



District 7 *Scenic Seventh*

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CULTURAL IDEAS FOR LODGE PROGRAMMING AND EVENTS

At the International Convention 2008, Lodges shared ideas for meetings and events that have been successful for them.

- Trollheim Lodge has the traditional events such as dinners for Anniversary, 17 mai Smorgasbord, Lutefisk and Walleye. They also include Damesklubben, Historie Gruppe, Choir, Geneology and Craft Group, Family Jul Party, and 17 mai Parade. They host a food booth at the Midsummer Scandinavian Festival along with other lodges, and in November all the zone Lodges participate in Trollhelms Christmas Fair featuring Norwegian art, crafts and food. The Fjellborg Living History Viking Group members work to present several programs and the Viking Dinner. Members are encouraged to participate in cooking classes, donate cookies to the Lutefisk dinner and Christmas Fair. The Damesklubben prints a cookbook and hosts a Scholarship/Foundation Tea.
- Lodge President read two Norwegian folktales, *Smørbuk*, a story about a very chubby little boy and a troll hag and *The Squire's Bride*, a story of an old Norwegian farmer who tried to get a poor cottar to give him his daughter in exchange for the debt the poor man owed. The transparencies of the illustrations did not cost much. The program was so successful, they were asked to do it for a local church group.
- The local university has an exchange program with Trondheim, Norway for medical students. As one of the members is a retired physician who works with the program, the students are invited to the Lodge meeting to present slides of their country and families.
- Members are invited to tell about their trips to Norway.
- An author about Norwegian immigrants came to the Lodge to read and act out the characters in her story.
- A local travel agent who books tours to Norway comes to the Lodge to speak about the travels, runestones, Norwegian topics.
- A charity project from the Lodge is to provide gifts to the local Mission. The gifts are wrapped and marked with man/woman/either. The Director of the Mission comes to speak to the Lodge each year.
- Invite the local Rosemalers to come speak about rosemaling and encourage participation in classes.
- The librarian from the local University gave a talk on genealogy materials available.
- A Junior Lodge director helped the young members make berry syrup in the fall and they sold it at the fall bake sale and used the money for a field trip.
- Lodge holds Norwegian language lesson every winter. They apply for a cultural grant from the District and the Lodge supports some through their cultural fund. In order to receive a pin for Norwegian language cultural skills, you must have more than 6 weeks of language lessons.
- The Lodge hosts Open House three times a year. For Syttende Mai, they have a Norwegian meal with lefse and flotegrøt they make at the Lodge a few days before. They have live Scandinavian music which adds to the festivities. In November or December, they hold their bake sale where the members pitch in to make lefse and other treats. In the fall, there is the local football 'Potato Bowl' at the university and the Lodge serves a potato pancake breakfast.

- The Lodge rents two buses to travel to Høstfest in the fall. They allow non-members to come along if there is space on the bus.
- In May, the Scan Fest, a celebration of Norwegian/Nordic heritage includes members in native costumes, many Nordic artifacts are displayed and various Norwegian/Nordic foods are prepared as demonstrations as well as selling (lefse, aebleskivers, krumkake, meatballs with mashed potatoes).
- An annual salmon/meatball dinner holds a “pound auction”. Each donation is some item that weighs a pound and is disguised in creative wrapping. People bid on the item and someone could pay \$15 for a can of tomatoes! They are trying it this year with more Scandinavian significant items.
- One Lodge celebrates the annual anniversary dinner on a yacht. A buffet lunch is held on board and they do a cruise down the river. They have about 60 people attend.
- One Lodge holds an annual “New Members Brunch and Welcome Ceremony”. New members as well as seasoned members attend and they encourage the golden members to attend if possible. They talk about SoN and their heritage as well as Lodge activities.
- The Lodge librarian established a lending library where books in Norwegian as well as English are available for lending and purchase.
- Establish an eight-week Conversational Norwegian course.
- Once a quarter, about 10 to 15 members volunteer four hours to help stock shelves at the Food Bank. Members also usually make donations.
- Plan a bus trip to a special restaurant or to the popular IKEA store.
- Hold a Family Movie Night – this might be split into a showing for kids in one room and downstairs a showing for the adults. Popcorn, ice cream, beverages and pizza are always favorites.
- Halloween Family Fun Night: dinner is eyeballs and spaghetti, fried worms, grubs and maggot salad, tarantula cookies. An oriental trading company was a good place to find inexpensive prizes and favors. Recipes and games were found on the Internet. Little boys liked fishing for prizes in a deep pot of cold spaghetti! A fish pond, cakewalk, and photo booth were popular attractions. A haunted house was created by the teens.
- The Lucia Family Christmas Party Talent Show – children only – help keep the Lodge family centered. They serve open face sandwiches and cookies and have caroling around the Christmas tree.
- Some of the cooking classes include krasekake, klubb, krumkaker. This also encourages some of the inactive members to come and share their skills. Teaching lefse a few times a year has brought out many people and it is more enjoyable to do the work with people to socialize with.
- Have a Lekegruppe meeting once a month for pre-school playgroup. The Barnas Norsk Klubb is great for elementary aged children. Some of the crafts made at Barnas Norsk Klubb were displayed at their convention. The kaffeslabberas worked great for the seniors. They serve lunch one day a month – soup, open face sandwiches, desserts and beverage are included at a nominal price.
- The Lodge holds a Strong Women exercise program twice a week for half an hour in the morning.
- The Lodge has taken on cleaning a street and two city bus stops.



