

Sons of Norway District Six News

October 2008—
January 2009

Janie Kelly, Presidenten

Thank you for re-electing me as President of the best district in our fine organization. As I told the delegates at the conclusion of our District Convention in June, I am honored to be your President & I take this job seriously.

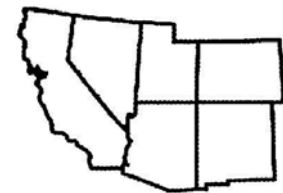
What makes District Six so great? Out of all eight districts in Sons of Norway, we raised the most money for the Sons of Norway Foundation at our District Convention - \$4394.75. Our members also purchased the most

gift memberships of all of the districts. District Six has the highest percentage of lodges with Membership Committees at 82% & we had the highest percentage of lodges who participated in the Leadership Challenge Workshop Phase II - a whopping 99%!

Another thing that makes us great is that our members are able to look at all sides of an equation. The delegates at our District Lodge Meeting were faced with an unpopular & unpleasant subject - a

much needed dues increase for District Six. They weighed the pros & cons & made the difficult decision to raise our District dues from \$4.50 to \$9.50 per year.

I've heard some complaints that \$5.00 per



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Newly Elected District 6 Board

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Sherrill G. Swenson, Internasjonal Direktør



We recently concluded a successful International Lodge Meeting in San Diego. I think several of the actions taken merit comment.

- (1) First in importance was the Reordered Constitution. Although it did not get approval without a floor battle, I think that the major hurdle was overcome in getting it passed as a viable new concept. We did not make any changes of any kind in the Constitution, only in the way it will be arranged in the future. It is the task of the Constitution Committee to take it back to the conference table and go over it item by item to make sure of the placement of each paragraph and sub-paragraph. The original committee remains intact, with several newer members added. It is up to us to make the changes suggested in placement of certain items and then bring it back again to the International Lodge in 2010 for approval. Once approved, then future International Lodge delegates will have free rein to “tweak it” or seek improvement in the various paragraphs, just as we have done so many times over the years. Hopefully, we will have an easier-to-use document—one that will serve us well into the future.
- (2) Another item of interest is the Mission Statement, changed for the third time in 6 years. Hopefully we got it right this time. From the floor debate, and the fact that it keeps coming back, it remains a passionate issue. Norway is the primary focus, and headquarters is set up to provide all the information it can on that country, but it can’t do so for all Nordic countries. The new statement, however, lets any lodge or its members celebrate its relationship with other Nordic countries. This is important in recruiting members for a lodge and in providing diverse cultural programs that recognize the cultural differences and similarities. That approach certainly paid off for Vikings of Lake 6-166 as they were chosen International Small Lodge of the Year for 2007.
- (3) The former 25-miles between lodges restriction has been removed. This is good. There should be no limitations on starting a new lodge anywhere, anytime, providing the qualifying numbers are met.

Of considerable interest at the recent convention were the Breakout Sessions. They were well-attended and useful. Many have asked for this feature at District Lodge Meetings. That is an idea worth considering, but presents a problem for the District President in finding the time to conduct them in a meeting that is shorter by a full day (as compared to International).

Increasing the number of members who have a financial product from Sons of Norway remains an ongoing goal of Sons of Norway, district by district domestically. How does your lodge stack up?

Don’t forget to give to the Foundation! Hurricane Ike’s path of destruction may seem far removed from District Six, yet I know of at least one member who will be eligible for a Helping Hands for Members grant. He lives in Texas in the Galveston area and belongs to a lodge in Zone 5. The Foundation has already stepped forward this year after the bad flooding in Iowa. Get a Pink Foundation Pig for yourself and/or your lodge and “stuff it.” DON’T FORGET: October is Foundation Month.

Sherrill G. Swenson

Lyle Berge, Vise Presidenten

Appreciation is offered with a smile as we tell a person what they mean to us. This same outreach should work wonders as we acknowledge each member of our lodge, with special thanks to a spouse, who is perhaps thinking they are just an 'incidental' for our overall smoothly running Sons of Norway. Is this too simple to use as a tool for retention?

For those of us attending the special Membership Party at the International Lodge, we witnessed the continuing success of free food! Nary an empty seat was to

be found in the room. For years the Fraternal Benefits Counselors have been encouraging each lodge to host a new member free food event & they are correct. It does work. Plan efficiently & then enthusiastically invite friends & family of all your members to attend, as they consider joining our Order. There is so much of value that we can share. Why not do it?

