



NCC Newsletter

What you missed at our last meeting and what's coming up!

We're back! What you missed at our January 28th, 2021



Our January speaker was

Viggo Forde

Honorary Consul

Minutes of the Norwegian Commercial Club

February 28th, 2021

Submitted by Daniel Nye, Co-Secretary

President Debbi Larson convened the First Virtual Meeting of the New Year 2021 on line and “live” from the Norwegian Commercial Club “Studio” at Leif Erikson Lodge in Ballard.

Debbi began by reminding all that due to the law and continuing risk of Covid-19 infraction, NCC will need to continue meeting “virtually” on line until further notice. She complimented and thanked the many NCC Members, even us older members, who have figured out how to “attend” our meetings online. She also congratulated the many members who even view our meetings “after the fact” through [the club website](#) and through YouTube. She also announced that work is underway to add a “virtual social hour” to follow our meetings where members will have the opportunity to interact with each other and socialize on line.

Debbi next honored the Norwegian Commercial Club’s long-standing tradition to mark the passing of members by calling for a moment of reverent silence to mark the passing of three esteemed members: Dick Nelson, of Dakota Shipyard; Stan Hendricks, long time Fisheries Committee member; and Asbjorn Sorenson, a former Board Member of Leif Erikson Lodge. The ringing of the Club’s traditional Ship’s Bell marked the passing. Rest in Peace, Dick, Stan and Asbjorn.

Debbi then welcomed all members present on line and reminded everyone that this meeting and the meetings of last year remain available for subsequent viewing on line on the NCC YouTube channel. Please note that online you can see and hear the remarks and media presentation that accompanied Honorary Consul Forde’s fact-filled presentation on Norway and its Consulates, which is also summarized below.

Debbi then proceeded to Announcements. She started with some good news, NCC’s Scholarship Committee has determined with the Board that the popular NCC Scholarship Program will operate in 2021. Scholarship Applications are now available on the NCC website. Please encourage higher education students within your circle of family, friends and neighbors, to apply. And show your support for this program by making a generous donation to the NCC Scholarship Fund, see the NCC Website for details, including how to donate direct via the Website. Debbi also reported that the 17th of May Committee was also meeting to plan whatever celebration will be permitted of this year’s Norway Constitution Day, even though it currently appears that the traditional parade held in years past will not be possible due to continuing Covid restrictions. Keep watching the NCC Website for details.

Cory Nelson, NCC Treasurer, then updated Members on our finances, reporting that membership renewals continue to come in, finances look stable for the coming year, and he reminded members that have not renewed yet to do so, via the NCC Webpage. For other wishing to submit announcements of matters of interest to NCC, please call or send your announcement to Debbi’s attention.

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Having concluded the business portion of the Meeting, Debbi then introduced Vice President Erik Pihl, who, in turn, then introduced our speaker for the evening; long time Club member Viggo Forde. Viggo, in addition to serving as CIO and Director of IT for Snohomish County, also has served since May 2019, as Norway's Honorary Norwegian Consul for Washington State. Viggo came to update us on Norway's current situation and also about services available at the Norwegian Consulate, now located in Everett.

Viggo gave a short account of Norway's Royal Family, past, present and future: King Harald; Crown Prince Haakon Magnus; and Norway's first Crown Princess Ingrid Alexandra. Viggo concluded his talk with a raft of statistics about Norway and the activities of Norway and Norwegians in our region. The statistics presented Norway as a growing, diversifying and stable country, with a GDP and "happiness index" amongst the best in the world, with a technologically advanced and well-educated population. Norway nevertheless faces issues of rising prices, particularly in housing, and wrestles with climate change and changes in population that are radically changing the long-established characteristics that once defined Norway. Viggo concluded that Norway is well-equipped to overcome these challenges through continued peace, stability, growth, and innovation, and backed always by excellent financial resources, represented by Norway's Petroleum Fund, one of the largest such funds in the world. This outlook and resources have helped Norway cope reasonably well with the challenges of the Covid pandemic thus far, and Viggo remains optimistic about Norway's future and its relationship with the U.S. and our region. One intriguing fact, the good Consul shared was that in his purview there are many more Norwegians living and working in this area that he never sees at events and organizations like Norwegian Commercial Club and others, and he challenged us to come up with ways to reach out to and bring these "countrymen" within our ranks. Thank you for the challenge, Viggo Forde!



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Don't miss our next virtual meeting on
Thursday, February 25th, 2021!

Guest speaker—Author John Lundin

See you soon!

Debbi Larson ♦ President

Erik Pihl ♦ Vice-President

