




# Chicago Sons of Norway *Torske Klub*

Organized 1960



## An Afternoon with Svein Ludvigsen Norwegian Minister of Fisheries February 8, 2003 Meeting Notice

Dear Torske Klub Member,

 Our February Torske Klub meeting will be held on February 8, 2003 at the Des Plaines Elks Club, 495 Lee Street, Des Plaines, IL (847.824.1556). Cocktail hour begins at Noon; Dinner starts promptly at 1:00 P.M. when, according to our tradition, the bell is rung by our BOSS, Rob Alsaker.

### ***The Future of the Fishing Industry in Norway***

We have been honored with the opportunity to have as our speaker, Svein Ludvigsen, the Minister of Fisheries, Norway. You may recall that our Boss, Rob Alsaker, had met Mr. Ludvigsen during a recent trip to Norway and had invited him to be our speaker. A brief resume of his accomplishments is at the right.

Our Torskemaster for this unique event at our Klub will be our own Boss, Rob Alsaker. **As announced by the Boss the last meeting, our dress code this month will be suspended in favor of donning your favorite Norwegian sweater.**

### ► **Reservation Phone Number**

Call [630-443-6839](tel:630-443-6839) at any time day or night to leave a reservation. As usual, please leave your MEMBERSHIP NUMBER, NAME, and the TOTAL number of people in your party. The same information is required when you reserve for other members. Note that this new reservation phone is unattended since it is an answering system only. In the event of a failure of technology or the need to talk to a human, please call my office at 847-781-6820 during weekday business hours. If I am not there, leave a message at either phone and I'll get back to you.

For those with email, feel free to send me a note to [larsonk@hp.com](mailto:larsonk@hp.com) with the same information and the message title "Torske Klub Reservation". I will reply to that with a confirmation of receipt.

Currently, we have reservations from member numbers 3, 6, 22, 43A, 47, 51, 55, 64A, 73C, 78, 85, 98, 174A. **Reservations must be in by Wednesday Noon, February 5, 2003.** Call 847-781-6820 if we need to discuss this further. The meal price for the guest is the same as a member. Bring a neighbor, friend or relative to see an interesting program and participate in a great meal. Norwegian ancestry is not, nor ever has it ever been a requirement to enjoy our fellowship. It would be too much like bragging otherwise, wouldn't it?

*continued other side*



*Svein Ludvigsen is the Minister of Fisheries in Norway. Previous to this position, he was a member of the Storting (Norwegian national assembly) for Troms county 1989-2001 as well as County Governor of Troms county from 2001. He was a member of the Storting for Troms County from 1989-2001 as well as Vice-President of The Lagting, the Upper House of the Norwegian Parliament.*

*He has earned praise by most and raised eyebrows by some in Norway and in the international community by his pragmatic approach to managing these important and controversial resources.*

*Mr. Ludvigsen has a very significant position in Norway, when you realize that fish is Norway's 2nd largest export; 2nd only to Oil and Gas. Fish are a renewable commodity but cannot be infinitely depleted. The insight and opinions of Mr. Ludvigsen and his office are significant to this issue that not only affects Norway, but the international community for issues ranging from Codfish quotas to whaling to aquafarming.*

**For Reservations Please Call (630) 443-6839**

Ken Larson, Secretary • 3710 King George Lane St. Charles, IL 60174 • Email: [larsonk@hp.com](mailto:larsonk@hp.com)



continued (page 2)

Last month, we had 38 people call in reservations by Tuesday Evening, 56 by the deadline at Wednesday noon when the reservation and the order for fish was made. By Saturday morning of the dinner 6 more called in for a total of 62. Two called and canceled (much appreciated), one canceled at the dinner. We have had the club order a bit extra fish for contingency, but those at the last meeting noted that there was no extra for sale and more tail portions were served than usual. Since this is the Chicago Torske Klub, I guess I'll put it this way, "Remember to *Call early and call often*". Enough said.

### ***News from the "Boss", Rob Alsaker***

Our notes from the boss this month are enclosed in a separate attachment to this letter. Rob has prepared a memory of Alfred Newgard, who passed away in December.

### ***Other Klub News***

Our in January speaker was our own member, David Hardy, speaking on a topic we were titling "Sex and the Church". I omitted that title by mistake in the last letter, but by the GREAT turnout, I think you all got the gist of the letter. I do not recall ever having such a large turnout for January, which is historically our worst month for attendance. As an attorney who volunteered part time as the chief counsel for the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, David had some great insight with litigation issues in the Lutheran church and other major denominational churches. Thanks to David again for a job well done.

Thanks again for Robert Cornwell, who has consistently mastered the position of Torskemaster for us over these many years. Mange Takk for stepping in at the last minute.

The raffle has been a discussion for many months now. Should we sell six tickets for \$5 or one ticket for \$5 (distributing the opportunity to win). By a popular vote, the membership unanimously voted for the one ticket for \$5. Your secretary (who has to rip the tickets up) thanks you tremendously!

To all those who donated a prize to the table, your support to the klub is greatly appreciated. As I work at the sign up table, I fail to see who is placing objects there. Before I know it, it is filled with liquor, golf balls, hats and other gadgets that guys love. I would like to ask the donors to stop by and tell me next month. I'll try to keep a good list and personally acknowledge the donors in the letter. Thanks again.

### ***New Members***

A club of this kind does not survive without new members. We are pleased to announce the following new members over the last month.

- ▶ Ken Nordan
- ▶ Christian Von Kirchbach

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## ***New Board Members***

Rob Alsaker announced new board members at the last dinner. The following members are appointed to the Torske Klub Board of Directors.

- ▶ Ron Bentsen
- ▶ Robert M. Frost II
- ▶ Dr. Ray Newgard

This is a good time to also acknowledge the existing board for their contributions to the Klub:

- ▶ Robert Alsaker Boss
- ▶ Don Hogansen Assistant Boss and Program Chairman
- ▶ Gene Kaczmarek Treasurer
- ▶ Ken Larson Secretary
- ▶ Gary Grube Wine Committee Chairman
- ▶ Dave Cornwall Board Member and Secretary emeritus
- ▶ Dick Fjeldheim Board Member
- ▶ Fred Glure Board Member
- ▶ Ralph Haug Board Member

Thanks again also to Art Fitzgerald, who resigned his board position to retire to Florida. The other two board positions were vacated by the deaths of Chris Johansen and Ralph Egeland last year.



## ***Future Event: Madison Torske Klub***

Rob Alsaker announced at the last meeting that the Chicago Torske Klub has made arrangements to be the dinner guests of the Madison Wisconsin Torske Klub on October 4th, 2003. The Klub intends to provide transportation to the dinner from the Elk's Club in Des Plaines (we promise that it will not be a school bus). Mark your calendars for this.

## ***In Closing***

Many of you have expressed thanks for the letter we have been publishing every month. You'll notice that I use the term "we" since this effort does not fall to me alone. Although I create and edit the letter, I have depended heavily on Rob Alsaker for content and comments as well as many of the other board members. The aesthetics of the letter are due to the talent and printing equipment of my son-in-law, Wolfgang Gruener. He has been able to produce this high quality color letter very economically in between his business efforts in journalism and international marketing. We/I are very grateful for these contributions.

Beste Hilsen,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ken".

Ken