This membership party will be especially good for those lodges who immediately utilize the talents & time available from these new members. Initially get them

involved in even one event or activity so as to strengthen 'ownership' in their lodge. Helping with a social may be easier for their schedule than participating in the monthly meeting; thus we then accept the talents & time they offer.

Also, utilize the knowledge, inspiration & energy which your talented Zone Director offers. Each one is a super source for your lodge - what a fantastic troupe!

Lyle Berge



Carol Lee Solheim, Sekretæren

Congratulations to Bjornson Lodge #6-14 for a great District Lodge Meeting. It is always nice to visit with old friends & meet many new friends. To host a District Lodge Meeting takes a lot of work but can also be enjoyable.

I will soon begin starting to work on the 2009 District Directory. You will be getting a letter requesting if you wish to order

more directories for your lodge. Each lodge receives one free but must pay for any extras. I only have has many printed as needed, so order when you get the letter.

Also, International will be sending out the letter requesting the report for the 2009 officers. Please fill this out as soon as you elect your 2009 officers. Mail one

copy to International & also a copy to the District Secretary for the 2009 Directory. Thank you.

Carol Lee Solheim



Roger Espeland, Kassereren

It has been a slow process in getting grounded in the business of the District.

My goal is to have a temporary budget in place for the October Board meeting. Please be patient for the time being as I may not be aware of the certain actions of the past & may not be timely accord-

ing to your expectations.

Do send me an email or call. We will get it worked out.

Looking forward to a good year.

Roger Espeland



Wendy Winkelman, Public Relations Officer

Hei District Six! Thank you for welcoming me into your district & voting me in as your new Public Relations Officer. I am experienced at the job as I come from District 1, but I am sure there are some differences that I hope to learn quickly, i.e., newsletter contest.

I am off to a quick start—working on getting our District Six website up-to-date and available for all of your lodge event announcements. I have also updated the new district officers & lodge presidents including their email addresses. I have added a publicity tab with several options in-

cluded within it; the newsletter contest winners & contest rules; & a few new photos. Please take a look at the website (www.sofn6.com) & let me know if there is anything else you would like to see! I am up for lots of ideas!

My mailbox is loaded up each day with newsletters from the district! Please remember to send me a copy of your newsletter if you haven't done so yet. I also would take them by email, if you want to save some postage (my postman would probably appreciate that). I am accepting photos now for future Viking Magazines

& have many already to get me started. Our first board meeting is coming up and it is being held at Camp Norge. This will be my first trip to Camp and I am very excited to see what all the hype is about! As I write this, it is 105 degrees today here in Phoenix—so I will welcome some cooler weather!

Again, tusen takk!

Wendy Winkelman



Janie Kelly, (continued from page 1)

year is a huge increase. Compared to how prices of everything have soared, I don't think it is. It's 42 cents a month or one cup of Starbuck's coffee per year. Certainly we get more pleasure out of Sons of Norway than one cup of coffee per year.

At our Convention, Roald Amundsen Lodge #48 generously donated \$10,000 to the District Treasury. Thank you to the members of Roald Amundsen for this generous gift. This is the shot in the arm we need to tide us over until the dues increase takes effect in January.

How did we get into such financial straits? Our last real dues increase took effect in January of 2003. That was a \$1 increase bringing our total to \$3.00. In 2007 all eight districts had an

increase of \$1.50, but International's dues went DOWN by \$1.50 so there was no change to the amount of dues our members were paying. Prices of everything has risen & we haven't been able to keep up. The District Board has made many cuts over the past biennium. We have lowered our meal allowances, hotel reimbursement, & mileage reimbursement. We will be holding our Fall Board Meeting at Camp Norge this year & at least once per biennium, if not more often. All of these measures will save the District money, but it hasn't been enough, thus the dues increase. It was felt that one large increase was better than a buck or two every biennium.

The members of the District Board only get reimbursed for a

fraction of what we spend to perform our jobs. We volunteer & spend our time & money because we love Sons of Norway & District Six & we are happy to do so. The dues increase will allow District Six to remain strong. Thank you all for understanding & accepting this tough decision that was made by our delegates on the recommendation of the Board.

Thank you for the vote of confidence you have given me & the new Board. I'm proud to be the President of the best District in Sons of Norway & to serve you with the other dedicated District Six Officers & Directors.

