



Godt Nytt År – It's Sweater Day for Investors...

The Chicago Torske Klub is not wasting any time to start the new year as our first luncheon of the year is on January 8th, the first possible 2nd Saturday of the month. This is Norwegian Sweater day, when it is appropriate to send the sport jacket and tie to the cleaners and don your favorite sweater for the day.

Our featured speaker is Benjamin Klein, a member of the Okman/Klein/Bjornstrup Group at Merrill Lynch where he is a Senior Vice President of Investments. The group has over 100 years of combined experience in the financial services industry. Ben focuses on handling the financial affairs of individuals and families in the Chicagoland area as well as around the country. As a Chartered Retirement Planning Advisor, Ben specializes in retirement planning strategies to help clients plan for and achieve a comfortable retirement. He is a frequent speaker on investment and retirement planning issues. Ben lives in Highland Park with his wife, Michelle and their 2 children.

Ben will be providing an update on the prospects for the US Economy for 2011 and will provide some investment strategies for the new year. He will also talk about retirement planning and estate planning, time permitting.

Make your reservations early for this regular luncheon on the 2nd Saturday of January 2011.

Chicago Torske Klub Board of Director Changes

This month (Jan. 2011) Don Hoganson, at his request a year ago, retires as Assistant Boss and also resigns from the Torske Klub Board. He feels that it's important to bring new people onto our Board for the ongoing health of the Klub.

Don joined Torske Klub in 1990 when Ralph Egeland took over as Boss. He served as the Program Chair for eight years and for the last 12 years (since 1998) as Assistant Boss. During this time Don has also brought in thousands of dollars for Torske Klub with his auctioneering skills.

We are most grateful and appreciative for Don's keen interest in our Torske Klub; for we have all benefited from his wise counsel, enthusiasm and great sense of humor. Don is looking forward to our July trip to the Lofoten Islands and is hoping for both a hole in one on the Golf course and catching a record breaking torsk! He'll continue to join us monthly for a torsk dinner, of course.

At the same time, we are pleased to announce the appointment of Sam Smith to the Chicago Torske Klub Board of Directors. Sam has been living and working in southern Illinois in past years, but his recent retirement has enabled Sam and his wife Norma to relocate back to Streamwood IL.

Thanks to both gentlemen for their contributions to the leadership of our group.

Torske Klub September Luncheon - January 8, 2011

The next luncheon will be held at the Des Plaines Elks Club, 495 Lee Street, Des Plaines, IL (847-824-1556 for directions that day). 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. Make your regular dinner reservation by TUESDAY Noon, January 4, 2011.

ALL MEMBERS AND THEIR GUESTS ARE REQUIRED TO MAKE A RESERVATION FOR DINNER.

The Elks Club needs time to order the fresh fish. Timely reservations insure that fish and a table space can be reserved for you. Noon deadline means noon. The fish order is called in directly after noon.

Call **630-445-1263** at any time day or night to leave a reservation. If there is voicemail difficulties, call Ken L. at 630-336-6723. 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. We have reservations from the following members: **3, 13C, 40, 47, 51, 55, 98, 114, 115, 149**. Board members note that they have a reservation automatically and must call or prearrange to cancel. If you are not a member and wish to attend, call the same number and leave your name according to the principle "Once a guest, twice a friend, three times a member!" If you prefer email reservations, please send to **secretary@torskeklub.org** with your total number of reservations, including yourself and guests. We will respond with a confirmation email. ****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 that brings one or more guests to the dinner this 2010/2011 season, excluding father/son/ daughter day in March and excluding ladies day in February.

**Reservations
Required by
12:00 Noon on
January 4**

Dinner Reservation Phone: ☎(630) 445-1263

New Years Resolutions

Every year many of us take the time to make resolutions to improve our health, wealth, wisdom or other social or personal stature. By some measures, over 40% make resolutions of some kind but only 12% of them actually succeed. Are you making a resolution this weekend Here is what the wise men/women of the ages have said about resolutions:

- A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one Year and out the other.—*Anonymous*
- Making resolutions is a cleansing ritual of self assessment and repentance that demands personal honesty and, ultimately, reinforces humility. Breaking them is part of the cycle.—*Eric Zorn*
- The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul and a new nose; new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes. Unless a particular man made New Year resolutions, he would make no resolutions. Unless a man starts afresh about things, he will certainly do nothing effective. Unless a man starts on the strange assumption that he has never existed before, it is quite certain that he will never exist afterwards. Unless a man be born again, he shall by no means enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.—*G.K. Chesterton*
- New Year's Day... now is the accepted time to make your regular annual good resolutions. Next week you can begin paving hell with them as usual.—*Mark Twain*
- An optimist stays up until midnight to see the New Year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves.—*Bill Vaughn*
- The proper behavior all through the holiday season is to be drunk. This drunkenness culminates on New Year's Eve, when you get so drunk you kiss the person you're married to.—*P.J. O'Rourke*

Have a safe and happy New Year.

Our Festive December Luncheon

Our December 2010 luncheon was well attended and enjoyed by over 70 members and guests. Pastor Dave Langseth, Julian Ronning and pianist Ken Spengler led our yearly sing-along and Christmas entertainment. A special thanks to all who participated in this delightful day.



January Birthdays & Member News

This month, we toast the monthly birthdays for January: Ralph Gilbertsen, John Rose, Greg LeDuc, Ron Hoppe, Richard Wielock, Mats Stenander, Tom Maxson, Jon Knudsen, Norman Roland, Howard Skoien, Rick Nelson, Board Member Larry Ekstrom, Hokan Haraldsson, Gary Skoien, and C.E. "Doc" Kallum. Let us be the first to wish you all a Happy Birthday & Happy New Year.

We are also pleased to welcome our latest new member, Frederick Olk of Cicero, who attended as a guest of Robert Newgard in December and joined us at that time.

Membership Card Enclosed

For all that have paid their dues for 2011, your membership card is enclosed. For the remainder few who have neglected dues this year, a friendly reminder is enclosed instead. Dues for 2011 are required by December 31, 2010 to keep your letters and membership active.

Membership is required to fund this letter, our birthday pour of aquavit and the events such as our 50th anniversary, and promotions like our web site, among many others.

Future Programs

- **Jan. 8, 2011**—Norwegian Sweater Day—Merrill Lynch Financial Advisor Benjamin Klein
- **Feb. 12, 2011**—Ladies Day—Dr. Martin Marty— Internationally known theologian and author.
- **March 12, 2011**—Father, Son, Daughter Day—Melissa Hulting discussing the EPA— Greenhouse Gas & Climate Change
- **April 9, 2011**—Fr. Mike Zaniolo, Chaplain of Midway and O'Hare Airports
- **May 14, 2011**— Norwegian travels
- **July 5-11, 2011**—Lofoten Norway trip

Watch <http://www.torskeklub.org> for additional news and links to topics of interest to the Chicago Torske Klub membership and Norwegian Americans in general.

Chicago Torske Klub Board of Directors

Boss: Robert Alsaker
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