



Still Riding the Curve

For the 2nd month in a row, the Chicago Torske Klub has made the decision to cancel the Luncheon for health and safety reasons. And once again, this is likely not a surprise, considering the state requirements for groups. It is an additional disappointment due to the 60th Anniversary of the group this month.

So we continue riding the COVID 17 curve. In the mean time, we normally break for summer anyway to repopulate the cod, and in this case depopulate the virus.



Here is the typical Torske Klub member when we cancelled our second monthly meeting and heard that there will be no Syttende Mai Parade nor accompanying events in May 2020.

The Chicago Torske Klub wishes all our members a safe and happy summer.



The New Cases of COVID-17 in Illinois recorded from John Hopkins University as of April 22. Is this the peak? The question we will face in September will be, "Will the risk go down enough to convene?" We hope so.

Hope this virus gets cleared up before tick season 🕸 or else we'll be havin Corona with Lyme



Note from the Boss

Unfortunately we are not able to meet this month, the 60th Anniversary of the Chicago Torske Klub. Not only are we effected but the May 17th Parade in Park Ridge has been cancelled. Even the Constitution Day celebrations, May 17th, have been cancelled in Norway. None of us like the precautions we must take, and the distances we must keep from our friends and relatives, but as we know it is for the common good for all. I hope each of you, and your families, have a safe and trouble free summer, and I hope to see each of you at the first Torske Klub Meeting in the fall on September 12th, assuming everything is back to normal by then. *Lowell Olberg—Chicago Torske Klub Boss*

Torske Klub Luncheon - May 9, 2020 ***CANCELED***

Your Chicago Torske Klub Board of Directors has elected to cancel the scheduled luncheon for May 9, 2020 in respect for the virus situation and since the announced Illinois statewide "Stay-At-Home" order is scheduled to be lifted only a few days before, on 5/31/20, after it was extended from 4/7 and 4/30.

Our health and safety will always precede our urge for torsk. We will look forward to seeing you at future events. Watch the website or Facebook for updates also.

In the mean time, a double sip of aquavit wouldn't hurt...

60 Years of Officers

"Boss"

Andrew Highland 1960-1962
Irving Highland 1962-1980
Chris Johansen 1980-1990
Ralph Egeland 1990-1998
Robert Alsaker 1998- 2012
Lowell Olberg ** 2012-

Assistant Boss

Aasmund Rosseland
Ray Newgard
Ralph Egeland
Robert Alsaker
Ray Newgard
Don Hoganson
Lowell Olberg
Roger Elmer
Garry Grube **

Secretary

Claus Nicoll
Karsten Sundby
Ernest Schaaf
Ray Newgard
Arthur Gulland
Henry Halvorsen
Barney Jacobsen
Archie Andersen
Orville Larson
Roger (Rusty) Elmer, Jr.
David Cornwell
Ken Larson **(Corresponding)
Garry Grube (Recording)
Tom Peterson **(Recording)

Treasurer

Claus Nicoll
Karsten Sundby
Ernest Schaaf
Arthur Gulland
Henry Halvorsen
Barney Jacobsen
Orville Larson
Richard Biehl
Gene Kaczmarek
Ken Nordan
Milt Gustafson**

**denotes Current Officer

The Chicago Torske Klub is 60 years old this month.

No group gets to that age without some history. We have transcribed that evolving story on our web site and it starts like this:

"In the beginning, there were three: Claus Nicoll, Andrew Highland, and Aasmund Rosseland. The idea of a torske club was born by these three men, following a visit to Minneapolis, where they were guests of the Minneapolis Torske Klub.

On February 27, 1960, a selected committee of nine met at the Chicago Norske Klub to organize the club. These were: Andrew Highland, Aasmund Rosseland, Claus Nicoll, Irving Gunderson, Reidar Rosenvinge, James Birney, Bernard Jacobsen, Chris Johansen and Irving Highland. They met five times drawing up rules and regulations with the results being the birth of our club May 14, 1960. Forty members attended that first meeting, and we have been meeting the 2nd Saturday of the month ever since, except for June, July and August. At the luncheons, only the freshest of codfish will be served, with melted butter, boiled potatoes, flatbrod, coffee and two servings of Aquavit. A top notch speaker will be invited to each of our luncheons to give a twenty minute talk. Dues will be \$1.00 per year, plus \$5.00 for the purchase of the aquavit. In the following years, the dues will still be \$1.00 but \$10.00 additional for the purchase of the aquavit payable on or near your birthday."

From that beginning, not much has changed. The dues have increased of course, and we have moved locations three times. From the Norske Klub in Chicago to the Scandinavian American Cultural Society (SACS) in the early 80's, to the Homestead Restaurant on North Ave for 2 years, and to our present facility at the Elk's Club in Des Plaines.

Scores of men have served to enable this group to function; too many to mention without omission. We devoted some space to this letter to remember those executive officers on whose shoulders we stand on. Most are gone but fondly remembered. Our current Board of Directors are listed below and those men commit time and energy to keeping us functional. Thanks to them.

Look on the website for more history plus a *new video*.

Here's to the next 60 years!

May Birthdays and News

This month we note and celebrate the birthdays of May: Nels Nelson, David Langseth, our retiring treasurer emeritus Ken Nordan, Thor Fjell, and Joseph Arnold. Skål! In addition, we acknowledge our remaining charter member Dr. Ray Newgard on this 60th anniversary.

You may notice that our mailing envelope is a bit different this month. We subscribed to stamps.com for the social convenience and can print our own postage now, but haven't figured quite yet how to get your member number on the envelope for convenience.

We are breaking for the summer, but we hope to convene in September, "God willing and the creeks don't rise".

Chicago Torske Klub Board of Directors

Boss: Lowell Olberg
Asst. Boss: Garry Grube
Boss Emeritus: Robert Alsaker
Treasurer: Milt Gustafson
Program Chair: Thor Jondahl
Recording Secretary: Tom Peterson
Corresponding Secretary: Ken Larson
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