Fraternally,

Janie Kelly

Carl Ingvoldstad, Sone 1 Direktør

Hello all, I just wanted to have my article this time be one concerning Lodge of the Year! It was a very special thrill for me, not only as Zone 1 Director but as the current President of Vikings of Lake #6-166, to have our lodge awarded the **International Lodge of the Year Award for 2007**. WOW!! Awesome! I don't imagine that will ever happen again in my Zone, at least not on my watch! I am extremely proud of my lodge, & my wife, Mary Beth, (President of Vikings of Lake in 2007) for their hard work in attaining this honor. As far as I know, District Six has not had an International Lodge of the Year Award since 1998, according to my records. This must cer-

tainly send a message to our District Six lodges & others that our hard work does (did) pay off & that change is important! Penny Joseph Knudsen gave a wonderful keynote address at our International Convention. She stressed the importance of change for our lodges. Vikings of Lake Lodge has not been afraid of making significant changes in the format of our lodge meetings & should be, & I believe it is, looked at as a model for the future of Sons of Norway.

Please pass this on to your Lodge members & encourage them to study their Lodge of the Year forms so that they can address the items that make a difference



to International in earning these awards. We especially need to focus on the Volunteer Hours that help us maintain our Non-Profit status with the National Fraternal Congress of America. Thank you &, again, congratulations to Vikings of Lake Lodge #6-166. Woo Hoo!!

Carl Peter Ingvoldstad

Paul Jevert, Sone 2 Direktør

I am Paul Jevert, your new Sixth District, Zone 2 Director for the Central Valley & East Bay Area of No. California. My "beat" includes 8 "Great & Fantastic lodges": Bjornson lodge # 14, Oakland; Victory lodge # 43, Vallejo; Furuseth lodge # 49, Richmond; Garborg lodge # 56, Modesto; Freya lodge # 62, Santa Rosa; Solheim lodge # 69, Stockton; Olav lodge # 82, San Rafael; Centennial lodge # 161, Vacaville, California. It is my goal to travel to, visit, & meet as many members in every lodge in my jurisdiction during a calendar period of one year & take in as many extra Zone lodge activities as possible.

Due to a lodge slow down of activ-

ity during the summer months, I have so far visited Bjornson in July, plus Garborg & Furuseth in Sept. "Sorry" to Olav in Sept. for the miss but I had the "Kretsstevne", Labor Day weekend to challenge me & we needed a catch-up for our own sanity. Incidentally, we had a great time at Kretsstevne & the event came off "very well". Thanks again to Jim Erickson, Camp Manager; PIP, Penny Knudsen, 2008 button lady; Lois Walker, raffle ticket agent; also kudos' to Nordahl Grieg lodge # 52 & the Bjerkhoels, Hansen's, Kelly's & youth crew, Pres. Dick Compton, Wagon Master; P.P. Larry Lund, Food Co-coordinator & the members of Garborg lodge #56 for their fine work & support & la-

bors over the entire weekend. Also, we must not forget our

appreciation & thanks to Zone 3 Dir. Eileen Conlan & Richard Moriarity of Henrik Ibsen lodge # 7 of San Francisco, CA for their hard work & generous donation of supplies, food & skillful preparation for the Sat. night Bar-b-que & Sun. morning Norwegian Frokost . This is a tradition at Kretsstevne that has been well received in numerous past years. It was very scrumptious & we had a great time. I hope I have not left out any of our friends & helpers who worked so hard, because we appreciate all you did to



Paul Jevert (continued from page 5)

make it a success. Mange tusen takk !

While visiting at meetings, I will try to emphasize the importance of maintaining good timely & corresponding membership records with the financial or membership secretary & the vice presidents regarding the retention of Heritage Memberships. It is "vital" that Vice Presidents & Fin., Membership Secretaries communicate & interact on a monthly basis about membership conditions & issues in "your" lodge! Heritage Memberships are the "core" vein of our future membership wealth & vitality for our Organization. Not making a conversion to Unge Venner Family Membership at the point when the young person attains 16 years of age & would normally be

dropped out of the system loses a valuable membership resource to your lodge. Making the conversion with Membership in Minneapolis retains the young person as full-fledged members of Sons of Norway until they reach 23 years of age with no dues at which time they can make their decision to preserve their membership as their own responsibility or they can drop-out. They have the rights & privileges of a regular member but they do not receive the "Viking" magazine. As long as they have a lineal member of their family who is dues paying member they are entitled to be retained on the rolls. Lodges should pay mind to the fact that they are now regular members & should be listed in your annual membership directory as

such. "Treat them" & "Greet them" to your organization & give them some responsibility in your group. Show them your trust & respect their abilities to help you make it "work". Focus on the "positive" in the organization & the positive in "life". Shy away from the "negative" & ingracious remarks that detract from the good picture. Believe me, young people notice this & they do not appreciate "bad politics" & personalities. However, they respect positive, caring & trusting reinforcement of issues & goals for your lodge & you as an officer in a role of leadership.

