

NCC Members Newsletter



March 2024 Issue

Norwegian Commercial Club Meeting Minutes for March 14th

Great turnout of members and guests for an unforgettably delicious dinner of “torsk med tilbehør” (codfish and trimmings). Dessert was “Verdensbestekake” (World’s Best Cake) and it lived up to its name.

The fresh cod was provided by Alaskan Leader Seafoods and lived up to its name, too. (tusen takk Ivan & Co) and perfectly prepared and served by Chef Malen and her assistants. Thank you all.



President Katrina Svasand called the meeting to order, and Tim Hunter and Knut Landboe introduced the following guests:

Viggo Forde introduced his wife Aileen Forde

Lennart Fjell our guest speaker from the Coastal Museum Vest in Bergen

Bernie Johnson with his son Troy

Karen Petersen (with Arni Thomsen)

Judith Dern

Thomas Bodal

Anne Marie Wick (with Peter Wick)

After guests were introduced, President Katrina then asked members to stand to observe a moment of silence in memory of Kristian Berg, a long time NCC member, who passed away recently. The traditional ringing of the ship's bell followed.

VP Ivan then introduced the Speakers for the evening. They were Honorary Norwegian Consul, Viggo Forde and The Norwegian Coastal Museum Executive Director, Lennart Fjell. Consul Forde spoke about the pending visit of Norway's Crown Prince, HRH Haakon Magnus, who will be visiting the Seattle area on April 17-18, further details to follow. Forde reported that there will not be any large public events in connection with the Royal Visit on this occasion. This visit will focus primarily on building Norwegian- American business relationships through a series of private meetings with various Norwegian government officials and representatives of companies in the Greater Seattle area that are engaged or interested in engaging in commercial activity with Norway. Particular areas of interest are maritime and energy related businesses. The Norwegian Consular office can provide further details. Consul Forde then introduced Lennart Fjell, who is here to help prepare for a major joint exhibition with the National Nordic Museum here in Seattle in 2025. More on this event below.

Fjell, who lives in Bergen, Seattle's Sister City in Norway, urged members to visit The Coastal Museum, located 15 minutes outside Bergen, when next in the Bergen area. Fjell shared that the trip to the American West felt like a homecoming of sorts, because Fjell's grandfather was a homesteader in Montana in the 1900's, but that the family later returned to Norway. The family left behind a colorful Uncle, however, who stayed in touch over the years with the relatives in Norway and visited them several times over the year, always bringing a little bag of gold dust from the numerous gold mining claims he claimed to own.

Fjell then went into detail about the upcoming event in 2025 to mark the 200th Anniversary of the arrival of the first immigrants from Norway to the United States in 1825. In October of that year, Seattle will welcome the visit of Norway's famous "tall ship" the STATSRÅD LEMKUHL, which will be coming here by way of the Northwest Passage and the Arctic Ocean. An "Ocean Week" of gatherings and seminars will occur during the visit. A focus of the trip will be assessing the condition of the

Northern seas and Northwest Passage, and a focus of the Seattle visit will be sustainability and the coming “green” transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy sources. The Maritime Museum that Fjell directs will play a major role in this event, as will Seattle’s Nordic Heritage Museum, which will be the site of many of the events during Ocean Week.

A lively question and answer session followed, and both speakers received the traditional “tusen takk” troll.

The evening concluded with the drawings for a free dinner at our next meeting, and a bottle of good spirits.



Coming up:

April 11th Scholarship Night Program

5:30 happy hour/6:30 dinner and program

Bring your friends and colleagues to NCC

www.norwegiancommercialclub.org/events

We prefer you reserve your spot online with the link above.

However, if you are unable to register online please call the Ballard Branch of Mountain Pacific Bank, who so kindly offered to take over reservations: (206) 397-3110

Seattle Mannskor's 2024 Codfish Dinner & Fundraiser

Dinner and a concert Sunday, April 14 -4pm

Leif Erikson Lodge

2245 NW 57th Street, Seattle 98107

\$30 tickets available at seattlemannskor.org



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[MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2023/24](http://www.norwegiancommercialclub.org)

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