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Fundraising Ideas from International Convention 2008

During one of the break-out sessions, Lodges shared some of the ideas for fundraising that has worked in their Lodges.

- Held on Labour Day weekend, an **ethnic fair** runs for the weekend. Solbakken Lodge sold Norwegian beer but this year it was Belgian beer as Norwegian was unavailable. At the “Viking” booth, they sell rosettes, Norwegian art, crafts and ‘horned hats’. They also have a membership booth and gather about 70 – 100 names which the membership committee contacts within the year. The fair takes about 100 people to run successfully and they enlist children, grandkids and friends of members. When selling beer, you will have to have a liquor license and to sell food, you need to pass the Health Board regulations.
- District 5 sells **cook books**. Each Lodge is solicited for recipes (Norwegian and NAmerican) and ended up using about 5 recipes from each Lodge. They included drawings, rosemary and photos. The cost of the book was \$6 and were sold for \$12 each. The book cost could be reduced but although the photos and illustration increase the cost they may contribute to selling the product. The District also sells runescape jewelry.
- Another Lodge is in the 15th printing of their **cook book** (2000 per run) and they cost \$2.30 per book and sell for \$10. Shipping is \$2.
- An annual **lutefisk dinner weekend** has been running for over 40 years and makes the Lodge about \$10000 each year. They sell about 1500 pounds of lutefisk and 900 pounds of meatballs, served with other Norwegian food. The early bird price for dinner is \$12 for non-members and a \$2 discount for members. The Saturday night dinner also has a dance so the price is higher.
- District 5 holds a **harvest dance** each October with a live band. Tickets are sold and it has become an annual event.
- District 2 holds an **annual Christmas Bazaar** which has been a successful fundraiser for 10 years. The profit is about \$10,000 a year. They sell Norwegian items such as Lefse from Minnesota (in Canada, there is an outlet in Camrose, Alberta that might be able to supply lefse), Norwegian sweaters are a big seller, merchandise from a gift mart in the Twin Cities, and members provide baked goods.
- Oslo Lodge hosts a **scholarship night** each April. Members are mailed tickets and they also donate some of the prizes. The event raises \$2000. October is Foundation month so they do a **silent auction** – selling only Norwegian cookies.
- One lady in District 4 makes cookies, frosts and rosemarys them and sells them.
- Minot Lodge holds a **bazaar and bake sale** and **Høstfest** is a major fundraiser. Their folk dance group sells rootbeer floats for \$2.50 at a 50’s dance. Only ten people work the dance and they make about \$400 towards a workshop.
- A Lodge in District 6 approaches SAS for **donated tickets** and seeks donated **certificates** from local restaurants. Other donations make great prizes and cost the Lodge nothing.
- A group in District 7 puts on **Viking night** serving authentic food, drink and decorations. The cost is by donation but they have received up to \$500 a person.

- If you have Lodge property, you might check out the **rental of some space** on the property to cell phone towers. One Lodge in District 6 has a contract for \$1000 per month for 30 years.
- District 2 holds a “**How do Norwegians Eat**” event where they train people to make Norwegian food and then host a virtual trip to Norway. Participants get a passport, go through control, meet a hostess who takes them ‘home’ to a table of 12. Ingredients are brought out one at a time and the ‘visitors’ make their own food, course by course. They are taught to eat properly with knife and fork. They receive four sandwiches and then a buffet of meatballs, potatoes and gravy, and last course of rhubarb. After the meal, they dance with flags and songs and then take the trip back to the real world. They charge \$17 and make approx. \$4000 to \$5000 for the night.
- One Lodge in District 2 sold **raffle** tickets on a **bunad** and made \$4000 net.
- A small Lodge in District 6 has a **heritage and culture night** each month. They make a Scandinavian meal – Finn, Dane, etc, and present researched culture on that community. They don’t charge much but make enough to pay the annual rental fees for the Lodge plus send the delegates to conventions.
- A ‘**Viking**’ **auction** where they get donations from families, sell tickets which bidders put in baskets in front of the prizes. Coffee and cake are sold. This nets the Lodge about \$800 for the night.
- District 6 has a Norwegian **vaffler and champagne breakfast**. It is an annual event and nets about \$500.
- District 1 serves a **meal of waffles, sandwiches and smoked salmon** held the first Saturday in December each year (two hours length). They sell about 400 tickets and net \$3000.
- District 2, Leif Erikson own their building so they hold a **daily kaffeestua** run by volunteers and open every day. They serve coffee and open face sandwiches. To attend, you must be a Sons of Norway member. Members ‘donate’ \$3 to attend and they are always full and net about \$1500-\$2000 a month.