lit. This is a time that is lit by intention. These efforts at lighting our dwellings, work spaces and leisure areas also are invitations to those who see. They are invitations to enjoy socializing, invitations to become involved and be more than simply a passer-by.

In this dark time of the year, our Lodge meeting is also a light, an invitation. We know what it is to be left out. Sons of Norway was started to make sure that the immigrants who arrived in America did not miss out on the promise this new land offered. This organization bound together those who experienced the disorientation of uprooting and moving to a new land. It offered a means of coping should unwelcome trials come. It also offered a taste of home as people gathered to encourage one another as they coped with a strange land. It became a means of preserving traditions, from foods and song to other forms of art and culture. Sons of Norway helped to enrich this new

land with the diversity that our Scandinavian heritage offered.

Now we find ourselves in a time when newcomers to this land may not be so freely welcomed. It helps to remember what our fathers and mothers went through. In the faces of people from Latin America, the Middle East, Asia or Africa, we can (if we choose to) see pictures of our parents or grandparents. We can see the confusion, tentativeness, and fear. We can see their sense of loss, the longing for something better. We can sense the hope that lies behind all these other emotions.

It is my hope is that our involvement with Sons of Norway will be a means of opening our hearts and minds to the strangers that may arrive among us. We can extend a welcome and offer a guiding hand. By doing so, we can begin to experience the wonder of the diverse experience they have had. Our common life can be enriched and made even stronger through this sharing of understanding.

The Scandinavians have a word for this kind of open hospitality. It is called hygge. We sometimes think of that as meaning "cozy." At its root it means to give courage, comfort, or joy. I would like us, as a Lodge, to strive to be known by hygge. Ha det bra! Dick

Waffle Breakfast Brunch Sat. Jan 26

Our next fund raiser will be Waffles and Ham, Saturday Jan.26 from 9-2. We will also have a gift table featuring new or gently used "giftables." Look around and see if you have items such as jewelry, glassware, Nordic books, decorations or sweaters you would like to donate. We encourage all to attend this day time Lodge event. Invite your friends!