I hope to meet you in future months & as I have always said, "I never meet a stranger at Sons of Norway"! Have a wonderful Fall & Holiday Season.

Paul Jevert

Eileen Conlan, Sone 3 Direktør

We're back...I hope everyone had a wonderful summer going on various vacations, attending the District Six convention in San Ramon, or the Intl Convention in San Diego, attending Northern CA's Kretsstevne or just relaxing.

Speaking of conventions, I would like to thank Bjornstjerne Bjornson Lodge #14, Oakland for hosting the most organized, well put together convention that I have been to. Garborg Lodge #56, Modesto has got their work cut out for them hosting the next District Six convention in 2010. Penny Joseph Knudsen raised over

\$30,000.00 from the convention floor & the Century Club matched what Penny had raised, giving Camp Norge a total of \$60,000 for the building fund. I would also like to thank Penny for her guidance & all of her help at Kretsstevne this year.

A few things to remember, Lodge of the Year & Family Lodge of the year forms will be mailed out to your lodge soon. Please fill them out & return them to your Zone Director. Zone Directors give points for certain activities & then they are pasted on to our District Pres. Janie Kelly. She

also gives points. By filling these

forms out also helps our organization keep it's non profit status. Do you have a District Six pin yet? Ask a District Officer-we'll be glad to sell you one for \$5.00. The proceeds go to District Six to help defer costs.

I haven't been out to all of my lodges yet, but I plan on making an appearance soon.

Eileen Conlan



Eric Herem, Sone 5 Direktør

I was privileged to be present at the last District Six Convention when the editor of my lodge won the blue ribbon for his newsletter in the category of 'lodges with members over 100' for the year 2007. The editor is Lowell Lykken & my lodge "Norseman 91". I sincerely believe that he earned it!

As a D6 director, I am also privileged of receiving many lodge newsletters from Zone 5 & some neighboring lodges which I enjoy very much & try to read in its entirety.

Besides being informative these publications have some real newsy & educational articles, such as for example:

From 'Norseman News' I read about the recent dedication of the new General George C. Marshall statue in Oslo by the Norwegian Foreign Minister Johan Gahr Støre who stated about the General (a Nobel Peace Prize winner

in 1953) "a man, a vision & a mission that changed Europe & Norway a half century ago."

From 'Ivar Aasen 45' lodge newsletter. About the Norwegian Language by their member Einar Hovind. "Ivar Aasen a young linguist from Ørsta in Sunnmøre, a self taught genius who at the age of 22 revolutionized the language battle in Norway by embarking upon his life-long work to create a 'pure' Norwegian language. He is the creator of the 'landsmål' later called 'nynorsk'. This was the consequence after the four centuries that Norway had been under the Danish crown & in the process had lost its written language".

From 'The Navigator' from Roald Amundsen 48 lodge. Under the title "Roald Amundsen & the Panama Canal". "One of explorer Roald Amundsen's fondest hopes was that his ship 'Fram', on which he had sailed into Antarctic waters & discovered the South

Pole in December 1911, would be the first ship to pass through the Panama Canal, which was then under construction. This never happened". An interesting & lengthy article that I read with great interest.

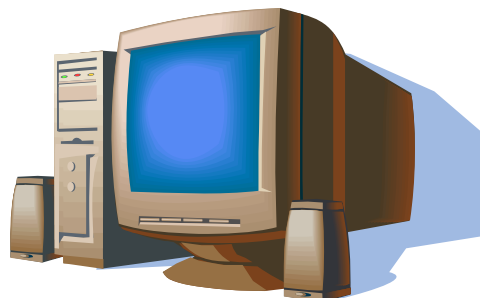
The above are examples of the interesting articles that we may all read about & which I consider educational & related to our heritage & concerning present & past events in Norway & outside.

I would like to thank all those dedicated Editors of all lodges in District Six for their hard work. I still believe that this job or office in the lodge, though demanding a great sacrifice, is one of the most important, that of maintaining a close relationship with all its members.

