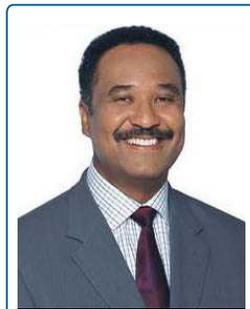


Our November Torske Klub meeting for this 2004-2005 Torske Klub dinner season will be held on November 13, 2004 at the Des Plaines Elks Club, 495 Lee Street, Des Plaines, IL (847-824-1556). Cocktailhour begins at noon; dinner starts promptly at 1:00 P.M. when, according to our tradition, our BOSS, **Robert Alsaker**, rings the bell.

BUT, we will break that tradition this month since our Boss is on tour in Oslo with the Norwegian American Chamber of Commerce (NACC). The Assistant Boss, **Don Hogansen** would normally pick up the banner, but he is also on that tour, as are many of our members. Who else to draft in such a situation but our well seasoned Torske Klub Program Chairman and charter member, **Dr. Ray Newgard**. He has requested our Torskemaster to be none other than the publisher of our newsletter, **Wolfgang Gruener**.

## *Dinner Invitation for an afternoon with WBBM-TV Weather Anchor Steve Baskerville*

We are extremely honored to announce our speaker for the November meeting as Steve Baskerville of WBBM-TV CBS channel 2 in Chicago. Steve has been the weatherman there for a number of years and has become an icon in Chicago broadcasting. He currently can be seen at 5, 6 and 10 p.m. during the weekday news. Not only does he handle the duties of weather in the news, he has also handles other broadcasting duties, as evidenced in the channel 2 broadcast of the Chicago Marathon last month. He is an Emmy Award Winner in 1999 for the news feature series, "Best of Chicago." If you have been waiting to invite a guest to a special Torske dinner; this is it!



**Steve Baskerville**, weather anchor for CBS 2 News. Photo courtesy of [cbs2chicago.com](http://cbs2chicago.com)

Chicago's own Honorary Royal Norwegian Consul General, **Paul Anderson**. Paul is also partner in the law firm of Sonnenberg and Anderson in Chicago, specializing in international trade. Paul provided us with an informative and entertaining talk about Leif Ericsson, and the origins of Leif Ericsson day in the US. Mange Takk, Paul...well done.

Our thanks, by the way, to **Robert Frost** who stepped in as Wine Chairman for the day while **Gary Grube** was on vacation. Thanks also to **Ron Bentsen** who provides us with a super selection of raffle prizes as our raffle chairman. Special thanks goes to **Ray Nielsen** for attending as a guest and bringing his accordion

during our cocktail hour for a surprise serenade. Read further in this letter for more news concerning Ray.

**If you were at last month's dinner, you were treated to**

### **New Members!**

The Torske Klub received membership from a new member this last month. We welcome **Paul Solberg** of Bensenville, **Nels Nelson** of Glenview and **Ray Nielsen** of Des Plaines. Velkommen to all! By the way, you may recall that Ray has attended as a guest of the klub over the years and as an entertainer with his accordion. We haven't been counting until now, but this is the 4th consecutive meeting where we have received new members.

### **Make Your November Reservation by TUESDAY Noon, November 9, 2004**

The Elks Club needs time to order the fresh fish. Timely reservations ensure that an adequate portion can be reserved for you. 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. As last year, this reservation phone is an answering system only. It will ring 4 times before answering. If you need to speak to someone urgently, 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 will get back to you. I am watching the ore freighters in the Detroit River from my office in the Renaissance Center during the reservation period, so please be patient with my response. For those with email, feel free to send me a note to [secretary@torskeklub.org](mailto:secretary@torskeklub.org) with "RESERVATION" in the subject line. You will receive a confirmation reply.

Currently we have reservations from members 6, 13C, 22, 43A, 47, 51, 55, 64A, 78, 85, 98, 114, 126.

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



## It is time for dues...

Actually, we are a month later than usual to start collecting dues. Time flies. Enclosed in this letter is a pre-printed slip which contains the address and contact information which the Torske Klub has on file for you. Please return the form with your check for \$35 (American money, not Kroner!) in the addressed envelope or- drop the envelope at the table when you register for your meal and pay us there.

If you have any corrections to your information, please update our information and return the slip with your payment. For the recent new members and for those that have otherwise paid their dues, the slip is marked as "paid" and you are asked to return only the slip, to verify your record. You may notice a check box on the left of the form this year. The Torske Klub will be celebrating our 45th anniversary this year and we are planning to assemble a special program booklet for the day in May 2005. We would like your permission to list your address, phone number and optionally email address in the book for our other members. The Torske Klub does not provide or sell our membership roster to any party who is not in the klub, we should mention.

It is worth mentioning also that your birth month is an important piece of data to us, since we acknowledge your birthday at our meeting. The day and year is optional, but if provided, we will acknowledge special decades too.

Some of the "old-timers" remember when the klub dues were \$15 for mailing and the aquavit was bought by the birthday boys on the month of their dinner for \$20. We stopped doing it that way years ago for a couple of reasons, but we still celebrate your birthday and acknowledge your purchase of the aquavit to celebrate. By the way, if your member number is 172 or 999, we don't have record of your birth month. You may or may not know that the Torske Klub Board of Directors has occasionally extended a life time membership to those members who have provided a long time service to the klub, given with our best regards and humble thanks. Our long time friend and master codfish chef, **Barney Jacobsen** is an example.

Finally, we send this note to a few people that have been added to our mailing list by members and references indicating that you may be interested in our klub. We wanted to offer you a snapshot of what we are about and encourage you to join us. Just call for a reservation, you need not be accompanied by a member and the dinner remains at \$20. The mailings do cost money, so we will eventually drop your name from the list, so consider joining us to keep the letter coming. ■

## "Badges? We ain't got no badges. We don't need no badges. I don't have to show you any stinking badges..."

...said the character "Gold Hat" in the movie "The Treasure of the Sierra Madre"(1948). Good thing he wasn't in the Torske Klub, because we DO need the badges returned every month.

The secretary has been trying to keep up with the monthly loss/misplacement of badges for the dinner when people forget to leave them. If your badge is missing when they are sorted each month, we will assume it is in your coat pocket. Just bring it next time. If it is truly lost, tell us at the meeting. We will ask you to use the guest badge for that month and get a replacement later.

## Birthdays in November

Only three birthdays in November: **Vernon Bengtson, Richard Fredrickson, and Ronald Betz.**

Gentlemen, we raise our aquavit glasses to you and wish you a good year.

## At last: The best place to live is...

...we always knew it, Norway. According to a story in Aftenposten, now the United Nations has ranked Norway as having the highest standard of living in the world. The ranking, based on average levels of education and income, combined with expected length of lifetime, listed Norway's gross national product per person at \$36,600, beaten only by Luxembourg. Its men and women are expected to live to an age of 78.9 years and Norway is one of 19 countries in the world with no measurable rates of illiteracy. The US landed in 8th place.

## Chicago Torske Klub Board of Directors

Boss: Rob Alsaker

Assistant Boss: Don Hogansen

Treasurer: Gene Kaczmarek

Secretary: Ken Larson

Program Chairman: Dr. Ray Newgard

Wine Chairman: Garry Grube

Raffle Chairman: Ron Bentsen

Historian: David Cornwell

Membership Chairman: Robert Frost II

Board Member: Dick Fjeldheim

Board Member: Fred Glure

Board Member: Ralph Haug

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