



Norwegian Society of Texas –
Houston/Galveston Chapter (Snorre)

SNORREPOSTEN

October 2003

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A few words from the President

NEWS FROM THE CONSULATE GENERAL

As most of you may know there has been a change of staff at the Norwegian Consulate General.

The new Head of Post is Consul General Elisabeth Roderburg. She joined us in August, when she moved into the Residence with her Husband, Geir Westberg, three of their children and the family dog.

In late July the new Vice Consul arrived, Mary Ann Andersen, who actually is a native Texan, born in Dallas! We don't know if she brought her Stetson and her boots, but we do know that with her is her son and the family cat – who in no time at all has acquired Texan obesity.

A heartfelt WELCOME to all of them! We hope y'all will like it here.

Special Thanks To:

Anne Saglokken who does at least 80% of the work with all our social arrangements. She does a tremendous job in arranging all the events that we all enjoy, such as the Juleball, the Rekefest, the Wine & Cheese Party, and everything else NST puts together. Thanks Anne !!!!

On the Horizon for NST:

Later in this newsletter you will find invitations for coming NST events. First up is the Texas Evening, on October 24, 2003.

Some NST info:

Bob Bjercke, who is in charge of all membership matters reports that currently NST has 127 members in the Snorre Chapter. If any of you know of anybody who would like to become a member, or has questions regarding memberships, they can contact Bob Bjercke at bjercke@worldnet.att.net.

Princess Märtha

If you are going to Norway for Christmas, or plan on being in Norway in December, princess Märtha will be a part of three smaller concerts during the second weekend in December.

Starting off in Trondheim Spectrum on December 12th, she will join Sigvart Dagsland and the Oslo Gospel Choir in front of an estimated 4,000 spectators. The next day the group will perform in Grieghallen in Bergen, and they will finish off the mini-tour in Fjellhallen in Gjøvik the following night.

A total of 10,000 tickets will be sold for the three events, so plan on getting your tickets early if you wish to attend any of these performances.

This would only make the news in Norway

Verdens Gang (VG) reports that a dog and a lamb were spotted, appearing to be stuck on two separate ledges in the mountains of Telemark. Local police reported that both animals appeared to be stuck, as they were both spotted on these ledges in very steep terrain for two consecutive days. As the police returned the third day to rescue the animals, they were both gone. Police searched the area below the ledges to determine if the animals had fallen down, but found nothing. The police would not say how much money was spent on the rescue attempt, but they have now closed the case, and consider it resolved. Nobody has reported either the lamb or the dog missing as this newsletter was printed. Updates will follow as deemed necessary.....

Quiz:

Who is the richest person in Norway at this time? Answer at bottom of next page....

Should have started a little earlier.

Ellen Sørmland, age 104, was elected as the third alternative at the local election at Osen township in Sør-Trøndelag few weeks ago, but unfortunately Norway's most senior politician did not get the chance to put her ideas into life.

The 104-year-old died Sunday, according to the paper Adresseavisen.

The woman was mentioned in both Norwegian and foreign press after she ended up on the Christian Democrats list in her home community of Osen. She was even interviewed by BBC.

“My most important task is to fight for good conditions for children and youth in the community. Youth is the most valuable resource we have in this township. If the youth don't want to live here, the township will die,” said Sørmland to the paper during her campaign.

Your comments about NST are welcome.

There are many different reasons why we all chose to be an NST member. Regardless of the reason for your membership, we (the board) would like to thank you all for supporting our little chapter here in the Houston area.

Our traditional events, the Juleball and the Rekefest are always very popular, and we have added some new events with some success. We are extremely happy to see the attendance at the Norwegian classes, and see this as a very important NST program for the future.

The Board would still welcome your comments, and your ideas for NST of the future. For NST to continue as a solid organization, it is important that we listen to our members, and try to form an identity that all members can appreciate. Please feel free to contact the members of the board with ideas or concerns, and we will discuss these items at our next board meeting, or our next event if necessary.

The Passport Issue:

Machine Readable Passports – once again.

Since US authorities announced in the early spring of this year that after October 1, 2003, entering the US on the Visa Waiver Program would require a machine readable passport, the Consulate has received a lot of telephone calls from worried Norwegians. First of all: **the implementation of the new requirements have been postponed and will not go into effect until October 26, 2004!** Secondly: Remember that the new rules ONLY apply to travelers who enter the USA for a maximum stay of 90 days under the Visa Waiver Program.

Quiz Answer: No, not Kjell Inge, it is John Fredriksen, worth an estimated Nok 12 billion. Wow!

Next NST Event:

THE NORWEGIAN SOCIETY OF TEXAS

Has the pleasure
Of inviting you
To

Texas Evening

At

Memorial Drive Lutheran Church

MENU:

Chili / Cornbread

Ice-cream

Soft drink / Beer / Coffee

SING ALONG AND MORE.....

Date: October 24, 2003

Time: 7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Place: 12211 Memorial Drive,
Houston, TX. 77024

Price: \$10.00 members

\$12.00 none members

NB: pay at the door

Make your reservation by October 21st to **Anne Saglokken**

Phone: 281-481-4156

E-mail: asaglokken@aol.com