



## 100th Anniversary of the Norwegian Constitutional Monarchy

### Our Roots, Our History, Our Legacy



We continue to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the peaceful dissolution of the Swedish and Norwegian union. Our program chairman, Dr. Ray Newgard, looked for a topic that would tie into that theme and he found the offer of our secretary, Ken Larson, hard to resist. Ken works for Hewlett-Packard and is an amateur genealogist and student of his history.

This combination of years of access to international computer databases, work at the Library of Congress, and access to a wealth of family lineage records have yielded an interesting story. In searching his roots,

he has discovered links to his own family ancestors (and perhaps yours) during different periods of Norwegian history. Some of these links stem back to the Viking age and to ancestors that formed European history itself. Whether you are a descendant of Norway or not, you'll likely be surprised about how this information influences your own background and our understanding of life in Norway over the years!

### May 2005: 45th Anniversary, Syttende Mai

We had an excellent day and were honored to have as our special guest and speaker for the day, Ågot Valle, the President of the Norwegian Odelsting, and member of the Norwegian Storting. She was also the honorary Grand



Marshall of the 2005 Syttende Mai parade. She attended our meal with her husband,

Yngave Seteras. We were pleased to have a champagne toast, a gift of an anniversary pen (thanks to Don Hoganson), and a special anniversary booklet for this ladies day event.

The Torske Klub also participated in the Syttende Mai parade.

Thanks to those members that walked with us in the Syttende Mai parade.

### Congratulations to Christian Von Kirchbach

*We get mail and emails...*

Recently we received this one from our member Christian who has been occupied recently: "I guess I need to enroll one of the twins into the Torskklubben now. We had twins on 5/20, and one of them was a

boy (Fredrik). I'll try to join the meeting once the twins are not so demanding...". [Note to Christian: Remember that they are always invited for the March Father/son/daughter dinner,...as soon as they are weaned.]



The start of the new Torske Klub season and 46th year kicks off on September 10, 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.

**Reservations due by:**  
**Tuesday, September 6**  
**NOON**

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. Noon means noon. A call at 12:30 Tuesday is no better than a call on Friday evening; the fish order is made.

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. For those with email, feel free to send a note to secretary@torskeklub.org with the same information and the message title "Torske Klub Reservation". We will reply to that with a confirmation of receipt. We have reservations from the board member numbers. Remember that the guests of all members must be called in as well.

*\*\*TIP - Your membership number is the number next to your name on the mailing label.*

**FREE Raffle Ticket to each member that brings one or more guests to the dinner this 2005/2006 season, excluding father/son/daughter and ladies day in May.**

Dinner Reservation Phone: ☎ (630) 443 6839

## Message from the Boss and the Board of Directors

The Board of Directors met for the yearly review at Dr. Ray Newgard's home on a beautiful summer evening. The following items were approved by the board for future meetings:

- ▶ We will continue to meet at the Elk's Club in Des Plaines and are pleased with the service there.
- ▶ Smoking will be constrained to a designated table at the side of the room. The Elks will allow cigar and cigarette smoking in the downstairs eating area, when we meet there. Our membership is split on the subject of smoking, so to allow all to enjoy the day; a designated empty table will be set up for the smokers before

or after the meal. No smoking at the meal tables will be permitted. Those who detest smoke may avoid it, and those who want it may collect there and enjoy.

- ▶ Lefse will be provided at every meal and we will encourage the facility to have it on the table at the beginning of the meal. Smoked salmon will be ordered for the December, March and May meals as an appetizer.
- ▶ A part of the raffle earnings will continue to be re-invested in prizes for the raffle, as was done last year. New prizes will be offered: a free dinner coupon for the Torske Klub or a coupon for an extra shot of Linne

aquavit at the meal.

### Other notable items:

- ▶ The Torske Klub has made a donation to the commutative statue of HRH Crown Princess Märtha which is to be unveiled at the Norwegian Embassy in Washington DC.
- ▶ We have been invited to the Madison Torske Klub on April 15, 2006. The Minneapolis Torske Klub has also been invited. Recall that our Torske Klub was founded and somewhat modeled on the Minneapolis Klub.

*Thanks again for your hospitality Ray.*

## We have lost three good members



**Keith Hertsgaard** – Keith died in May 2005 after an illness that had kept him from the Klub for months. He enjoyed the Torske Klub for many years and also the Normennenes Singing Society, for whom he was president for many years. We will miss Keith.



**Bill Skoien**– Bill had rejoined the Torske Klub in May 2004 and has been a long time member in the 1970s and 1980s. Bill always had a smile and a kind word and was quite regular at our dinners and events. We snapped a photo of him on the bus to the Madison Torske Klub dinner last January which he enjoyed with us. Bill died suddenly in May 2005. We will miss him.



**Barney Jacobsen** – Barney was one of our last charter members of the Torske Klub. Many old timers will also remember Barney emerging from the kitchen at the dinners in the Norway Center to receive a round of applause for his work, proclaiming, "I hope you boys all enjoyed da fisken!" When SAS donated the codfish that we display at our meal, we naturally thought to nickname him "Barney" for his

work and the fond memories we had of him. In his latter years, Barney moved to North Carolina to stay with his daughter. At the age of 95, he still thought about us, sending his regards in a full page ad in our 45th anniversary program. We will miss him.

## Vasa Park in September

The yearly Scandinavian Days picnic is becoming quite an event. On September 11, the Torske Klub will participate with an information booth manned by Ken Larson and Robert Alsaker.

It is the intention of the Torske Klub to generate interest and new members in our organization from the men in the Scandinavian Community. New members who sign up at that event will receive a coupon for a free Linie Aquavit drink.

## September Birthdays

Our birthday list for September includes John Teppen, Robert Peterson, Kurt Gustafson, Petter Berntzen, Charles Truckenbrodt, George Wade, Kjell Larsen, Finn Btaathen, Jostein Bakken, and our own board members Fred Glure and Ralph Haug.

*Gentlemen*, we raise Linie Aquavit glasses and wish you a Happy Birthday, and many more.

### Chicago Torske Klub Board of Directors

**Boss: Rob Alsaker**  
**Assistant Boss: Don Hogansen**

Treasurer: Gene Kaczmarek  
Secretary: Ken Larson  
Historian: David Cornwell  
Program Chair: Dr. Ray Newgard  
Aquavit Chair: Garry Grube

Membership Chair: Robert Frost II  
Raffle Chair: Ron Bentsen  
Board Member: Fred Glure  
Board Member: Dick Fjeldheim  
Board Member: Ralph Haug

Published by the Chicago Torske Klub  
Editor: K. Larson / Layout, Production: W. Gruener  
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