



Our first Torske Klub meeting for this 2004-2005 Torske Klub dinner season will be held on September 11, 2003 at the Des Plaines Elks Club, 495 Lee Street, Des Plaines, IL (847-824-1556). Cocktail hour begins at Noon; Dinner starts promptly at 1:00 P.M. when, according to our tradition, our BOSS, **Robert Alsaker**, rings the bell. Our Torskemaster is our well-rested-during-the-summer, but hard working, ever dilligent-for-a-new-speaker charter member and Program Chairman, **Dr. Ray Newgard**.

The summer is passing quickly and we are anxious to return to our tradition of torske, aquavit and all the amenities of our fellowship. Bring a story of summer vacation for the table talk. Also, please join us with a guest or two, especially this month.

Dinner Invitation for September 11, 2004: Let us not forget...

Our guest speaker for September 11 is very appropriate. **Robert Lahey is the Executive Director of Northeastern Illinois Public Service Training Academy**, more commonly referred to as NIPSTA. NIPSTA is dedicated to the development and provision of high quality, cost effective training programs that address the training requirements of all local police, fire, EMS, rescue, public works, hazardous material and disaster response personnel.

If you heard or read the news on July 22, 2004, you'll recall that our President George Bush, along with Tom Ridge, the Secretary of Home Security, and Chicago Mayor Richard Daley traveled to Glenview, Illinois to tour the NIPSTA facility and viewed demonstrations of first responders and emergency training. Mr. Lahey and his staff are the trainers of these first responders. NIPSTA is located on a 20 acre campus in the old Glenview Naval Air Station property. It



Our speaker, Robert Lahey, executive director of the academy, escorts President Bush and Mayor Daley. Photo (c) by Rich Hein Chicago Sun-Times

contains both indoor and outdoor settings, a 3-story field training facility; firearms practice range, and educational classrooms. The driver training pad is unrivaled in Illinois. It will soon be surrounded by specialized facilities for mock car fires, flashover fire simulations, controlled building burns, confined space rescues and a host of other exercises.

Our thanks go to **Dr. Ray Newgard**, our program chairman, for arranging this excellent topical speaker. Ray wrote in his informational note to the board: "Let's get a good attendance and show this man a good audience of interested members and guests. I think he deserves that. My friend, the fire chief in Northbrook, said that we are fortunate that he chose to be with us on his busy schedule; especially on the 9/11 date."

New Members!

Celebrating our 44th anniversary at the last dinner in May, many did not realize we also received two new members, **Kjell A. Larsen** of Morton Grove, IL. and **Bill Skoien** of Palatine, IL. Well, Bill isn't exactly new, he is an old member who rediscovered us here in Des Plaines, IL. A hearty welcome and a tip of the Linne Aquavit glass to these fine additions to our roster! In case you are counting, we have 101 members.

Make Your September Reservation by TUESDAY Noon, September 7, 2004

The Elks Club needs time to order the fresh fish. Timely reservations ensure that an adequate portion can be reserved for you. Call **630-443-6839** at any time day or night to leave a reservation. As usual, please leave your MEMBERSHIP NUMBER, NAME, and the TOTAL number of people in your party.

The same information is required when you reserve for other members. As we did last year, this reservation phone is unattended since it is an answering system only. It will ring 4 times before answering. If you need to speak to someone urgently,

please call Ken's office at 847-781-6820 during weekday business hours. In case of absence, leave a message at either phone, and we'll get back to you. Ken is frequently out of town during the reservation period, so please be patient with his response. For those with email, feel free to send Ken a note to secretary@torskeklub.org with "RESERVATION" in the subject line. You will receive a confirmation reply.

Currently we have reservations from members 3, 13C, 22, 43A, 47, 54, 55, 64A, 98, 114. Please remember that guests of the members must be called in as well.



Remembering 9/11

Ken Larson

Our September meeting date is one of special significance. Just as many of our group recalls Pearl Harbor as a pivotal event in our lives, we all have been affected in some way by the events that succeeded 9/11/01. For myself, I remember the day as having a pleasant breakfast in St. Charles with an old school friend that I had not seen in 30 years while the events in New York were occurring. Some of my friends and co-workers in New York and Denver had quite a different breakfast experience that day.

Barbara Shaw, Brian Magee, Susan Huie, and Elaine Greenberg had breakfast an hour earlier at the restaurant of the Marriott below the World Trade Center with their manager Joe. As with many such meetings, they shared pleasantries, and discussed the day's schedule. They were a



few blocks from the Compaq Computer office in New York, meeting to discuss a customer engagement they were about to attend that morning. As they progressed to the meeting, Joe left them at the elevator to stop at his hotel room. He intended to meet them later, but that meeting

never happened. Joe was waiting for the elevator to the Windows of the World restaurant in the World Trade Center North Tower when the plane hit. The elevator was never boarded by Joe and he escaped, but his staff was trapped on the 106th floor; never to be seen again. I had met Elaine and Brian a year earlier at a conference in Atlanta. I recall debating the merits of Chicago pizza vs. New York Pizza over cocktails. They were good people. Joe, of course, has had a life changing experience... but at least he has his life.

On that same day, Jason Dahl, a United Airlines pilot, had traded flights with another pilot so he could be home in Littleton, Colorado a day earlier than planned for his family. This made him Captain of United Flight 93, which crashed or was crashed in Pennsylvania. Jason was a good friend of my cousin Kevin, who also lives in Littleton. The summer before, I played bocce ball with Jason, Kevin and others in the foothills of the Rockies, while in Denver and celebrating Kevin's birthday at a picnic. Jason's wife and young son were there too. Jason was a good father, a good husband and a good man.