Eric Herem



"We're On The Web!" —
www.sofn6.com



Nancy Madson, Sone Six Direktør

- Price of Intl Convention Registration in San Diego - \$325.00
- Price of a wonderful Harbor Dinner Cruise - \$80.00
- Price of new dress to wear to Convention Banquet - \$69.00
- The expressions on John Lund's face as a video clip "floating head" pasted on a Hawaiian dancer's body - PRICELESS

I wish you all could have been there. It was a wonderful experience, & Valhall's convention committee did a superb job. I've been a Convention "groupie" in the past; but I was a delegate this year. The friends I've made & the connections I've found, too, are truly PRICELESS.

The business side of the Convention is important, also. The debate over the SON Mission Statement took quite a bit of our time.

There were widely disparate opinions of whether or not to include "other Nordic countries" as a part of the Mission Stmt. The compromise resolution includes, "to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic countries," & avoids the unintended consequences of tasking the Home Office with providing lodges with resources promoting & preserving the heritage & culture of these other Nordic countries. Then there was the issue of whether or not to include the words, "insurance & financial products." Some wanted to sweep "insurance" under the rug as it is "offensive" to some people. Having been presented with many variations on this theme, & Intl President, Ted Fosberg, having kept us on track & making sure we all knew exactly what we were voting on, the delegation

decided to keep "provide quality insurance & financial products to its members" in our Mission Stmt. Insurance is a part of who we are. SON was started because of insurance. SON has been selling insurance for over 110 years. And since the insurance side of SON partially supports the fraternal side, we would not be the organization that we are today without insurance. And I like who we are!

Nancy Madson



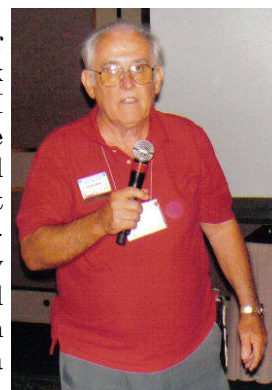
Delegates

Bob Dahl, Sone 7 Direktør

I would like to start by saying THANK YOU to the most helpful person that I could ever follow in this position. Arlene Christopherson has been a big help & guide for my involvement in Sons of Norway since the day I first met her. She has been there whenever I have had a question. Since the convention in San Ramon, Carolyn & I have been on the road & are touring the Midwest. Many of the lodge members have suggested places for us to visit & learn about Norwegian culture & heritage. Yes we have eaten meals at Norske Nook per Arlene's recommendation. We have met so many wonderful folks along the way & been to lodge meetings. Yes, lefse has become a staple for us. We have been in both District 5 & District 1 & are seeing activities in other areas of the country by lodge members. We are promoting that SofN members coming to the southwest during the winter as "snow birds" participate with lodges in District Six. We plan on

stopping at International Headquarters in Minneapolis before you get a chance to read this newsletter. We will be going to Minot, ND for Hostfest the 1st week of Oct. & then on to visit with our Zone 7 lodges in Utah before going on to Camp Norge for the Fall District Board Meeting. Yes, we do have email & are keeping up on all the activities of both the District Board & the Camp Board. For all of you who were at the District Six Convention & saw my presentation on Camp Norge I have brought with us all the equipment for making CD's or DVD's & will be getting information out on that very shortly. We are currently working on a one day Kretsstevne in Arizona during the winter months. Our new District PRO sent an email & that has started a flow of information about dates & locations. My hope as Zone Director is to complete a project that Arlene had wanted to do. I am hoping for late Jan. or early Feb on a Sat. somewhere in the

greater Phoenix area. I would like to avoid conflict with & currently scheduled events in Arizona lodges. Yes,



we have Scandinavian Day in Yuma the 3rd Tuesday of February but that is on a weekday. I will be working with the Arizona lodge officers & getting input on this event. We hope that we would even be able to see some of the other members of District Six participate. Our thoughts are that many could come in on a Friday evening & have a social event where the lodge members could meet with members from different lodges. The officers & board members from the lodges have all had a chance to meet at meetings but what about the general membership? We would like to see a great exchange of cultural & heritage ideas by all members.

