

Norwegian Society of Texas- Snorre Chapter
Minutes from the Board Meeting of January 11, 2005

Present

Inger Russell, President
Anne Brith Berge, Vice President
Bob Bjercke, Membership
Anita Shaffer, Secretary

Absent

Joanne Ashland, Treasurer

The meeting started at 5:55 PM. The roll call was taken. Minutes of the Sept. 14, 2004 Board Meeting and the informal Board Meetings of November 2nd and November 16th were read and approved.

Treasurer's Report

There is \$5,970.21 in the bank as of January 5, 2005

Membership Report

There are 109 members.

Education Report

There are eight new people for the beginning Norwegian classes. Again there will be beginning, intermediate, and advanced classes. The classes will start next week.

Editor's Report

There was no report. Rune Gabrielsen has turned in his resignation. The Board will need to work together. Inger mentioned that she would do it with assistance until someone else is found for the position.

Web-site Report

We need to use the web-site as much as possible. Dance Salad could be put on the web-site. Dance Salad will be around Easter time.

Social Report

The Christmas party was successful. Everyone on the Board agreed that the Golfcrest Country Club is a good place for the party. The food was great and there was plenty of food for everyone. The door prizes were wonderful.

The Board was in agreement that we would like to have the next Christmas party at the same location. We need to make sure the club is booked for next year. Hopefully Joanne has booked it for us. (Via e-mail on Jan. 22nd Joanne Ashland has written that the Golfcrest Country Club has been booked for Saturday December 3rd, 2005 for the next Christmas Party)

It was suggested that we look into the possibility of having the Christmas party in a different room so that we could eat and dance in the same room. Also it was suggested that we have a different person do the music- maybe check into having a combo play.

Social continued

It was suggested that we might consider an increase of \$5.00 for the Christmas party so that we could include some good aquavit.

Anne Saglokken helped out the Board with this event and we are so grateful to her.

The next social might be a Wine and Cheese party. February 25th was suggested as a possible date.

The Consul General graciously asked NST to her home for last year's Shrimp Party. The home is still being renovated so an alternative location must be found. Windemere in the Clear Lake area was suggested as a possible location for our annual Shrimp Party.

Althing Report

Inger attended the Althing meeting in Austin. At the meeting, Inger gave an oral report of Snorre's activities including the Christmas party and language classes.

The Althing has been invited to come to Houston in the fall of 2005. The date will be determined when the program for the Norwegian Centennial Celebration has been finalized. NST is celebrating its 30th year this year.

The Viking Fest will be April 23rd and 24th in Waco. The Folklife Festival will be June 9-12th in San Antonio. The folk life festival is to promote Norwegian culture.

The Althing wants chapters to donate money, products to sell, or manpower for the Viking Fest. The money raised will go to the Ringness Project. We, as a Board, voted unanimously **no** to sending money. In the past, grilled turkey and margaritas were sold; such things have nothing to do with Norwegian culture.

It is not clear what money the Althing has and what is being done with the money. About half of the money Althing gets, comes from our chapter (Snorre). In 2004, money was taken from the Althing Scholarship Committee to meet expenses. The Althing budget for 2005 is \$15,450. (Correction was made by Bob Bjerke via e-mail on Jan 21st that about 1/3 of the money that Althing gets comes from our Snorre chapter)

There is great concern about the organization of the Scholarship Committee and in general about the subcommittees of the Althing and the way that they work.

Announcement

The Board was sad to hear that Kari Harris died in December. She and her husband, Richard a.k.a. "Cash", have been long term members of NST. They especially enjoyed the Shrimp Parties.

New Business

The Althing wants information about what is happening with members and pictures of activities.

King Harald V and Queen Sonja will be coming to be in Houston March 2nd and March 3rd.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 PM. The time for the next meeting was set for Tuesday, February 15th at 6:00 PM at the Consulate.

Respectfully submitted,

Anita Shaffer