



Our February dinner will be held on February 12, 2005 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, our BOSS, **Robert Alsaker**, rings the bell to seat us for dinner.

Vesterheim Museum and Norwegian Sweater Day!

What other two events could ever go so well together? David Wright will speak about the Vesterheim Museum located in Decorah, Iowa and the Vesterheim Genealogical Center & Naeseth Library in Madison, Wisconsin. We can report that they have acquired an original farm building from the Valdres valley in Oppland fylke in Norway since our last visit years ago

from David. Join us for an interesting day.

The normal coat and tie dress code is suspended this day in favor of wearing the Norwegian sweater.



Madison Torskse Klubben Report

Our thanks to the Madison Torske Klubben for their hospitality and special thanks to our own honorary member and boss of the Madison Torske Klubben, Trygve Lonnebotn, for the invitation.

Thanks also to the boss, **Rob Alsaker**, for arranging the day; **Bill Schreidrich** for arranging the bus; **Gene Kasczmarek** for expediting the



money collection; and **Ken Larson** for picking up the coffee, bagels and a well-aged Linie Aquavit to warm us on that cold day. [Did it taste better because it was cold out? Or because it was bottled in 1997?].

As my grandmother Sophie used to repeatedly say when she reported the Hainesville news in the Door County Advocate: "A good time was had by all".

K. Larson

Best Regards to Dave Bentsen

His brother and our Raffle Chairman Ron Bentsen reports to us:

I'm sorry to report that my brother, Dave, has been seriously ill in Texas. He went in for a double-knee replacement on January 3rd, and shortly thereafter was stricken with a perforated colon. He was in intensive care for a week and things were really touch-and-go whether he was going to make it.

He is recuperating at home now, but was hospitalized for 23 days. I'm going down to see him next week and hope to have a good report for our meeting February 12th.

Make Your November Reservation by TUESDAY Noon, February 8, 2005

The Elks Club needs time to order the fresh fish. Timely reservations insure that an adequate portion and a table space can be reserved for you.

Call 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. It will ring 4 times before answering. If you need to speak to someone urgently, please call Ken's office at 847-781-6820 during weekday business hours.

For those with email, feel free to send a note with the same information and the message title "Torske Klub Reservation" to secretary@torskeklub.org. We will send a reply to that with a confirmation of receipt. We have reservations from member numbers 3, 13C, 22, 43A, 47, 51, 55, 64A, 73C, 85, 98, 114, 126. Remember that the guests of the members must be called in as well. ****TIP Don't know or remember your membership number? Check the mailing label. It is the number by your name.**

FREE Raffle Ticket to each member who brings one or more guests to the dinner this 2004/2005 season excluding father/son/daughter and ladies day.

For Reservations Please Call (630) 443-6839

Reminder...

By motion of the Board of Directors in 2003 and through past gifts by Dr. Ray Newgard and Thor Jondahl, all new members under the age of 50 will receive one free dinner at a regular meeting. This is not transferable. To the qualified new members that have joined us recently, but not taken advantage of this, please make note of this at the sign-in table to receive your dinner.



Membership Cards and Pins...Some got even delievered!

The cards went out in the January letter along with a Torske Klub pin for each member. In spite of the "Hand Stamp" warning to the post office, plus the hand delivery of the letters to the St. Charles postal agent, they still managed to mangle the letters and a few pins. We have replaced two already, and know of one letter that was half delivered (the left half, I believe). Please contact us if your card and pin was not delivered by this letter.

By the way, we have received a few calls from our good members who have received their letters after the reservation deadline and we also hear of about one member per month that get their letter after the dinner is over. That said and based on the response frequency of reservation calls, we believe that 98% of the letters are received within two or three days of mailing. Our mailing strategy is to post the letters on the Wednesday or Thursday, 10 days before the dinner. That ensures that most letters are a timely reminder to reserve on Saturday, Sunday, Monday or Tuesday before the dinner. For the other 1%, we have this suggestion: mark your calendar for the second Saturday of each month which has a letter "R". Then call us the Tuesday before for reservations. For the 1% that receives no letter, we're pretty sure that it's the post office's problem; we have counted our envelopes for a few months and know that they are being posted. We mailed from different cities without much change. We'll leave the issue alone at this point, lest we be accused of going postal. ■

December Birthdays

The birthdays include the prestigious group of **Gregg LeDuc, Paul Amundsen, Bernhard Pedersen, Edward Grendahl, Thor Jondahl, George Tarnow, Cedric Syrdahl, David Svensen, David Grevstad, Edward Ekstrom**, and our program chairman and charter member **Dr. Ray Newgard**. We raise our aquavit glasses to you and wish you a Happy Birthday, Happy President's day and Happy Valentines Day. Even though our aquavit "fee" is buried in the membership dues, we honor these men as our providers of the aquavit this month. By the way, if we ever miss your birthday in this note, please indicate such so our records or omission can be remedied.

News from the Boss

What a great afternoon we all had visiting the Madison Torske Klub! Thank you, Trygve Lonnebotn for inviting us and thanks also to Ole and Sven for providing the entertainment. While I'm at it, I would also like to thank Ray Nielsen for bringing along his accordion and Bill Scheiderich for making the bus arrangements.

This month we look forward to David Wright's presentation on Vesterheim, the largest ethnic museum in the United States. Vesterheim has big plans and is at the threshold of major expansion projects. This is the time to be involved with Vesterheim.

Following the great feedback we received on handing out Torske Klub "business" cards, we decided to have a larger batch printed. We will give those cards out at this meeting and send more with the March mailing. If you run out of cards and need more, just let us know. See you on February 12! ■

Eight New Members!

We are always pleased to receive new members. January has traditionally been a slow month for the Torske Klub; not this year! We would like to welcome **Gerry Levy** of Bolingbrook, **Richard Martin** of Prospect Heights, **Richard Nelson Sr.** of McHenry, **Richard Nelson Jr.** of Wildwood, **Dick Peterson** (of the Dick Peterson Orchestra) of Northbrook, **Morton Solum** of Chicago, **Mats Stenander** of Glenview and **Max Stokes** of Evanston. Welcome to all!

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