Bob Dahl

District Six Officers

Presidenten: Janie Kelly 480/559-6563, d6president@aol.com	Zone 1: Carl Ingvoldstad cingvoldst@aol.com	707/987-2404
Vise Presidenten: Lyle Berge 720/470-4961, bergenorsk@comcast.net	Zone 2: Paul Jevert bigenginej@sbcglobal.net	209/634-4313
Sekretær: Carol Lee Solheim 530/677-2006, solheim2636@earthlink.net	Zone 3: Eileen Conlan leen1027@aol.com	415/595-4812
Kasserer: Roger Espeland 480/368-7046, re3687@aol.com	Zone 5: Eric Herem eherem@verizon.net	805/480-0937
Public Rel Officer: Wendy Winkelman 480/854-3128 wendyathadeland@yahoo.com	Zone 6: Nancy Madson norsknm@earthlink.net	760/343-0848
	Zone 7: Bob Dahl ka6lsl@msn.com	928/345-1801
	Zone 8: Diane Molter lakeviewviking81@live.com	303/288-6014

Diane Molter, Sone 8 Direktør

Hilsen from Colorful Colorado! The Aspens changed to red, orange and gold overnight & signal our fall season. Yes, that wonderful scent is on the wind. I'm talking walleye and lutefisk, lefsa, meatballs & surkal. We are back from summer break & enjoying good friends, fun programs & good food. Please check out our newsletters online for details. Everyone is invited to share & explore our rich Heritage!

The Sognfolkskul returns this fall to visit & experience the US. They love to share their music, dance & PowerPoint presentation on their homes throughout Nor-

way. This fall also showcases several Norwegian artists, filmmakers & musicians at festivals, galleries & programs.

Our traditional fall dinners herald the Jul season. Get ready by shopping at the Trollheim Christmas Fair in November. We invite you to enjoy a wide selection of traditional Nordic crafts, artworks & baked goods from all our lodges. A wonderful gallery of vendors will on hand to help us 'warm up for the holidays'. A great opportunity to show off our cultural skills work & projects.

The Zone 8 Leadership Conference will be held in Lakewood on Jan. 24. All lodge officers & Di-

rectors should plan to attend. We will be doing

breakout sessions on programs, Adopt-a-School, being effective in your office & planning our 2009 zone & lodge event calendar. We will be having a great "exchange & sharing of ideas."

We are getting in shape through the Sports Medal program for the upcoming Barneløpet/Family Day/Ski-Orienteering at Snow Mountain Ranch in Feb. Make your RSVPs early to attend. For the good of the order!

Diane Molter



Int'l Convention Surfboard Paddle

Delegates from District to International Convention

- Eileen Conlan, #7 (replaced by Eric Herem #91)
- Christie Sulaiman, #14
- Karl Eikeberg, #14
- Randi Cruze, #14
- Jim Adams, #25
- James Smith, Jr, #48
- Gerald Rowe, #50
- Mary Jane Kelly, #52
- Irene Jordahl, #61

"The mission of Sons of Norway is to promote and to preserve the heritage and culture of Norway, to celebrate our relationship with other Nordic countries, and to provide quality insurance and financial products to its members."

- Dolores Swenson, #64
- Eric Herem, #91 (replaced by Carolyn Peterson #22)
- Lyle Berge, #107

- Sissel Disbrow, #107
- John Neverdahl, #110
- Diane Molter # 110
- Roger Espeland, #133
- Arlene Christopherson, #134
- Nancy Madson, #150
- Wendy Winkelman, #153
- Mary Beth Ingvoldstad #166

October 2008—
January 2009

5553 E Gable Avenue
Mesa, AZ 85206

Phone: 480/854-3128
Fax: 480/854-3128
E-mail: wendyathadeland@yahoo.com



The Super Sixth.



Camp Norge News—Penny Joseph Knutsen

It is beautiful at Camp Norge this time of year. The days are warm; the nights are crisp, and the foliage beautiful. Why not plan to spend a few days enjoying nature before the winter sets in? Winter is a beautiful time at Camp too, particularly if you are a skier. Take advantage of your member rates at camp. It is only about 20 to 30 minutes from the cross-country skiing and the slopes.

The Recreation Center Board will be sponsoring a 3-day weekend on Memorial Day and on July 4th in 2009. If you need a room, call early and don't be disappointed. (530) 389-2508. Watch your local

lodge newsletter for registration forms as these weekends draw closer. No reservations needed for tents and RV's, but food reservations are requested for these planned weekends where members volunteer to provide food service for you.

Now would be a good time to plan and reserve a weekend for your lodge or family outing at camp, and don't forget the senior rate – mid-week – 10% less.

A Rosemaling seminar is scheduled for April 25/26, 2009. Watch your local lodge newsletter or the web site www.campnorge.com

Progress is continuing on Heritage Hall. We thank you for your continued financial support.

Placer County has advised that we now have to add occupancy tax to our rental rates, so don't blame our manager when he adds it to your fee.

Penny Joseph Knutsen