Let us not forget these people on this day, nor the thousands of others who were murdered for no other reasons than the fact that they were Americans or were merely in America. ■

News from the Board of Directors

On August 10, 2004, the Torske Klub Board of directors had a meeting to discuss and confirm the year's activities. In summary, have an excellent year ahead. We are well funded and able to provide some extras for the meetings, including the bus for road trip to Madison on Jan 15, 2005 (mark your calendars, the bus is being reserved). The Board of Director's meeting highlights:



- ▶ Appointment of **Bob Frost** to a new position on the Board, Membership Chairman. In this capacity, Bob will act as a contact for potential new members, foster membership opportunities and encourage guests to join us. Thanks Bob!
- ▶ Our Raffle Chairman, **Dick Fjeldheim**, has asked to be relieved of those duties. Our board member **Ron Bentsen** has agreed to take on these responsibilities. Many thanks to both. Our raffle has been a source enjoyment and funding for those extra things that we enjoy in life, and Dick has been instrumental in it's success from the time we started it on a regular basis.
- ▶ **Don Hogansen** will continue to be our auctioneer and raffle MC. We note here his significant contributions to our klub as well, both in the successful special auctions we have had, and his many special contributions to our klub; prizes, talent, guests, and leadership.
- ▶ By motion of the board: **"Any member who brings one or more guests to the Torske Klub will be offered one free raffle ticket for that dinner, until further notice"**.
- ▶ A generous budget has been set for the purchase of raffle prizes.
- ▶ The Klub will continue to offer some extras for select meals; smoked salmon, as last year. We will search for a good lefsa source. Mmmmmmm!
- ▶ The board approved the new format of this letter, and thanked **Ken Larson** and **Wolfgang Gruener** for their editing and preparation of the letter, and website.



Birthdays for June, July, August and September

The summer accumulates a number of birthdays to catch up on. In June, **Haaken Andreassen, Stuart Bentley, Carl Eglund, Edward Gutman, Perry Gulbrandsen, Ken Vesterli** and our board members **Ron Bentsen & Ken Larson** (who is halfway to 100). In July, **Bill Scheidrich, Hank Solberg, Peter Olberg, Lowell Olberg, Sverre Overland, Dr. Howard Kessler, Randy Truckenbrodt and Einar Cannelin** (who was 91 years young). In August, **Tom Bendicsen, Walt Whitney, Dr. Marshall Petersen, Julian Ronning, Bob Cornwell, Allan Alsaker** (who was 91), **Clarence Petersen, Roy Andersen, and Ken Duckman Sr.** (who is our second oldest member at 92), **Sigurd Olsen**, the honorary Norwegian Consul General **Paul Andersen**, our assistant boss, **Don Hogansen**, board member **Bob Frost**, and the boss! : **Rob Alsaker**. In September, **John Teppen, Kurt Gustafsen, Kjell Larsen** (our newest member), **Chuck Truckenbrodt, Jostein Bakken, Finn Braathen, Keith Hertsgaard**, and our board members **Ralph Haug** and **Fred Glure** (who is older than dirt). We will raise a full glass of aquavit to you all in September. ■

Passing of Don Wendelin

We were saddened to hear of the passing of our long time member, **Don Wendelin**. Don enjoyed attending our dinners and we understand that he contracted a lung disorder that led to his death over a couple of months. He will be missed. Our prayers are with his family.

Donald Wendelin of Elgin Donald Wendelin, 76, died Sunday, May 16. Arrangements were made by Wait Ross Allanson Funeral & Cremation Services, Elgin, (847)742-2100.

Published in the Chicago Suburban Daily Herald from 5/18/2004 - 5/19/2004.

Chicago Torske Klub Board of Directors

Boss: Rob Alsaker
Assistant Boss: Don Hogansen

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This newsletter was published by the Chicago Torske Klub.
Editor: Ken Larson Layout and Production: : Wolfgang Gruener
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Torske Klub Endowment

You may recall last year that the Torske Klub had received some funding earlier last year in memory of the late **Al Newgard** from his son, **Dr. Ray Newgard** as well as additional funding from **Thor Jondahl**.

The purpose of this gift was meant for the encouragement of new and younger members. We had agreed to start using this at the beginning of the last "Torske Season" and also define the terms of its use. Here they are:

Any male guest to the Torske Klub this season, who is 21 - 50 years old, will have his first dinner paid for by the Klub if he joins the Torske Klub.

The intent of this is to generate new members from the community by encouraging our younger folk to try this, as **Al Newgard** did for his son, as many uncles, grandfathers and friends and have done for their younger friends and families. ■

Syttende Mai Parade

Our members represented the Torske Klub in this years' Mai Syttende Parade!

The parade was one of the largest and most well attended events of its kind. Thanks to Hank and Terry Sohlberg for driving and letting us use their 1956 Pontiac and Fred Glure who brought his red truck. Allan Alsaker lent us his Norwegian Parade Flag to march with.

We had a good time marching and enjoyed being in the parade. We certainly will do it again next year. ■

Briefly noted...

We learned as we were finalizing this letter that **Gene Kaczmarek** will not be at our September meeting, due to the fact that he is having a surgery on the day before. Good luck to you Gene, and we hope to see you in October! ■

